



# Economy and Society

RC02 2019 QUARTER 3 NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Over the next two years, RC02 is organizing four major international conferences, two of which have fast approaching deadlines. RC02 is one of the largest research committees in the ISA, and this large membership base permits us to have a significant presence at ISA's Fifth Forum of Sociology in Porto Alegre, Brazil on 14-18 July 2020. At the Forum, we are organizing or co-organizing over 22 sessions on a wide range of topics, the far majority of which are open calls for abstracts, all of which you can find listed in this issue's newsletter. The deadline for submitting an abstract is 30 September 2019, 24:00 GMT.

Nadya Guimaraes (RC02 Board member, and ISA Forum program co-organizer) is also organizing a major pre-conference on Cultural Analyses of the Economy, to be held on 13 July 2020, the day before the ISA Forum begins, and at the same location. This pre-conference will enable scholars with congruent theoretical commitments to engage with one another's work and to socialize in a more intimate setting. So, mark your calendars for 13-18 July 2020 in Brazil!

The World Society Foundation has generously agreed to fund two major RC02 conferences in Asia. From February through April, Christian Suter (RC02 Board member, and World Society Foundation board member) and I held an open competition among RC02 members to organize a funded, international conference on the leading edge

of research. We received four meritorious applications—all of which would have made excellent conferences. From these we selected two, the precise dates of which have not yet been established. Both are anticipated for May or June 2021, with the conferences spaced so that scholars can attend both if you so desire, as they are within short flights of one another.

One conference will be in Taiwan. The Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica will be organizing a conference on Economy, Society & Emerging Technologies in the Global South. The conference will examine how new digitization and decentralization technologies are changing workplaces, industries, economies, and social life, particularly in the Global South. The organizers view the concept of "emerging technologies" broadly, but they are particularly interested in the social effects of automation, big data, artificial intelligence, social media, on-line platforms, the sharing economy, financialization, and green energy. The conference's program organizers are led by Chih-Jou Jay Chen (Research Fellow and Deputy Director of the IOS, President of the Taiwanese Sociological Association, and member of the Executive Committee of ISA), Michelle F. Hsieh (Associate Research Fellow and RC02 board member), and Gwo-Shyung Shieh (Research Fellow and Director of the IOS).

The other conference will be held at the University of Hong Kong, in collaboration with an international scientific board. The conference title is "The Political Economy of Migration: The Next

Great Transformation? Current Developments, Future Prospects.” The conference will solicit contributions in three cross-cutting themes that explore the relationship between markets, states, and migrants: Governance, and the Making of Transnational Labor Markets; Transformation and Transnationalization of Care Work; and Regulation and Resistance. The program organizers collectively have a wealth of institutional and academic connections to diverse forms of political economy, including feminist scholarship, transnational labor markets, and comparative analysis of care work. The co-chairs are Heidi Gottfried (Professor of Gender, Globalization and Work at Wayne State University and outgoing President of RC02), Karen Shire (Professor of Comparative Sociology and Japanese Society at the University of Duisburg-Essen University, and Vice President of RC02), Julie Greene (Director of the Center for Global Migration Studies at the University of Maryland and co-convenor of the Global Labor Migration Network), and Nadya Araujo Guimarães, Professor of Sociology at the Universidade de São Paulo and RC02 Board Member).

Both conferences will have open and competitive calls for papers that will be announced on our website, via email, and through international listservs. Based on the organizers’ proposed budgets, most (or potentially all) of the presenters of accepted papers will have their travel and conference lodging reimbursed by the conference organizers. All papers from scholars based in countries in the Global South (B and C category countries) will certainly have these expenses reimbursed. Thanks to the support of the World Society Foundation, 2021 will be an opportunity to expand RC02’s presence in East and Southeast Asia, as well as to sensitize our members to these two important fields of research.

Almost a year ago, we launched our RC02.org website and transformed our weekly announcement emails to the membership. If you have any

comments, questions, or feedback on this transition, please reach out to Dustin Stoltz, the RC02 Secretary who has spearheaded these achievements. And if you have any feedback, ideas, or requests on the trajectory of RC02, please email me.

Best,

Aaron Pitluck

Kuala Lumpur

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## SECRETARY’S LETTER

Dear RC02 Economy and Society Members,

In the 2019 Q3 RC02 Newsletter we have a letter from the RC02 President Aaron Pitluck and an interview with a senior scholar. The interview, “A Conversation with Arnaud Sales,” is our inaugural interview with a senior scholar in the field and includes the interesting details surrounding the founding of RC02. We have also included an article written by William Carroll, “Mapping the Power of Fossil Fuels,” originally published at Work In Progress.

You can also find the Call for Abstracts for all RC02 sessions for the IV ISA Forum of Sociology (14-18 July 2020). The deadline for all abstracts is 30 September 2019.

If you would like to contribute an essay for the next Q4 2019 Newsletter about your research, a book review, or commentary on recent events of interest to RC02 members, please contact me at [dstoltz@nd.edu](mailto:dstoltz@nd.edu). Essays should be 500-2000 words. Please also send suggestions for senior scholars to interview for the next newsletter.

All the best,

Dustin Stoltz

## A CONVERSATION WITH ARNAUD SALES, University of Montreal

**Dustin Stoltz:** Can you tell me the story of how you got into sociology?

**Arnaud Sales:** I began to take a degree in psychology, at the same time there were some common elements of the program with sociology. Because my engagement with the student movement, I found sociology to be more political in some ways and so I finally chose to do a master's degree in sociology. After that I did a Doctorat d'Etat (the highest doctorate in France, but it doesn't exist anymore).

I was engaged in researching management in French enterprises in West Africa. At the same time, I was hired by a research center on the sociology of economy and work: Laboratoire d'Economie et de Sociologie du Travail. It was a multi-disciplinary research center, and also engaged as an assistant professor to teach methodology. There I worked on the difference in salaries of the employees and the management. We were trying to understand why people were being paid at very different rates depending on the industries.

In '69 I had to do my military service and as the war in Algeria was over, the program had changed and they had people serve as specialists. So, I applied for Vietnam and Africa, but I also applied for the Université de Montréal. They were interested because I was already teaching statistics. I arrived in Montreal with my wife and my daughter who was three years old. It was for two years, but they invited me to stay for three years more. There I was in contact with Harry Makler, at the University of Toronto, and he invited me to enter a comparative study on elites with Columbia people. I participated by researching industrial elites, partly because in

Quebec, the French Canadians were under-represented in both owning and management of the firm. I wanted to explain this not with cultural differences that was advanced very frequently. I decided to look at this by doing interviews with a representative sample of 300 presidents of companies, which amounted to the book *La Bourgeoisie Industrielle au Québec*.

**DS:** Can you tell me about the founding of RC02?

**AS:** At about the same time in '74, there was a World Congress of Sociology in Toronto and Harry Makler proposed that we start a working group (Working Group 7) on "Industrial Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development," and Fernando Cardoso was also involved. So, this was the first elements of the formation of the Economy and Society Research Committee. At the same time there was a smaller group of people who were grouped as an ad hoc committee (Ad Hoc Group 7) called Economy and Society. This ad hoc group was organized by Neil Smelser and Alberto Martinelli (who was a student of Niel's at Berkeley).

At the World Congress in 1978, which was in Upsalla, Sweden, each group wanted to be a Research Committee. The executive of the ISA suggested that we merge, and so we accepted and the Research Committee on Economy and Society was born. Fernando and Neil were the co-presidents, Harry Makler was the secretary, and I was the treasurer. We decided to organize the first international conference for the committee. It was decided by Neil and Fernando that it would be good to have the conference at The Bellagio Center of the Rockefeller Foundation in Villa Serbelloni, Italy, and we received funds from the Ford Foundation.

Research Committee 02 on Economy and Society founded in 1978 with the fusion of ISA Working Group 7, 'Industrial Leadership, Entrepreneurship and Economic Development and ISA Ad Hoc Group on Economy and Society. Economy and Society First International Conference held at Villa

Serbelloni in Bellagio (May 1979). For a list of participants see the end of the article.

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**DS:** From your perspective, what were the main interests in economic sociology at that time?

**AS:** In Marseille, we were very interested in interdisciplinary approaches and in saying that the economy was not just the domain of economics, but also understanding many things economics were not looking at. At that time, in sociology, structural-Marxism was very important, which was quite far from the economists' concepts and terms. Much of the analyses during the 70s were particularly marked by Marxism until the 80s, and many people thought Marxist analysis would stand forever, but these currents are not forever and it declined in the 80s. At that time it was also the beginning of the concern about globalization, which created new phenomena to be studied. Which you had the perspective on underdevelopment, for example Andre Gunder Frank's *The Development of Underdevelopment*. In addition to questions about globalization, development, and entrepreneurship, there was also much interest in the multinational firm. For me, I was very struck by the relation between economies and states, and the Research Center was really interested in the relation between the two. The enterprise was not being seen as just an organization, but also an institution with a political dimension. My own studies were contributing to a question which was important at the time: What is the relation between the enterprise and its environment, and on its impact on the political processes?

**Arnaud Sales** is Emeritus Professor at the Université de Montréal. He received a masters degree at Université d'Aix-Marseille and a Doctorat d'État ès Lettres et Sciences Humaines from Université Paris Diderot. A specialist in economic sociology, his research interests center on the relations between the public and the private spheres; economic and administrative elites, and knowledge workers; corporate social responsibility; and more generally social change theory.

His publications include: *La Bourgeoisie industrielle au Québec* (PUM 1979); *Décideurs et gestionnaires* with N. Bélanger (Éditeur officiel du Québec 1985). He has edited or co-edited the following volumes: *Développement national et économie mondialisée* (Sociologie et Sociétés 1979); *La recomposition du politique* with L. Maheu (PUM/L'Harmattan 1991); *Québec, fin de siècle* with N. Laurin (Sociologie et Sociétés 1994); *The international handbook of sociology* with S. Quah (SAGE 2000); *New directions in the study of knowledge, economy and society* with K. Adhikari (SAGE Series in International Sociology; Current Sociology 2001); *Knowledge, communication and creativity* with the collaboration of M. Fournier (SAGE 2007); *Sociology today. Social transformations in a globalizing world* (SAGE 2012); and *Corporate Social Responsibility and Corporate Change. Institutional and Organizational Perspectives*. (Springer Nature 2019).

He was Vice-Dean of the Université de Montréal's Faculty of Graduate Studies (1987-1992) and has chaired the Department of Sociology (2000-2007). He is Former Vice-President International of the Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics (1995-1998). After chairing the ISA Research Committee 02 on Economy and Society, he was elected Vice-President for Research (1998-2002)

of the International Sociological Association and chaired the ISA Research Council. In 2006, he was named Chevalier de l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques of France.

- Luciano Martins (1934-2014), Sociologist, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro (UERJ), Brazil
- Constantine Vaitos, Economist. University of Athens, Greece
- Charles-Albert Michalet (1938-2007), Economist, Université de Paris-X Nanterre, France
- Philippe C. Schmitter (1936-), Political Scientist, University of Chicago, USA



LIST OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY FIRST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT VILLA SERBELLONI IN BELLAGIO (MAY 1979)

From upper left to lower right in the photo:

- Adam Przeworski (1940), Political Scientist, University of Chicago, USA
- Akinsola Akiwowo (1922-2014), Sociologist, University of Ife, Nigeria

- Peter Lengyel (1928- 1996), Economist and Political Scientist, Editor of the International Social Science Journal (Unesco), France
  - Volker Bornschier (1944-), Sociologist, University of Zurich, Switzerland
  - Fernando Fajnzylber (1949-1991), Chili, Departamento de Desarrollo Industrial de la CEPAL (Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe)
  - Harry M. Makler (1935-), University of Toronto, Canada and Stanford University Founder and Secretary of ISA Working Group 7, 'Industrial leadership, entrepreneurship and economic development', World Congress, Toronto. Secretary of RC02 Economy and Society (1978-1990)
  - Charles E. Lindblom (1917-2018), Political Scientist and Economist, Yale University, USA
  - Alberto Martinelli (1949-) Political Scientist and Sociologist, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy, Founder of ISA Ad Hoc Group 'Economy and Society. President of ISA RC02 on Economy and Society (1986-1990); President of the International Sociological Association (1998-2002)
  - Barbara B. Stallings, Political Scientist and Economist, Brown University, USA
  - Neil J. Smelser (1930-2017), Sociologist, University of California Berkeley, USA, Founder of ISA Ad Hoc Group on Economy and Society. President of ISA RC02 on Economy and Society (1978-1986): Vice-president for Research of The International Sociological Association (1986-1990)
  - Fernando Henrique Cardoso (1931), Sociologist, Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (Cebap) in Sao Paulo, Brazil and Alternate Senator of Brazil. Founder and Chair of ISA Working Group 7, 'Industrial leadership, entrepreneurship and economic development', World Congress, Toronto. President of ISA RC02 on Economy and Society (1978-1982); President of the International Sociological Association (1982-1986)
  - Antonio Barros de Castro (1938-2011), Economist, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro (UFRJ), Brazil
  - Christopher Chase-Dunn (1944), Sociologist, John Hopkins University, (USA President of ISA RC02 on Economy and Society (2002-2006)
  - Arnaud Sales (1942), Sociologist, Université de Montréal, Canada Founder and Treasurer of ISA Working Group 7, 'Industrial leadership, entrepreneurship and economic development. President of ISA RC02 on Economy and Society (1990-1994); Vice-president for Research of the International Sociological Association (1998-2002)
- PUBLICATIONS WHICH HAVE RESULTED FROM THE BELLAGIO ECONOMY AND SOCIETY CONFERENCE:
- Développement national et économie mondialisée (1979), Edited by Arnaud Sales. Special Issue of Sociologie et Sociétés, vol. XI, n° 2 ) (4 papers).
  - The New International Economy (1982), Edited by Harry Makler, Alberto Martinelli, and Neil Smelser. (Beverly Hills, Calif.: Sage Publications, Studies in International Sociology 26) (11 papers).
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- MAPPING THE POWER OF FOSSIL FUELS**
- BY William Carroll
- Originally published on [Work in Progress](#) on 15 April 2019
- None of the G20 countries are on track to combat climate change under the [UN 2015 Paris Agreement](#), and among them, Canada stands out as

the country with the worst carbon emissions per capita. The [Corporate Mapping Project](#) has found out why. Canada's fossil fuel industry is a cohesive corporate community driving a 'new denialist' story deep into the federal government and into key institutions such as the University of Calgary. But we can change that story.

The [Corporate Mapping Project](#) (CMP), hosted by the University of Victoria since 2015, with the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives – British Columbia as a key partner, aims at understanding the economic, political and cultural power of Canada's fossil fuel industry. As a collaboration between researchers and activists, the goal of the project is also to develop strategies for fostering socially just alternatives to fossil fuel.

The economic nucleus of Canada's fossil fuel industry is the Alberta tar sands, where our [findings](#) show that five large producing companies and two major pipeline companies control most of the action. These corporations and the pipelines that flow mostly north to south make up a labour process that is highly capital intensive, and fast becoming more automated through driverless trucks and the like.

Big carbon, as well as mid-sized firms, is owned by a combination of wealthy Canadian families, transnational parent corporations (Shell Canada and others) and financial institutions that include Canada's largest five banks and the world's major asset managers. All of Canada's biggest banks rank among the top international lenders to fossil capital world-wide according to the [Rainforest Action Network](#).

Jouke Huijzer and I [conclude](#) that '(T)he concentration of fossil capital and of its ownership/control represents a massive centralization of economic power in the hands of private investors accountable only to themselves.'

## How fossil capital exercises power

A key power resource is the *cohesiveness* of the fossil fuel corporate community. Leading capitalists and their advisors interact frequently, maintaining a sense of solidarity and common purpose even as they compete over the division of spoils appropriated from labour and nature.

[Network-analytic findings](#) from our project underline this reality. The dense core of the fossil capital elite is centred in Calgary, host to most Canadian fossil capital firms, whose interlocking directorates create a highly integrated local network. That core, in turn, is part of a regionalized national network. Fossil companies create a network by interlocking with financial institutions based mainly in Toronto, and with other major Canadian corporations. The Canadian national network is further embedded in a transnational elite network that extends to Europe, Asia and the USA.

The cohesive corporate community of which fossil capital is an integral part provides an infrastructure for consensus-formation on long-term goals and vision in the formation of business leadership.

Corporate power *reaches* into the public sphere, shaping the institutions, agendas, policies, discourses and values that add up to an entire way of life. Much of this corporate reach involves routinized practices – 'business as usual'. We have found that from 2011 to early 2018 the fossil-fuel industry logged 11,452 lobbying contacts with the federal government – just over six contacts per working day.

Sometimes corporate influence is revealed under the media spotlight. For instance, in the middle of the 2015 election campaign that brought the current Canadian government to office, Liberal Party campaign co-chair Dan Gagnier resigned after it was revealed [he'd been advising](#) TransCanada

Corporation on how to lobby a new government about its proposed Energy East tar sands pipeline.

## The long reach of fossil capital

The intricate elite networks of fossil capital not only reach into industry groups and business councils, but also into think tanks and institutions of higher education and research that inhabit civil society.

We find that the many threads of communication and collaboration via interlocking governance boards enable the fossil-capital elite “to define, defend, and advance its profit-driven concerns as ‘common sense,’ in the ‘public interest.’” The University of Calgary, for example, is closely linked to the Calgary oil elite through extensive interlocking directorships with the University of Calgary governance board, the boards of its business school and School of Public Policy. Enbridge Inc., one of the world’s largest transporters of oil, has maintained close ties to the university leadership.

In 2012 Enbridge created a multi-million-dollar endowment to launch an Enbridge-branded centre within the business school, with the option to stop payments at any time if the corporation was not satisfied with [the return on its investment](#). At the time, the President of the University of Calgary was serving on one of Enbridge’s boards (earning \$130,500 from that service in 2014), and held \$810,000 in Enbridge stock. A [subsequent investigation](#) revealed that the Enbridge endowment to the university contributed to an organizational culture of silencing and reprisal which compromised academic freedom and integrity.

Elite networks, economic, political and civil societal influence-taking are some of the forms of fossil-capital power we have traced. Another is the use of mass and social media in shaping the frames through which energy systems and futures are understood. The media [repeatedly fails](#) to include

energy sector workers’ voices, which allows fossil fuel industry proponents to dominate the public discourse.

Fossil capital is also behind the mobilization of what we call a ‘[new denialist discourse](#)’ that acknowledges the reality of climate change but proposes solutions that buy time for continuing to ramp-up carbon extraction.

Finally, our [evidence](#) shows that corporate philanthropy in industry towns, combining with corporate-social-responsibility campaigns attempt to persuade communities to see their fate and industry’s fate as inextricably linked.

In these last instances, fossil capital’s hegemony is deeply lodged in identity and community, as the money of corporations is used to fund local activities and to propagate positive images of the industry. In this way, we argue that the “[clash between business-as-usual and a just, post-carbon future is equally a struggle for hearts and minds.](#)”

In combination, fossil capital networks and resources form a multi-scalar regime of obstruction, extending from the everyday to the global, and resulting in acceptance of no progress in reaching climate change targets.

## Mapping a carbon-free future

The Corporate Mapping Project, now half-way through its seven-year program, continues to ‘map the power’ of the fossil capital elite. An online, interactive tool developed in collaboration with the [Public Accountability Initiative](#), is due to launch early in 2019.

In the next phase we turn our attention to alternatives to a carbon future, and a deepening climate crisis.



The burgeoning movement for change offers many ideas in this regard. These include campaigns for fossil fuel [divestment](#) and ‘[blockadia](#)’ – local social movement initiatives to keep fossil fuels in the ground. Other movements we are studying include the labour-centered [just-transition initiatives](#), the promotion of principles for [energy democracy](#) and most broadly, [climate justice](#).

The practical challenge is to articulate these progressive forces into a coherent framework that captures the popular imagination, combining a politics of resistance with an imaginary of ‘[societies beyond oil](#)’.

William K. Carroll is a Professor in The Department of Sociology at the University of Victoria, and a member and past president of the RC02 Economy and Society of the International Sociological Association.

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