

*In this Issue:*

- 1) *President's Message*  
pp. 2-3.
- 2) *Minutes: RC32 Business Meeting*  
pp.4-8
- 3) *In Memorial: Dr. Cynthia Joseph*  
pp. 9-12  
*In Memorial: Dr. Ann Denis*  
pp.13
- 4) *An Op-ed*  
pp.14-16
- 5) *RC32 @ Porto Alegre – Snapshot of Sessions*  
pp. 17
- 6) *Member News*  
pp.18 -21
- 7) *News from Regions – Stay Tuned!*  
pp. 21

# *RC32 NEWSLETTER*

*August 2019*  
*Volume #8*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Welcome to new and old RC32 members,

Preparations are well under way for the IV ISA Forum of Sociology to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil from July 14 to July 18, 2020. The call for abstracts opened on April 25, and the deadline is **September 30, 2019**. RC32's sub-theme is "Global Inequalities in the 21st Century: Gender, Sexualities, Intimacies, and Intersectionality," and we are hosting 21 regular and joint sessions and two roundtables—with topics that include gender and migration, gender and religion, decolonializing gender, intersectional approaches to

to gender, gender and professions, interrogating sexualities and intimacies, and many more (here is the link:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium598.html>

Thanks to all who volunteered to organize a session. We hope that members will submit an abstract to one of these excellent options and join us for a fantastic Forum in 2020 (<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/cfp.cgi>). RC32 will also be hosting a one-day workshop the day before the conference. More information will be given in our next newsletter.

We received some very sad news on February 5, 2019 that longtime RC32 member, Ann B. Denis, passed away. Ann Denis (Ph.D. from London School of Economics) was Professor Emerita at the University of Ottawa. She was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association (2006–10) and its Vice-President, Research (2002–2006). She served as Vice-President of RC32 from 1998 to 2006 and as President of Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity (RC05) from 2010-2014. For the Forum in 2020, RC32 is hosting a Past-President's special joint session with RC05 on the "Global Inequalities of Gender, Race, Class, Intimate Citizenship, and Disability" in honor of her life, research, and activism. Her research and publications focused on power relations within and between societies, particularly on the intersections of gender, ethnicity/race, class and work, and on intersectionality within feminisms. The session focuses on how global challenges that societies face today are fundamentally tied to inequalities of gender, race, class, intimate citizenship, and disability.

In my last president's address, I wrote about the current anti-gender and xenophobic backlash that is expanding across the globe and the urgency of our continued fight against all forms of oppression. Recently, we have witnessed the rise to power of the far right in Brazil as Jair Bolsonaro was elected president. This former military captain is a proud conservative who is backed by millions of evangelical Christians for his anti-abortion stance. He is popular in Brazil and has millions of followers on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. His controversial stance on women and homosexuality—along with the tendency of his supporters to attack anyone who speaks out against him—has led many to refer to him as the Brazilian Trump. During a

*parliamentary debate in 2014, Bolsonaro infamously addressed Deputy Maria do Rosário, telling her that he would not rape her because she was too ugly and did not deserve it. Later, Bolsonaro told an interviewer that having a daughter, his fifth child after having four boys, was a “weakness.” He said that spanking a son who showed signs of being gay was the best technique that parents could use to ensure that the son would grow up as a proper man.*

*Jair Bolsonaro is a crusader against “gender ideology.” His stance can be traced back to 2011 when Brazil’s Supreme Court recognized same-sex unions. At this time, Bolsonaro led a social movement to ban educational materials created by the Ministry of Education to be circulated in the school system as a pedagogical tool to fight violence and discrimination against the LGBTQI population. Bolsonaro dubbed these materials the “gay kit” and stoked a moral panic that they posed a threat to the “natural” sexual binary, to children and to the Brazilian heterosexual family. Given the 2020 Forum’s location in Brazil, our Presidents-Elect—Marlise Matos Almeida and Solange Simoes—are organizing a special RC32 session that will discuss the radical changes in gender policies and politics for women and LGBTQI peoples in Brazil, and in Latin America more generally. It will be important to continue these discussions and link them to activism as a way to support those who are experiencing violence and oppression in Brazil and in many other parts of the world.*

*We look forward to your participation in the 2020 Forum!*

*Warm wishes for the months ahead,*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Melanie", followed by a large, stylized flourish that loops back to the left.

*Melanie Heath*

## *MINUTES: RC32 BUSINESS MEETING*

*International Sociological Association World Congress Toronto 2018  
Toronto, July 19 2018 17:30 pm – 19:20pm*

**Presiding:** Akosua Adomato Ampofo  
Co-President RC32

**Minutes:** Solange Simões  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Attending:** Akosua Adomato Ampofo, Melanie Heath, Evangelia Tastsoglou, Margaret Abraham, Ishani Deb, Aiko Ikemura Amaral, Sara Merlini, Hara Bastas, Veronica Montes, Roberta Villalon, Erika Marquez, Susan Lee, Chrysanthi Zachou, Selda Tuncer, Ana Vidu, Consuelo Corradi, Elisabetta Ruspini, Gul Baloch, Jan Marie Fritz, Izabella Korbiel, Anna-Britt Coe, Tayo O. George, Anat Guy, Maksuda Sultana, Stevi Jackson, Burcu Senturk, Funmi Bammeké, Omobolantw Amaike, Ana Luisa Campanha Nakamoto, Manashi Ray, Diana T. Veloso, Corinne Delmas, Marine Delaunay, Zara Saeidzadeh, Jeff Hearn, Margaret Kely, Paula Campos Pinto, Valentine Moghadam, Mangala Subramanian, E. Segal, Marcia Texler Segal, Vicky Demos, Dee Smythe, Agatha Eguavoen, Chioma Daisy Onyige, Rhoda Reddock, Ann Davis, Guiomar M. Alonso, Esther Oliver, Marta Soler-Gallart, Rashalee Mitchell, Paulina Garcia Del Moral, Myrna Dawson, Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, Catherine Holtmann, Camilla Gaiaschi, Vaida Tretjakova, Zachary Palmer, Vasundhara Kaul, Pruthi Krishman, Abha Chauhan, Tanaka Sigeto, Fumiya Onaka, Kezia Batisai, Tinka Schubert.

**I. Welcome.** Co-President Akosua Adomato Ampofo,

**II. Co-Presidents Report /Council Report**

- The report by co-presidents Josephine Beoku-Betts and Akosua Adomato Ankofo was presented by Akosua Adomato Ankofo.  
(See report in RC32 Newsletter Fall 2018)

**III. Secretary-Treasurer Report** - Solange Simões  
(See report in RC32 Newsletter Fall 2018)

**IV. Newsletter' Editor Report** - Nazanin Shahrokni  
(See report in RC32 Newsletter Fall 2018)

**V. Brief Reports from Regional Representatives**

- **Africa:** Current Representatives - Agatha Eguavoen (Nigeria), Tayo O. George (Nigeria) and Past Representative - Chioma Onyige (Nigeria)

They reported on the difficulties met by some RC32 members from Africa to get a visa to travel to Toronto and suggested that action should be taken to prevent a similar situation happening in the occasion of the next World Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. They also spoke about the need to increase the number of regional representatives from Africa (only 2 currently), and the need for

more financial support for African members' participation in the ISA world congresses and forums.

- **Europe:** Chryssanthi Zachou (Greece) raised the issue that the classification of Greece by ISA as an "A country" was not consistent with the need for support for participation, especially by students.

**VI. Special tribute to Margaret Abraham, ISA President 2014-2018 and RC32 Co-president 2006-2010.**

- Tribute and gift presented by Akosua Adomato Ampofo and Melanie Heath.
- In her remarks, Margaret Abraham thanked RC32 members pointing out that "It takes a village" and that "It is not where but who you travel with".

**VII. Junior Scholar Competition**

- In the name of the Junior Scholar Award Committee (Manisha Desai, Melanie Heath, Nazanin Shahrokni), Melanie Heath presented the winner, Aiko Ikemura Amaral, from Brazil, with the award for her contribution to the study of migration and the intersectionality of gender and race.

- Susan Lee, representing Sociologists for Women in Society's International Committee, presented the junior scholar with a US\$500 travel award and a gift membership to SWS.

**VIII. Statutes.** Discussion and vote in block of the proposed changes to the following articles:

- **Article I.** Add: "In 2018 was further changed to Women, Gender and Society".
- **Article II.** Add (words in boldface): "On-going information exchange among members is achieved through the newsletter **and Facebook** which are produced at regular intervals -at least two issues **of the newsletter** per year- and disseminated to members".

**- Article IV. Membership.**

- **i:** Change the language to: "Regular members will be individuals who are paid members of both RC32 and ISA"

- **ii:** During the discussion about the payment of fees by affiliated members (which can not be processed by ISA), members reiterated the need to keep the affiliated members category despite the issue brought about by the fact that we do not currently have a separate bank account to collect their fees. Margaret Abraham did not recommend opening a bank separate bank account for RC32. Solange Simões informed that former Secretary-Treasurer Bandana Purkayastha was consulted and also did not recommend opening a bank account. Akosua Adomato Ampofo proposed that Article IV ii is left as it is and that the Board will see how to solve the practical issue of fee collection for affiliated members.

- **iv:** Change to: "to pay RC32 and ISA dues to the ISA secretariat for a four year period in a timely manner or to seek an exemption from dues by application to the RC32 Secretary-Treasurer (see By-Laws for more information)".

**- Article V. RC Board**

**a.** Add: "Chair/co-Chairs is used when communicating with RC32 and President/co-

*president is used when communicating with ISA and other RCs”*

**b. ii. Change to:** *“Regional Representatives. One to four regional representatives shall be elected to reflect as far as possible the varied regions of the world. Regional representatives have a limit of not more than two for one country”.*

*- In the discussion it was pointed out that the website should be corrected to state 4 members from Africa (it says 2 members).*

**c.** *Change language to: “Each member of the Board must at all times be in good standing of the ISA and RC32”.*

**d.** *Change to: “Any member of the Board, other than the Chair, who does not carry out the basic functions of board membership, or offer appropriate reasons for a temporary inability to do so, shall, after a period of 6 months' notice given by the Chair after consultation with the other officers be deemed to have resigned and shall be notified by the Chair. In the case of a Chair who does not carry out the basic functions of board membership, or offer appropriate reasons for a temporary inability to do so, shall, after a period of 6 months' notice given by the Secretary/Treasurer after with the other officers be deemed to have resigned and shall be notified by the Secretary/Treasurer.*

#### **- Article VI. Electoral Procedures**

*- Add new c: “The Nominations and Elections Committee shall be chaired by the Past Chair/s, and include two other members, who are not current members of the Board, and will also not be eligible for nomination to the Board. The committee is responsible for preparing the list of nominations for RC32 officers and other Board members and for conducting the elections.”*

*- d: Change current c to d and change 10 weeks to **5 weeks** before the elections day for a nomination form to be sent out to all regular and affiliated members.*

*- Add a quorum for elections: 15% of members in good standing.*

*- e: Add: “Nominations for Regional Representatives may be made from the floor at the Business meeting, if supported by three members and the RC 32 Board, and if made with the consent of the candidates.”*

*i: Change to: “A member may be a candidate for only one office”.*

*- f: Change to: “Efforts should be made by the nominations committee to reflect the international nature of the membership.”*

*- g: Change to “The Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates (and their normal country of residence) for each position on the Board. In case of more than one nomination for the same position, the nominated candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. The ballot shall be sent to all **regular and affiliated members** of RC32 by electronic mail at least **five** weeks before the Election Day, Election Day will be no later than two weeks before the beginning of the World Congress.”*

- e: Add: "Elections shall be by secret electronic ballot".

**- Article VII. Responsibilities and Duties of Officers**

**Add:**

- v. Plan business meeting and share agenda.
- v. Prepare handing over notes for in- coming Chair(s)
- vi. Prepare ISA mandated reports in collaboration with the secretary and submit these to ISA
- vii. After consultation with the Board, take final decisions on all RC32 grants

**c. Add iii:** "Works in cooperation with other officers to carry out RC32 activities, including the organization of Roundtables for the Congress and Forum."

**d. Secretary** (separating the position of secretary and treasurer)

**Add:**

**iii.** Communicates with successful applicants and prepares reports on the successful applicants travel grants for the attention of the Board and ISA.

**iv.** Keeps an institutional memory of RC32 history and procedures.

**e. Treasurer**

**i.** Treasurer receives dues from affiliated members and maintains financial records and funds, as well as an up-to-date membership list. The treasurer requests regular updates of membership information from the ISA Secretariat and the transfer from the ISA of the dues collected from regular members, at least twice a year and updates the Secretary and Chair/s accordingly.

**ii.** A prepared statement of financial affairs shall be given by the Treasurer to the Board annually and to the Business Meeting held every two years during the ISA World Congress and ISA World Forum. The Treasurer must be discharged of her/his financial responsibilities by the Business Meeting held during each ISA World Congress. This report will be published in the newsletter following the World Congress or Forum.

**iii.** Prepares the processing of travel grant applications in collaboration with the Chair

**f. Newsletter editor**

**i.** Delete: The incumbent needs to have institutional support such as secretarial and e-mailing services

**h. Regional Representatives: Will take an active part within their region to:**

v. Change to "Identify new issues and creative lines of inquiry for further comparative research on women, gender and society."

**Add**

**vi:** "Contribute to the RC-32 newsletter news on Women, gender and Society from their region"

**vii.** Maintain lists of researchers on Women in Society, as well as of topics of interest in their region that may contribute to RC-32. Maintain lists of institutions (universities, departments, research organizations, etc.) that may support RC-32.

**- Article VIII. General Business Meeting**

*a. Change to “A general meeting of members shall be held once every two years at the ISA World.”*

*b. Change to “Announcement to the General Business Meeting shall be made to the members at least two months in advance, together with a tentative agenda of business.”*

**- Article IX. Final Regulations**

*c. Change to a general statement about having an archive without specifying where.*

**Proposal:** *New Board to plan how to organize the archive; contact past presidents*

**BY LAWS**

**Changes:**

*- ‘Category A’ countries, XXX for category B countries and xxx for category C countries, as defined by the ISA (except for student /unwaged members)*

*- xxx\$US (or Euros) for four years for student members from ‘Category A’ countries, XXX for category B countries and xxx for category C countries, as defined by the ISA (except for student /unwaged members)*

**Add:**

*Dues are paid to the ISA Secretariat.*

*The dues for the different types of membership shall be fixed by the Board of the Research Committee at each Congress and shall be specified in the By- Laws to the present Statutes.*

*RC32 strives to facilitate the participation of women from soft currency countries.*

*on a case by case basis upon application to the Chair*

*who will consult with the Board.*

**Transitional provisions:** *the changes in these statutes, if adopted, shall come into effect from the date after the Business meeting at which they shall be voted on. All changes to elected positions will be effected from the next round of voting*

**IX. Nominations/elections for vacancies** – *Evangelia Tastsoglou, past president and chair of nominations and election committee.*

*- There will be a by-election for vacancies*

## IN MEMORIAL - CYNTHIA JOSEPH

### Remembering Cynthia Joseph (ISA-RC32 President Elect 2014-2018)

by Margaret Abraham and Evangelia Tastsoglou

*The untimely demise of a dear colleague and friend, Cynthia Joseph, ISA RC32 President Elect (2014-2018), and President (to have been for the term 2018-2022) was a great loss to many of us. However, we can celebrate her life as a person, a scholar and as an active member of ISA RC32 who was always willing to be a part of the team, contribute and collaborate in building a strong and inclusive ISA-RC32.*



*We (Maggie and Evie) had known Cynthia for several years and developed both a professional relationship and a friendship, as did many of us in RC 32.*

*I (Maggie) got to know Cynthia Joseph in 2006 in Durban when she joined the International Sociological Association - Research Committee on Women in Society (ISA-RC 32) and asked her if she would consider standing for RC32 regional representative and she kindly agreed. Over the years Cynthia represented RC 32 in several capacities as elected Regional Representative Board Member (2006-2010), Newsletter Editor (2012-2014) and President Elect (2014-2018).*

*I (Evie) too met Cynthia at the conference in Durban (2006). It was after Durban that we started identifying common research interests, making plans for joint research and co-organizing a session for the Women's World 2008: The 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women that was held in Madrid, Spain in July 2008. Our first jointly organized session was on "Migrant Women in the Global Economy: Labour, Identities and Diasporas". It was a successful venture that we thoroughly enjoyed. Madrid inaugurated some long happy traditions of jointly organized RC 32 and other conference sessions and ISA and other conference city explorations.*

*Maggie, Evie and Cynthia shared research interests in the areas of social justice, gender, ethnicity, and migration. We were particularly interested in Cynthia's work on theories and practice of identity, gender, ethnicity, and difference in education. Her work also provided a nuanced explanation of the multi causal factors that contribute to inequality issues in education, while offering valuable alternatives in addressing education, especially given the complexities that define and redefine ethnicity and politics within multiethnic societies. Readers got important sociological insights on the processes and outcomes that Malay-Muslim, Chinese and Indian girls experience within and beyond the school system in contemporary Malaysia. The cultural and structural barriers were well articulated, as were the implications of positionalities based on the*

*intersections of gender and ethnicity. Cynthia offered valuable alternatives in addressing education, given the complexities that define and redefine ethnicity and politics within multiethnic societies. Her work makes an important contribution to the fields of Ethnic/Cultural Politics, Social Stratification and Social Inequality, Gender Studies and the Sociology of Education. Her scholarship also contributes in important ways to both Post-Colonial Studies and South East Asian Studies. Cynthia had published in various journals including Race, Ethnicity and Education, Pedagogy, Culture and Society, the Journal of Intercultural Studies and Current Sociology. I (Maggie) used her work in my course on Public Sociology and she was also invited to work on a joint research project. Her recent book publications include: Growing up female in multi-ethnic Malaysia by Cynthia Joseph (Routledge 2014) and Equity, Opportunity and Education in*



*Postcolonial Southeast Asia edited by Cynthia Joseph and Julie Matthews (Routledge 2014).*

*For me (Evie), our ISA World Congress experiences at Gothenburg provided a theme for our explorations from that point on. After a friendly Swedish policeman stopped us on the road repeatedly for no apparent reason, speaking to me in Swedish and not accepting the obvious truth that I could not understand the language, at the same time treating Cynthia as non-existent, we were revamped the mischievous “Thelma and Louise”. Cynthia figured out what was going on immediately. Incredulous, I heard her interpretation*

*and it took me a long time to digest the veracity of it. It seems the kindly police were assuming I was the trafficker and Cynthia, a woman of colour, my victim.*

*We both had the opportunity to work with Cynthia on the RC 32 Board. Cynthia Joseph was an exemplary RC32 board member. She played a key leadership role in RC32 by contributing through her research, organizing meetings, presenting at conferences, building institutional capacity and by encouraging collaboration among researchers at the national, regional, and international levels and was highly respected by the membership. She presented at the World Congress in Durban in 2006. Cynthia also presented at the ISA World Forum in Barcelona, Spain in September 2008. Clearly, Cynthia made a very valuable contribution as a regional representative and newsletter editor on the ISA-RC32 Board. She was active in organizing in 2010 World Congress in Gothenburg and participated and organized session for RC32 in 2014 World Congress in Yokohama, Japan. We remember how very happy she was at the outcome of the ISA 2014 elections. Always generous and thoughtful, Cynthia’s active participation helped promote RC32’s work, particularly in addressing social injustices and gender inequality, building research partnerships, and promoting research, activism, and policies concerning women's rights throughout the world.*

*Cynthia came to Canada a year after Sweden: she became a visiting scholar at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, but also explored other parts of Canada. An Avid traveler she went on her own travel adventure in Banff in the winter of 2011. She visited Saint Mary’s University, in Halifax in June 2011 and participated in an expert meeting and workshop on migration that I (Evie) organized. In July 2011 She explored the city of Ottawa for the Women’s Worlds Conference where we were co-organizing another workshop. Since*

*Gothenburg, both Cynthia and I always laughed conspiratorially upon coming across police. Even now, I can hear her clear, resonating laughter in my head any time I see police, but also her prompting to explore, dare, go beyond and question. Cynthia came to Halifax once more, in the fall of 2011, for a personal and more quiet visit.*

*When I (Evie) was overwhelmed by an incredibly high number of sessions and workshops in RC 32 for Yokohama, Cynthia helped me a great deal in organizing the RC 32 program. She was the incoming RC 32 President Elect, a fact about which she was thrilled and took very seriously. In Yokohama we shared accommodations and this time Thelma and Louise travelled with a bunch of other women exploring Yokohama, but also Kyoto and Tokyo. I will never forget the evening when six of us, RC 32 members and friends with origins in five different countries slept on tatamis in the same room of an odd ryokan. Cynthia was adamant in exploring a bamboo forest and river in the vicinity which some of us did a couple of days later.*

*I (Maggie) enjoyed working with Cynthia Joseph. She had a strong work ethic and gave generously of her time to colleagues and friends. During several common conferences, Cynthia and I enjoyed taking time out to visit a museum or two, when possible. Even when times were tough with her illness, Cynthia tried to stay strong, still tried to continue to do some work, especially in relation to her research student supervision and publications. We would chat via skype once in a while.*

*Cynthia was very close to her mother and mentioned how immensely grateful she was for the unconditional love and care that she received from her mother. Cynthia deeply appreciated her family, a group of church friends, the parish priest and friends over the years who continued to be supportive and caring. Cynthia's untimely demise will be a loss for ISA – RC32 and Monash University, to her friend and family. She will be missed by her family and friends but her legacy will continue.*

*It was just two months ago prior to her passing that that Cynthia and I (Maggie) then ISA President, communicated. I was going to meet her during my site visit to Melbourne in December 2016 to for the XX ISA World Congress. We were both excited at the thought of meeting in Melbourne. It was hard to believe when I arrived that Cynthia would not be there and that we would not get to talk about RC32, ISA or go down memory lane about sociology, education, the importance of diversity, family, friends or her discovery of a love for modern art on a trip to Spain!*



*Both of us (Evie and Maggie) were sad that Cynthia Joseph could not be at there for the XIX ISA World Congress in Toronto, Canada nor serve as ISA RC 32 President for 2018-2022. It still feels very unreal to have organized a RC 32 panel in her honor in Toronto, after so many sessions that Cynthia organized or co-organized for all the ISA conferences since 2006. However, we are grateful that prior to her demise, Cynthia was able to communicate how proud she was of being involved with RC32 and also to know how much that SHE, Cynthia Joseph, meant to us in ISA-RC32. We are*

*also so pleased and know Cynthia too would be very happy that RC 32 is in excellent hands under the leadership of Melanie Heath, the current RC 32 President (2018-2022) and that the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in 2022 will be held in Melbourne, Australia!*

*Margaret Abraham*

*President, International Sociological Association (2014-2018)*

*ISA Vice President Research (2010-2014)*

*RC32 President (2006-2010) Professor of Sociology, Hofstra University, USA*

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*Evie Tastsoglou*

*ISA Executive Committee Member (2014-2018)*

*RC 32 President (2010-2014)*

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## IN MEMORIAL – ANN B. DENIS

by Jaya Peruvemba, Regional Representative, Canada



*Dr Ann B Denis passed away suddenly on February 5, 2019. Her death has left a huge void in the feminist community as well as at a personal level to her many colleagues and friends. The number of people she touched with her dedication, and commitment to so many causes as well as her unflagging enthusiasm and mentorship and cheerful and positive spirit were so many in the community both in the academic community as well as the wider community especially in Ottawa.*

*Ann Denis was a professor emerita at the School of Sociological and Anthropological Studies after retirement in 2009 She first started teaching at the University of Ottawa in 1973. She was active and taught and mentored numerous batches of students. She was engaged and collegial and remained very actively involved in the life of the university and the School of Sociology and Anthropology where she had been faculty even until the end. She served as Chair of the department on more than one occasion*

*Her research and publications focused on power relations within and between societies, particularly on the intersection of gender, ethnicity/race, and class with work, and on intersectionality within feminisms. She contributed through multiple conferences, organizing sessions, as well as presenting numerous papers, scholarly journal publications and books, throughout her illustrious career.*

*Dr. Denis was an integral and active member of the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) for decades serving within the Executive Committee as President (1996), on the Status of Women Subcommittee, and as representative to the International Sociological Association. Dr. Ann Denis was a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association (2006–10), its Vice-President, Research (2002–2006) as well as was on the research committees on Women in Society (RC32), and Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity (RC05).*

*Dr. Denis received the Outstanding Service Award from the Association in 1999. She and, Dr. Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, established CSA's Feminist Sociology Research Cluster as well as the Inter-disciplinary feminist sessions at Congress. She was a very dedicated and passionate scholar and sociologist who was an active member of the Canadian Sociological Association, The International Sociological Association. She will be deeply missed this year and in years to come, both within the CSA and with the other organizations and communities she supported such as the CRIAW/ ICREF (the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women).*

**Partners in Gendering in Hey-day of Globalization and ICTs : Archetypal Case of India**

by Prof. (Dr.) Bula Bhadra (Ret'd)  
RC32 Regional Representative  
Dept. of Sociology, Sister Nivedita University  
Kolkata, India

**Prologue:**

*Apparently, new technologies usher new mantras of change and the cyber gurus avow that the digital futures would be very different obliterating many inequalities, including gender inequalities. With pioneering developments in biotechnologies and digitalization an assurance began to loom large that the so-called “umbilical” connection between technology and male prerogative has been finally disengaged. The promises of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) generated hopes and aspirations that they will empower women and transform gender relations premised on the virtuality of the cyberspace and the internet’s capacity of ending the embodied basis of sex difference. The purpose of this brief write up is to debunk the myth of ‘gender neutrality’ that digital technology is pure and neutral and hence free from any sexual and gendered implication, taking India as an example. This article questions the disembodied character, neutrality and gender blindness of cyberspace and highlights the deeper point of making women’s bodies as the target for commodification and her body parts subject to a virtual male gaze, thus, continually re-erecting a new-fangled gendering process through ICTs in the zenith of globalization. And, in spite of these, the massive literature on both globalization and ICTs paid negligible attention to this particular gendering of new technology and especially in India a culture of silence looms large.*

**ICTs, Sex and Porn Industry in India: Partners Forever**

*Since beginning, India has been one of the favored destinations of pedophile sex tourists from Europe and the United States (The Indian Express, 1997) because of India’s relaxed laws and utterly incompetent law-implementation machinery. Multinational tour operators, hotel companies, airlines and travel agencies set up for Goa, Kerala and all over India through Internet. Observing that it would not be possible to block pornography websites on the Internet, an expert team appointed by Mumbai High Court has suggested among other restrictions, the introduction of photo identity cards for users of cyber cafes across the state (PTI, Feb.17, 2002). An American head of an Indian Internet firm caught up in a scandal was released on bail as police interrogated the private school student who filmed the lewd clip with a cell phone camera. A Delhi High Court judge ordered the release of Avinash Bajaj, the head of the eBay-owned [Baazee.com](http://Baazee.com), who faced charges that he allowed the sale of pornographic material on the Web site (LA Times, Dec 22, 2004). According to the Alexa Ranks or Google trends, Indians are either sex starved or addicted netizens in the world. They are spending more time on porn sites. In India, Alexa rankings, No.1 adult blog “Debonair blog” is at 14th place (<https://www.xvideos2.com/tags/debonairblog>, accessed January 17, 2009). This was also the number one blog in India and Chennai, Delhi and Mumbai and other top cities in the world where people use Google to search for Sex online. If one surfs there are plenty of Indian Internet sex and pornographic sites. For example, Indian sex webcams is a brand new website offering all sorts of pornographic and sexual content with promises of lucrative proffers. Buy Sex Toys Online in India with best price guarantee. Spice up your bedroom pleasure. There is*

huge discount on every product. (<http://www.indiansexwebcams.com> and <https://adultskartindia.wixsite.com/home>). The top sex sites in India were in the last decade:

- ❑ 2. X Board – 21st place
- ❑ 3. Masala Talk – 25th place
- ❑ 4. Free sexy Indians – 42nd place
- ❑ 5. Dadesi Forum – 48th place
- ❑ 6. Indian Sex stories – 70th place
- ❑ 7. Adult Friend Finder – 84th place
- ❑ 8. Masala4 India – 96th place ([www.indiansexwebcams.com](http://www.indiansexwebcams.com))

On February 7, 2012 three Karnataka ministers were captured on television pouring over a phone screen, watching a woman in a petticoat gyrating wildly. They lost their jobs for watching pornography in the precincts of the Legislative Assembly. The incident is a high-profile sample of a definitive reality: porn is pervasive through the Internet across India, easily and freely available, not just too leery politicians but to children and adults in millions of ordinary homes. Google Trends show the search volume index for the word 'porn' doubled in India between 2010 and 2012. With instant Net connectivity and flexible payment options, online porn is increasingly affordable, accessible and acceptable. Seven Indian cities are among the top 10 in the world on porn search, reports Google Trends, 2011. A recent finding by search engine Google showed that seven Indian cities were in the top 10 cities worldwide where the word 'sex' was searched most number of times. Lucknow and Kolkata were ranked number 2 and 3. 1 out of 5 mobile users in India wants adult content on his 3G-enabled phone, according to a 2011 IMRB Survey. Over 47 per cent students discuss porn every day, says a public school survey by Max Hospital in Delhi. Porn tops the list of cyber crimes in India, according to National Crime Records Bureau. Campus porn is a thriving subterranean culture here. Though India has the lowest penetration of smart phones, 10 per cent, among the youth globally, but with email, social networking, chatting, messaging and gaming, it is a device every youth craves for. And now there are even porn applications in smartphones. Imagine a 'pocket' girlfriend or boyfriend, who can strip, talk dirty, and make sexual noises. "There are some 'apps' that can be downloaded on smart phones" and App download data shows the popularity of sex-themed apps on smart phones, apart from the adults-only stores,". With over 50 per cent of all Internet users in the country accessing the web via mobile phones already, as estimated by TRAI, smart phones are the future of anytime-anywhere porn. In 2009 just 10% men watched porn but this year, with smarter access and gadgets, it zoomed to 44 per cent in 2012. Kolkata certainly is getting off the high horse. A city with the least taste for pornography, going by India Today Sex Surveys, is also one of the top seekers of porn online, reports Google trends. (<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/cover-story/story/20120227-pornography-on-the-internet-hits-indian-society-sunny-leone-757394-2012-02-18>). The Indian XXX Chat says that desi (native) sex chat is going to provide the customer with one of a kind experience. There are the utmost exotic Indian girls who will be there to help you make the most from your viewing pleasure and the web cams will allow you to be part of the action. One will get to decide on every single move the girls will make and only the customer will have full control over what they are doing. The Indian live

*chat is also offering to experience the free previews in order to make an informed (?) decision even before one will embark on the private adventures.*

*Ironically, even as Kerala — a State with creditable developmental indicators to be proud of protecting its trees as indeed national treasures, but the most precious national treasure children are being sexually abused, raped, killed or pushed to their own graves at an alarming rate. India is home to a fifth of the world's children and has the highest rate of child sexual assaults in the world. In 2017, the Kerala Police arrested 11 people including for running an online sex racket, while investigating a Facebook Paedophile page called "Kochu Sundarikal" (little pretty girls). Though, "Kochu sundarikal" appeared like pictures posted in Facebook, in reality it was a den of pedophiles. A note from the group administrator on the site sought to know: "What would you like to do with her?" (<https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/open-page/cry-the-gods-own-country/article18306912.ece> accessed on March 12, 2018). Even with the official ban in place, according to Pornhub, India's average time spent on the website in 2018 has increased, and average Indian spent 8 minutes 23 seconds on the website (per session) and the surprising thing is that around 30% of Indian women browsed Pornhub in 2018 - as per the report. In fact, Pornhub's '2018 Year in Review' has revealed that India ranks third among the countries with the most number of viewers visiting the leading pornographic website. "We stand on the third place behind USA and United Kingdom," the website reported. As per its annual review of how people around the world watch porn, Pornhub found that while the US added 11 seconds to their average time spent on watching porn, India at 9 minutes 30 seconds - recorded a higher average time with a one-minute increase in the duration of each visit. "More and more, we are finding that our users are opting for mobile devices like smart phones and tablets when they visit Pornhub," the website noted (<https://www.businesstoday.in/latest/trends/india-ranks-in-top-3-in-overall-traffic-on-pornhub/story/301498.html>. accessed March 11, 2019). In fact, between 2013 and 2017, India's porn traffic recorded the highest growth globally (<https://yourstory.com/2018/11/india-bans-porn-working-means-reliance-jio-telcos>, accessed March 10, 2019). A senior executive in India at an Internet industry body said, "Through our discussions with the various Internet Service Providers (ISPs), we have been able to estimate that as much as 30-70% of the total browsing in the country is related to pornography." (<https://www.livemint.com/Industry/VhuXq3jfADn2CrhK8nJ7pL/Oops-Indian-ISPs-telcos-could-lose-3070-of-data-revenue.html>)*

### **Conclusion**

*So it is not at all surprising that with Neo-liberal assortment of globalization, electronic buying and selling of sex in myriad forms has made body, especially female body as the significant marker of online activities and content in India keeping pace with global trend. This implies that women's material body rather than being wiped away has reinforced its presence on the Internet as visibly noticeable and subjected to a constant surveillance, of panoptican variety of body's performance by the clients, the pimps and the traffickers. Thus visualization of serious harm in the name of cyber customer's pleasure inflicted on children and women bodies through live videos are integral part of global e-commerce in India. The alliance between globalization and ICTs has established it very proficiently that a new gendered reality is born with unfathomable potentialities to grow in gargantuan terms beating all the formal equality and protection for women in India. The sex industry is established as one of the most, if not the most profitable industry in this heyday of globalization in India.*

## *ISARC32 AT PORTO ALEGRE: A SNAPSHOT OF SESSIONS*

### *July 14-18, 2020*

*The session titles listed below are hyperlinked and the portal maybe accessed by clicking on the titles below. Incase, you are unable to, please access through the ISA Confex website. The call for abstracts opened on April 25, and the deadline is **September 30, 2019**.*

- 1. Cadences of Everyday Gendered Migrant Lives*
- 2. Culture, Religion, and Gender Inequality*
- 3. Decolonial and Intersectional Feminisms: Weaving Friendships, Alliances and Liberation Politics*
- 4. Decolonizing Gender: Gender Diversity from a Transnational Perspective*
- 5. Gender Equality in the Rural Sector: The Ever Persistent Challenge*
- 6. Gender and Corruption*
- 7. Gender and Professions*
- 8. Gender, Violence and Migration*
- 9. Global Perspectives on Gender, Family, Labor, and Migration*
- 10. Interrogating Sexualities and Intimacies: The Liberatory and Oppressive Politics of the 21st Century.*
- 11. Intersectional Approaches to Gender, Diversities and Inequalities in the MENA Region*
- 12. Marginal, Informal, Precarious - Studying Work from an Intersectional Perspective in Different Societal and Spatial Contexts*
- 13. Neoliberalism, Inequalities, and the Gendered Everyday*
- 14. Roundtables Group 1*
- 15. Roundtables Group 2*
- 16. Social Determinants, Gendered-Health Inequities, and Intersectionality*
- 17. Southern Feminisms: Perspectives on Neoliberal Capitalism, Socialism, and Democratic Processes*
- 18. The Intersectional Discrimination of Trafficked Victims Due to Gender and Race*
- 19. The Use of Language in Media, Disruptions in Hegemonic Meanings, and the Resistance to Gender Violence*
- 20. Transformations of Care Work: Convergences and Diversities*
- 21. Women and Families in Forced Migrations: Inequalities of Gender and Barriers for Human Dignity*
- 22. Women's Careers and the Process of Civilization*
- 23. Youth, Gender and Place*

## MEMBER NEWS

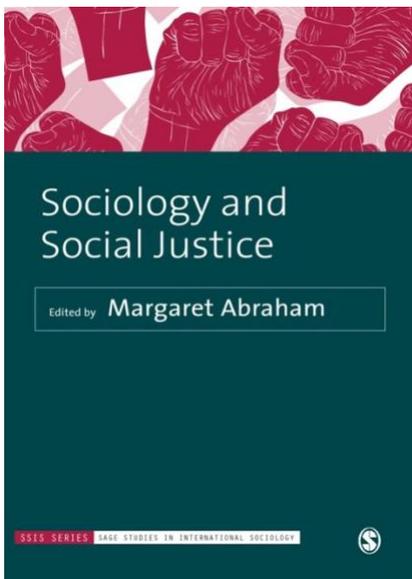
### Awards

**Dr. Bandana Purkayastha** (Professor at the University of Connecticut, USA) was awarded the American Sociological Association's prestigious Jessie Bernard Award. The award is conferred in recognition of pathbreaking work that broadens the horizons of sociology and the role of women in society. Bandana's work in gender theory, migration, Asian studies, and human rights is nationally and internationally renowned. She is the first South Asian American to have been recognized with this award. Her publishing record includes 14 books and over 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

### Job Changes and Promotions

**Dr. Jan Marie Fritz** (Professor at the University of Cincinnati; Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg and Distinguished Visiting Professor at the Honors College of the University of South Florida) has been appointed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to two of its advisory committees: the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) and the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology (NACEPT)

### Book Announcements



**Abraham, Margaret, eds. 2018. *Sociology and Social Justice*. SAGE Publications Ltd.**

*This book aims to contribute to our understanding of the concept and practices of social justice. It brings together scholars who increase our understanding of the scope and practice of social justice in diverse contexts. The authors conceptualize, problematize, theorize, and contextualize social justice at particular points in time and in various parts of the world. Perspectives, sites and contexts in which social justice issues are raised, especially in terms of addressing inequalities and injustices are explored. Despite the complexity and challenges striving for social justice, it is vital that sociologists use their teaching, research and actions to envision and craft pathways to mobilize civil societies, governments and the international community to collaboratively take action to help build a more just world.*

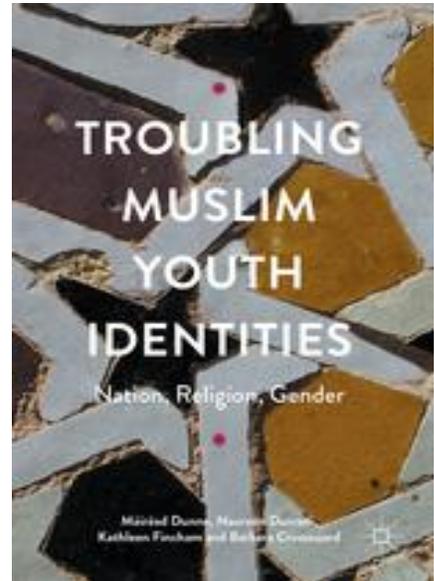
<https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/sociology-and-social-justice/book265100>

**Dunne, Máiréad., Durrani, Naureen., Fincham, Kathleen., & Crossouard, Barbara. 2017. *Troubling Muslim Youth Identities Nation, Religion, Gender*. London: Palgrave.**

*This book explores the production of Muslim youth identities, with respect to nation, religion and gender in Pakistan, Senegal, Nigeria and Lebanon. As Muslim-majority, post-colonial states which have significant youth populations and span different geo-political regions, these countries offer critical case studies of the different grammars of youth identities in each of these contexts. By providing rigorous and detailed accounts of the local, situated and contingent processes through which youth articulate their identities, it 'troubles' the overly-homogenized ways that Muslim youth have often been represented in some Western media. Drawing on post-structural and postcolonial theorists, its analysis takes up the importance of affect, belonging and affiliation in youth narratives of identity, as well as highlighting their political and contested nature.*

ISBN eBook 978-1-137-31279-2 Hardcover 978-0-230-34837-0

<http://www.palgrave.com/gb/book/9780230348370>



**Erel, Umut and Tracy Reynolds, eds. 2019. *Migrant Mothers' Creative Challenges to Racialized Citizenship*. Routledge.**

## REBELLIOUS PARENTS

Parental Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia



Edited by KATALIN FÁBIÁN and ELŻBIETA KOROLCZUK

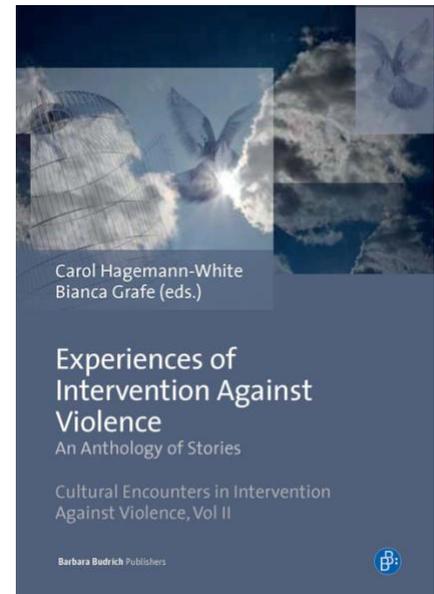
**Fábíán, Katalin and Elżbieta Korolczuk, eds 2017. *Rebellious Parents Parental Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia*. Indiana University Press**

*Parental movements are strengthening around the world and often spark tense personal and political debate. With an emphasis on Russia and Central and Eastern Europe, this collection analyzes formal organizations as well as informal networks and online platforms which mobilize parents to advocate for change on a grassroots level. In doing so, the work collected here explores the interactions between the politics, everyday life, and social activism of mothers and fathers. From fathers' rights movements to natural childbirth to vaccination debates, these essays provide new insight into the identities and strategies applied by these movements as they confront local ideals of gender and family with global ideologies.*

[http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product\\_info.php?products\\_id=808402](http://www.iupress.indiana.edu/product_info.php?products_id=808402)

Hagemann-White, Carol, Liz Kelly & Thomas Meysen, eds. 2019. *Interventions against Child Abuse and Violence against Women: Ethics and Culture in Practice and Policy*. Cultural Encounters in Intervention Against Violence vol I. Opladen & Birmingham: Barbara Budrich Publishers.

*Responses to interpersonal violence encounter complex intersections of power relations, entering the arena of rights, culture and ethics; these are explored both empirically and theoretically in this book. Volume I now in print offers insights and perspectives from the study of “Cultural Encounters in Intervention Against Violence” (CEINAV) in four EU-countries. Seeking a deeper understanding of the underpinnings of intervention practices in Germany, Portugal, Slovenia and England and Wales the team explored variations in institutional structures and traditions of law, policing, and social welfare. Using a shared qualitative methodology, space was created to listen to professionals discussing the challenges of intervention and as well to hear voices of women who had escaped domestic violence or trafficking for sexual exploitation and of young people who had been taken into care due to abuse or neglect. The earlier volume 2 is an anthology of stories that emerged from interviews with 78 women and young people about their experience of intervention. Note: Volume II pictured here. Both volumes are available open access online. <https://shop.budrich-academic.de/>*



### Journal Articles

Abraham, Margaret. 2019. “Power, violence, and justice: Reflections, responses and responsibilities: Presidential Address – XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology, July 15, 2018.” *International Sociology*, 34(3), 243–255.

*For the Presidential Address video*, see: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/history-of-isa/isa-past-presidents/list-of-presidents/margaret-abraham>

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