

International Sociological Association
RC 20
Comparative Sociology

December 2018 Newsletter

Lons-le-Saunier: 14 December, 2018

Dear colleagues,

After having served as Executive Secretary of our Research Committee for 7 years and then as President for 10 years, it is now time for me to pass on the torch. David Weakliem has been selected as the new Chair. Congratulations!

In this newsletter you will find his report on our activities at the Toronto World Congress which he co-ordinated, as well as the new composition of the board and miscellaneous news. I would like to thank heartily all the people who have actively been working with me all along these years.

I wish all of you every success in 2019. Best greetings from the Jura mountains.

*Jean-Pascal Daloz
RC 20 outgoing President*

RC 20 New board (2019-2022)

- President: David Weakliem (University of Connecticut, USA) david.weakliem@uconn.edu
- Vice President: Marita Carballo (Social and Political Academy of Argentina)
- Executive Secretary: Fumiya Onaka (Japan Women's University) fonaka@fc.jwu.ac.jp
- Treasurer: Stephen Vertigans (Robert Gordon University, UK)

Board members:

- Kseniya Kizilova (Institute for Comparative Survey Research, Vienna, Austria)
- Nate Breznau (University of Bremen, Germany)
- Jean-Pascal Daloz (CNRS Strasbourg, France) *honorary*
- Frederick Turner (University of Connecticut, USA) *honorary*

Report on the RC 20 Sessions at the XIX World Congress of Sociology (Toronto, July 2018)

RC 20 had thirteen paper sessions at the World Congress of Sociology in Toronto. Three of them were joint with RC56 (Historical Sociology), RC33 (Logic and Methodology), and RC20 (Women in Society), on the topic of “Comparative and Historical Sociology of Women’s Careers.” There were two general sessions on “Current Research in Comparative Sociology,” plus sessions on “Comparative Sociology: Theory and Methods, Patrimonialism: Max Weber’s Ideal Type Model Revisited,” “On Comparative Perspectives on the Human Dimensions of Global Environmental Change,” “Comparative Capitalisms: Socio-Economic and Political Developments in the Former Communist Countries of Europe and Asia after 1989,” “Dealing with Categories in a Comparative Perspective—A Perception Issue,” “Comparative Research in Migration and Citizenship Studies: Transformative Change or Status Quo Dynamics?” There were also two sessions focusing on the “World Values Survey, under the title The Significance of Population Values, Norms and

Stereotypes for Social and Political Development of Societies.” A session on “Comparative Perspectives from Surveying the Poor in Different Countries” was on the program, but unfortunately several of the presenters had to withdraw and the author of the remaining paper did not appear. Space does not permit a listing of participants but complete information is available online at: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogram/Symposium457.html>

As the titles of the sessions show, the papers covered a wide range of topics and employed a variety of methodologies. The papers were of high quality and there was lively discussion. Because of interest from participants and audience, we are planning to have additional sessions related to the World Values Survey at the next World Forum of Sociology in 2020. There are also plans for a panel session around the topic of one of the papers presented in Toronto by Edward Crenshaw, Kristopher Robison, and J. Craig Jenkins, "All the World's a Stage: The Geodemography of Political Contention."

Several of the organizers provided reports on their sessions: Sylvain Beck organizers “Dealing With Categories in Comparative Perspective,” says “I have been pleased to organize and chair this session regarding to the different topics. There were different ways to conceive comparison: international comparisons of a same kind of professional or educational group and comparison of different groups in the same national context. This eclectic session has been interesting for the openness of our knowledge, analysis of the results and methodological debates. That’s why I’m particularly interested in non-normative comparisons. The real opening of the mind that allows for a more precise knowledge and enlargement of our perspectives. We have had those four papers which deal with categories in a comparative perspective because comparisons in qualitative research pose specific methodological issues. In that way, the discussions were very interesting.” Fumiya Onaka reports that “During the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology, Akiko Nagai and I were given precious opportunity as session organizers to hold joint sessions of RC20 (Comparative Sociology), RC32 (Women in Society), RC33 (Logic and Methodology in Sociology), and RC56 (Historical Sociology), titled: Comparative and Historical Sociology of Women’s Careers. It was fortunately tripled because a large number of papers were submitted. Part I and Part II were hosted by RC20, while Part III was hosted by RC56. [In Session I] the most important point was that gender inequality is proved by various historical, qualitative, and historical data, in Europe, USA, Canada, and Japan. There were comments that conditions are quite similar between continents and that there should be more comparative and methodological discussions to tackle this inequality. There were about 40 attendants to this session. [In Session II] The most interesting point was that gender segregation and discrimination can be detected in various job-areas in Europe, USA, and Japan. There were discussions on similarities in career differentiation. There were about 30 attendants to this session. [And in Session

III] The interesting point of the paper was a comparison of intimate partner violence between Southern Europe and Northern Europe on the basis of large-scale quantitative research. There were discussions on the reliability and validity of the data. There were about 20 attendants to this session.” He concludes that “numerous full papers were submitted to us before and during the conference, we are planning to propose a special issue in an academic journal.”

I would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the RC 20 sessions a success, especially the session organizers, presiders, and discussants. Special thanks to several authors of distributed papers who were willing to give presentations on short notice when the authors of papers listed for oral presentation did not appear. A good session also requires a good audience, so I also want to recognize those who attended the sessions and asked questions. I hope that the high standard set at the World Congress will be maintained at World Forum of Sociology in Porto Alegre, and look forward to seeing you there.

--David Weakliem

Announcement

Marita Carballo will be the new President of WAPOR (World Association of Public Opinion) as from January 2019.

Recent publications by RC 20 members

- Nikolai GENOV, *Challenges of Individualization*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.
- Andrew DAWSON, "Police Legitimacy and Homicide: A Macro-Comparative Analysis." *Social Forces* 97(2), 2018: 841-866.
- Marita CARBALLO, Esteban LOPEZ-ESCOBAR and Maxwell McCOMBS, "Communication, Public Opinion and Democracy: New Challenges", *Communication and Society*, 31(4), 2018: 121-134.

(Next newsletter, June 2019).