



Comparative
Sociology

Newsletter January-June 2019

This is my first newsletter as President of RC20. I thank Jean-Pascal Daloz for help with the transition and Fumiya Onaka for help with the newsletter. If you have any material for future newsletters, suggestions about the activities of the research committee, or information you would like distributed to the members, please contact me (david.weakliem@uconn.edu). Also, if you have a paper dealing with comparative sociology, remember to consider Comparative Sociology, which is sponsored by RC20 and of which I am the editor. See <https://brill.com/view/journals/coso/coso-overview.xml> for more information.—*David Weakliem*

The ISA Forum of Sociology will be held July 14-18, 2020 in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Paper submissions are now open and will be accepted through September 30, 2019. Kseniya Kizilova and Marita Carballo are the program coordinators for RC 20. See <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium586.html> for the RC 20 sessions. RC20 is also co-sponsoring a Common Session on "Celebrating the Life and Work of Erik Olin Wright" with RC02 (Economy and Society) and RC44 (Labor Movements), and organized by Michael Burawoy.

Some Recent Publications and Grants by RC 20 Members:

Breznau, Nate and Carola Hommerich. 2019. "No Generalizable Effect of Income Inequality on Public Support for Governmental Redistribution among Rich Democracies 1987–2010." *Social Science Research* 18:170–91.

Breznau, Nate. 2019. "The Underlying Public Attitude toward Government Responsibility to Intervene in Socio-Economics, Thirty-Years of Evidence from the ISSP." *International Journal of Sociology* 49(3):182–203.

Breznau, Nate and Carola Hommerich. 2019. "The Limits of Inequality: Public Support for Social Policy Across Rich Democracies." *International Journal of Social Welfare* 28(2):138–151.

Breznau, Nate. Sept. 1, 2019 - Oct. 31, 2022. "[The Reciprocal Relationship of Public Opinion and Social Policy](#)". German Science Foundation Grant Number [DFG, BR 423/2-1](#). A project funding two PhD student researchers for three years to investigate both macro-comparative opinion-policy dynamics and a focus on the case of Germany.

Breznau, Nate. Sept. 1, 2019 - Apr. 30, 2019. Open Science Fellowship. "[Giving the Results of Crowdsourced Research Back to the Crowd. A Proposal to Make Data from 'The Crowdsourced Replication Initiative' Reliable, Transparent and Interactive.](#)" Wikiversity and Volkswagen Stiftung. Additional funding for the [Crowdsourced Replication Initiative](#) to support a research assistant to help make all data and results available and interactive online.

Khutkyy, Dmytro. 2019. "Pirate Parties: The Social Movements of Electronic Democracy." *Journal of Comparative Politics* 12(2): 49-58. Retrieved June 4, 2019 (<http://www.jofcp.org/assets/jcp/JCP-July-2019.pdf>).

Onaka, Fumiya (ed.). 2019. *Comparative Sociology of Examinations*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Onaka, Fumiya and Akiko Nagai (editors). forthcoming. "Comparative and Historical Sociology of Women's Careers." A special issue of *Comparative Sociology* 18.

Rezaev, Andrey "Are Sociologists Ready for 'Artificial Sociality'? Current Issues and Future Prospects for Studying Artificial Intelligence in the Social Sciences. *Public Opinion Monitoring* (November 2018)
<https://monitoringjournal.ru/index.php/monitoring/article/view/381/368>

Rezaev, Andrey (editor). "What are Sociologists Doing in the 21st Century?" A special issue of *Public Opinion Monitoring* (Nov 2018)

<http://monitoringjournal.ru/index.php/monitoring/issue/view/27>

Other activities:

J. I. (Hans) Bakker presented a paper on the idea of Ideal Type Models (ITMs), an extension of Max Weber's epistemological views on ideal types, 3 to the International Social Theory Consortium (ISTC) group 18th annual conference June 5-7, 2019, at the Inter-University Consortium in Dubrovnik, Croatia. The paper was a contribution to the discussion concerning the heuristic value of theories involving the ontological assumptions related to "systems theory" especially the systems theories of Talcott Parsons, Jurgen Habermas and Niklas Luhmann. The discussion involved the question of whether this is truly a Weberian approach or whether it deviates from Weber's original formulation significantly enough to be considered Neo-Weberian. That is somewhat important, especially with regard to criticisms of Parsons' AGIL schema. Some social theorists (e.g. sociological social psychologists and symbolic anthropologists like Clifford Geertz) were critical of Parsons when his ideas were popular in the 1950s because it was assumed the AGIL scheme was too static. Parsons ideas have made a bit of a comeback in social sciences because he was interdisciplinary ("social relations" rather than just "sociology" in the narrow sense or "psychology" in the more specific sense). Also, Luhmann remains very popular in German-speaking countries as a contrast to French thinkers like Foucault and Derrida. All of this is "theoretical" but keep in mind it was a theory conference and not a conference emphasizing empirical research results.

Jualynne Dodson made a plenary, presentation at the inaugural "Congreso on Religions and Theology of African Descendants of Latin America and the Caribbean," held in Limón, Costa Rica.

A link to video of the event is at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wl7Amkdezds&t=1s>