



RC 20 Newsletter, January-July 2020

From the President: At the time of our last newsletter, in December 2019, we were expecting to hold the World Forum of Sociology in July 2020. However, a lot has happened since that time, and the World Forum has been postponed until February 2021. I hope that it will be possible hold it as planned. In the meantime, I wish everyone good health and best wishes in dealing with the many challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the disruption, RC20 members continue to be active in research. In addition to a list of selected publications, this newsletter contains information about an upcoming online conference sponsored by RC20 and RC33, a call for a co-editor for a guest editor, and information about two recently released datasets.– David Weakliem

Announcements

Guest Editor

Liza G. Steele and Nate Breznau are seeking a third guest editor to edit a special issue in *Frontiers in Sociology* (open access) with the theme, "Preferences for redistribution and social policy in the global south, in particular related to topics such as ethnic and racial diversity, immigration, and socioeconomic inequality." The ideal third guest editor is a person of color who is from the Global South or currently focuses on the Global South in her research (or both). Those interested should contact Nate Breznau directly at breznau.nate@gmail.com.

RC20 & RC33 Joint Conference

Title: RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology & The 2nd RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology (Tokyo, Japan | September 12– 16, 2022 | Japan Women's University)

ISA RC20 (Comparative Sociology) has a long history that it was established in 1986. It has been one of most active RCs, hosting conferences regularly all over the world. This time, RC20 is embarking a new positive project in the form of a joint conference with RC33 (Logic and Methodology in Sociology). Comparison, the main topic of RC20, is one of methodologies which RC33 has always been interested in. Joint sessions of the two RCs have taken place in most of the ISA conferences, but independent RC conferences have not been held as joint projects thus far.

This will be the second RC33 regional conference in Asia. The First RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia was held in Taipei, Taiwan, in 2017, where researchers exchanged research findings and new ideas on methodology including comparison. The second conference intends to broaden the horizons of comparison-conscious researchers.

It is notable that the upcoming conference will be held at Japan Women's University. This conference by RC20 and RC33, which has had women presidents since 2010, will promote diversity of society, by ensuring that no person is treated differently or less favorably on the basis of gender, disability, ethnicity, locality, etc.

It will be an *online* conference for various reasons: (1) resilience in COVID-19 and other disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons, (2) compatibility with other conferences because of its effective use of resources, (3) Earth-friendliness, (4) its innovative use of video-conference applications.

The conference webpage (<http://mcn-www.jwu.ac.jp/~fonaka/JC.htm>) will be active shortly.

Timeline and process are as follows:

Call for session proposals: April 5, 2021

Close of session proposals submission: July 30, 2021

Acceptance of session proposals: September 10, 2021

Call for papers open (abstract submission): September 27, 2021

Close of paper submission: December 31, 2021

Submissions accepted and program prepared: March 11, 2022

Registration opened: April 11, 2022

Conference: September 12–16, 2022

The local organizing committee:

Fumiya Onaka (Prof. Dr., Japan Women's University)

Akiko Nagai (Assoc. Prof. Dr., Japan Women's University)

Data Releases

World Values Survey Wave 7 Data Release

The [World Values Survey Association](#) is delighted to share the great news: data for the first group of countries, surveyed within the 7th round of the World Values Survey, will be released into free public access on July 20, 2020. This first public release of the values study data-set comprises survey data for over 75 countries and societies (including those surveyed in Europe in cooperation with the [European Values Study](#)); it includes data for countries surveyed in late 2017, 2018, 2019 and early 2020. With the interruption in the survey fieldwork process between March 2020 and September 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related restrictions, the end of the wave has now been postponed to July 2021, when the second and final WVS-7 data release will be made.

The first WVS-7 dataset will be available for downloading in free public access with no fees or registration required, starting from July 20 onwards. The data will be made available in SPSS, Stata, SAS and R data formats. The WVS-7 dataset comprises survey findings for over 300 indicators, measured by the standardized WVS-7 questionnaire. The WVS-7 questionnaire is structured along 14 thematic sub-sections as following: social values, attitudes & stereotypes (45 items); societal well-being (11 items); social capital, trust and organizational membership (49 items); economic values (6 items); corruption (9 items); migration (10 items); post-materialist index (6 items); science & technology (6 items); religious values (12 items); security (21 items); ethical values & norms (23 items); political interest and political participation (36 items); political culture and political regimes (25 items); demography (31 items). All countries surveyed in WVS-7 employ nationwide random probability representative sample designs with the minimum sample size being increased to N=1200. More information and further updates are available at our [web-site](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) profiles.

The Global Welfare Dataset

We have released a new comparative welfare state dataset. The Global Welfare Dataset (GLOW) (glow.ku.edu.tr) is a cross-national panel dataset that aims at facilitating comparative research on the Global North and Global South. GLOW is an outcome of a comparative welfare politics research project, "Emerging Welfare," funded by the European Research Council (emw.ku.edu.tr) and based in Koç University in Istanbul.

You can find more information on GLOW and the EMW Project in the following Youtube videos:

GLOW: <https://youtu.be/SjAhuzZCRo8>

EMW: <https://youtu.be/Xlbqpcs3mno>

The GLOW dataset includes 381 variables on 61 countries from the years between 1989 and 2015. It covers comparable panel data on both Global North and South as we have compiled data from a large number of international and domestic sources, conducted compatibility checks, and standardized the data. GLOW provides comparable cross-national data on social assistance, as we applied the same methodology of the World Bank's ASPIRE dataset in order to build comparable indicators across developed and developing countries. We have also extracted employee and employer contributions from SSA reports for all case countries.

In addition to welfare policy indicators, GLOW covers three other main categories of data, namely development, economy, and politics. As such, it provides panel data not only for social policy scholars but for sociologists, economists, and political scientists, and other social scientists. Researchers will find a wide range of standardized panel data that can serve as independent, dependent, or control variables in their quantitative analyses. GLOW also provides visualizations of welfare policy indicators across time and geography, and scholars can use it for descriptive purposes, as well.

We very much hope that GLOW will contribute to the scholarly efforts to reach a global theory of welfare states and welfare regimes. It is an outcome of a collective three-year-long effort of the large team of international researchers of the Emerging Welfare project. I want to thank my colleagues for their effort in the creation of this dataset, and I hope that GLOW will be a useful source of comparative welfare policy research. I will appreciate it if you can spread the word in your circles and if you can send us any feedbacks on GLOW, as well.--Erdem Yörük

Publications

Bamyeh, Mohammed. 2019. *Lifeworlds of Islam: The Pragmatics of a Religion*. Oxford University Press.

Choudhary, Sujit Kumar. 2020. "Teaching Learning under Right to Education: A Study of Eight Villages of Jharkhand, India," *Journal of the Social Sciences*, Vol. 48, No. 2, Pp. 1949-1962.

_____. "Different Aspects of Asian Values", in *Soft Power and Public Diplomacy in India and China*, edited by Bibhuti Bhusan Biswas, Indu Book Services, New Delhi, 2020, Pp. 259-265.

Dawson, Andrew and Liam Swiss. 2020. "Foreign Aid and the Rule of Law: Institutional Diffusion versus Legal Reach." *British Journal of Sociology*.
<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1468-4446.12752>

Weakliem, David L. 2020. *Public Opinion*. Polity.