

## RC 20 Newsletter, August-December 2022

**RC20 Elections:** Elections for officers and board members will be held this year for four-year terms ending in 2027. We are interested in recruiting potential members for the board—we can add up to six new members—and you will soon receive a message with a call for nominations (including self-nominations). The vote will be taken on-line, so that all RC20 members will be able to participate—watch for more information.

**World Congress of Sociology:** The World Congress of Sociology will be held in Melbourne, Australia from 25 June to 1 July. RC20 will have eleven paper sessions, plus three joint sessions—thanks to Kseniya Kizilova and Nate Breznau for leading the organization. Registration is now open, and all presenters must register by 22 March in order to remain on the program. See <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023> for more complete information about the World Congress.

*Applications for Registration Grants:* RC20 members in good standing who are active participants in the World Congress are eligible to apply for a registration grant. Applications should be sent to the Program Coordinators (Kseniya Kizilova and Nate Breznau) by January 31, 2023. Watch for a message with more details.

**Upcoming Conference:** *Democracy in Europe, Democracy Beyond Europe*, an international conference in honor of John Markoff, will be held January 25-27. The conference is sponsored by the European Studies Center and held at the Sociology Department, University of Pittsburgh. For those who are interested but cannot attend in person, the virtual link to all events is: <https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96801236998>. The complete program is included at the end of this message.

### **Report on the First RC20 (Comparative Sociology) Best Paper Award:**

Fumiya Onaka (Japan Women's University)

This is a brief report on the First RC20 (Comparative Sociology) Best Paper Award.

The call for applications was formally announced on 10 March 2022 with a deadline of 11 April. It was open to all papers on comparative sociology published by RC20 members between 2019 and 2022.

The award review was conducted by the award committee consisting of the RC20 board members, following the “Call for Applications for the First RC20 (Comparative Sociology) Best Paper Award.”

Through e-mails and online discussions, the committee reached the conclusion as follows:

Winner: Sung Hee Ru. “Historical geographies of Korea's incorporation: The rise of underdeveloped and modernized colonial port cities.” *Journal of Historical Geography* 76 (2022): 42-55.

Honorable mention: Andrew Dawson. “The achilles heel of democracy? A macro cross-national assessment of the correlates of state legitimacy.” *Social Science Research* 97 (2021) 102574.

The award was presented to Sung Hee Ru by David Weakliem, the RC20 President, and Marita Calvallo, the RC20 Vice-President, during the RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology and 2nd RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia (Tokyo, Japan, 12– 16 September 2022, Japan Women’s University).

## **Report on Joint RC20/RC33 Regional Conference:**

Fumiya Onaka (Japan Women’s University)

### *1. Introduction*

The joint conference of RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology & 2nd RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia was held between 12 to 16 September 2022 hosted by Japan Women’s University, Tokyo. This paper intends to summarize this conference briefly.

This conference had several purposes.

The first was to facilitate the collaboration between RC20 (Comparative Sociology) and RC33 (Methodology).

The second was to focus on the Asian region.

The third was to hold an international conference hosted by Japan Women’s University, which might contribute to increase the diversity in sociology.

The fourth was to succeed the legacy of three prominent figures of comparative sociology and methodology in Japan: Masamichi Sasaki, Munesuke Mita (Yusuke Maki), and Keiko Funabashi.

The fifth was to conduct a methodological experiment at international conferences. RC33 gave me an opportunity to highlight the following significance in the RC33 bulletin: 5.1. an online conference will be resilient in the COVID-19 pandemic; 5.2. this will hold true for other disasters, such as typhoons, earthquakes, etc.; 5.3. this will eliminate financial obstacles for researchers participating in the conference; 5.4. this

will contribute to reducing environmental pollution; and 5.5. the use of video-conference applications might create opportunities for valuable academic interaction through technological innovations.

This conference plan was first announced as an in-person conference in 2018 Toronto. It was postponed during the outbreak of COVID-19 and eventually changed into an online conference (January 2021) following the abovementioned five points.

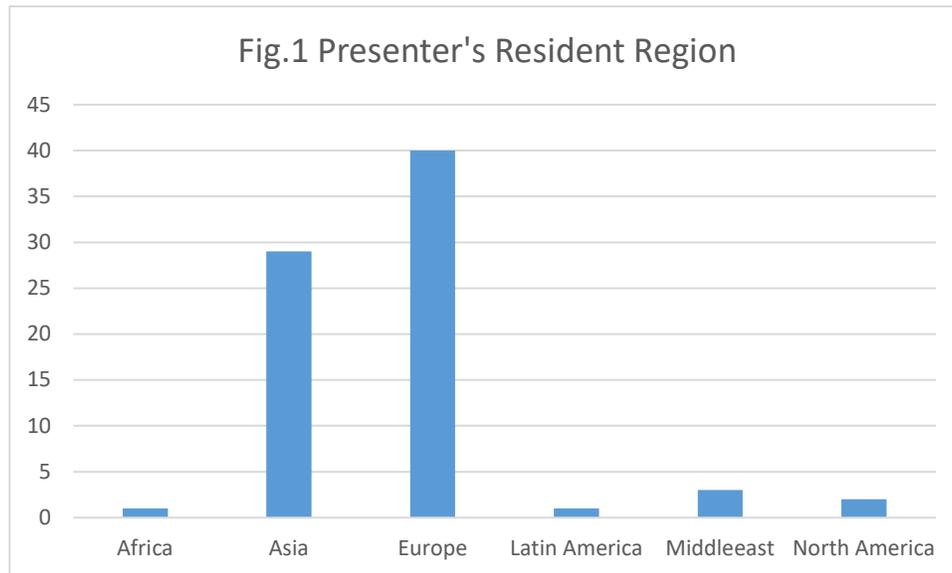
## 2. Methods

This report is based on analyses of forms data on submission and registration and Zoom meeting participation data as well as participatory observation by attending the sessions avoiding to disclose individual information.

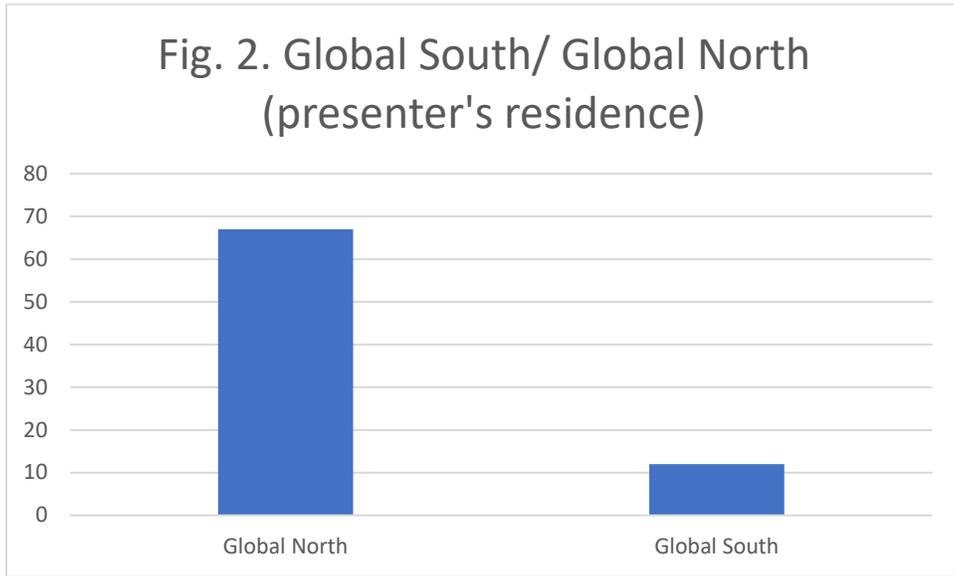
## 3. Results

### 3-1. Presenters

There were 79 presenters from 25 countries. A large number of Asian presenters met the second purpose of this conference to focus Asia. However, European presenters were the most frequent. Moreover, the conference included several presenters from Africa and Latin America (Fig. 1 ). The number was small, but there were brilliant presentations from these regions, such as Argentine, Brazil, Ghana, and Nigeria. Also, there were a number of presentations from Eastern Europe.

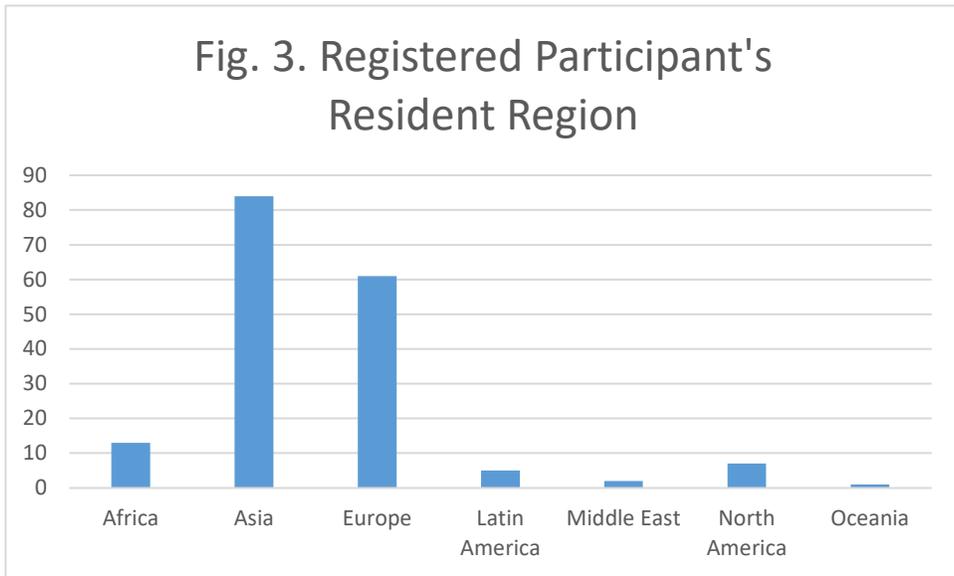


There were more Global North presenters than Global South presenters (Fig. 2); however one-sixth of the presenters were from Global South countries, such as Ghana, Brazil, India, Nigeria, Thailand, and the UAE and gave impressive presentations.

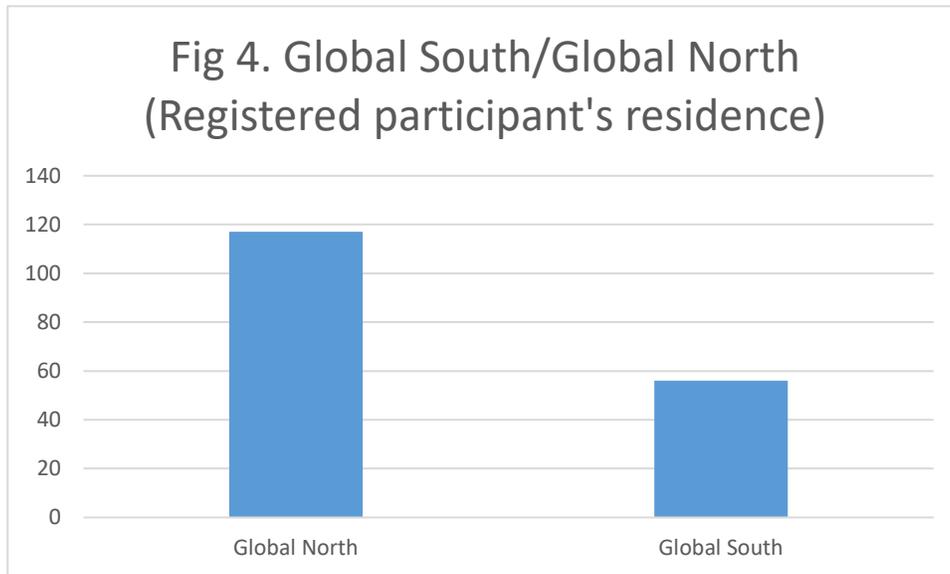


*3-2. Registered participants*

Registered participants are 173 from 43 countries. Regarding the region, the results are as follows (Fig. 3):



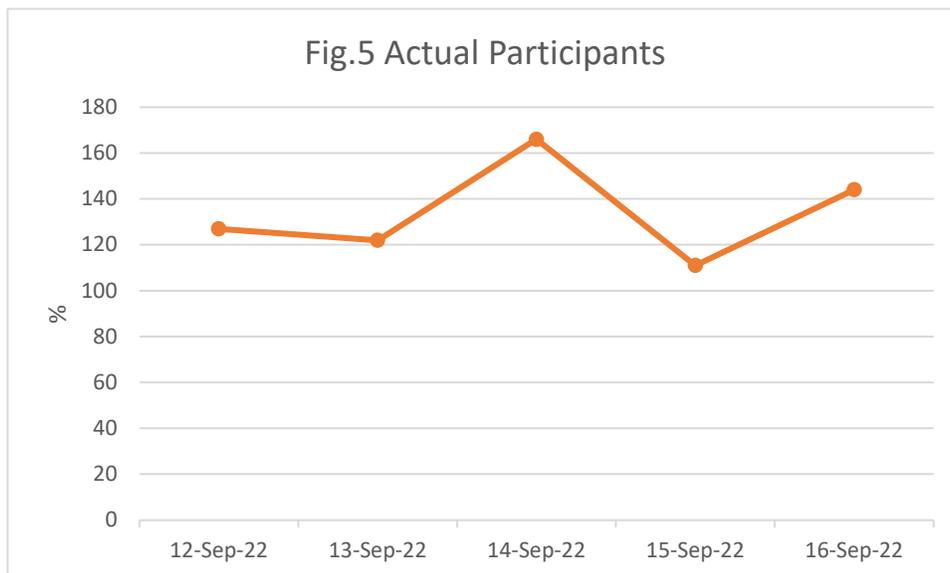
Following the focus of this conference, Asian is the most frequent participants. But it is also remarkable that several registered participants were from Africa.



The number of registered participants from the Global South was half of the Global North (Fig. 4). One-third of the registered participants were from the Global South.

#### 4. Actual Participants

In addition to registered participants, there were actually 132 participants per day on average, with a total of 660 actual participants (Fig. 5).



#### 5. Discussion

These results provide evidence regarding the five points discussed in the Introduction.

The conference was held without problems despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (5.1). there were several disasters, for example, floods, typhoons, and even war (5.2). Therefore, this online conference was at least partly able to overcome COVID-19 and these disasters. Regarding 5.3, the increase of Global South presenters and registered participants indicated that this format removed financial obstacles to attending an international conference. This increased geographical diversities of presenter's and registered participants. Regarding 5.4, this conference did not contribute to increase carbon dioxide. Regarding 5.5, we utilized several functions of zoom meeting such as breakout rooms and Zoom Timer App..

Nevertheless, an online international conference has several problems such as inability of communication during meals; however people from all over the world were able to unite in this conference despite COVID-19, disasters, financial barriers while causing minimal pollution.

### *Reference*

Fumiya Onaka 2015 "Sociological Methodology - BMS & RC33 - News from Historical and Comparative Sociology in Japan." *Bulletin of Sociological Methodology/Bulletin de Methodologie Sociologique* 128: 61-64, SAGE Publications.

# Democracy in Europe, Democracy Beyond Europe

An international conference in honor of John Markoff

*Sponsored by the European Studies Center and held at the Sociology Department, University of Pittsburgh*

*Location of all in-person events:*

*Sociology Colloquium Room, 2432 Posvar Hall*

*Virtual link to all event:*

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/96801236998>

## Wednesday, January 25

12:00-1:30 Sidney Tarrow (Cornell University, USA):

“Three takes on Democracy and Movements: Markoff, Tilly, and Frank” (virtual)

*Moderated by Suzanne Staggenborg (Pitt, Sociology)*

*Preceded by words of welcome by Lisa Brush, chair of sociology*

## Thursday, January 26

10:30-12:00 Donatella della Porta (Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy):

“Social Movements in the European Crises: Still time for a Critical Europeanism?” (virtual)

*Moderated by Fernando Tormos-Aponte (Pitt, Sociology)*

12:00-1:00 Lunch break

1:00-2:30 Asef Bayat (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, USA):

“Democracy and Everyday Life” (in person)

*Moderated by Sabar Hosseini (Pitt, History of Art and Architecture)*

2:30-3:00 break

3:00-4:30 Panel on democratic alternatives I (in person):

Hillary Lazar (University of Pittsburgh, USA):

“Democracy and the Anarchist Turn in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Activism”

Benjamin Case (University of Pittsburgh, USA):

“Ballot Initiatives as a Window into Democracy in Crisis”

*Moderated by Mark Paterson (Pitt, Sociology)*

4:30-5:30 Jessica Greenberg (University of Illinois, Chicago, USA):

“Can the Rule of Law save European Democracy?” (in person)

*Moderated by Nancy Condee (Pitt, Director of Russian, East European & Eurasian Studies)*

**Friday, January 27**

11:00-12:30 Amber Reed (Spelman College, USA):  
“The Politics of Nostalgia: South Africa and Beyond” (in person)

*Moderated by Joshua Bloom (Pitt, Sociology)*

12:30-2:00 Panel on histories of democracy (virtual):

“Democracy and Executive Might in 19<sup>th</sup> Century Europe and the Americas”:

Eduardo Posada-Carbo (University of Oxford, UK): “Simón Bolívar”

Guy Thomson (University of Warwick, UK): “Benito Juarez”

Stephen Sawyer (American University in Paris, France): “Napoleon III and the Third Republic”

Joanna Innes (University of Oxford, UK), Commentator

*Moderated by Mark Philp (University of Warwick, UK)*

(includes lunch for in-person attendees)

2:00-2:30 break

2:30-4:00 panel on democratic alternatives II (in-person):

Jackie Smith (University of Pittsburgh, USA):

“Globalization and the Future of Democracy Today”?

Ben Manski (George Mason University, USA):

“The other world that is necessary: The imperative of Next System Studies”

*Moderated by Nathan Katz (Pitt, Sociology)*

4:00-5:30 Roundtable: Democratic Histories, Democratic Futures (in-person):

John Markoff (Sociology), Diego Holstein (History), Michael Goodhart (Political Science), &  
Mohammed Bamyeh (Sociology)

*Moderated by Randall Halle (Pitt, German/European Studies)*

*\*For more information, please contact conference organizer, Mohammed Bamyeh: [mab205@pitt.edu](mailto:mab205@pitt.edu)*

*Poster design by Christina Ong*