GREETINGS FROM RC05 PRESIDENT

Helma Lutz

Dear Members of RC05,

Before this crazy year is over, we are sending you our latest Newsletter with all the best wishes for the Year 2021. It is much too early to present a thoughtful conclusion about the societal impact of the 2020 pandemic; but I think that many of us have been dealing with unfamiliar questions and dilemmas during this crisis. The pandemic has demonstrated how vulnerable large groups of our societies are. Many people died and many lost their jobs as a result of Covid 19 measures. While - as usual, the Global South is most effected, even in some of the economically strongest countries of the Global North a huge number of citizens became dependent on food aid, f.e. one out of six citizens in the US.

The pandemic has shown us that ‘care’ and ‘vulnerability’ – concepts that were considered rather marginal in sociological theory, have now been ‘upgraded’ - at least, they get more attention now.

It is this year 2020 that for the first time since the civil rights movement in the US, racism, racist violence and racial profiling were catapulted to the top of the News worldwide. The spirit of social movements like Black Lives Matter is now picked up in many countries; and the press coverage of violence against indigenous populations as part of the exploitation of virgin forests and raw material in the Global South has drawn more attention than before. These developments are important for members of our RC, whether they are teachers, social activists or researchers, or all at the same time.

Thanks to new technologies, we will learn about these new social developments and new research results during our sessions at the ISA Forum 22-28 February 2021. I hope to see many of you during the Forum even if only in small narrow black tiles - technology helps but does not really replace physical presence. But, as a Dutch saying goes: We must row with the oars we have. Unfortunately, the final program will only be ready in January. Will send you the link as soon as we have it.
I hope that we can carry on in the spirit of mutual support and wish all of you happy holidays and a good start of the New Year 2021.

Helma

REPORT ON MEMBERS, DECEMBER 2020

Martina Boese

As of December 14th, 2020, the RC05 had 163 active members – that is paid-up members of RC05, who are also members of ISA. This is only 7 members less than at the time of the last ISA Congress in Toronto. 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: Argentina 1; Australia 15; Austria 1; Belgium 2; Brazil 4 (+1); Canada 25 (+3); Chile 2 (+1); Ecuador 1; Egypt 1; Fiji 1; Finland 3; Germany 6 (+1); Greece: 1; Hong Kong 1; India 1; Indonesia 1; Iran 1; Ireland 1; Israel 2; Italy 4 (+1); Japan 12; Lebanon 1; Malaysia 2; Mexico 7 (+1); Netherlands 1; New Zealand 2; Nigeria 1; Pakistan 1; Philippines: 1; Portugal: 1; Russia 1; Singapore 1; South Africa 5; Sweden 1; Switzerland: 1; Trinidad & Tobago 1; Turkey 3; United Kingdom 10 (-1) ; United States 37 (+5). Over the same period, we have lost some members from the UK (-1), we have lost representation from Nepal and have gained representation from the Philippines and Portugal.

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.

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 online forum in 2021 and for the World Congress in Melbourne in 2022. These events provide an excellent opportunity to meet, if only virtually in 2021, and engage in dialogues and discussions with researchers with expertise in indigeneity, racism, nationalism and ethnicity.

We also rely on you to help recruiting postgraduate students and colleagues in your department as well as in your local, national and international networks with research and teaching interests in these areas to sign up with RC05.
Voices for Life
On September 25th, took place the First Virtual Online Indigenous Peoples Space Thematic Meeting of the World Social Forum, monitored from Mexico, which was attended by 10 native people’s representatives, as well as 4 guest commentators with international recognition. The topics covered were diverse and of great importance not only for affected peoples, but for humanity, as reiterated throughout the meeting. It began with an In-Memoriam tribute to Heriberto Salas Amac, Nahua councilor promoting the territory defense and people’s self-determination and member of the Ancestral Original Peoples’ Thematic Space of the WSF facilitating committee. Subsequently there were testimonies of the destruction of large regions where ecosystems support biodiversity, vital for these areas and for the world. In women and men voices, clearly and outrageously were reported the progress of extractivism projects sponsored by local or national governments. There were also shown advances and hope processes sustained by these peoples, because struggle and organization bear fruit. Complaints of ecosystems and biocultural heritage destruction and systematic assassinations were reported in the voice of the Zoque of Chimalapas rainforest and Ikoots from the Tehuantepec Isthmus people representatives, these two from Mexico; of the Colombia indigenous peoples and the Amazon where assassination of activists and environmental defenders is constant in the advancing capitalist destruction. Other voices, in addition to pointing out these crimes, stated the relationship importance between original peoples and the ecosystems in which they live, as expressed by the Mané Garrincha Cultural Autonomous Area members of Brazil: "the original peoples defense is the Nature defense" they asserted.

For their part, the Tixtla Guerrero Nahua peoples, represented by Community Health Brigade 43, spoke of health and of traditional medicine promotion as a form of community resistance and autonomy; In the same sense, members of the Díné Bikeyah and Kikapú peoples from Texas, in the United States spoke of traditional midwife projects in these peoples territories and of decolonizing practices by body and spirit healing with traditional medicine, food and the recovery of their own culture. In turn, the Kichwa Saracayú people representative, with his traditional attire and dignified attitude, encouraged those present at this virtual meeting not to let down their spirits, because the practice of one's own culture strengthens the spirit. An example of this is the relationship between one's own food systems and body healing: "food is the peoples medicine". Very hopeful was the Kurdish People participation by a young representative, a member of the women's militias and manifested the strength of her people, who articulate themselves in a democratic Confederalism that crosses borders and reaches a total of 45 million people, showing an example of the popular power exercise without parties or warlords.
From the Amazon World Assembly, made evident the supreme value of the Amazon rainforest, reflected in goods such as the billions of liters of water it generates daily, and which cannot be quantified in monetary terms, but which is destroyed by capitalist projects that constantly devastate it.

From Colombia came the greeting of the National Indigenous Organization of Colombia, ONIC, which narrated the dispute against an authoritarian regime that murders and imprisons its social and political fighters. This year they add up to 60 massacres and in recent weeks almost 20 unarmed civilians exercising their legitimate right to protest were killed by police and paramilitary forces. Despite this they continue their life plans and experience their coexistence alternatives, resisting the pandemic and the death regime that governs.

Guests focused their comments on denounces expressing that capitalism does not have a friendly face, that racism as ideological construction is still filtered into western scientific discourses and in the "extractivist" practice of intellectuals at the service of the system and its transnational corporations whose capitals with names and surnames advance on the continent, and that there is a recolonization process that looms over the original peoples, so that the peoples articulation must be reinforced. At the end of the meeting, participants expressed optimism and joy at this dialogue exercise, reflecting a struggle and combat spirit in the face of death projects looming over Mother Earth, reinforcing their daily struggles.

Collective work: Oscar Ochoa, Ricardo A. Landa, Gabriela Vega COORDINADORA DE PUEBLOS y ORGANIZACIONES DEL ORIENTE DEL ESTADO DE MEXICO EN DEFENSA DE LA TIERRA, EL AGUA y SU CULTURA (CPOOEM)

Original inhabitants and NGOs eastern state of Mexico coordination in defense of land, water and culture

At the meeting, RC05 member Azril Bacal gave a short presentation which he shared with us here: Pueblos Originarios linked to the WSF process organized by Gabriela Vega Téllez, Azril Bacal’s short presentation

Dear RC05ers, Greetings!

1) The scientific community recognizes that all humans belong to the same species: Homo Sapiens Sapiens, traced to "Lucy," our common grandmother in East Africa.
2) While the implicit notion of race categories is found in the judeo-christian scriptures in terms of color, the modern concept of races is traced to Carl von Linné (Linneus) in the 18th century - in a kind of human taxonomy and proto-physical anthropology (later misused as the "scientific bases" of the research conducted by the Institute of Racial Hygiene at Uppsala University till the 1950s - which led to policies and practices of sterilization of tens of thousands of persons with disabilities and indigenous Saami people - later imitated by the Nazis). This work was written after his renowned plant taxonomy. It remains controversial the issue of how much of a racist he was as a man of his age, already plagued by cultural racism.
3) Racism refers to the ideological, political, cultural use of the term "race" and "races" to rationalize and justify slaverry, colonialism, racial stratification, social inequality based on pigmentocracy (color), racial discrimination, economic exploitation, social exclusion, stigmatization of the "other," and the like. Without a cultural/ideological/social/political
definition of color = race = racial superiority/inferiority, color remains a phenotypical attribute due to skin pigmentation.

4) Science has played an important role to influence the popular culture concerning race: both by contributing to racism via pseudo-science - and by denouncing the myths of race and races.

MEMBERS’ NEWS

Photo by Jon Tyson on Unsplash

Bandana Purkayastha

2020-2022: Social Science Research Council award, Co-PI, on Pandemics and Migrants Precarity.

Soma Chaudhuri (Sociology, Michigan State University, PI), Elizabeth Chacko (Geography, George Washington University, Co-PI), and I have been awarded an Social Science Research Council grant for a study on Pandemics and Migrant Precarity. We will be working with S. Anandhi (History, Madras Institute of Development Studies, India), Anand Venkatesh (Economics, Institute for Rural Management, India), Paromita Sanyal. (Sociology, Florida State University), and Jaita Talukdar (Sociology, Loyola University, New Orleans). We will focus on India and the US to develop an interdisciplinary methodological toolkit to study migrant precarity in the international context. The toolkit will draw from several interdisciplinary methods, including the life history calendar (LHC), in-depth interviews, focus group discussion (FGD), the Zaltman metaphor of elicitation technique (ZMET) and content analysis of print media to answer the following question: How has the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated existing precariousness and created new disruptions in the lives of migrants?

Scholars in JNU, India has been developing a series on Doing Sociology. Here is my talk on intersectionality: https://youtu.be/jcQvPIDUz3Q

I have been working with Anjana Narayan (Head, Sociology, California State University Pomona, US), Nazli Kibria (Sociology, Boston University, US), Aparna Rayaprol (Sociology,
University of Hyderabad, India), Asha Mukherjee (Philosophy, Visva Bharati, India), Farhan Navid Yousaf (Sociology, Pakistan), Samia Haq (Anthropology, Bangladesh), and Neela Bhattacharya Saxena (English, Long Island Community College USA), on developing interdisciplinary, decolonized methodologies for studying Hinduism and Islam, along with gathering data from these countries on how highly educated women describe their experiences living these religions.

**Ipek Demir**

Ipek Demir, University of Leeds has been appointed as the new Director of Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies (CERS).

**Recent members’ activities in Perth Western Australia**

Members of the University of Western Australia’s Migration, Mobilities and Belonging research cluster (MMoB) have been involved in a number of activities over the last few months. We usually host a face to face Migration Update annually, focussing on migration and integration issues in Western Australia, but due to Covid-19, this year we opted for an online forum the focus of which was *Migration and Marginality in the Time of Covid-19: Impacts and Challenges*, held in early September. Speakers considered a range of issues related to the effects of Covid-19 on migration and ethnic minorities in Australia including issues for international students and temporary visa holders, the impact on a range of institutions, the need for appropriate data (including ethnic data on mortality and morbidity), the potential long term impact on Australia’s migration program, the effects on services and responses of communities, and the rise in racism related to the pandemic and an Anti-Racism Strategy initiative. Speakers represented academic, government (federal and local), international students, migration agent, and the Ethnic Communities’ Council WA perspectives. The recording is available here [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYMjFCotYkc&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYMjFCotYkc&feature=youtu.be)

We were also involved in a webinar on ‘The Legacy of Race Science’ with Angela Saini, British science journalist, broadcaster and the author, who spoke about her 2019 popular science book *Superior: The Return of Race Science*, followed by a panel of physical anthropology, sociology, Indigenous Studies and African Studies experts from UWA, with several hundred participants.

One of our members, Professor Loretta Baldassar has been identified as ‘Australia’s Research Field Leader’ by the Australian newspaper in ‘human migration research’; and UWA was identified as Lead Institution for African Studies and History.

UWA’s Africa Research and Engagement Centre is involved in multiple research and community projects and last week held a one-day symposium showcasing a range of Africa and African diaspora focussed work plus the launch of a women’s empowerment and leadership program in partnership with the Organisation of African Communities WA, of which MMoB members are mentors. AfREC research director Associate Professor Richard Vokes is hosting an exhibition of previously unseen photographs from Idi Amin’s private collection, and has been awarded government funding for work on a museum and exhibition project for his work focused on Africa.

**UK Members’ activities**

Some of us in the UK, such as Nira Yuval-Davis, Karim Murji and Umut Erel have been actively involved in the Social Scientists against the Hostile Environment group, organizing a series of webinars and blogs, including on migration and social reproduction pandemic, Racism and Higher Education during the pandemic, and Imposing Racialised State Discourses: Racism in Britain Today. You can access recordings of these, as well as blogs here: [https://acsssmigration.wordpress.com](https://acsssmigration.wordpress.com)
Boese, Martina
Boese, M., Van Kooy, J. and Bowman, D. 2020. ‘Now I'm just like anyone else in the community': Work, welfare, and community expectations of refugees in Australia, *Journal of Refugee Studies*, published online first [https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feaa080](https://doi.org/10.1093/jrs/feaa080)

Conversi, Daniele


‘The ultimate challenge: Nationalism and climate change’, Nationalities Papers, 2020, 48, 4, pp. 625-636 (‘status of the field’ article); DOI: https://doi.org/10.1017/nps.2020.18; Q1 in Political Science and International Relations –Scimago


‘The Musical Bridge—Intercultural Regionalism and the Immigration Challenge in Contemporary Andalusia’ (with Machin-Autenrieth, Matthew), Genealogy, 4, 1, 2020, pp. 1-20. DOI: https://doi.org/10.3390/genealogy4010005; ISSN 2313-5778


Demir, Ipek
Ipek Demir, University of Leeds has been appointed as the new Director of Centre for Ethnicity and Racism Studies (CERS). If you’d like a picture, please use the attached.


Erel, Umut


Erel, Umut and Ryan, Louise 2019 Migrant Capitals: Proposing a Multi-Level Spatio-Temporal Analytical Framework Sociology, 53(2) (pp. 246-263)

O'Neill, Maggie; Erel, Umut; Kaptani, Erine and Reynolds, Tracey (2019) Borders, risk and belonging: Challenges for arts-based research in understanding the lives of women asylum seekers and migrants 'at the borders of humanity' Crossings: Journal of Migration & Culture, 10(1) (pp. 129-147)

Farah Schwartzman, Luisa

Lutz, Helma:


Modley, Kogila

Race, Culture, and Politics in Education. A Global Journey From South Africa

This autobiographical volume will foster a deeper understanding of racism, discrimination, and inequality. Moodley shares her experiences from 5 countries to examine subjects that include indentured labor, expropriation, the influences of Gandhi and Mandela, antisemitism in Europe, welfare colonialism in Canada, sectarianism in the Middle East, and bigotry in America.

"Moodley's journey gives readers new hope that educating for political literacy might reduce the insidious web of societal racism." —Rhona S. Weinstein, University of California, Berkeley

“I have a deep admiration of Moodley’s capacity to hold on to her humanness amid a sustained assault on her family’s dignity.”—Crain Soudien, Human Sciences Research Council

“Combines an unfailing eye for telling details with an insightful social analysis.”—John Willinsky, Stanford University
Purkayastha, Bandana


Radford, David


Stoetzler, Marcel


Tazreiter, Claudia

Book chapters


Journal articles


Vacchelli, Elena


CALLS FOR PAPERS

Social Politics: Call for Papers: COVID-19 and the Social Politics of Crises
https://academic.oup.com/sp/pages/call-for-papers

Social Politics invite submissions for a 2021 Special Issue focused on COVID-19 and the Social Politics of Crises. Find out more about the Call for Papers, visit our Author Guidelines to prepare your manuscript, and view the timeline for the Special Issue to submit your work.

- Call for Papers
- Guidelines for Submission
- Timeline for the Special Issue

There are a number of potential themes that inform the special issue; we are, however, open to a wide range of papers addressing the impact of COVID-19:

- What are the social politics of COVID-19 across the globe? How will the landscape for the politics of social policy change once the world emerges from the pandemic? Will the North-South divide be any different and how?
- How are needs being defined in different contexts, and with what gendered and racialised effects? Which needs are deemed to be more urgent than others and how is COVID-19 recalibrating public policy priorities?
- What has been revealed about the racialised and gendered distribution of paid care work? What approaches have been taken in relation to citizens who are aged, or who have other vulnerabilities (such as comorbidities)?
- Which groups of people are considered disposable, for economic or health purposes? How are these groups responding to their marginalisation?
- Which issues have been pushed to the margins by COVID-19? What is NOT happening because of COVID-19?
- How has COVID-19 played to gendered articulations of power and gendered forms of leadership? In what ways has it exacerbated toxic and militarised masculinities?
- How is the idea of the social itself being rewritten as people are confined to households that are intended to operate as islands? How are households responding to insecurities of income and distancing from the means of collective support? What impact has such ‘closeness’ had on domestic and familial violence? How have burdens of care been shared or redistributed?

Guidelines for submission:

Please refer to the Social Politics Instructions to Authors.
Timeline for the Special Issue

Prospective authors must be in a position to meet the following key deadlines if their paper is to be considered:

- Full drafts of all papers will be due at the latest by 15th January 2021 and submitted via ScholarOne Manuscripts.
- Following review, draft papers will be returned to authors with a first decision by mid-April 2021.
- Final versions of accepted manuscripts must be received by 15th September 2021.

Newsletter collated by Umut Erel
ISA RC05
Please send contributions for the next newsletter to umut.erel@open.ac.uk