

RC 05 RACISM, NATIONALISM, INDIGENEITY AND ETHNICITY NEWSLETTER

WELCOME FROM RC05 PRESIDENT

Helma Lutz

Dear Members of RC05,

Another crazy year draws to a close. We all had the hope that with the help of mass vaccinations the pandemic would be over by the end of this year.

THE IDEA THAT THE VIRUS EQUALLY AFFECTS ALL OF US IN THE SAME WAY IS WRONG, BECAUSE ECONOMICALLY PRECARIOUS GROUPS WERE HIT MUCH HARDER; RACIALIZED AND ETHNICISED POPULATIONS WERE MORE AFFECTED.

Unfortunately, this is not the case. While vaccines are sufficiently available in the Global North, but rejected by part of the population, they have not yet arrived in the Global South. Like in a burning glass, the global inequalities become once again visible in the Covid Pandemic. The virus is still there, transforming itself and meeting us in new forms. At the end of 2021, we cannot say with certainty that the pandemic will be over in a year. Many countries will have to deal with its consequences for decades to come.

As a reaction to the pandemic, in the course of the ending year, a new social field of studies arose: *The Societal Impact of Covid Research*. This includes the impact of lockdowns, movement and travel restrictions on children and young people, the impact on families where in particular women had

to cope with the expectation of moving their work place into the living room of the home and at the same time to take care of and support their children in homeschooling. Researchers in the Global North have identified a trend towards re-traditionalisation of gender relations. At the same time, the pandemic demonstrated: The idea that the virus equally affects all of us in the same way is wrong, because economically precarious groups were hit much harder; racialized and ethnicised populations were more affected. Groups, whose participation in material and social goods is limited, turned out to be the most vulnerable persons in our societies: Their mortality rate is higher; many of them have lost their jobs as a result of Covid 19 measures. Even in the countries of the Global North, a huge number of citizens became dependent on food and housing aid. The Global South was ultimately let down in supporting the fight against Covid, for example by not sending enough medicines and by not releasing vaccine patents. At the same time, in many parts of the globe, Corona has promoted racism and hate crime as statistics show; Anti-Asian racism in particular, or more lately, the blaming of South Africa for the emergence of a new viral variant, are just a few examples of the new phenomenon of *Covid Racism*. Dealing with these phenomena will accompany us as scientists and members of RC05 for the years to come.

On a more positive note, the pandemic has stimulated debates on the recognition of Care-Work and Care worker's essential role in dealing with human vulnerability. Moreover, a critical

discussion whether health systems should be listed on stock exchanges and operate profitably has started.

Looking back at the year 2021, the first digital ISA Forum from 22 to 28 February was the highlight of our activities: RC05 participated in this Forum with 15 sessions. The digital implementation was a huge challenge for all of us involved; especially the disparity between the world time zones was a big problem.

I would like to thank all the organizers and presenters of/in these sessions for their commitment and for the high quality of the debates. You will find a report of the Forum by the ISA Vice President for Research, Geoffrey Pleyers, in this Newsletter. Also, we are publishing the minutes of the RC05 business meeting. After the Forum, some meetings with all RC presidents took place: It was decided to postpone the ISA World Congress located in Melbourne from 2022 to 2023. There were also some critical debates on the organizational structure of ISA. In one of the sessions, Rhoda Reddock, our board colleague,

gave a presentation on the cooperation between ISA and the United Nations. Rhoda kindly agreed to reprint her powerpoint presentation in our Newsletter.

In the meantime, Geoffrey Pleyers is also introducing a new debate format: from January/February 2022, there will be various webinars where ISA members will share their research topics. The series will open with a panel on intersectionality organized by RC 32 (Women, Gender and Society) and RC05. We will send out the announcement in time and I hope that many of you will participate in this.

I hope that this Newsletter finds all of you in good health. As the year is ending, I wish all of you and your loved ones happy holidays and a good start of the New Year 2022.

Helma

REPORT ON MEMBERS

Martina Boese

As of October 30th, 2021, the RC05 had 147 active members – that is paid-up members of RC05, who are also members of ISA. While some members have left since the last Congress in Toronto and some new members have joined, we are working to recruit new members and will encourage lapsed members to return to the RC05 in the lead up to the next Congress in Melbourne in 2023.

Our members reside in 39 countries. While they are spread across all continents, the majority of members lives in the global North. The breakdown by country of residence is: Australia 13 (-2); Austria 1; Bangladesh: 1 (+); Belgium 2; Brazil: 5; Bulgaria: 1 (+1); Cameroon: 1(+1); Canada: 19 (-6); Chile 2;

Ecuador: 1; Egypt 1; Finland 1(-2); Germany 4 (-2); Greece: 1; Hong Kong 1; India 1; Indonesia 1; Iran 1; Ireland 1; Israel 2; Italy 4 ; Japan 10(-2); Lebanon 1; Malaysia 2; Mexico 8 (+1); Netherlands 1; New Zealand 2; Nigeria 1; Pakistan 1; Philippines: 1; Portugal: 1; Russia 1; Singapore 1; South Africa 4 (-1); Sweden 1; Switzerland: 1; Trinidad & Tobago 1; Turkey: 2(-1); United Kingdom 8 (-2) ; United States 37.

The breakdown by Category A, B and C economies is:

A: 114 or 78%,

B: 25 or 17%

C: 8 or approximately 5%.

Since the last Congress in 2018 the distribution of members has seen a slight increase in the share of nationals from category B economies (+4%).

Over the last year we have had a net gain of nationals from Bulgaria; Bangladesh and Cameroon (+1 each). Over the same period, we have lost some members from Australia (-2); Canada (-6); Germany (-2); Japan (-2); Turkey (-1) and the UK (-2), we have lost representation from Argentina and Fiji (+1 each) and have gained representation from Bangladesh, Bulgaria and Cameroon.

As previously about two thirds of our members are female, according to our own estimates based on the RC05 database. This database serves our e-list, and it also includes 'associate members', who are members of RC05 but not ISA.

areas of indigeneity, racism, nationalism and ethnicity. More details on the Prize and entry conditions will be announced in the next newsletter or prior to then via the RC05-mailing list. Please look out for this information and alert your postgraduate students and colleagues to this opportunity. We also invite you to encourage postgraduate students and your colleagues in your department and in your local, national and international networks with research and teaching interests in indigeneity, racism, nationalism and ethnicity to sign up with RC05.

For now, stay safe and connected via the RC05-mailing list!

Best wishes from Melbourne,

Martina

At the 2023 Congress we will award the inaugural **Prize for Best Journal Article to an ECR** in the areas of indigeneity, racism, nationalism and ethnicity. More details on the Prize and entry conditions will be announced in the next newsletter or prior to then via the RC05-mailing list. Please look out for this information and alert your postgraduate students and colleagues to this opportunity. We also invite you to encourage postgraduate students and your colleagues in your department and in your local, national and international networks with research and teaching interests in indigeneity, racism, nationalism and ethnicity to sign up with RC05

We urge you as RC05 member to encourage sociologists from your country and neighbouring/nearby countries especially, to become members of RC05 in time for registering for the World Congress in Melbourne in 2023. These events provide an excellent opportunity to meet and engage in dialogues and discussions with researchers with expertise in indigeneity, racism, nationalism and ethnicity.

At the 2023 Congress we will award the inaugural **Prize for Best Journal Article to an ECR** in the

MINUTES BOARD MEETING RESEARCH COMMITTEE RC05 RACISM, NATIONALISM, INDIGENEITY AND ETHNICITY DURING THE ISA FORUM ON FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Helma Lutz (Germany)

- A. Martina Boese (Australia) gave a short report about the membership development. At this moment, we have 141 active (paying) members from 37 countries who are also members of ISA. This is 33 members less than at the time of the last ISA Congress in Toronto. Martina will target lapsed and potential new members later this year. We expect an increase in membership right before the next conference.
- B. Helma Lutz gave a report on finances. Since there have been no expenses since the meeting in Toronto, our finances are in good shape. The balance is a little more than 10 000 €. This gives us space for the establishment of an RC05 Prize for young researchers (see below) and for the support of travel grants etc. for the next ISA meeting. Fortunately, the urgent need for a new treasurer was solved: Andrew Sporle (New Zealand) and Rochelle Coté (Canada) made themselves available for this role.
- C. Umut Erel (UK) gave a report about the coming along of the RC05 Newsletter which in general appears once a year. Last year we had an extra newsletter on the theme of COVID, the call for which delivered high numbers of smaller and larger articles. All Newsletters are posted on the RC05 website.
- D. Karim Murji (UK) reported on the Facebook-page of RC05: the page has 800 followers and is well attended and used. We can see this as an indication for a broad interest in RC05 themes.
- E. The board members also talked about the possibility of using this interest for the organization of digital meetings – webinars – on the themes of covered by researchers on racism, nationalism, indigeneity and ethnicity. For doing this we need a host (university). Umut Erel will deal with the host question. We decided, that later this year, we want to start this form of communication with/for our members and a broader audience. Once the host-question is solved, we encourage RC05 members to come up with ideas and initiatives.

- F. The planning for the next ISA congress taking place 24-30 July 2022 in Melbourne, Australia is starting in a couple of weeks. The theme of the congress is: “Resurgent Authoritarianism: The Sociology of New Entanglements of Religion, Politics and Economics”. As the first deadline for semi-plenaries hosted by three or more RCs is already coming up soon (15 April 2021), we encourage members to come up with ideas for joint sessions.
- G. The participants of the meeting decided to establish an RC05 prize for young researchers. Martina Boese will elaborate a plan for this. Our goal is to have a

- ceremony for handing over the certificate to the winner next year in Melbourne.
- H. Azril Bacal (Sweden) introduced his idea that RC05 should encourage ISA to engage and possibly become a member of the World Forum. He promised to prepare a paper on this topic.

Business meetings of RC05 are usually followed by a little party where socialize and make plans. Unfortunately, this time we had to do without one. I thank all attending board and RC05 members for their tireless engagement, and their lively and significant contributions.

Hopefully our next meeting will be in presence!

RC05 COMMUNICATIONS

Karim Murji

RC05 is a network of scholars working based in every continent. Our objectives are to encourage research on Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity; to evaluate policies and explore strategies aimed at eradicating racial discrimination and unequal treatment based on ethnicity; and to provide a forum for discussion and dissemination of research in these fields.

We communicate with members via this annual newsletter, an open email list where any member can post to all other members, as well as a Facebook page. We welcome contributions to any of these as well as ideas for other ways that members want to communicate with each other. Please send contributions and ideas to Umut Erel (umut.ereel@open.ac.uk) and Karim Murji (karim.murji@uwl.ac.uk).

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION SUB-COMMITTEE ISA REPRESENTATION ON THE UN AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS

RHODA REDDOCK

The International Sociological Association was formed in 1949 in the aftermath of World War II. This was a critical time in world history where the experience of both world wars and the defeat of fascism had resulted in new approaches to human rights, social and economic development, peace and international cooperation. The United Nations itself was formed in 1945 and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted in 1948. In this new dispensation, the social sciences were seen as having a role to play in abolishing the circumstances that gave rise to fascism, war and social conflict. – “Social science was seen as in itself, promoting democracy, and its research as serving broad social purposes (Pratt, 1998:14).

The formation of the ISA was the result of initiatives of the Social Science Division of UNESCO which included the formation of similar organisations for law, political science and economics. The founding meeting in Oslo was organised under the auspices of UNESCO, so from its inception that ISA had a relationship with the emerging United Nations organisation. According to Jennifer Platt, well into the 1960s the ISA budget was still heavily supported by UNESCO, and as a result the ISA agenda was often shaped by this.

These social science organisations were eventually brought together in the International Social Science Council (ISSC), established in 1952. In 2018, the ISSC merged with International Council of Science (ICSU) to become the International Science Council (ISC). The ISC is an independent international non-governmental organisation which collaborates with UNESCO, other UN Agencies and other organisations worldwide.

Since 2003, the ISA has enjoyed special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC. Special Consultative Status (formerly Consultative Status 2), is granted to organizations concerned with only a few of the fields of activity covered by the Council. The Commission for Social Development (CSocD), a functional commission (ECOSOC) of the United Nations meets once a year in New York, usually in February. As a member of ECOSOC, the ISA reports annually on its activities.

The ISA also has a relationship with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) and briefings have been attended by the ISA youth representative. It is not clear, however exactly what this

relationship entails, but the outreach¹ aspect of its work appears to be closest to the work and mandate of the ISA.

ISA Representation at the United Nations.

The ISA has always had representation at various UN bodies. It has normally been the prerogative of the president to select such persons for UN and other organisations. According to the *ISA Bulletins*, for the period 1991-1994 they were the following:

- Representatives to ISSC-UNESCO Delegates: Alberto Martinelli, Gyorgy Széll , Alternates: Daniel Bertaux, Karl van Meter
- Representative to UNESCO/ICSSD: Richard Grathoff, Germany
- Representatives to United Nations Vienna: Jürgen Hartmann, Delegate Geneva: Alberto Martinelli, Alternate Maria Carrilho,; New York: Henry Teune, Delegate Neil Smelser, Alternate
- Representative to WHO Hans-Ulrich Deppe, Germany

What is clear is that at that time, the ISA had two representatives each to the UN in New York, Vienna and Geneva and this was publicly stated in its publications (*ISA Bulletin* 58-59, 60, 63). Between 1999 and 2005, there were designated ISA representatives to New York, and Geneva and Vienna but since 2006 there are representatives only to New York. There has also been representation to the Centre for International Crime Prevention and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNDOC) (See Appendix 1).

For the period 1992-2002, Jan Fritz and Linda Christiansen Ruffman (RC-32) served as ISA representatives to the UN in New York. Christiansen-Ruffman recalled that at her first EC meeting she asked the president to assign her to this position. During this period, she was active with the UN Women's Conferences, as well as the World Summit on Social Development organised by the UN Department on Economic and Social Affairs. She was aware that there was an ISA UN Geneva representative but did not know who that was. With no clear guidelines she was able to select the focus of her work which was social development, social policy and women-related policy, through the Commission for Social Development (CsocD) which as we saw earlier is a sub-committee of ECOSOC. Apparently these representatives all worked independently with no collaboration during this period. At that time, there was no reporting requirement to the ISA. In the beginning Ruffman noted, she would bring it up, especially when social development or policy issues arose.

¹ The Outreach Division engages a wide range of audiences including academia, civil society, the entertainment industry, educators and students to encourage support for the ideals and activities of the United Nations. DPI/Outreach Division also hosts the Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

The ISA's current representatives for UN activities in New York are Jan Marie Fritz and Rosemary Barberet. Jan-Marie Fritz was the UN Rep in 1999-2002 and then again 2006-2022 and continued the interest in women's and gender issues²; she however, works through the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) which meets annually in March. It was during one of her terms and with the assistance of ISA executive secretary, Izabela Barlinksa, that special consultative status with ECOSOC was arranged. Rosemary Barbaret on the recommendation of Jan was also appointed a UN Rep to New York in 2008 and currently serves in this position. In addition to the work with CSW, between 2008-2020, Barbaret also served as representative to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and has attended meetings of the UN Crime Commission in Vienna. Since 2006, there have been no ISA representatives to the UN in Vienna, Geneva or with our new expanded global interest, Nairobi, Bangkok or Santiago or to specialized agencies.

A system of youth representatives has been established by the current UN-New York reps, with seven so far selected from responses to a Call in the New York City tri-state area. Last year (2019), the representatives were Bengi Sullu and Sebastián Galleguillos Agurto. The (2020) youth representative is Sebastián Galleguillos Agurto³ who was renewed from 2019. He assisted with the compilation of research reading lists and with the logistics for ISA events at the Commission on the Status of Women meeting in 2019 and will do the same in 2021. He is also tasked with attending the Thursday morning UN DPI briefings and is responsible for developing or soliciting drafts of articles/items for the review that will appear in ISA publications such as the last UN report for *Global Dialogue*. Within the last month, a call has gone out to RC's for expressions of interest in filling this youth representative position.

RC's WGs and TGs and the ISA

Some individual RC's have relationships with related UN Agencies and sometimes attend UN activities as observers. The chair and members of RC40 for example often participate as observers in the Committee on World Food Security, a Committee of ECOSOC, of which the ISA is a member. In a 2014 report to the EC, Rosemary Barbaret reported on a brief survey carried "to learn about the involvement

² These periods coincide with her terms on the EC. Rosemary Babaret is no longer on the EC but continues to serve as an ISA UN Rep.

³ In 2019, Sebastian Galleguillos Agurto published an article on his experience as ISA youth representative in the newsletter of the Division of International Criminology of the American Society of Criminology entitled, "International Statistics & International Criminal Justice: The United Nations Road Map" - https://internationalcriminology.com/wpcontent/uploads/DIC-Newsletter-Summer-Sept_2019.pdf (see p. 15). ISA Youth Representative Bengi Sullu wrote an article for *Global Dialogue* (Volume 10, Issue 1) on her experience, entitled "Making Women's Rights a Part of Everyday Life" - <http://globaldialogue.isasociology.org/making-womens-rights-a-part-of-everyday-life/>.

of our National Organisations and Research Committees/Thematic Groups/Working Groups with the UN," and cited the following excerpt:⁴

We received responses from seven National Associations, eleven Research Committees and one Working Group. None of these organizations had a formal relationship with the United Nations and a few had informal relationships. These informal relationships consisted of individual members participating in United Nations events or projects which, on occasion, were reported to members of the groups. Most of the responding groups were positive about strengthening their relationships with the United Nations. For instance, some organizations mentioned that their members could serve in an advisory capacity to the United Nations as experts or could heed calls for research by the United Nations; similarly, the organizations could learn from the United Nations and make its actions and documents available to their members. We think this is a fertile area for ISA's future development. In particular, the ISA can help inform national associations how to apply for standing with ECOSOC and/or DPI. Similarly, but contingent on ISA resources, the ISA could foster greater participation in UN activities by providing information about UN opportunities (from announcing websites to perhaps giving more information about specific opportunities)."

She noted that it was also possible for National Associations to gain consultative status with the UN provided they did not received government funding and expressed her willingness to assist with this process.

Representatives to UN Related and Other organisations

The application from Vilma Bashi Treitler which was the impetus for the work of this committee related to an organisation that is not formally a UN organisation (CERAC) - The NGO-Committee-for-the-Elimination-of-Racism-Afrophobia-Colorism. According to the correspondence however, it is involved in "...encouraging widespread implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action that emerged from the groundbreaking 2001 World Conference against Racism (WCAR)". In this case it is unclear what representation would mean and indeed for all representatives it is unclear what this representation involves and the significance for the ISA.

However, for representatives to UN agencies *and* ngos that work with the UN but which are not formally part of the UN system, this affiliation allows access to UN accreditation and the annual pass, meeting registrations, etc. which facilitates engagement with the UN system. The work of annual accreditation and credentials is the responsibility of the ISA secretariat which has expressed a willingness to continue this activity. The reduction in representation may reflect concerns about costs to ensure consistent participation or simply a slip through the cracks.

⁴ Correspondence to Markus Schultz, 28.08.2014

Conclusion

The ISA has a historical relationship with the United Nations system since its formation in 1949. For some time now this relationship has been vague, not known by most members and with responsibilities not clearly articulated. Membership of ECOSOC, provides many opportunities for ISA members to participate in and attend UN meetings, conferences and summits, and to contribute to the work of related specialised agencies e.g. UNESCO, FAO, UNWOMEN and UNDCP. This engagement provides opportunities to bring sociological knowledge, research information and critical engagement to a larger global policy-making arena but also to learn.

So far ISA UN participation has been informal and dependent on the interests and commitment of the individual representatives. It has also been open to interested EC members who are aware of this possibility, physically located in the North where these agencies are located and with funds available to subsidise their participation. It is possible that the vagueness that surrounds the issue of ISA representation may be the result of the ISA's inability or lack of commitment to actually fund participation, although small contributions may be made for accreditation and some activities. This has provided the freedom for representatives to select their areas of focus and to develop a programme. Increased participation may also mean more work for the ISA secretariat in relation to accreditation etc. however the secretariat is willing to undertake these tasks.

Based on the information acquired this working committee would like to recommend the following:

1. A clear policy on selection and representation at the UN and other agencies needs to be developed. This must include a policy for ISA reps from NGOs that work with the UN and other related international agencies. This policy should also decide whether ISA-UN reps must be EC members.
2. Interested persons should present a proposal for their work with the UN and the implications for the ISA and/or specific research committees. Where this relates to the work of a specific RC/WG/TG then this should be first approved by that group;
3. Where this representation is to a non-UN agency/organisation whose work is directly related to that of an RC/WG/TG then the proposal should be first approved by the RC/WG/TG;
4. When ISA UN Reps are selected, this information i.e. names, contacts and proposed programme, should be shared with presidents of RC/WG/TGs;
5. RC's should be encouraged to engage with UN Agencies in their areas of expertise and interest and to report on this in their newsletters and organise sessions around their participation etc. Brief reports on this should be submitted to the secretariat for inclusion in the annual report to the EC as well as the ISA report to the UN;

6. Official ISA UN Reps should, where possible involve members of *relevant* RC's in UN activities e.g. sessions, workshops, sharing information and opportunities etc. For example on crime/criminal justice issues with the RC that deals with this issue;
7. The current practice of reports to the EC should continue but should also be shared more widely e.g. in *Global Dialogue* or other locations.
8. Other affiliations agreed to by the ISA, should be funded by the individuals concerned, but reports should also be presented to the EC and the relevant RC/WG/TGs.
9. UN activities of RCs, where necessary, should be funded by the RCs, although a special request may be made to facilitate participation from members from the Global South.
10. In order to diversity ISA interface with the UN, national organisations should be encouraged to engage with UN agencies in their countries e.g. UN Offices for Asia and the Pacific – Bangkok, Africa – Kenya, The Middle East – Beirut, The Americas – Santiago and Europe and Central Asia – Geneva and to report on these engagements.
11. An annual budgetary allocation is required for official ISA Representation which recognises the importance to the ISA of this activity. Clear decisions are required on what can be funded as well as reporting requirements. Representatives who can would be expected to draw on their institution's support, however this may not always be possible e.g. retired members or those from under-resourced institutions in the Global South.

Rhoda Reddock (Chair)

Allison –Marie Loconto

Tova Benski

Geoffrey Pleyers

7, February 2021

REPORT ON MEMBERSHIP OF THE ISA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2018-2021

Rhoda Reddock

In recent discussions at the ISA RCC Meetings, it became clear that many RCs feel that Elected RC Committee members have not been adequately communicating with Research Committees. In this context, I decided to share with the two RC's of which I am a member – RC05 and RC32 a summary of my activities in the EC over the last three- four years.

Membership of the ISA EC has been an important learning experience for me. Even though I am a former RC32 President, that was some time ago, so this has really provided me with a better understanding of the workings of the Association. Within the EC, I am a member of the Finance Committee and as a representative for the RC's, the Research Committee. In addition, I have participated in a number of other sub committees and ad hoc committees and contributed to special assignments. These are presented below:

2019 – EC sub-committee - More inclusive RCs: How to include more researchers from B & C countries?

Along with EC member Alison Loconto we prepared a report to the EC entitled: **“More inclusive RCs: How to include more researchers from B & C countries: A Report to the ISA Executive Committee.”** This report drew on responses from RC presidents, as well as ISA membership records and was in a way a formal beginning of the discussions on a more inclusive ISA.

2020 – Congress Venue Committee – ISA 2026 World Congress

I chaired the committee to identify the venue for the 2026 ISA World Congress. We received two applications and reviewed both case. A final decision has not been made however, due to the ongoing challenges with the Covid pandemic. The opportunity was taken for a further call but no responses were received no doubt due to the uncertainties of this time.

2021, January – Review of Bids for ISA Forum 2024

In January 2021, I was part of a sub-committee chaired by Jan Fritz to review bids for the ISA Forum 2024. The bids were reviewed and a report submitted to the Chair-EC. Since that time,

there have been discussions about hosting the Forum online. In addition the postponement of the World Congress will have other implications for the Forum.

2020-2021 ISA at the United Nations

In response to a request received from an ISA member to represent the ISA to an NGO who works closely with the UN on race and ethnicity related matters, a discussion emerged on the need for a more structured and transparent policy on its relations with the UN. This was necessary, as the ISA is an NGO member of the UN Economic and Social Committee (ECOSOC) and EC members have served as ISA UN Representatives for decades. While this request was approved, the EC decided to examine further, the status of the ISA's relationship with the UN and how this is structured and supported. I was asked by the ISA president to prepare a report for the EC's consideration.

After extensive consultation and research, including interviews with past and current ISA UN representatives, the report was completed and submitted to the president. The UN is an extremely important institution and the issues raised by sociology and our RCs are relevant to its ongoing work. Within the ISA, however the structure and processes of ISA involvement were limited, with few mechanisms to involve the RCs, even when issues related to specific RCS were involved. A presentation of this report was made to the ISA Research Committee in April 2021 and was well received. A copy of this report is available for those who may be interested.

Other Activities

March 2021 - ISA Panel at the 2021 Sessions of the Committee on the Status of Women (CSW) of the UN Parallel Event at CSW65

This session – “Feminist Approaches to Justice”, was organised by ISA UN representatives – Jan Fritz and Rosemary Barbaret with Sheetal Rahjan of the American Society of Criminology. Co-sponsored by the ISA, and Criminologists without Borders. the session included Opening Remarks by ISA President Safi Hanafi, was chaired by Rosemary Barbaret, moderated by Jan Fritz and included six panelists. My presentation was entitled – CEDAW (The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) and Violence against Women.

2021 – May 19-21 Virtual Academic Writing Workshop – The University of the West Indies Department of Sociology and the International Sociological Association

After many months of planning a virtual academic writing workshop was delivered by ISA Vice President Publications Eloisa Martin. Organised by the Coordinator of Sociology at the University of the West Indies (UWI) St. Augustine Campus, in Trinidad and Tobago, it reached the five campuses of the University of the West Indies System and their three sociology programmes as well as colleagues in other regional and international institutions.

In addition to the core presentation, a Meet the Editors section was included where invited representatives of Caribbean journals made presentations on their respective journals. I presented on *The Latin American and Caribbean Journal of Ethnic Studies (LACES)* of which I am an editor. Attendance ranged between 180 and 235 participants daily. In the workshop evaluation, 75% thought that the facilitator was excellent and 21% that she was good. While 64% strongly agreed that, the workshop as effective while 34% agreed that it was. So generally, this was an extremely successful event, which served to introduce the Anglophone Caribbean region to the ISA.

In June 2021, the Caribbean Sociological Association held its inaugural Conference and I was the keynote speaker. I hope that they will eventually become a member or affiliate member of the ISA. I would like to use this opportunity to express my full appreciation and thanks to Eloisa Martin on the professional and engaging way in which she organised and facilitated the workshop.

April 2021 – ISA EDI Initiative – Research Council

At the ISA Research Council meeting on April 10, 2021 a proposal submitted by Debra Davidson was accepted to established a group to work on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) within the ISA, later known as the ISA EDI Advisory Board. A number of persons volunteered or were invited to join this ad hoc body. I was invited and agreed to join. There are two main ongoing activities 1. Development of the EDI Principles to govern the ISA and 2. The organisation of a survey of members. I agreed to join the Principles sub-group, which is currently reviewing EDI documents from other organisations.

So, this is it. I hope that gives some understanding of which I have been doing since elected in July 2018. Best Wishes

2021 ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY ELEMENTS FOR AN EVALUATION

Geoffrey Pleyers ISA Vice-President for Research – President of the IV ISA Forum of Sociology

Earlier versions of this report have been presented and discussed at the ISA Research Council meeting, RCC Meeting and Executive Committee meeting in March 2021.

I. General presentation

This fourth ISA Forum took place amid a global pandemic that has shaken our lives and our societies. It gave even more importance to the ISA primary mission: gathering social scientists from all over the world to share their research and analyses. Organizing a Forum during the pandemic and moving it online has been a challenge for our association. To make it happen has already been a success. To gather 3,516 participants in these circumstances and offer them insightful spaces to present and discuss their latest research is an achievement.

This Forum had to be organized three times: first for a regular on-site Forum in Porto Alegre scheduled in July 2020, then as an on-site forum in February 2021 and finally as a virtual event. It would not have been possible without the dedication and largely invisible work of the presidents and program coordinators of the 57 research committees, working groups and thematic groups that participate in this Forum and are the vibrant heart of our International Sociological Association. Organizing a Forum under such difficult circumstances required a considerable amount of work by

hundreds of session organizers, our efficient ISA secretariat, our ISA president Sari Hanafi, the ISA Vice President for finance Sawako Shirahase, the members of its Executive Committee and the Porto Alegre Local Organizing Committee and its chair Hermilio Santos.

When assessing this Forum, we should bear in mind that it was the first virtual Forum organized by the ISA. It was a learning process for the ISA and each of its actors. Thus, it is important to assess it considering that future ISA events will entail a virtual dimension.

Originally, ISA Forums were conceived as events run by and focused on the RC/WG/TG. At the 2018 research council meeting, RC/WG/TG delegates insisted on two priorities for the Forum (and other RC events). They remained at the core of my work to prepare this Forum:

1. A more accessible Forum was a priority for many RCs. (i.e. lower registration fees and costs for participants).
2. Ease and increase the participation of scholars from the Global South

II. Forum participants

Being able to set up a Forum during the pandemic and with high uncertainties has been a success. Almost all the RC/WG/TG

have maintained their participation when the Forum despite the postponement to February 2021 and its move online.

Considering the circumstances, the Forum attracted a high number of participants: 3.516 participants from over 100 countries, 56% female, 25% students. Most RC/WG/TG underlined that the Forum virtual platform was efficient and very easy to use and that it has provided a good online experience.

Beyond the number of participants, the aim of an international Forum is to ensure speakers good conditions to present their research, a fair audience and a good quality of papers. Many speakers and RC/WG/TG program organizers expected the audience to be a bit larger. However, most panel gathered a sufficient audience to ensure good discussion of the papers. 15-20 people attended most RC/WG/TG sessions, a similar number to on-site panels in previous Forums for many RCs. Opening the access to these sessions beyond the registered participants by live-streaming them and diffusing the information in social media would have increased the audiences. A virtual Forum was a new experience for many participants. Most had to combine the Forum with teaching, regular university commitments and family commitments. Several RCs asked for setting panels on Sunday, as no teaching and professional meetings are taking place on that day. The sessions on that day benefited from larger audiences (above 30 participants for most of them).

Strong participation from scholars of the Global South

Global South was well represented in the Forum main sessions and most RC/WG/TG. Most of the RC/WG/TG grants and all the solidarity fund were used to pay for the registration of colleagues from the Global South. Unfortunately, some RC/WG/TG failed to provide their list of colleagues entitled to registration grants. It would have allowed more colleagues to take part in the Forum.

Five speakers from the Global South among eight speakers in the opening and closing plenaries

o Five semi-plenaries (out of 8) were organized by professional associations from Latin America

o Five common sessions out of 11 focused on the Global South At least half of the speakers from most of the other common sessions were based in the Global South

o The plenary panel that gathered the president of professional organizations focused on strengthening the contribution from the global South: CODESRIA, CLACSO, ALAS!

Highest participation of host country scholars in plenary sessions

In spite of the Forum moving virtual, it was essential to us to consider this Forum as a space of dialogue with Brazilian sociologists. The participation of Brazilian sociologists exceeded the participation of any host country in previous ISA Forums and recent Congresses. The talk by Rita Segato (University of Brasilia) talk in the opening plenary was a major contribution to this Forum. The opening session also entailed an intervention by the president of the Brazilian Sociological Society and a moving tribute to a Brazilian sociologist, Marielle Franco.

The LOC and the Brazilian Sociological Society (SBS) have organized three of our eight semi-plenary sessions where Brazilian sociology could represent itself directly. Six Brazilian scholars were involved in the five other semi-plenary sessions (four as panellists, two as chair/organizers). In addition, a common session (i.e. semi-plenary) co-organized by 9 RCs was dedicated to Marielle Franco. Dozens of other Brazilian colleagues organized panels and joint sessions in our RC/WG/TG. At least a dozen Brazilian colleagues acted as program coordinators for their research committee. We have all learned so much

from our Brazilian colleagues during this Forum and are very grateful for that. As the Forum moved virtual, the LOC proposed to produce a series of sociological movies to share some challenges faced by Brazil and by Porto Alegre inhabitants. This series was realized by Hermilio Santos, with funding initially destined for the ISA Forum. In spite of receiving these short movies less than 48 hours before the start of the Forum, the ISA secretariat was able to make them available online during the Forum.

As it happened in some previous ISA Forums or Congresses, some misunderstandings and tensions occurred with the chair of the LOC. The move to a virtual Forum was a new situation that transformed the relationship with the LOC. We should have better managed the invitation to the presidents of the SBS and to the chair of the LOC to our plenary sessions. However it should not overshadow the fact that we also received various messages by members of the Local Organizing Committee and of the Brazilian sociological society to congratulate the ISA on this successful Forum. Here is one of them: *"Although the circumstances are very different from what we have initially imagined for this Forum, it's inspiring to see it happen with such quality. Even more, to see this Forum as an outstanding moment to endorse the sociology we believe in. Congratulations!"*

III. Panels

The ISA Forum is mainly a conference run by RC/WG/TG. They organized over 800 panels. Their program organizers and session organizers should be credited for most of the success of this Forum. Here is a short balance of the limited number of plenary or semi-plenary sessions.

Opening and closing plenaries

The opening and closing plenaries focused on the Forum theme and on sociology in the pandemic. It gathered

Collaboration with regional organizations

This Forum was going to take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil. It was the opportunity to strengthening the global dialogue with our Latin American colleagues, whose theoretical, epistemological and analytical contributions help us to understand the global challenges of our times. The virtual Forum was an opportunity to strengthening our partnership with the Brazilian Sociological Society (SBS), the Latin American Sociological Association (ALAS) and the Latin American Social Science Council (CLACSO). They organized semi-plenary sessions at this Forum. We have extended this partnership to other regional associations. The Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and the vice-president of the International Science Council joined the presidents of CLACSO, ALAS and ISA in the semi-plenary panel dedicated to the roles of international organizations. The president of the Arab Council for Social Sciences joined us in the Forum closing session.

Our Latin American partners, CLACSO, ALAS and the SBS played an essential role in diffusing the calls for papers and the information about the Forum during the whole preparation process.

leading scholars from Brazil, India, Portugal, France, the United States and Lebanon.

Two women from Argentina and Mozambique withdrew at the last moment for personal and health reasons.

As the Forum became virtual, the opening ceremony lost some of its meaning and was merged with opening plenary. In this panel, the ISA president and the Forum president presented the Forum theme, welcomed the president of the Brazilian Sociological Society and paid tribute to a Brazilian

sociologist murdered in 2018. The head of the LOC was invited to the closing plenary. Both plenaries were well attended and livestreamed. Over 500 viewers joined the opening plenaries. Its video on Facebook reached 6500 views in a couple of days. This session contributed to shedding light on the Forum on social media.

Semi-plenaries and common sessions

Three semi-plenary sessions were organized by the LOC and the Brazilian Sociological Society. Originally, these sessions aimed at shedding light on contributions by Brazilian sociologists. The LOC and the BSS decided to combine talks by Brazilian and international scholars. All the feedback indicate these sessions were particularly insightful. The audience was low, as they were little advertised by their organizers.

The Latin American Council for Social Sciences (CLACSO) and Association of Sociology (ALAS) organized two other semi-plenaries. Both took place in Spanish and gathered a good audience around contributions on the Forum themes seen from Latin American perspectives.

The RCC organized a semi-plenary on the theme of the Forum, with speakers from the Philippines, Ecuador and the USA. Two other semi-plenary sessions were dedicated to the ISA tribute to its former president Immanuel Wallerstein and an encounter among presidents of international social sciences associations.

Common sessions

11 common sessions were selected among the proposals received from RC/TG/WG. Each proposal had to be supported by at least 3 RC/WG/TG or RCs and committees from the SBS, ALAS or CLACSO. Some common sessions gathered a wide audience. Some 80 participants joined the tribute to Erik Olin Wright, over 200 the tribute to Marielle Franco. Other common sessions did not succeed in diffusing their sessions and maintaining a working dynamic among the RCs over a very long process. (The deadline to receive the

common sessions proposals was fixed on March 15th 2019, almost two years before these sessions happened.)

Tributes

This IV ISA Forum was an opportunity for our community to pay tribute to three of our most distinguished colleagues in three special panels. **Immanuel Wallerstein** was not only a major global social scientist and a global citizen committed to social justice. He presided over the ISA between 1992 and 1996, leaving a considerable legacy.

Erik Olin Wright will notably be remembered for shedding light on “real utopias” that embody the hope of fairer and more human times. **Marielle Franco**, a Brazilian sociologist who was murdered on March 14th 2018, has become a global symbol of a struggle against racist, colonial, hetero-patriarchal domination and police violence and for social justice, human rights and democracy. Her life as a black woman from the favelas shows that intersectionality is not only a theoretical concept.

These sessions were significant for ISA as a community, very insightful in terms of content and successful in gathering a good audience, both on the Zoom platform and in the Facebook livestream. I hope that the ISA will open spaces for similar sessions in future events.

Professional development sessions and ‘Senior sociologists addressing Junior sociologists’

The Forum will also be the opportunity to attend “professional development sessions” and learn how to write journal articles and meet editorial standards with our Vice-President for Publication Eloisa Martin and the editors of the ISA journals in sessions that will be available on Zoom and livestreamed on the ISA Facebook page. ISA Vice-President Filomin Gutierrez, with Elina Oinas, Chih-Jou Jay Chen (ISA-EC team dedicated to promoting early career sociologists) have prepared videos of inspiring senior scholars in a dialogue with

young researchers and Hermilio Santos and the Porto Alegre Local Organizing Committee a series of videos on the Challenges of Brazil. All these videos are available on the ISA Forum website.

RC/WG/TG initiatives

Other successful proposals were implemented by the RCs

- o *Some RCs conducted an online pre-conference, notably a very dense one by WG08 (Sociology of emotions).*
- o Training sessions were organized by some RCs, including an insightful panel on “Managing Everyday Life as a Research-Focused Academic” (RC11) and some workshop to publish in international journals in their field (RC11 & RC05).
- o Even online, the social dimension of a Forum remained essential to many RCs, and particularly to RC34 (Youth) that held a daily virtual pub at the end of each day.

IV. Forum Preparation process

This ISA Forum had to be organized three times. We had to set up three calendars to submit and select abstract proposals. It represented considerable work for the ISA secretariat and for the RC program coordinators and session organizers.

1. A fairer allocation of panels for large and more active RC/WG/TG

Measures were implemented at different stages of the preparation process to achieve **a more equitable distribution of panels for larger and more active RC/WG/TG**. The first step was to allocate additional sessions to the larger Research Committee before the calls for abstracts were published. The second one to add two sessions to the RC/WG/TG that had received the highest number of abstracts. The aim is to reduce the difference in the rate of sessions per member and per received abstracts. However, this rate remains unfavourable to the largest and

The preparation process of this Forum was complex. It was not easy to set it up for the RC/WG/TG program coordinators who did a fantastic work. It should however be mentioned that in some RC/WG/TG, there was a lack of diversity and insufficient turnover among the discussants, chairs and program coordinators and that Program Coordinators organised and chaired more sessions than usually.

To be improved

- o There was confusion between the opening session and the first plenary – these should be clearly separated in the next virtual meeting.
- o The relation with the LOC should be clarified for future virtual Forums.
- o Every RC/WG/TG should make sure it sends its list of colleagues entitled to a Forum registration grant, notably to ease the access to ISA events to colleagues from the Global South or colleagues with less resources.

most active RC/WG/TG. (i.e. smaller RCs receive proportionally more sessions per members than large RCs). It should act as an incentive to increase the existing RC/WG/TG rather than multiplying the number of small RCs.

2. RC informal consultations and proposals for a virtual Forum

Consultations with RC leaders took place at different stages of the Forum preparation process. These consultations of RC leaders and of the RCC members resulted in many innovative proposals that were gathered in a 19-page report presented by the VP Research “Proposals for the first ISA online Forum” (diffused on 15 September 2020). Some of these proposals had a clear impact on the Forum setting, showing that involving RC leaders allows improving ISA projects and is particularly efficient. Other proposals were presented to the ISA Executive Committee but not implemented in this Forum. Many of these proposals would deserve to be reconsidered for future

ISA forums and congresses. Among these proposals were the suggestions to allow the lower the Forum registration fees and will enable the payment of ISA membership for two years instead of four years. RCs also asked for more flexibility to schedule RC/WG/TG sessions according to different time zones.

3. Preparing the first virtual Forum

- o Re-opening the calls for abstracts in fall 2020 requested additional work by the RC/WG/TG program coordinators and by the ISA secretariat. It revealed crucial to ensure a good number of participants in all participating RC/WG/TG.
- o A considerable amount of last-minutes issues appeared in the last couple of weeks. We managed to solve most of them, primarily thanks to efficient work by the ISA secretariat.

4. Lower registration fees

- o The main complaint expressed by RC/WG/TG leaders was that the fees were far too high for an online Forum.
- o The ISA accepted lower the registration fees by 50%. Besides, early registration fees applied until December 15th (Two months before the Forums).
- o A solidarity fund resulted in free registration for scholars from the global South. Each RC/WG/TG was able to select one or two recipients.
- o The ISA should consider lowering the fees for future events.

V. A virtual Forum

This Forum was the first virtual conference organized by the ISA. It should thus be assessed with comprehension, considering it as a learning process. We should also bear in mind that this Forum was organized and planned as an “on-site Forum” that was then translated online. As such, it was different from an event that would have been planned as a virtual event from an early stage.

5. Innovative projects for an on-site Forum During the Forum preparation process, time and energy have also been dedicated to innovative projects that were carefully organized but could not be implemented in a virtual Forum.

- o Over 20 RCs prepared a pre-conference before the Forum, many of them with local researchers and actors and/or with spaces open for PhD students.
- o The LOC provided was able to provide free rooms for each of these pre-conferences in the other two local “partner university”: the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) and the UNISINO.
- o The LOC set up a platform for solidarity housing: local researchers and students were invited to host an international participant.

To be improved:

- o A more accessible Forum was a priority for many RCs. RC/WG/TG have complained repeatedly about the high registration fees
- o Most of the suggestions and proposals that emerged from the consultation of RC presidents were not considered or implemented. All the participating RC/WG/TG should have been consulted about the postponement and the virtual Forum. However, most had a very positive evaluation of the Forum at the end.
- o Various RCs asked for more autonomy in organizing their online sessions, notably to adapt to different time zones or to extend the length of specific sessions.

While we could not seize all the potential of a virtual event, the virtual Forum allowed maintaining the dynamic of the ISA and of participating RC/WG/TG, and listening to insightful research outcomes.

Feedbacks and evaluations have stressed the following points:

Virtual platform and technical difficulties

- o They were very few *technical problems and the online platform was very easy to use. This success has to be credited to the*

ISA secretariat and Confex company efficient work.

o A significant amount of last minutes requests and technical questions were raised by Forum participants and organizers in the last few days before the Forum. We are very thankful to Izabela, Juan and Lola (*the ISA secretariat*) for their work behind the scene and their flexibility to solve many issues in the last days and during the Forum.

Livestream and open access to the panel videos

- o All the panel videos are available online, on the ISA Forum website
- o Seven panels and the editor sessions were livestreamed.

The decision to livestream them was finalized too late for advertising these sessions online. However, some of these sessions reached out to broad audiences (Over 5000 views in 24 hours for the

VI. Appendices and additional reports

1. Forum theme
2. Proposal for a virtual Forum in 2024

1. ISA Forum Theme

Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality

Twenty years after the start of our century, the optimism of the Millennium has faded and the challenges we face for living together on a limited planet are even more urgent.

While the expansion and the deepening of democratization was taken for granted at the turn of the Millennium, *democracy* has been at stake in an increasing number of countries, while its key component such as diversity and equal respect for all citizens are threatened. The hope for a global democracy able to tackle global issues such as climate change, migrations and

opening plenary!). I hope this success will pave the way for opening all the panels to a broader audience in a future virtual or hybrid event.

(The Research Council suggests that all the panels should be livestreamed but that we may be more cautious concerning the Q&A sessions.)

Visibility and projection of the Forum

As a virtual event, the Forum could have had much stronger visibility in social media. Livestreaming the panels was an excellent way to reaching out beyond the registered participants. The fact that it was planed as an on-site Forum limited its projection and diffusion to registered participants. For future virtual events, we should consider diffusing information on the Forum and the possibility of attending some of its sessions on social media in the months before the Forum. It will bring more visibility to the Forum, the ISA and sociology.

rising inequalities have faded. It has now become clear that to face global challenges, democracy needs to be re-invented within and beyond the representative system.

The environmental crisis and climate change are now a worrying reality. How can we live together on a limited planet? Land and food have become again major objects of struggles. Environmental and socio-territorial conflicts have multiplied against extractivist industries. Who are the actors who bring innovative solutions to keep our societies thriving within the planetary boundaries? How does the global environmental crisis lead us to re-think our world and our discipline?

Inequalities have considerably increased since the turn of the Millennium. We can now count twenty-six persons who own more wealth than the poorest half of humanity. This level of inequality is a major threat to democracy and to ecology. Inequalities particularly affect marginalized

populations and women in their professional, public and private lives. *Intersectionality* has become major theme in the ISA conferences and in our discipline over the last 20 years. Overcoming the lasting and interconnected economic, racial, colonial and gender discriminations and the violence that maintain them is another major challenge of our time. The rising consciousness of intersectionality is both a result and a trigger of the rise of subaltern actors and movements since 1992. Indigenous communities, minorities, feminists and small farmers have resisted injustice by combining practices, social struggles and alternative worldviews. The 2021 ISA Forum will provide sociological analyses of these four global

challenges paying particular attention to their interconnections and to possible solutions. We will discuss how both progressive and conservative actors and movements tackle these challenges and their conflictive perspectives. We will use this Forum to ask how our discipline has been meeting these four global challenges and it has been transformed by them. What are the contributions of the actors and epistemologies of the South? What are the new trends in global sociology that allow innovative analyses of these challenges? What are the main obstacles we face to tackle these problems? How can innovative sociological analyses contribute to grasp and to face our common problems in the Global Age?

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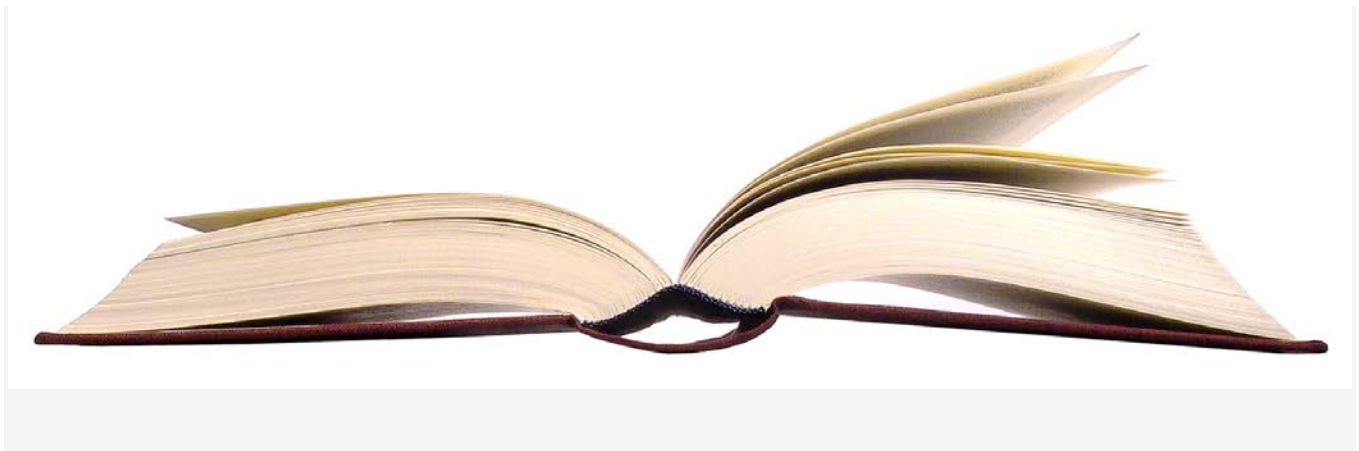


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Chapters 6, 7, 9 and 10 are available open access under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License at <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-53464-6>

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