

Candidates for RC31 Board (2023-27)

President

Loretta Bass

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Professor & Chair, Dept of Sociology, University of Oklahoma, United States

Biography:

My research aligns with the ISA RC31, Sociology of Migration, and I would be honored to serve. In the ISA Congress and Forum formats, I have presented as part of the RC31 community of scholars.

I do research currently on monitoring the progress toward the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals, and migration is at the operationalization of many of these goals. Also, my research compares how different societies redefine childhood because of the context of international migration. My book, *African Immigrant Families in Another France*, considers this, but increasingly, I have broadened my analysis, comparing immigrant legal rights and human rights in the US and France. My book, *Child Labor in Sub-Saharan Africa*, frames children's work in open-air markets as quite separate from global human rights standards and finds that most child labor in urban areas is a result of rural-urban migration streams and relationships. Also related, I edited a special issue of *Societies Without Borders* (2018) on the topic of Social Inclusion in a Context of Global Migrations, 12(2). Finally, I have a longstanding interest in the civic participation of naturalized citizens in the U.S. context, specifically how this may be shaped by sending country cultural background and a sense of belonging in the receiving country.

Thank you for your consideration.

<https://www.ou.edu/cas/soc/people/faculty/loretta-bass>

Vice-president

Laura Merla

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Professor of Sociology, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

I have been a member of the ISA since 2006 and over the years, I have contributed to RC31 by organizing sessions and presenting papers at most of the ISA world congresses and forums - often in collaboration with RC06. I am an expert in the study of transnational family dynamics and care arrangements, and recently connected this work with scholarship on multilocality through the study of children in multilocal family configurations (a project financed by an ERC Starting Grant). The research I have conducted over the past 20 years looks both at the everyday practices developed by family members separated by distance and national borders, and the effects of institutional contexts and migration policies on migrants' ability to pursue their family projects. In recognition of the quality of my work, I was recently appointed a full member of the Belgian Royal Academy of Sciences, Humanities and Fine Arts. As vice-president, I will be committed to developing collaborations with other RCs and to building bridges between researchers active in migration studies, particularly with French-speaking and Spanish-speaking scholars.

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Secretary

Aditya Raj

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Associate Professor, Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Patna (Bihar) India

Dr Aditya Raj is an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Patna (IITP), Bihar. Dr Aditya completed his PhD, as a Commonwealth Fellow, from McGill University in 2007, and was at the University of British Columbia before joining IITP in May 2010. Dr Aditya had taken previous degrees from New Delhi (BA, Delhi University; MA, Jamia Millia Islamia; MPhil, Jawaharlal Nehru University). He has presented at conferences of Indian Sociological Society, Canadian Sociological Association, American Sociological Association, American Educational Research Association, among others. He was the recipient of Best Young Sociologist Award (M. N. Srinivas Memorial Prize) by Indian Sociological Society, in 2013. Dr Aditya has received research funding from Government of India's Ministry of Rural Development, Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) as well as from India's National Commission for Women (NCW). His teaching and research interests are around education, migration, development, and qualitative research. Dr Aditya has published in national and international peer reviewed journals and edited books of repute. He has also written four books on themes of education, migration, and development. Of late, he has been helping with the newsletter of RC 31. He wants to contribute to RC 31 further.

Secretary

Manashi Ray

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Professor of Sociology, West Virginia State University, USA

I am nominating myself for the secretary position of RC 31 for the next four (2023-26) years. I have been a member of RC 31 for 9 years and aspire to be of service to this committee.

I have found the thematic sessions on migration, individual papers and group activities of migration scholars of RC 31 fascinating and personally inspiring. It has certainly helped me with my research and publications on international migration, transnationalism and refugee movement. In other words, I consider RC 31 to be my natural and primary home among all other committees of ISA.

I believe that I can be the best candidate for secretary's position for few reasons. Over the past four years, I have been the Treasurer of RC 32 committee. This position and opportunity gave me valuable insights and practice of co-ordinated teamwork for augmenting inclusive experience of RC members during IV ISA forum at Porto Alegre in 2021 and now in Melbourne. I want to bring the positive lessons and skillset to RC 31 committee.

Besides, working in an American university and having an Indian citizenship/background, gives me an opportunity of being well informed of the advantages and challenges faced by migration scholars from countries of Global north and south. Hence, I will strive to bring a sense of equity and balance for international exchange of information, data and research findings on the crucial topic of migration and related themes, particularly in present times.

<https://manashiray.org/>

Board member

Ruttiya Bhula-or

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Vice Dean, College of Population Studies, Thailand

This letter is to express my intention to join the board of RC31. I feel that my experience, knowledge, and passion for migration make me an ideal candidate for this role.

I worked for the ILO as a national coordinator for the Tripartite Action to Protect Migrant Workers from Labour Exploitation and as a regional programme officer for Asia and the Pacific on skills for a number of years. I was also a consultant for several Asian nations on vulnerable people and crucial problems, including gender equality as a Gender Expert for UNIDO in Myanmar and Thailand and developing possibilities for small and medium-sized enterprises for an OECD initiative in Thailand.

My whole academic and professional career has been committed to exploring and understanding the complexity of migration and its impact on society. My research has focused on the experiences of migrants, including their motivations for migrating, the hurdles they face, and how they adapt to their new surroundings. My most recent publication is "Migration and sustainable development in Thailand," which was published in Asian Education and Development Studies in 2020, and "Migration of older individuals seeking care in Thailand," which will be published in 2022.

I wish to contribute my expertise and enthusiasm to the committee's mission. I am particularly interested in helping the RC31's attempts to promote inter-disciplinary research, enhance international collaboration, and facilitate the sharing of ideas and best practices among migration specialists. I am also committed to increasing the academic community's and broader public's understanding of migration issues and promoting the voices and perspectives of migrants.

In conclusion, I would like to emphasize my true commitment to the RC31 and my eagerness to contribute to its further development. Thank you for considering my application.

Yao-Tai Li

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Lecturer, UNSW Sydney, Australia

With the trend of globalization and technological advancements, I am aware of a positive change that more and more migration scholars are doing research on the Global South and bringing attention to the global inequality and diverse migration-related issues involved in these countries. The scope of issues has also dramatically enlarged. The emerging diverse patterns of migration during and after the pandemic, for example, have fundamentally challenged how we understand migrant identity, the idea of nation-state, and the migration process itself. However, what I noticed is that the research approaches, theoretical lens, as well as methods, are still dominated by traditional migration theories/concepts. There is nevertheless a lack of conversation (or a breakthrough) between traditional approaches and the claimed "decolonial/deconstruction" perspectives. As a board member, I am hoping to promote more dialogues not only between different disciplines, research committees in the ISA, but also between different voices in studying and understanding the less represented countries, individuals, and (migration) experiences. I wish to

establish a more constructive and healthy discussion platform where new ideas, approaches, and proposals can better flow among the RC 31 community members. Beyond academic discussion, I also see connecting research outputs to policy implications/impacts as one important role of RC 31, as migration ultimately involves sociocultural and economic impacts to both the sending country, the receiving society, and the migrants themselves. I would therefore expect to have more public forums in discussing how to channel members' research (especially research on under-represented areas) to social change, and have a wider outreach to policymakers, migrant NGO workers, students, the general public, and those who are interested in doing work in migration-related industries.

<https://yaotaili.files.wordpress.com/>

Cristian Doña-Reveco

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Assoc. Professor of Sociology, Director Office of Latino/Latin American Studies,
University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA

I am interested in serving as a board member of RC31 simply to learn more about the work we do as a committee and to collaborate with my colleagues that are members of RC31. I have some experience in committees or section of academic associations. I was for two years the chair of the Center Directors' section, and I am currently a board member of the International Migration section of the Latin American Studies Association. I am also actively involved in regional organizations in the United States. While I work and reside in this country, I work closely with colleagues and students in Latin America and as a board member of RC31 I would work to develop more connections between our committee and Latin America.

<https://www.unomaha.edu/college-of-arts-and-sciences/ollas/about-us/directory/cristi%C3%A1n-dona-reveco.php>

Catriona Stevens

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Forrest Prospect Research Fellow, Edith Cowan University, Australia

Dr Catriona Stevens is a Forrest Prospect Research Fellow in the ECU Social Ageing (SAGE) Futures Lab at Edith Cowan University (ECU), Perth, Western Australia. Cat's research interests include labour migration and policy, transnational caregiving, and ageing migrants.

An ECR just 2.5 years post-PhD, she has over ten peer-reviewed publications, including in leading journals (e.g., *Current Sociology*, *Citizenship Studies*, *American Behavioral Scientist*) and has presented her research in Australia, Belgium, China, Norway, Singapore, and the UK. Her PhD thesis exploring the intersections of class and migration was awarded the Jean Martin Award from The Australian Sociological Association (TASA), a biennial prize for the best Australian PhD thesis in sociology. In 2021, she was awarded a prestigious Prospect Fellowship by the Forrest Research Foundation to develop new research with migrants working in aged care. She is also experienced in applied social research and has delivered complex projects in collaboration with government and industry partners.

Cat actively promotes sociology and migration studies within Australia. She is currently co-convenor of the TASA Migration, Ethnicity and Multiculturalism Thematic Group, a member of the 2023 TASA Jean Martin Award selection committee, and in 2017 co-convened the TASA annual

conference with the theme 'Belonging in a Mobile World'. Within Western Australia, she co-organises the Sociology Out West discipline network, and has supported the WA Migration and Mobilities Update conference, an annual intersectoral event, as either conference coordinator or committee member since its inception in 2016.

Serving as Board member for RC31, Cat will leverage her established Australian networks to deepen collaborations with and between scholars of migration studies across the world. As an ECR member of the Board she will learn in the role and will also bring the fresh perspectives of a junior scholar, building capacity to support the work of RC31 into the future.

<https://www.ecu.edu.au/schools/arts-and-humanities/staff/related-content/lists/psychology-and-social-sciences/social-science/dr-catriona-stevens>

Shobha Hamal Gurung

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Professor of Sociology and Women & Gender Studies; Program Director, Nepal Studies Program, Southern Utah University-USA

I have been a member of the International Sociological Association since 2008.

I have regularly attended the ISA Forum and World Congress of Sociology meetings in different capacities. I have co-organized sessions, and have presented papers. Between 2014 and 2018, I also served as an elected Board Member to represent North America for ISA's Research Committee 32: Women and Society.

International migration is at the core of my teaching, research, and service. My courses Gender & Work, Global Issues, Human Trafficking, International Ties & Global Civic Citizenship span different aspects of International Migration. My scholarship critically examines the lived realities of migrant communities in both the Global South and Global North. My book *Nepali Migrant Women: Resistance and Survival in America* documents the racialized gendered labor experiences of service and care workers. My current collaborative research project critically explores the lived realities of Bhutanese refugees of Nepali origin in two US cities.

The ISA World Congress of Sociology has been invaluable to my transnational work and has been a major avenue for my publications. Through ISA Forum and World Congress of Sociology meetings, I have met scholars who conduct research and publish in my area. All of the papers that I have presented at past ISA Forum and World Congress of Sociology meetings have been published. The ISA World Congress has provided me with opportunities to exchange my research work, disseminate knowledge, and gain wider networking and professional opportunities with scholars from around the globe. At this point in my career path, I would like to provide my service and contribute to my ISA World Congress of Sociology community in meaningful ways. I have made friends, found mentors, and benefited from earlier leadership. I am ready, willing, and enthusiastic to give back.

H. Eloy Rivas-Sanchez

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Assistant Professor, Athabasca University, Canada

As a sociologist, I am committed to produce and support the dissemination of scholarship that is relevant for both the field of sociology and social change. This commitment to public sociology, I believe, aligns with the goals of the International Sociological Association and the goals of the

RC31 Board. Promoting and expanding this approach by including scholars and scholarly initiatives from the Global South and Global North is something I would like to bring to the Board, if elected member.

Also, as a trilingual scholar (I speak and publish in Spanish, French and English) from the Global South (Mexico) now working in the Global North (Canada), I have developed productive professional relationships that can help this Board to promote initiatives that are also multilingual and include more scholars from the Global South, specifically from the Latin American, Spanish speaking academic world.

I am also a new scholar. Serving in the RC31 Board will definitely help my career while expanding the influence of the ISA to West Canada. This is also another aspect motivated me to submit my nomination.

Many thanks for considering this application.