

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**CONFERENCE**

**REDEFINING POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY**

**DECEMBER 11-13, 2017**  
**SANTIAGO DE CHILE**

Submissions deadline (abstracts): 10 June  
Notifications of acceptance: 29 June  
Submission deadline (full papers): 10 November

The purpose of this conference is to build a debate on the future of political sociology. Firstly, this event contributes to disciplinary discussions on the scope and boundaries of political sociology. Secondly, it gathers political sociologists critically assessing issues such as political institutions, organised crime, social movements, political elites, and cultural politics, among others. Major questions to be addressed are: What is political sociology today? How is political sociology innovating in its theory and methods? How has political sociology contributed to the disciplines of sociology and political science? What is political sociology's current social and political role within academia? How can political sociology best inform the wider audiences as well as policy makers?

Since the late 1950s and the creation of the Research Committee on Political Sociology (CPS) by Lipset and Rokkan, scholars have debated on the definition and scope of political sociology. Two conceptions have long been opposed: on the one hand, the idea of a factor-oriented approach, either focused on the social bases of politics (a "sociology of politics") or more broadly concerned with two-ways interactions between social and political facts (Sartori's "interdisciplinary hybrid"). On the other hand, Weber-inspired definitions have referred to political sociology as a field, embracing all "politically oriented actions". However, as a result of its own progress and the transformations of the contemporary world, political sociology has evolved in terms of its objects of study, its methods, and its approaches, and thus the classic debate regenerated.

Studying the massive changes experienced by current societies, many have called for political sociology to undergo a radical shift. Scholars such as Kate Nash, Thomas

Janoski, J. Craig Jenkins, and Graham Taylor agree that political sociologists have traditionally focused on liberal democracy and the state as modern political devices. Yet in the last decade, their publications have also questioned political sociology's focus on the nation-state and class divides. Recent research compellingly suggests that cultural, economic, and informational globalisation has challenged these traditional notions. In this context, authors differ in their prescriptions. Researchers of culture have argued that political sociologists should more aggressively reveal the power dynamics that underlie all aspects of human social and political experience (Nash 2010). Meanwhile, political and rational choice theorists have reassessed traditional forms of theory production, analytically reconceptualised institutions, and identified novel methodological tools (Leicht & Jenkins 2010). While these approaches address contextual changes to modern societies, their theoretical and epistemological distinctions have yet to provide specific boundaries for political sociology.

This three-day event is a joint initiative by the Research Committee on Political Sociology of the International Political Science Association (IPSA) and the International Sociological Association (ISA), and the Andrés Bello University, in Chile. It is also co-organised with other sponsoring and supporting academic institutions. The event includes a two-day conference and one workshop. The conference comprises eight panels, each of which features four or five presentations. Two “disciplinary panels” summon researchers specifically focused on defining the boundaries and academic role of political sociology. The rest of the panels are devoted to specific sub-fields. Additionally, a daylong workshop brings together those academics that presented in the disciplinary panels to share more specific feedback on their papers and draw collective conclusions on the current state of political sociology. The purpose of this final workshop is creating a publication examining the core questions of the event.

We welcome papers contributing to this debate from two different perspectives:

- **Disciplinary focus:** papers contributing to redefining the boundaries and academic role of political sociology. These researchers are asked to present in one of the panels initiating each of the first two days (“Redefining Political Sociology”) and to participate in the final workshop.
- **Critical research on thematic subfields:** papers questioning theoretical and methodological categories within specific research fields that belong to political sociology. The politics of populism, the future of democracy, the challenges to the legitimacy of elites, the controversies of citizenship, and the current role of the state are some of the issues concerning political sociologists. Researchers on these subfields are invited to submit an abstract and, if accepted, a paper, to be presented in one of the thematic panels during the first two days of the conference.

## **Monday 11 December**

Panel 1	Redefining Political Sociology I	10:00-11:30
Panel 2	Research on Political Elites	12:00-13:30
Recess	Lunch	13:30-15:00
Panel 3	Democracy and Citizenship	15:00-16:30
Panel 4	Challenging Social Movement Theory	17:00-18:30

## **Tuesday 12 December**

Panel 1	Redefining Political Sociology II	10:00-11:30
Panel 2	Gender Politics	12:00-13:30
Recess	Lunch	13:30-15:00
Panel 3	Politics of Organised Crime	15:00-16:30
Panel 4	Local Politics and Civil Society	17:00-18:30

## **Wednesday 13 December**

This is a full day workshop (10:00 to 18:00), in which presenters in the two “Redefining Political Sociology” panels discuss their views on the discipline and get feedback on their papers. These papers, as well as the discussions that take place in this workshop, will become a special issue in a peer-reviewed journal (e.g. International Political Sociology, International Political Science Review, Current Sociology, or International Sociology).

Abstracts should be sent to: [salenda@unab.cl](mailto:salenda@unab.cl) (Stéphanie Alenda) or [sescoffier@ichem.cl](mailto:sescoffier@ichem.cl) (Simón Escoffier).

Abstracts can be written either in English or Spanish and should not exceed 300 words. They should include:

- Title of the paper.
- Name, affiliation, and address of all authors, the presenting author (please underline her/his name) should be the person submitting the abstract.
- Name of the panel in which the paper should be presented.

Organised by: LAURENCE MOREL (University of Lille, France), STÉPHANIE ALENDA (Andrés Bello University, Chile), JOSHUA DUBROW (Polish Academy of Sciences), SIMÓN ESCOFFIER (Autónoma University, Chile).

**Sponsoring and supporting institutions:**

