Chères et chers collègues,

Nous avons le plaisir de publier cette 5e newsletter. Après une année tumultueuse, ce bulletin est l’occasion de vous dire combien nous tenons aux liens qui nous unissent au sein du RC30. Nous aimerions aussi souligner combien les événements liés à la pandémie qui ont aussi affecté notre association ont cependant créé une dynamique précieuse et notable : en effet, les nécessités de réorganisation de nos événements ont suscité d’intenses discussions, et nous nous réjouissons de cette vigueur démocratique au sein de notre association. Nous sommes en effet particulièrement attachées à promouvoir une meilleure inclusion des différents statuts, pays, régions au sein du RC30, et la dynamique actuelle nous semble aller dans ce sens.

Vous trouverez dans ce numéro des nouvelles des événements à venir. Et comme d’habitude, n’hésitez pas à nous faire part de vos envies de partage d’idées, événements ou publications pour les prochains numéros de WoW !

Estimad@s colegas,

Nos complace publicar este 5to boletín. Después de un año tumultuoso, este boletín es una oportunidad para decirles cuánto valoramos los vínculos que nos unen dentro del RC30. Asimismo, queremos destacar hasta qué punto los acontecimientos relacionados con la pandemia, que también han afectado a nuestra asociación, han creado una dinámica valiosa y notable: en efecto, la necesidad de reorganizar nuestros eventos ha dado lugar a intensos debates, y nos alegramos de este vigor democrático en el seno de nuestra asociación. De hecho, estamos especialmente comprometidos con la promoción de una mayor inclusión de los diferentes estatutos, países y regiones dentro del RC30, y la dinámica actual nos parece que va en esta dirección.

En este número encontrará noticias de los próximos eventos. Y como siempre, no duden en hacernos saber si tienes alguna idea, evento o publicación que quieras compartir con nosotros para futuros números de WoW.

Dear colleagues,

we are pleased to publish this 5th newsletter. After a tumultuous year, this newsletter is an opportunity to tell you how much we value the ties that bind us within the RC30. We would also like to emphasize how much the events related to the pandemic that have also affected our association have nevertheless created a valuable and notable dynamic; indeed, the need to reorganize our events has given rise to intense discussions, and we are delighted by this democratic vigor within our association. We are particularly committed to promoting a better inclusion of the different statutes, countries and regions within our RC, and the current dynamic seems to us to be moving in this direction.

In this issue, you will find news of upcoming events. And as usual, don’t hesitate to let us know if you have any ideas, events or publications you’d like to share with us for future issues of WoW.

Maria Eugenia Longo (Presidente),
Delphine Mercier (Vicepresidenta),
Flora Bajard (Secretaria)
We are pleased to invite you to take part in the international scientific conference "Factors of social well-being in Russia and in the world: a comparative analysis" which will be held in Moscow, October 6-7, 2021.

Key Topic Areas

- Theoretical discourses and discussions on social well-being: conceptualizing the notion
- Methodological bases and methods of studying social well-being in Russia and foreign countries
- Comparative analysis of social well-being in Russia and the world
- Factors of social well-being: from public policy to the environment
- Objective and subjective well-being
- Settlement aspects of social well-being
- Social well-being and social structure
- Social well-being during the COVID-19 pandemic

Requirements for Conference Participation

To take part in the conference, you must fill out the registration form at https://goo.su/3z3k and send the abstracts up to 0.5 printed pages to the following email address of the chairman of the Organizing Committee by July 1, 2021.

Those wishing to publish their articles in the collection of conference materials can send the original article from 0.5 to 1 printed pages. The decision on inclusion in the conference program is made on the basis of peer review and competitive selection. You will be informed on your inclusion in the conference program and the collection of articles not later than August 15, 2021.

The conference will be held online via the online platform at www.zoom.us.

Participation in the conference is free.

Working languages: Russian, English.

Contact Info:

Abstracts and texts of articles should be sent to the chairman of the Organizing Committee, Valentina A. Shilova, by e-mail at vshilova@yandex.ru.

For all questions related to the organization and holding of the conference, please contact us by phone: +7 (916) 121-21-58.

Follow updates at the FCTAS website and the conference website at http://grant-swb.tilda.ws

==> More informations about the Call for papers:
https://www.isras.org/files/File/conf_info_1.02.21.ENG.pdf
Invitamos a investigadoras e investigadores del trabajo de Latinoamérica a postular para la conformación de los Grupos de Trabajo del Congreso. Los grupos de trabajo (GT) constituyen el encuentro de un conjunto amplio de investigadores/as laborales de América Latina para examinar la producción generada en un campo específico de estudio, recibiendo posteriormente propuestas de Ponencias. Los GT son postulados por los/as integrantes de ALAST y permiten dar cuenta de líneas de investigación consolidadas y emergentes.

Mas informaciones: https://alastchile.com/

Llamado a contribucion sobre la tematica: “La centralidad del trabajo en tiempos de múltiples crisis: interrogando el presente de América Latina y el Caribe e imaginando nuevos proyectos”

https://alastchile.com/convocatoria/
Since the last ISA forum on February, ISA presidents and delegates have met several times to make an assessment of ISA events.

During the first two meetings (on March 6th and April 10th) between RC presidents, we discussed about the different ways of holding our forum and congresses, and about the advantages and disadvantages of online/in-person experiences. We have intended to take advantage of our experience of the last Porto Alegre forum, and make our best to figure out some ways to improve two main topics: membership inclusiveness and equalities, and democracy and consultation in our sociological association. We spent more than five hours each Saturday (morning, evening, night depending the time zone...), for an incredible, rich and vigorous discussion.

In June, we had our third meeting, which included a broader participation: it was an ISA Assembly of councils animated by our ISA President (Sari Hanafi) and including as well the Executive council, national associations’ councils, RC presidents, RC delegates...

It was an extraordinary instance to keep on discussing, and to make the difficult decision about the date of the next World congress in this pandemic context. After some hours, and taking in consideration previous discussions, results from ISA survey and scientific, social, human and financial arguments, we eventually voted by a large majority to postpone the next ISA World congress to June-july 2023.

A second deliberation and vote were made in order to extend the Executive council mandate (with probably an extension of RC mandates), to manage this challenge.

Regions

COVID-2019: THE RESULTS FOR RUSSIA

By Guzel Baimurzina

For the past year, the world has been living in a pandemic crisis. All the countries included in the global economy were exposed to systemic risk, forced to lockdown and find their own solutions in this dramatically changed situation. Russia is no exception. The pandemic crisis led to a sharp decline in economic activity and a shock contraction in demand in large sectors of the economy (trade, services, tourism, transportation, etc.), the consequences of which were a significant increase in unemployment and a decrease in real incomes of the population. At the same time, a serious challenge for Russia was the fall in oil prices, which significantly devalued the ruble against the dollar and the euro.

According to Rosstat (official statistics), the inflation rate in 2020 was 5.9% (the highest since 2016). According to the results of the pandemic year 2020, the real disposable income of Russians decreased by 3.5% in annual terms. By the end of 2020, they are 10.6% behind the level of 2013 — the last year of steady income growth in Russia. According to the Levada Center, in 2020, 64% of respondents noted a deterioration in the standard of living, a deterioration in the work of educational institutions - 60%, the work of medical institutions - 57%, and a reduction in opportunities to earn good money - 59% of respondents. In the third quarter of 2020, the poverty rate was recorded at 12.8% (in the third quarter of 2019 -12%). However, the increase in the level of poverty was restrained by social support measures, which ceased to operate in 2021. Experts expect further growth in the number of poor people in 2021.

In 2020, according to operational data, the net financial result of organizations (excluding small businesses, credit organizations, state (municipal) institutions, non-credit financial organizations) at current prices amounted to 76.5% by 2019. Despite this, medium and large enterprises of the state and corporate sector managed to maintain the trend of growth in real wages. In many ways, this was facilitated by unprecedented measures of state support for the economy and business. This, to some extent, prevented a deep drop in the disposable income of the population in 2020. At the same time, it should be remembered that the corporate sector employs only about 60% of the working population.

Of course, those employed in small businesses, the self-employed and individual entrepreneurs suffered the most from quarantine restrictions. Their incomes have declined more dramatically. In the context of social groups, the most affected by the pandemic, experts note: young people, 2020 year-graduates, informal workers, service sector workers, as well as women, in connection with their family obligations (child care, nursing, etc.).

The unemployment rate has increased insignificantly against the background of the pandemic. This is a specific feature of the Russian labor market: the classic strategy of employers in a crisis is to reduce the working week, wages, and not layoffs. A major role in maintaining this strategy was played by the possibility of transferring employees to remote work, and state support, which consists in subsidizing the salaries of employees of organizations during the most acute period of the pandemic. The maximum unemployment rate was registered in May 2020 at 6.1% (the last time this level was recorded in March 2012). At the same time, the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation predicts the risks of new cuts in organizations that have not had time to recover from the crisis.
The pandemic has given a huge boost to the development of digital technologies and online services. The population is confident that the labor market will never be the same after the end of the pandemic.

According to KPMG research, 59% of companies will soon optimize personnel costs, 44% will switch to a new management model (flexible hours, remote work, online recruitment, etc.), and 41% will automate personnel management processes. To meet the new challenges, companies began to quickly change their strategies, invest in digitalization of processes and maintaining distant work formats.

According to the Eastern Economic Forum (an international forum held annually in Vladivostok), before the pandemic, only 22% of the world’s companies were ready for distant work and more than 20% of full-time employees around the world will work remotely after it. It is interesting to note that according to the sociological data of the Russian Public Opinion Research Center (VTsIOM), 41% of our fellow citizens believe that Russia passed through the ordeal of the pandemic year more easily than most other countries. More than a third (35%) agreed that it is the same as other countries, and 17% — that it is rather harder.

Anyway, the year 2020 was one of the most disastrous in terms of human development: the population’s income fell, the grounds for social inequality expanded; not only the quality of educational services decreased, but also their coverage due to the insufficient level of digitalization of everyday life; life expectancy significantly decreased, the quality of medical services deteriorated, and many of them (admissions, operations, regular preventive examinations, etc.) were postponed or canceled.

The saddest result of the 2020 is the decline in the population due to an increase in mortality (which is not always associated with the coronavirus, but with a lack of attention to other causes and factors). Accurate data on the ratio of the contribution of mortality, birth rate decline and immigration for 2020 is not yet available. However, according to Rosstat, the population of Russia decreased in 2020 by 510 thousand people and amounted to 146 million 238 thousand people as of January 1, 2021 (since 2010, Rosstat as a whole recorded an annual increase). Of course, much remains to be evaluated and analyzed.

Guzel Baimurzina,
Director of the Bashkir Branch of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences,
Board member of the RC30 «Sociology of work», Regional coordinator of Russian activities in the RC30
RC30 members' latest publications

NUMÉRO SPÉCIAL DE LA REVUE FORMATION EMPLOI SUR LE MEXIQUE, N°153 1/ 2021

COORDONNÉ PAR PATRICK PEREZ ET DELPHINE MERCIER DU LABORATOIRE D’ÉCONOMIE ET DE SOCIOLOGIE DU TRAVAIL

PROCHAINEMENT VERSION EN ESPAGNOL

Sommaire

Michael Da Cruz et Delphine Mercier
« I Walk and I Cross the line ». Le cas des opérateurs transnationaux des centres d'appels au Mexique

Eleocadio Martínez Silva, Edgar Belmont Cortés et Georgina Rojas García
L’impact identitaire de restructurations industrielles sur les communautés, les travailleurs et leurs syndicats, au Mexique

Juan Carlos Silas Casillas
La profession d’enseignant au Mexique. Une mutation accélérée

Patrick Pérez
Être infirmière au Mexique : de la spirale diplômante à l’exigence de justice irrésolue

Eleocadio Martínez Silva et Mario Alberto Jurado Montelongo
Trajectoires de vie de femmes travaillant dans le secteur du nettoyage dans la région métropolitaine de Monterrey (Mexique)

Efrén Sandoval-Hernández et Fernando Coronado-García
L’identité en perspective. Pratiques professionnelles de prosommation dans la communauté thrift de Monterrey au Mexique

Christian Azaïs
Postface

Ce numéro spécial consacré au Mexique rassemble un ensemble de contributions fédérées par la volonté de proposer quelques « coups de sonde » au sein de secteurs et de métiers susceptibles d’éclairer, autant que faire se peut, la relation entre formation et emploi. Le lecteur y trouvera un article dédié aux salariés du secteur de l’énergie et de l’extraction, deux travaux portant sur ces métiers du « développement humain » que sont l’éducation et la santé (infirmérie), deux études consacrées au monde des « employés » (salariés des centres d’appels, personnel de nettoyage), enfin, un article centré sur des activités de création / vente de vêtements au sein du secteur informel. Afin d’offrir au lecteur une perspective d’ensemble, ces différentes contributions sont encadrées par la présente introduction, et par une postface rédigée par Christian Azaïs.

https://journals-openedition-org.lama.univ-amu.fr/formationemploi/8747
In 2020, the Research Committee 30 “Sociology of work” of the International Sociological Association celebrated its 50th anniversary. In this regard, it is very interesting to note the fact that the first president of it was the Soviet scientist A. A. Zvorykin, and V. A. Yadov was a board member (1971-1975). This was announced by the Vice-President of the research committee - Delphine Mercier (assistant director of the LEST-CNRS, President of the RC30 in 2010-2018) during her visit to Russia.

During a business meeting in Toronto (World Sociological Congress, July 2018), Delphine Mercier also suggested the idea of preparing small reports on the role of participating states in the work of the committee. In support of this idea, as well as in commemoration of the anniversary of the RC30 and in memory of the outstanding scientists-compatriots who contributed to its development, this interview was prepared with a corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences (RAS), Doctor of Philosophy, Professor Zh. T. Toshchenko.

Zh. T. Toshchenko took an active part in the work of the research committee from the very beginning of its existence and continues to work fruitfully in its activities. In particular, Zh. T. Toshchenko plans to speak at a special session dedicated to the problems of the social and labor sphere of the Russian economy on the threshold of digitalization, on the virtual platform of the IV ISA Forum “Challenges of the 21st Century: Democracy, Environment, Inequalities, Intersectionality”, held on February 23-28, 2021. Besides, Zh. T. Toshchenko is corresponding member of RAS, Chairman of the International Council of RAS Journal “Sociological studies”; Academic advisor and The Head of the Department of theory and history of sociology at Russian state University for the Humanities.

**How was the formation of the sociology of work in the USSR/Russia?**

The formation of the sociology of work in Russia/the USSR was very peculiar... Even before the formation of the Soviet Sociological Association, when it became a part of the International Sociological Association, there had been emerging initiative groups of researchers, which aimed at studying the social problems of production. It was no accident that such early research was conducted (resumed) in Sverdlovsk (now Yekaterinburg) – The Ural region of Russia. Two favorable reasons contributed to this circumstance: firstly, a significant number of industrial enterprises whose products were of great importance in the country's economy were concentrated in this region; secondly, it was a major scientific center engaged in a wide range of scientific research, including social and humanitarian issues. Under these conditions, in 1950-s, a group of enthusiastic philosophers led by M. T. Iovchuk and M. N. Rutkevich began to conduct surveys in the factories of the Ural region on the problems of cultural and technical qualifications of workers (the results were published in Connection between science and production in a socialist society (Sverdlovsk, 1956). These first steps in understanding social problems were continued by L. N. Kogan in the study of the life world of the workers of the three largest factories in the Urals (see Kogan L.N. (1959) “Experience of Sociological Research at an Industrial Enterprise”. Voprosy Filosofii [Questions of Philosophy]. No. 8).
It is interesting to note a curious fact: until the early 1970s, the works written on the basis of specific sociological research were published in philosophical journals and collections, since the sociologists did not have their own periodical.

The second hotbed of the formation of the sociology work in Russia in the late 1950s - early 1960s was the joint initiative of Leningrad scientists (V. Elmeeev, R. Polozov, B. Ryashchenko) with a number of industrial organizations to draw up plans for economic and social development. The jointly prepared plan of the industrial association “Svetlana” became a model (example) of effective and balanced solution of technical, technological and socio-labor and other problems of the daily life of employees.

In the first half of the 1960s years, there had been a surge of interest in the study of labor relations in different parts of the country. This was reflected in the appearance of scientific groups: in Leningrad led by Yadov V. A. and A. G. Zdravomyslov (the youth attitudes to work), in Moscow - by G. V. Osipov (the impact of scientific and technological progress), in Novosibirsk - T. I. Zaslavskaya (social problems of the village), in Ufa - N. A. Aitov (the social structure of the working class), in Minsk - G. P. Daviduc (social changes of the working class and the peasantry). In this decade, most major universities developed sociological laboratories that studied various aspects of social labor reserves. In Gorky (now Nizhny Novgorod) University, attention was focused on the complex development of enterprises (S. F. Frolov), in Krasnoyarsk - on the specifics of labor in Siberian enterprises (Zh. T. Toshchenko), in Saratov – on the problems of working youth (V. N. Smirnova-Yarskaya), in Oryol – on rural problems (I. T. Levykin), etc.

**How and at what stage did Soviet sociologists, including labor sociologists, begin to participate in the work of the ISA?**

It should be noted that for the first time the Soviet delegation participated in the 3rd International Sociological Congress in 1956. However, reports were mostly of a theoretical nature. In my opinion, more specific and representative reports, based on sociological research in Soviet enterprises, were presented in 1970 at the 7th Congress of the ISA, which was held in Varna (Bulgaria). It was a representative Soviet delegation, consisting of both the official part and almost a hundred Soviet sociologists who came to the congress through scientific tourism. This forum was my first experience of participation in such an important event. I presented a report on "Forms of social change in a socialist society” at a special session, which was led by A. A. Zvorykin - the President of the research committee «Sociology of work». The leadership of this session/committee was a recognition of the great creative achievements of Anatoly Alekseevich – he had an extensive experience in the study of economic and technical policy, scientific and technological progress. As he said, the research exactly in this area have led to the idea of necessity to pay special attention to the social problems of labor and management. He is the author of one of the first methods of studying the problems of social development of labor collectives, which he applied at a number of enterprises in the country. His works Science, Production, labor (Moscow, 1965) and The Scientific and Technical Revolution and its social consequences (Moscow, 1967) became the basis of theoretical and methodological justification, not only for the study of social processes in production, but for the development of a new scientific direction - social management in production as well.

Later, professor I. I. Changli and Corresponding member of the Russian Academy of Sciences N. I. Lapin took an active part in the work of the research committee. Nikolai Lapin had a series of major research projects on the development of mechanisms for implementing the social needs of production workers with a special focus on engineering personnel. O. I. Shkaratan, who explored the possibilities of coordinated development of enterprises and the cities in which they were located, and F. M. Borodkin, who analyzed labor conflicts, made a significant contribution to the development of labor issues.

My contribution to the RC «Sociology of work» of ISA was different at various stages of its existence. In the 1960s and 1970s, my scientific interest was focused on the problems of social planning and reflected in the series of articles and monographs. One of them is Social Planning (Krasnoyarsk, 1971; Moscow, 1980). In the 1980s my attention shifted towards the search for social reserves of labor, and the results of this work were published in my monograph Social reserves of labor: current issues of the sociology of labor (Moscow, 1989). The monograph substantiates a historical-sociological approach to analyze the process of formation of sociology of work in the late 19th and early 20th century.
What interesting pages from the History of sociology of work in the following stages of development in Russia would you like to emphasize?

In the 1970s in the USSR, a peculiar phenomenon emerged and powerfully developed, which I call “factory sociology”. The fact was that the general attention of scientists and, what is most important, of progressive-minded practitioners and managers to the problems of social development of working collectives led to the creation of departments and laboratories for social development directly at the production site, with the appropriate involvement of specialists. But since universities did not produce such specialists at that time, a significant contribution was made by the Soviet Sociological Association and its Committee on the Sociology of Work, who organized exchange of experience among self-educated and self-organized enthusiasts. The development of factory sociology was promoted by enthusiasts, who were looking for new methods to obtain the truth with a very clear objective - to get practical results. As time has shown, it was a great opportunity for growing up a unique team of sociologists who effectively combined scientific skills and the ability to implement the results of their research to solve the social problems at their enterprises. From the factory sociologists, renowned scientists emerged, recognized not only in domestic but also in global sociology: V. V. Shcherbina, A. K. Zaitsev, B. G. Tukumtsev, V. I. Gerchikov, V. V. Chichilimov, M. A. Gurevich, A. N. Neschadin, etc.

At the same time, theoretical approaches fo the analysis of labor were developed in these years. Among them, the work of I. I. Changli Labor: Sociological aspects of the theory and methodology (Moscow, 1973) stands out. In the latter, based on her personal engineering and philosophical vision, she provides a detailed analysis of labor, the processes of its change and enrichment in close connection with the needs of the ongoing scientific and technological revolution.

It should be pointed out that such a rapid spread of this topic has led to the need to think about organizational forms of combining these efforts, supporting and promoting this direction in sociology. This necessity was embodied in the activities of Professor V. G. Podmarkov, who created a section (committee) in the Soviet Sociological Association “Sociology of Labor and Management. Problems of social planning”. This section has taken on the responsibility of holding regular scientific meetings, sharing experiences, publishing articles and conference proceedings. Afterwards, being vice-president and then president of the Soviet Sociological Association, I was constantly involved in the work of this section, helping to organize scientific events, meetings and discussions. I would also emphasize that since the 1960s, the sociology of work have been representing as an independent research area. It is enough to recall that all three All-Union conferences (in Minsk, Lviv and Sverdlovsk in the 1960s and 1970s) necessarily included discussions on the problems of social planning, social management, analysis of social reserves and labor resources.

How have the topics of labor sociologists in new Russia and Russian Society of Sociologists’ labor research committee changed?

As for the committee on the sociology of work, it is currently headed by a young and experienced researcher at Samara University, V. Bocharov, and I am its Honorary chairman. The Committee conducts regular work, organizes annual meetings at Samara University or joint events with colleagues from other universities. This committee is represented at every All-Russian sociological congress. Now, we have announced another meeting within the framework of this congress (which, unfortunately, was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic), where we intend to discuss a wide range of issues that have become extremely relevant in connection with the transition of the economy to a market basis. Now, in contrast to the Soviet period, the problems of employment, unemployment, new forms and methods of remuneration, and the presence or absence of social guarantees have come to the fore in real life. Along with the closure of many industrial enterprises and factories processes that are associated with de-qualification and depprofessionalization of personnel, new forms of exploitation became relevant.
In recent years, precarious (non-guaranteed, unstable, unprotected) work, which covers almost half of the entire working-age population, has become an urgent problem. This applies not only to those who work in production, but also to those who work in the service sector, culture, education. We closely follow the publications of our colleagues abroad, in particular the works of G. Standing. It was his work and the work of P. Bourdieu, P. Sztompka, and E. Wright that helped me personally prepare and publish the monograph Precariat: from Protoclass to a New Class (Moscow, Nauka 2018).

Sociologists are faced with an acute problem of understanding such new phenomena and issues as self-employment, borrowed labor, freelancing, NEET-youth (not in employment, education or training), providing young people with work, sharing economy etc.

What do you think is the mission of the international research committee "Sociology of work"?

Labor problems will always be both a traditional and a new problem. There is a process of continuous improvement of equipment and technology, which is currently taking place within the framework of the fourth industrial revolution. These new requirements are a new problem - challenge for scientists sociologists of work in particular. The research committee on the sociology work of the ISA is able to contribute to finding successful solutions, organizing regular meetings and discussions on contemporary challenges, exchanging and comparing the results of our research. As an ideal, we need to conduct a large-scale simultaneous study of the social problems of labor, covering at least 20-25 countries. After all, there is such experience in other ISA committees.

Bibliography


The interview prepared by Guzel Baimurzina, Director of the Bashkir Branch of the Federal Center of Theoretical and Applied Sociology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Board member of the RC30 «Sociology of work», Regional coordinator of Russian activities in the RC30.