

RC32 NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2020 VOLUME #10

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings to all RC32 members,



As summer has arrived, we have witnessed tragic events that have changed the world in ways that none of us could have anticipated. Earlier this year, RC32 members were looking forward to meeting together in July for the IV ISA Forum in Porto Alegre, Brazil. Unfortunately, the forum has been postponed due to the global pandemic of COVID-19. As of July 3, 2020, we face a world in which there have been 10,720,449 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 517,340 deaths. All of us are touched by this pandemic in one way or another, and our thoughts are with all who have become ill or have lost a loved one.

Notably, global inequalities and politics have played an enormous role in how the coronavirus is experienced. For example, global health organizations have found consistent evidence of a gender gap in COVID-19 health outcomes. We know that men are dying at much higher rates than women. The numbers are striking. Globally, twice as many men than women may be dying of COVID-19 (there are some exceptions to the rule, as early data from India demonstrates that women outnumber men in COVID-19 related deaths). In any case, evidence suggests that the gender gap is influenced by social and other demographic factors, including age, race or ethnicity and class, and comorbidities. An important question is the role of masculinity in these numbers, pushing men to cause risk for others, as well as being a major risk group. At the same time, women and girls are being affected in ways that highlight other global inequalities. This is particularly true for women and girls who face multiple forms of discrimination based on gender and compounded with race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age, sexual orientation, class, and/or migration status. So many are made vulnerable by systematic gender inequalities, such as the burden of caregiving, male violence, precarious work, and numerous other vulnerabilities. The pandemic has once again revealed the systemic inequalities that heighten vulnerabilities for transgender and non-binary communities from across the world. Feminist sociologists have an

important role to play in understanding how these inequalities are experienced. We look forward to hearing from RC32 members about their contributions.

COVID-19 has also brought many challenges to educators across the globe. Our feature article by Akosua Darkwah, Associate Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Ghana, addresses some of these challenges and provides hope. In particular, she describes the opportunities that the pandemic has presented for greater access to global scholarship and different ways of conducting sociological research. In this regard, we would like to hear from you on the issues that you have faced during these difficult times. I have worked with Josephine Beoku-Betts, the current President of Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) and Past-Chair of RC32, to become a global partner on two initiatives on which she is leading. The first is a call for manuscripts for a co-edited autoethnography publication to examine global portrayals of living with COVID-19 as academics and practitioners. The deadline for submission is August 28, 2020. The second is a request for a syllabus and reading list that explores the impact of COVID-19 from a global, intersectional, and feminist perspective. The deadline is July 15, 2020. You can read more about the specifications of these initiatives in this newsletter. I hope that you will consider making a contribution.

Currently, the ISA is proceeding as planned with the programming for the IV Forum on February 23-27, 2021. The hope is to maintain all activities and abstracts that were selected for the Forum in July 2020. There is a new calendar that will allow RC32 to update and re-open some of our panels, and a new call for abstracts will open. The dates are as follows:

October 16-25, 2020: RC/WG/TG publish Calls for new abstracts

October 26 – November 12, 2020: Submission of new abstracts via online platform

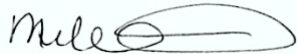
December 15, 2020: Presenters final registration deadline

The RC32 Council hopes for the best in being able to meet in person in February, and we will keep you updated with any new developments.

The final issue that I want to address in my letter to you is that of the global protests against racism, as people have taken to the streets to show their support for the Black Lives Matter

movement after the killing of George Floyd in Minnesota on May 25. From Hong Kong to Tel Aviv, people have gathered together to show that Black lives do matter, and that racism is a global blight that needs to be addressed. Feminist leaders across the globe are fighting to bring an intersectional lens to these problems. Valdecir Nascimento, a prominent women's rights activist in Brazil, is calling for Black women's voices to be heard, emphasizing that Black women are the solution in Brazil, not the problem. Sonia Maribel Sontay Herrera, an indigenous and human rights defender from Guatemala, has been a leader in articulating the compounding forms of discrimination that women of color experience. Silliniu Lina Chang, President of the Victim Support Group, points out that the times we live in—and the opportunity that COVID-19 brings—offers a chance to think outside our comfort zone and bring an intersectional feminist approach to solving these problems. These voices—among many others—that speak to opportunity, also emphasized by Akosua Darkwah in our feature article, bring hope for the future!

I am sending you warm thoughts,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Melanie', followed by a large, stylized oval flourish.

Melanie Heath

FEATURE ARTICLE

COVID-19: A Silver Lining for Ghanaian Academics?

By, Akosua K. Darkwah

Associate Professor and Head, Department of Sociology, University of Ghana

The first time I heard of COVID-19 was the morning of Sunday January 26th, 2020. I was on my way to San Francisco enroute to San Diego for the Sociologists for Women in Society's Winter Conference. I had stopped over in Washington DC from Accra to break up a rather long flight and my friend who took me to the airport joked that I was going to the part of the country with the strange Corona virus. I spent a week on the West Coast and paid little attention to what was happening with the virus. Fast forward to mid-February 2020. Each morning, I would wake up to find members of my household eager to share the news about COVID-19 as it unfolded on television. It all seemed very far off from us and we often discussed the irony that the West and not Africa was the site of pretty bad news day after day. On Thursday March 12th, however, everything changed and pretty quickly. The Norwegian Ambassador to Ghana tested positive on that day. The next day, a student at the University of Ghana where I teach, who had been on an exchange programme in North America also tested positive. The student and persons she/he had been in contact with were quarantined that day and the university closed the day after. By Sunday evening, the President of Ghana was announcing that all schools were to close down with immediate effect. As with other parts of the world, international flights were banned, a partial lock down was imposed although only for three weeks in Ghana and a new fashion sensibility developed in Ghana as face masks made out of African fabric started appearing on our streets. It all seemed very surreal. Unlike the West where the response unfolded slowly as the situation

grew from an epidemic to a pandemic, everything happened in Ghana quite quickly giving the population little time to adjust to, let alone comprehend our new reality.

At the university, distance education took on a whole new meaning. While we had prior access to educational software platforms such as Sakai, the majority of faculty really only used the resource function on that platform to share reading material and course outlines with students. We all therefore had to undergo a crash course delivered by the university's IT experts on a range of topics such as how to administer examinations or use the forum tool on Sakai. Many of us were introduced to Zoom for the first time and taught how to navigate that system. We debated the use of other tools for teaching and whether we could and should combine synchronous and asynchronous teaching. While faculty had a steep learning curve on how to use technology to teach, the administrators had a bigger problem on their hands, how to ensure that all students had access to the equipment that would allow them to take classes online. Of the different technological devices that allow internet usage, mobile phones are ostensibly the cheapest. Mobile phone penetration is extremely high in Ghana. In fact, according to a report on the Ghanaian mobile sector, as at 2020, the mobile phone penetration rate in Ghana is 140% (<https://www.statista.com/statistics/779708/mobile-connection-penetration-rate-ghana>).

However, only 35% of the population are online (Delle, 2019, xvii).¹ As is the case in other countries, class plays a role in access to technology. Concerned with how to ensure that no student was disenfranchised as we all moved to online learning, the University of Ghana entered into an agreement with Vodafone Ghana to provide both faculty and staff with free internet bundles. Five weeks after the university shut down abruptly, we resumed classes and ironed out the kinks in the system as we went along. As I write this, online final examinations are underway

¹ Delle, S. (2019). *Making Futures: Young Entrepreneurs in a Dynamic Africa*. Abuja: Cassava Republic.

and as Head of Department, I am extremely relieved that together with the rest of the faculty members in my Department, we all made it to the end of the semester in one piece. We adjusted to our new reality of teaching online, holding seminars online and attending a range of university meetings online, some of which could go on for three straight hours. Many emails as well as group WhatsApp messages among faculty have been sent back and forth as we all learnt to navigate new systems at the university. All of that work paid off. We have ensured that our current crop of students will finish the semester albeit five weeks later than usual and all things considered, that is a small price to pay.

We definitely are living in new times. And while I will not wish this first half of the year on anybody, our new reality also provides both students and faculty with opportunities we did not have before. First is the incredible exposure to Ghanaian academics that the Zoom platform affords students. Like many other African countries, a fair amount of Ghanaian academics ply their trade outside of the continent. Many big name scholars who write about Ghana live and work outside the country and with our meagre resources, we are unable to bring them to the university. Zoom changed all of that. Suddenly, so long as time constraints were taken into consideration, faculty members from around the world could be invited into classrooms in Ghana for a lively discussion. This was the case in an English class that Kwabena Opoku-Agyeman taught which had Ato Quayson, a renowned Ghanaian scholar at Stanford University join in from California. Friends with both of them and a great fan of African literature, I joined in too. Since that day, I have redesigned my class on globalization that I plan to teach next semester. I am no longer constrained by financial resources. Drawing on my networks and with a little bit of planning, I can invite scholars and public intellectuals around the world into my classroom and

provide my students with the kind of intellectual community that students in well-resourced environments take for granted.

Students have newfound learning opportunities and so do faculty. In addition to teaching, faculty do research and that also has been stalled in this time of COVID-19. A junior colleague and I had just received clearance from the ethics committee at our university to begin an 18 month funded project to study identity formation among second-generation immigrants in Ghana when Ghana got its first case of COVID-19. We agonized for six weeks as to what to do. Eventually, we settled on zoom interviews. While this is an appropriate medium for interviewing given the circumstances, it has its drawbacks, key among which is the implications for the diversity of our sample. Low income second-generation immigrants are not likely to be part of this sample. They cannot afford the equipment or internet to participate. So, we find that our sample comprises professional, middle-income families only. We have been using a snowball sampling technique to find our research participants and soon we discovered that our interviewees were calling us up and saying, “I have a friend who fits your sample criteria but this friend lives in Botswana. Does it matter?” When we were first confronted with this question, we did not quite know what to say. Funding challenges here mean that we basically adhere to the principles of what Wimmer and Glick-Schiller (2003) will call methodological nationalism.² We do not have the luxury of debating its pitfalls. It is what it is. Suddenly though, with technology, we need not fly into another country to gain access to research participants. Multi-sited research is possible from the comfort of our homes. Ironically, we had initially written our proposal as a multi-sited project

² Wimmer, A., & Schiller, N. G. (2003). Methodological nationalism, the social sciences, and the study of migration: an essay in historical epistemology *I. International migration review*, 37(3), 576-610.

but had to abandon it when the funder suggested that we develop the study in phases to make it easier to fund. Now, here we are constrained by finances but enabled by COVID-19-induced adoption of technology to undertake multi-sited research. All manner of research possibilities are now open to us and we have some lessons to share with other colleagues on the continent, key among which are our colleagues in the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the continent's leading social science research community. CODESRIA encourages multi-country and multidisciplinary research projects through its Multinational Working Group (MWG). A team of researchers from different countries will work on a similar topic but in their own countries over a period of time. While the data is analyzed within and between countries, data collection is strictly limited to nationals within a specific country. We just might do something different next time we have the opportunity to join a MWG and when we do, we will credit COVID-19 for what it enabled us to do.

Since March, COVID-19 has led us on a path of both challenges and new discoveries. As an academic who holds an administrative position, I have been both frustrated at the range of problems I have had to resolve and amazed at what a group of academics committed to their goals of teaching and research can achieve even under the most trying of circumstances. I have also learnt that this period presents opportunities we would not have considered a year ago. Years from now, I hope that my colleagues and I will look back and marvel at how we not only survived the year (s?) when our world was literally turned upside down as academics, but also discovered and permanently adopted new ways of teaching and doing research.

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS:

AFRICA

OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Rosalie Aduayi Diop, Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar, Senegal

Agatha N.T. Eguavoen, Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria

Tayo Ola George, Covenant University, Nigeria

Roseanne Njiru, The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya

Covid19 effects in Kenya

By, Roseanne Njiru. Lecturer, Department of Sociology & Social Work
University of Nairobi, Kenya.

Since the first case of Covid-19 was declared in Kenya on March 13, 2020, we have experienced unprecedented rates of change in the ways we work and live our social, cultural, religious, political and academic lives.

Public health directives ranging from handwashing, wearing facemasks, 'social distancing', stay-at-home orders, curfews and lockdowns have had diverse effects on different categories of people while rendering others vulnerable to poverty and violence. Many people now have to deal with job losses, food insecurity, mental health, and inability to spend time with family or bury their loved ones due to travel restrictions. Stay-at-home advisories have resulted in low productivity given the insecurities and anxieties that many people experience. Moreover, for a country such as Kenya where majority of the population depends on the informal sector for livelihoods, stay-at-home orders have been impossible to follow because staying at home means loss of incomes and inability to meet basic needs.

Learning is at a halt for many. The president recently announced that schools would begin a gradual re-opening in September, 2020. Attempts by the Ministry of Education to roll out a

digital learning program for primary and secondary schools, through television and radio, has only served to entrench the deep geographical, class and gender inequalities that already exist. Not all homes in Kenya have easy access to these media as assumed in the program. The most affected are poorer children in public schools as those in better serviced private institutions have been able to transition to online learning. In universities, particularly public universities, learning continuity has been largely haphazard as universities did not have online learning systems in place prior to Covid-19. The switch has been chaotic for both faculty and students and filled with assumptions about their access to electronic devices, data, and network coverage in Kenya. As a result, many students have missed the opportunity to participate in learning. Further, for many faculty, university closures and lock downs mean inability to access office space, to conduct field research, attend workshops/conferences and publish. Moreover, anxieties about possible salary cuts affects wellbeing and productivity. With schools closed, female faculty's care work has increased because they are worried about allowing their non-resident domestic workers come into their homes for work.

Despite these effects, we have limitless opportunities that Covid-19 opens us to. We are adopting new norms and ways of thinking about our individual selves, families, work, community and forming transnational work collaborations. There is a deep sense of empathy and community and people have been more mindful of others' well-being. We stand strong and willing to change and be changed by the pandemic.

COVID 19 in Africa: "beyond the biomedical approach, it is also socio-anthropology"

By, Pre Rosalie A Diop, Institute of Population, Development and Reproductive Health of the CheikhAnta Diop University of Dakar (IPDSR /UCAD).

Managing the covid-19 health crisis in Africa is not and should not be just a medical matter, but much more, it exposes social, economic and political problems. First appearing in Egypt in February 2020, the entire African continent (54 countries) is now affected by the pandemic to varying degrees. As of May 26, 2020, Africa has 3,589 confirmed deaths and 46,418 cures for 119,391 recorded cases¹. Senegal has so far recorded 54 deaths, 4,640 cases declared positive. Despite instructions from the Minister of Health and Welfare, the number of infections has not decreased.

The history of epidemics reminds us that, from immemorial times, contagious diseases have decimated human populations. In the colonial era, the epidemics which preoccupied the colonizers were the plague, cholera, yellow fever and smallpox. During each epidemic, the administrative and medical authorities, in concert with the populations, tried to put in place response and resilience strategies. However, it is not always easy to change people's behavior. Institutional communication is certainly an essential element in efforts to prevent, treat and manage all diseases, but it is not enough. In general, these efforts focus on sending messages about how to behave or on the mode of transmission and pay less attention to the contexts in which this communication takes place. However, in all societies, there are often obstacles to individual behavior change, because these are precisely backed by values, practices, which evolve less quickly than health standards.

In the context of the pandemic, there can be no increase in the level of collective prevention of covid-19 if, fundamentally, there is no safer individual behavior and changes in social norms at risk of spread. Hence the importance of a socio-anthropological approach in the management of this pandemic.

In addition, behavior change is complex: it requires knowledge, motivations and choices which are influenced by socio-cultural norms as well as the evaluation of risks in relation to immediate benefits and future consequences. The rhetoric is almost the same among African people, "you can't stay at home if you don't have enough to eat." The management of the covid-19 pandemic thus finds itself at the crossroads of rapid and rational decision-making by governments and impulsive and automatic behavior by populations. Ultimately, compliance with the measures decreed by the health authorities such as social distancing, wearing masks in public places or confinement and closure of schools, universities and places of worship Mosques and churches proved to be inappropriate in Africa and did not stop the disease. The "health emergency" of this cognitive dissonance (behaviour in contradiction with our beliefs) collides with the "social emergency", namely the impoverishment of the populations, especially the most vulnerable whose socio-anthropologists remain better equipped for a thorough proposed analysis .

ASIA (SOUTH, SOUTHEAST, EAST)

OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Bula Bhadra, Calcutta University, India

Azam Khatam, York University (Canada), Iran

Rima Majed, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Kumiko Nemoto, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Japan

Nursing the public reckoned greater than motherhood in Iran By, Azam Khatam & Shadab Towfighi

Coronavirus first appeared in January in Qom a holy city in Shi'a Islam with the shrine of Masoumeh as a significant destination of pilgrimage and the largest center for Shi'a scholarship in the world with students from all over the world including 700 from China alone. In February, Iran became the epicenter of pandemic next to China and Korea, with 183,000 infected, 9000 deaths making Iran the tenth country in the World, however the deaths are believed to be two times and infection ten times more than reported.

The domestic politics, the dual power structure and severe economic constraints, partly due to US sanctions, impaired a fast and effective response to the outbreak of coronavirus. After numerous officials contracting it, and even one dying of it, finally in mid-march quarantine was declared closing all the educational centers and for the first time in its history all the mosques, shrines even cancelled the Friday prayers.

Nicolas Kristof, NY Times columnist writes, “... death rates from the coronavirus for 21 countries around the world, 13 led by men and eight led by women. The male-led countries suffered an average of 214 coronavirus deaths per million inhabitants. Those led by women lost only one-fifth as many, 36 per million.” Those who bungled the response were all men, mostly a particular type: authoritarian, vainglorious and blustering. Boris Johnson, Jair Bolsonaro, Trump and Hassan Rouhani. So considering the authoritarian leadership of Iran, how is it that the Iranian women became the forefront runners of

a successful struggle against the pandemic. The Islamic Republic has persistently attempted to prioritize women's role in motherhood and wifehood in the last four decades but the pandemic compelled a more important role. Unlike other professions such as lawyers and engineers, due to the need of providing healthcare to women through women there was less pressure for women in Iran's health system to leave their jobs after the 1979 revolution, hence, half of the healthcare system which is composed of women were in the frontline of the fight against the pandemic. During the past five months, the overwhelming work of attending to the coronavirus patients, women nurses working alongside their male colleagues have truly risked their lives and have sacrificed much. They have been present in all areas and levels of healthcare system for days and at times they have not left the hospital for an entire month, worked tirelessly despite lack of equipment, worked double shifts, slept in the waiting rooms on the floor, and joyfully danced along with their male colleagues after the decrease of corona patients. A video clip gone viral shows a woman returning to her family after a month in a small city in northern Iran, her 3 year old runs to her, her husband comes out greeting her warmly to show that something greater than motherhood is reckoned for women.

AUSTRALIA

OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Nana Oishi, The University of Melbourne, Australia

From Australia

By, Nana Oishi, The University of Melbourne

Just in many other countries, COVID-19 has been impacting the lives of 25 million people in Australia. The extent of its impacts, however, has varied across different segments of the population. While we still need to wait for more comprehensive studies, the available data suggest the following two points that are worth noting from the perspective of gender.

- Women have been experiencing much more domestic violence than before. The national counselling centre reported that the access to its online help service has increased 38 percent between March and April 2020 (Zwartz 2020). According to Monash

University's survey on family violence victim support practitioners, almost 60 per cent confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic had increased the frequency of violence against women (Mills 2020).

- Asians and Asian Australians have been facing more racist attacks and harassment in the last few months due to COVID-19. Almost 400 racist incidents since April (Asian Australian Alliance 2020), though many believe that this figure is only the tip of the iceberg, as it is known that most Asian victims tend to remain silent. According to the survey, women were more severely affected by racism than men: 65% of the victims were female (Asian Australian Alliance 2020).

Racism against Asians has become highly politicised in Australia when the Chinese government issued a travel alert, discouraging its citizens from going to Australia for study or tourism due to an "alarming increase"; in racial discrimination against Chinese amid coronavirus. It is widely believed that this is part of China's political response against Australia which initiated the WHO's independent inquiry into how the coronavirus started. The Australian government has been dismissing China's allegation of anti-Chinese/Asian racism as "false information" or "no basis in fact" (Duke 2020), despite numerous incidents being reported in the media and the Human Rights Commission's acknowledgement of the increase. This political strategy is highly alarming as it is likely to make the position of Asian Australians (particularly for Asian Australian women who tend to fall into victims) even more vulnerable as the denial cannot lead to any actions to resolve the issue, which could potentially empower the potential aggressors.

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fact'." The Sydney Morning Herald. 6 June.

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Zwartz, Henry. 2020. "Amid coronavirus lockdowns, use of online domestic violence reporting tool spikes." ABC News. 23 May

EUROPE

OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

Ignazia Bartholini, University of Palermo, Italy

Capitolina Diaz, University of Valencia, Spain

Sofia Strid, Orebro University, Sweden

Francesca Alice Vianello, University of Padua, Italy

Universities' telework, a multitask trap for female academics **Capitolina Diaz – University of Valencia (Spain)**

The confinement due to covid-19 has rekindle some previous concerns, and revealed a few unexpected ones, among female academics. The lockdown has magnified existing inequalities concerning the sharing of teaching, research, and caring. At the same time, the confinement showed, to some, the pleasures of home life.

Academic institutions demanded changes and adjustments in the work procedures of their employees (faculty, researchers, managers, etc.). Universities did what they thought suited their students, regardless the price to be paid by their staff. Apparently, neither government nor universities noticed the effect of those adjustments in the confined life of their faculty. They noticed even less the generally unnoticed caring job shouldered mostly by women. What follows will refer, as an illustration of this point, the case of some Spanish female academics. Data come from informal telephone interviews, analysis of private chats among female faculty and complaints received by Equality Units of several universities.

Those data show that for female faculty home isolation means an enormous growth of caring; not enough help with that growth of caring work, and a huge rise of academic work (again, without enough help). Female academics juggle every day to balance work and personal and family life and conclude that staying at home doing teleteaching and tele research does not mean an easier life. Quite the opposite: the multitask academic jugglers feel guilt and helplessness for not being able to fulfil both demands (pay and unpaid work) on time and efficiently. For most female academics, single or in a dual-earner partnership, the covid-19 lockdown smashed up the

existing balance between work and family. Under normal circumstances, this balance was based on the care provided by nurseries, schools, old peoples' houses, domestic workers, and grandmothers. Neither of them was available during the pandemic confinement.

Female faculty found that what was unequal became worse since the volume of their two main activities grew. Besides home schooling, child entertaining and looking after old and sick people, they did not find enough support from their institutions. There are some common complaints: As usual, it was not possible to reduce teaching hours (average of 240 hours per year) without huge earnings reduction. Universities did not offer teaching time flexibility. Neither did they scheduled a period without class to learn digital teaching and digital meetings and reorganize their academic activities accordingly. Some universities, in what was perceived as a lack of trust, intensified mechanisms of control and accountability. This increased the faculty's load of work and the feeling of un insufficient recognition of the effort being made. Although some academic women found practical and rewarding to coordinate via video conference with their colleagues, they missed coordination tools and common criteria for benchmarking with them. Uncertainly about next year was another source of stress.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Sue-Anne BARRATT, The University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago

Ochy Curiel, Dominican Republic

NORTH AMERICA

OUR REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES:

Hara Bastas, LaGuardia Community College, USA

Myrna Dawson, University of Guelph, Canada

Jan Marie Fritz, University of Cincinnati, USA

Peruvemba Jaya, University of Ottawa, Canada

IN MEMORIAM: Of Marina Hughson (Blagojević)

Contributed by: Jeff Hearn, Örebro University, Sweden, Hanken School of Economics, Finland; University of Huddersfield, UK



Marina Hughson (Blagojević)

It is with tremendous sadness that I am writing of the death of Marina Hughson on 6 June 2020, following a short illness.

Marina was a sociologist, feminist, RC32 Member, Research Professor/Principal Researcher, the Institute for Criminological and Sociological Research in Belgrade, Serbia, and Research Director, Social Inequalities and Social Inclusion project there. She was also

Professor at the Faculty of Philosophy in Belgrade, and previously Professor, Faculty of

Philosophy, Niksić, Montenegro, and had held visiting professorships at: Karl-Franzens University of Graz, Austria; University of Hildesheim, Germany; CEU, Budapest, Hungary; and ELTE Programme on Minority Studies, Budapest. She was previously President of the Serbian Sociological Association (1992-4), Director, Institute for Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy, Belgrade (1994-6), founder and President of the Section for Feminist Research and Critical Studies of Masculinities, Serbian Sociological Association (2016-8).

She completed her PhD at the University of Belgrade on the social status of women professionals in Yugoslavia in 1990, published as: *Women Out of the Circle: Profession and Family* (*Žene izvan kruga: profesija i porodica*), Institute for Sociological Research, Belgrade, 1991. She produced at least 24 books, of which the most well-known is probably *Knowledge Production at the Semi-periphery: A Gender Perspective*, 2009, that set out inspirational theoretical, epistemological and empirical frame of semiperiphery.

She worked on Economic and Political Sociology, Women's Studies, Gender Studies, and Critical Studies on Men and Masculinities since the 1980s. Her main areas of expertise, as she herself listed

them, were: Gender and Development, Semiperiphery, Sociology of Gender, Social Demography, Gender and Knowledge Production, Feminist Epistemology, Transnational and Balkan Masculinities, Quality of Life and Sustainable Development. Further areas on which she wrote included: women and science, de-development, migration, misogyny, gender equality, the transnational, sport, FIFA, corruption, work, organisations, the forestry industry, state privatisation, post-soviet times, and much more.

Marina was a much loved and leading activist in the Women's Movement in Serbia and the former Yugoslavia, and the founder of several women's and civil society organisations (Centre for Women's Studies, AŽIN, Belgrade Circle, Centre for Democracy, Women's Party), as well as the initiator of the first feminist post-Communist Conference, in Belgrade 1994, and the first Forum of Non-Governmental Organisations in Serbia 1998.

She worked as an international expert for many international bodies, including the European Commission, EU ENWISE Gender and Science report, European Parliament, UNDP, UNIFEM, UN Women, USAID, IFAD, IMAGES, as well as for governments in the region of former Yugoslavia, and other projects, especially in Central and East Europe, but also Western Asia and elsewhere. After receiving the Trailblazer Prize, awarded by the Association of Fulbright Scholars of Serbia for Professional Excellence, 2018, she said in an interview after the ceremony, when asked about a researcher's responsibility today:

For me, this responsibility is closely related to the ethics of care, as a kind of “female principle” (which does not mean that men do not have or do not feel “care”). By doing what I do, and that is essentially a constant and persistent connection of theory, research, public policy, and activism, I try to make the society in which I live, but also the world as a whole, better, more just, more humane, happier. Unlike many, I do not see that the key problem in humanity at the moment is the lack of resources and “surplus people”, but the lack of consensus and ethics of cooperation, the lack of an alternative vision (after the neoliberal cataclysm) and humanistic values. I do what I do solely because I feel called to produce knowledge that is useful and that provides hope.

(see: <https://journals.sagepub.com/pb-assets/cmscontent/EJW/Marina%20Blagojevic%20-%20Obituary.pdf>)

My own first meeting with Marina was, I think, at the EU Expert Workshop on Gender and Excellence, organised by the European Commission, DG Research, at the European University Institute, Florence, 2003 – but it might have been earlier. She was a very important part of GEXcel

in Sweden, with several research visits to Linköping and Örebro Universities, presenting at several events. Thereafter, we co-edited two books from GEXcel international collaborations on *Rethinking Transnational Men* (also with Katherine Harrison) and *Unsustainable Institutions of Men* (also with Ernesto Vasquez del Aguila); she was also one of the keynotes at the 2017 Nordic Men and Masculinities Conference on Politics, Policy, Praxis, Örebro University. We had plans to begin writing a co-authored book after this summer.

She was a wonderful, unique person, a dear friend, a very supportive and kind colleague, great writer, academic and political analyst, and a firm critic. Personally, we connected on many levels ... even whilst being “just a bit intense” sometimes, she was also highly humorous, often at the very same time. She was and is a true inspiration. Knowing and working with her has been one of the joys of my life.

Further tributes to Marina's intellectual and activist life are at: <https://sefem.org/>

MEMBERS' NEWS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS & CELEBRATIONS:

Josephine Beoku-Betts was the Fulbright Scholar at the Institute for Gender Research and Documentation, Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone between 2018-2019. She is currently the Elected President for Sociologists for Women in Society, 2020-2021.

Laura Corradi is celebrating 45-Years as a Feminist dedicated to the movement (1975-2000). In her words she writes, “an autobiographical essay written by black feminist Gloria Wekker (“Still crazy after all these years”) tells exactly how I feel! Remembering the first meeting of Lotta Continua’s women in Rome: was just 15 and after short time left family to follow my greatest passion: feminist politics. Working in factories or care jobs; with elderly or children; universities in Italy, California or India ... struggling for social justice and liberation, women’s freedom and respect for all diversities. I found myself at ease in the world, with indigenous, Zapatista, Gypsy/Roma/Traveller, Maori, Kurdish women weaving intersectional alliances with empowerment and leadership. Learning together how to speak the truth and walk the talk. Hope the new generation of feminists will courageously face our internal conflicts with equanimous heart: the right path in the feminist revolution needs minimum common denominators and humbleness. I was about to wait for the 50th anniversary - but in these difficult times I remembered a Buddhist monk told me ‘will die at age 60’ - so did not want to miss the opportunity of celebrating: I am happy and party with you 45 years of struggles: love all my relations!” (To learn more about her, see <https://bodypolitics.noblogs.org/>)

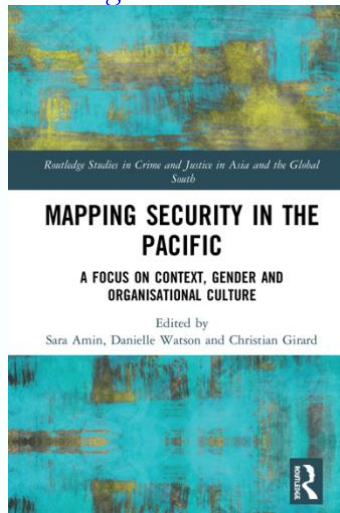
Jeff Hearn and Nina Lykke are co-managing editors for the book series, Routledge Advances in Feminist Studies and Intersectionality, supported by the wider editorial group of Laura Corradi, Kathy Davis, Anna G. Jónasdóttir, Elżbieta H. Oleksy, Andrea Peto, Ann Phoenix, and Chandra Talpade Mohanty: <https://www.routledge.com/Routledge-Advances-in-Feminist-Studies-and-Intersectionality/book-series/RAIFSAI?pg=1&so=pubdate&pp=12&view=list&pd=published,forthcoming>. The Series now has about 35 titles. Other recent publications in the Series in 2019-2020 are:

- Caroline Wamala-Larsson and Laura Stark eds. Gendered Power and Mobile Technology: Intersections in the Global South, 2019
- Verena Namberger The Reproductive Body at Work: The South African Bioeconomy of Egg Donation, 2019
- Helen Longlands Gender, Space and City Bankers, 2019.
- Teresa Kulawik and Zhanna Kravchenko eds. Borderlands in European Gender Studies: Beyond the East-West Frontier, 2020.
- Elizabeth Evans and Eléonore Lépinard eds. Intersectionality in Feminist and Queer Movements: Confronting Privileges, 2020.
- Suzanne Clisby Gender, Sexuality and Identities of the Borderlands: Queering the Margins, 2020.

Nana Oishi received the ISS-OUS Prize from the Oxford University Press and University of Tokyo in January 2020. The award is given to the author of “the most outstanding paper published in Social Science Japan Journal in 2019.” Dr. Oishi’s award-winning paper addresses the silent exodus of skilled migrants from Japan.

BOOKS AUTHORED BY RC32 MEMBERS:

Amin, SN, Watson, D, and Girard, C. (Eds) (2020) Mapping Security in the Pacific: A focus on context, gender and organisational culture. Routledge Studies in Crime and Justice in Asia and the Global South. London: Routledge.
<https://www.routledge.com/Mapping-Security-in-the-Pacific-A-Focus-on-Context-Gender-and-Organisational/Amin-Watson-Girard/p/book/9780367143923>



This book examines questions about the changing nature of security and insecurity in Pacific Island Countries (PICs). Previous discussions of security in the Pacific region have been largely determined by the geopolitical interests of the Global North. This volume instead attempts to centre PICs’ security interests by focussing on the role of organisational culture, power dynamics and gender in (in)security processes and outcomes.

Mapping Security in the Pacific underscores the multidimensional nature of security, its relationship to local, international, organisational and cultural dynamics, the resistances engendered through various forms of insecurities, and innovative efforts to negotiate gender, context and organisational culture in reducing insecurity and enhancing justice. Covering the Pacific region widely, the volume brings

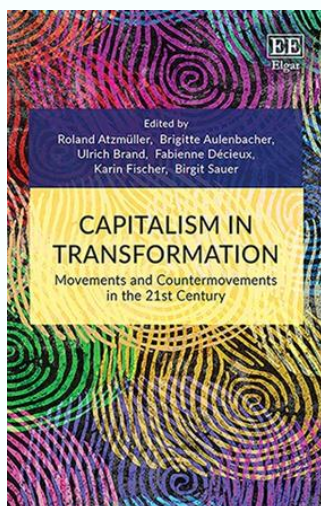


Sara Amin

forth context-specific analyses at micro-, meso- and macro-levels, allowing us to examine the interconnections between security, crime and justice, and point to the issues raised for crime and justice studies by environmental insecurity. In doing so, it opens up opportunities to rethink scholarly and policy frames related to security/insecurity about the Pacific. Written in a clear and direct style, this book will appeal to students and scholars in criminology, sociology, cultural studies, social theory and those interested in learning about the Pacific region and different aspects of security.

Atzmüller, Roland/Aulenbacher, Brigitte/Brand Ulrich/Décieux, Fabienne/Fischer, Karin/Sauer, Birgit, eds. 2019, *Capitalism in Transformation, Movements and Countermovements in the 21st Century*, Edward Elgar Publishing, Cheltenham

<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/gbp/capitalism-in-transformation-9781788974233.html>



Presenting a profound and far-reaching analysis of economic, ecological, social, cultural and political developments of contemporary capitalism, this book draws on the work of Karl Polanyi, and re-reads it for our times.

‘What connects climate ecocide, soy expansion in Latin America, digital Taylorism, the commodification of care, and the rise of “völkisch populism”? They’re among the morbid symptoms of contemporary capitalism that are diagnosed in this important book.’ (Gareth Dale)

‘The book provides new historical and theoretical reflections on the work of Karl Polanyi and its relevance to today’s movements and countermovements, including new fictitious commodities, such as

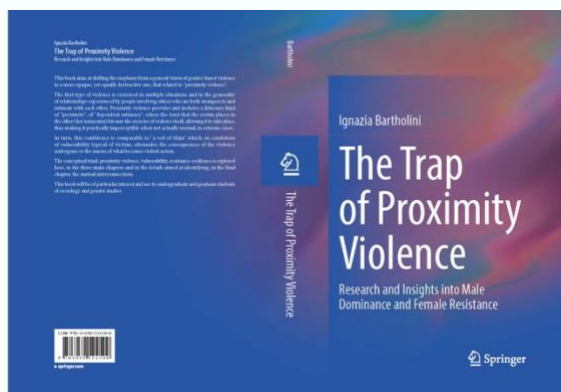
knowledge and care, the rise of the populist right throughout the world and the transformation of labour markets.’ (Marguerite Mendell)

‘Capitalism in Transformation is a work of cutting edge political economy that addresses, through the lens of Karl Polanyi, the fundamental issues of our times – the financial crises, austerity, climate catastrophe, social and gender inequality, and the pressing crisis of democracy. In a single provocative and essential volume, this collection reveals the analytic exhaustion of mainstream economics, and demonstrates why Karl Polanyi has become the indispensable theorist of our times.’ (Margaret R. Somers and Fred Block)

Bartholini, Ignazia Maria. 2020. The Trap of Proximity Violence. Research and Insight into Male Dominance and Female Resistance, Springer Nature Switzerland, Cham, Switzerland, pp. 1-184 [ISBN: 978-3-030-52450-0

This book aims at shifting the emphasis from a general vision of gender-based violence to a more opaque, yet equally destructive one, that related to "proximity violence". The investigative tension of this book aims at bringing to light the crevasses where violence lurks ready to return in disguise as well as the lairs where it hides.

Like a whirlwind, violence appears in all its destructive might and disappears. Precisely because violence is of a proxemic kind it is hard to position with respect to those who wish to objectify it. Its screens are many and the causes that feed it are endowed with a good dose of relational and lexical ambiguity. Because it is profoundly unjust, unfair, wrong, and at the same time intimate and socio-emotional, it is often justifiable and justified by the victims themselves.



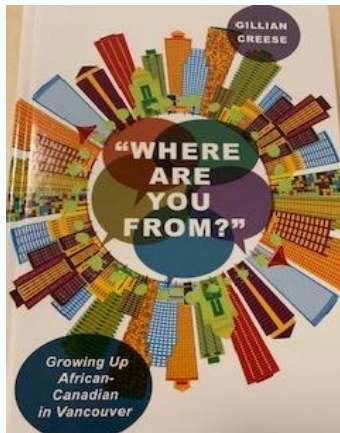
The author underlines as proximity violence provides and includes a fiduciary kind of "proximity", of "dependent intimacy", where the trust that the victim places in the other (her tormentor) favours the exercise of violence itself, allowing it to take place, thus making it practically imperceptible when not actually normal, in extreme cases.

In turn, this confidence is comparable to "a veil of Maja" which, in conditions of vulnerability typical of victims, attenuates the consequences of the violence undergone or the omens of what becomes violent action.

The conceptual triad: proximity violence, vulnerability, resistance-resilience is explored in this volume: in the three main chapters and in the details aimed at identifying, in the final chapter, the mutual interconnections.

Creese ,Gillian. 2020. "Where are you from?" Growing up African-Canadian in Vancouver. University of Toronto Press.

<https://utorontopress.com/us/x201c-where-are-you-from-x201d-4>



Vancouver is a diverse city where half the residents identify as people of colour, but only one percent of the population are racialized as Black. In this context, African-Canadians are both hyper-visible as Black, and invisible as distinct African communities. Informed by feminist and critical race theories, and based on interviews with women and men whose parents are from diverse countries in Africa and who grew up in Vancouver, "Where are you From?" recounts the gendered experiences of growing up in

a place where the second-generation seldom sees other people who look like them, and yet are inundated with popular representations of Blackness from the United States.

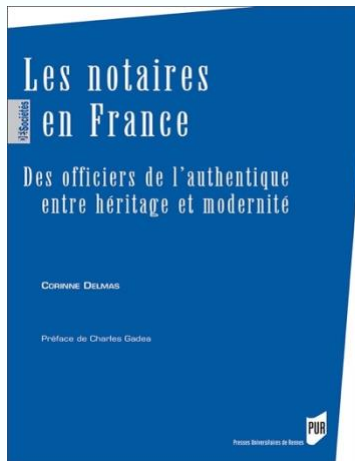
This study explores how the second-generation redefine their African identities to distinguish themselves from African-Americans, while continuing to experience considerable everyday racism that challenges belonging as Canadians. As a result, some members of the second generation reject, and others to strongly assert, a Canadian identity.

Delmas, Corinne. 2019. Les notaires en France. Des officiers de l'authentique entre héritage et modernité. Rennes: PUR.

<http://www.pur-editions.fr/detail.php?idOuv=4937>

Based on a survey combining various modes of empirical investigation (archives, documentary analysis, statistics, interviews, observations...), this book enables us to understand the profession of notary on a day-to-day basis. It presents their practices, the organization of their work, the

links with customers and professions close to it, without neglecting the beliefs and values of professionals.



Notaries are attached to the foundation of their collective identity: the power to produce an official and indisputable truth, conferred by the authentic act. By proposing to go beyond the common places generally associated with the profession of notary, this book also reveals how far this profession, from being frozen, has undergone major transformations, especially in terms of gender; this bastion of masculinity tends in fact to feminize, in connection with multiple evolutions and reforms of the profession.

Hearn, Jeff and Parkin, Wendy. 2020. Age at Work: The Ambiguous Boundaries of Organizations, Organizing and Ageing. Sage Publications.
<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/age-at-work/book258241>

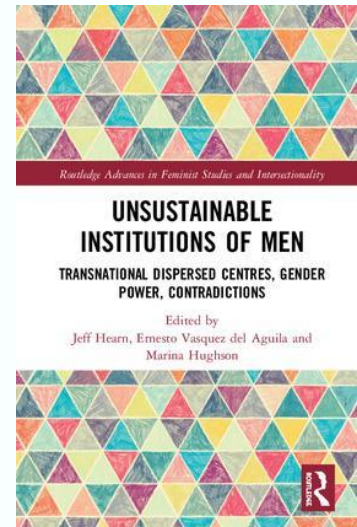
Age at Work explores the myriad ways in which 'age' is at 'work' across society, organizations and workplaces, with special focus on organizations, their boundaries, and marginalizing processes around age and ageism in and across these spaces. The book examines: How society operates in and through age, and how this informs the very existence of organizations; Age-organization regimes, age-organization boundaries, and the relationship between organizations and death, and post-death; The importance of memory, forgetting and remembering in re-thinking the authors' and others' earlier work; Tensions between seeing age in terms of later life and seeing age as pervasive social relations. Enriched with insights from the authors' lived experiences, Age at Work is a major and timely intervention in studies of age, work, care and organizations. Ideal for students of Sociology, Organizations and Management, Social Policy, Gerontology, Health and Social Care, and Social Work.

Hearn, Jeff, Vasquez del Aguila, Ernesto and Hughson (formerly Blagojević), Marina, Eds. 2019. *Unsustainable Institutions of Men: Transnational Dispersed Centres, Gender Power, Contradictions*. London: Routledge.

<https://www.routledge.com/Unsustainable-Institutions-of-Men-Transnational-Dispersed-Centres-Gender/Hearn-Aguila-Hughson/p/book/9781138093003>

How are men, masculinities and gender power implicated within global institutions? How are global institutions to be understood in terms of men, masculinities and gender power? What are men up to in such arenas as: global finance, corporate law, military intelligence, world sporting bodies and nationalist politics?

Unsustainable Institutions of Men examines men's dealings in transnational processes across the economy, politics, technologies and bodies. In exploring the men's domination of institutions in national and transnational realms this volume underpins a novel approach built around multiple "dispersed centres" of men's power. Indeed, in critical discussions of men and masculinities there has been a gradual shift in focus from the local, so-called 'ethnographic moment', to a broader view encompassing several dynamics (e.g. global, transnational, international, postcolonial and the global north-south). Building on this conceptual move, *Unsustainable Institutions of Men* focuses on pinpointing masculine actions and influences that support and enact transnational processes, disclosing those connections and examining institutional alternatives which could contribute to more inclusive and democratic transnational dialogues. Comprised of a range of international contributions, *Unsustainable Institutions of Men* will appeal to students, researchers, experts and activists seeking to understand the deep structural conditions of contemporary globalized threats, created by old and new patterns of gender power and transnational patriarchies.



Ryan, J. Michael and Helen Rizzo (editors). 2020. *Gender in the Middle East and North Africa: Contemporary Issues and Challenges*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

https://www.rienner.com/title/Gender_in_the_Middle_East_and_North_Africa_Contemporary_Issues_and_Challenges

(From the publisher's website)

The role of gender in the Middle East and North Africa is widely discussed—but often little understood. Seeking to close that gap, the authors of this comprehensive study explore a wide range of issues related to gender in the region as they have been unfolding since the Arab Spring.

"Greatly enhances our understanding of gender dynamics in the Middle East and North Africa.... Highly recommended." —Choice

"A great resource ... clear and accessible. Drawing on the most recent scholarship, the authors contextualize the region's problems within a number of larger debates." —Özlem Altiok, University of North Texas



Helen Rizzo

Shahrokni, Nazanin. 2020. *Women in Place: The Politics of Gender Segregation in Iran*. University of California Press.

<https://www.ucpress.edu/book/9780520304284/women-in-place>

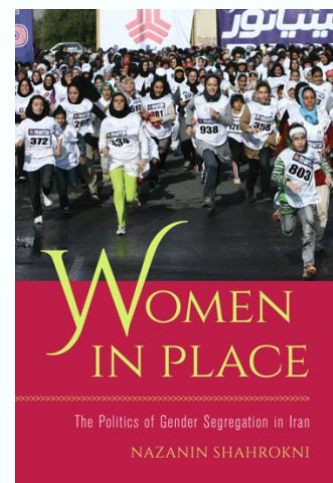


Nazanin Shahrokni

While much has been written about the impact of the 1979 Islamic revolution on life in Iran, discussions about the everyday life of Iranian women have been glaringly missing. *Women in Place* offers a gripping inquiry into gender segregation policies and women's rights in contemporary Iran. Nazanin Shahrokni takes us onto gender-segregated buses, inside a women-only

park, and outside the closed doors of stadiums where women are banned from attending men's soccer matches. The Islamic character of the state, she demonstrates, has had to coexist, fuse, and compete with technocratic imperatives, pragmatic considerations regarding the viability of the state, international influences, and global trends.

Through a retelling of the past four decades of state policy regulating gender boundaries, *Women*



in Place challenges notions of the Iranian state as overly unitary, ideological, and isolated from social forces and pushes us to contemplate the changing place of women in a social order shaped by capitalism, state-sanctioned Islamism, and debates about women's rights. Shahrokni throws into sharp relief the ways in which the state strives to constantly regulate and contain women's bodies and movements within the boundaries of the "proper" but simultaneously invests in and claims credit for their expanded access to public spaces.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

RINGS: International Research Network of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies.
(Submitted by Jeff Hearn)



RINGS: International Research Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies was founded in Örebro, Sweden, in 2014, as an international association with the aim of bringing together research institutions, currently in *Africa, the Americas, Australasia and Europe*, engaged in gender and feminist research and women's studies on a global basis. It has over 60 member institutions. RC32 member, **Jeff Hearn** (Gender Studies, Örebro University; University of Huddersfield, UK; Hanken School of Economics, Finland) and Tamara Shefer (Department of Women's and Gender Studies, University of Western Cape, South Africa) co-chair the Executive Committee, with representatives also from Centre for Gender and Science, Prague, Czech Republic; EDDA and UNU-GEST, University of Iceland, Iceland; Faye Gale Centre, University of Adelaide, Australia; Graduate Gender Programme/Netherlands Research School, Utrecht University, the Netherlands; Gender Studies, CEU, Hungary; Gender and Childhood Sexuality, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa; and Tallinn University, Estonia. For more information, see <http://ringsgender.org/rings>

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

SWS Global Concerns Autoethnography Project

SWS and its Global Partners and Associates are requesting submissions for a co-edited autoethnography publication examining global portrayals of our lives as academics and practitioners in our particular social contexts during this traumatic period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In seeking autoethnographies, we are looking for pieces that are biographical with thick description and which incorporate both self-reflection and critical analysis of one's experiences during this period. We welcome essays that are feminist, global, and/or intersectional in analytical approach.

Questions for consideration may include but not be limited to:

- How has COVID-19 affected your life and work as a feminist scholar/activist/practitioner? What challenges have you faced (e.g., the “new normal” of working remotely and participation in virtual meetings) and how have you navigated these experiences?
- In what ways are you contributing as a feminist activist/scholar/practitioner to public discussions and debates about responses to COVID-19 in your particular context?
- In what ways have current trends in digital activism impacted your engagement in feminist and social justice issues in your social environment?
- What are the political and economic trends of this pandemic and how have they impacted the institution in which you work and its expectations of you?
- What challenges have your students had to face (graduate) and (undergraduate) and how has your institution and you as a faculty member provided support?
- Given the infrastructure and resources of your place of work and social environment, what new demands have been put on you and what sort of support has been provided to meet these demands? To what extent were you able to challenge these demands and what was the response?
- What best practices can you share about teaching online courses or courses converted from face-to-face to online during COVID-19?

- If you work in an administrative capacity, what challenges have you faced in budgetary decisions that may affect faculty lines, promotion and tenure schedules, hiring, student recruitment, and program development over the next few years?
- What impact has the pandemic had on your work/life balance?

This publication project will target an academic and professional audience and all manuscripts should include scholarly references and follow the APA format. Manuscripts should be between 10-15 double-spaced pages and 12 font size. Please send along with your manuscript (1) a short bio of 100 words, including your current institution and e-mail address, (2) an abstract of 150 words.

Submissions should be in the English language and sent to Bandana Purkayastha (Bandana.purkayastha@uconn.edu) no later than **August 28th, 2020**. Please title your submission as Autoethnography.

Co-Editors of this project representing SWS and its Global Partners and Associates are: Josephine Beoku-Betts (Florida Atlantic University), Akosua Darkwah (University of Ghana), Melanie Heath (McMaster University), Bandana Purkayastha (University of Connecticut). We welcome your submissions and invite you to send this call for manuscripts to your professional websites and networks.

CALL FOR SYLLABI/RESOURCES

SWS and its Global Partners and Associates are requesting submissions for a syllabus and reading resources list that explore the impact and implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic from a global, intersectional, and feminist perspective. Submissions can include both academic and non-academic resources and should be targeted for (1) graduate (2) undergraduate, and (3) community college courses taught in colleges and universities around the world.

We welcome ideas on best practices for small and large online classes and courses converted from face-to-face to online platforms. We also welcome opinion pieces on how you communicated and

reassured your students experiencing trauma and stress in their particular social environments, and what coping and navigational strategies you used as an instructor or practitioner.

Topics for submission may include, but are not limited to, the local and global politics of COVID-19; defining epidemics and pandemics and tracing their history; considering the relationship of epidemics and pandemics to the family and household; gender-based violence; health (including emotional and mental well-being, bodily integrity); the economy and employment (agriculture, industry, retail and service work, care workers, etc.); science and technology as well as their uses; the media, including social media; religion and spirituality; criminal justice; migration, immigration, and refugee issues; law enforcement; work and occupations (including work/life balance); the environment and climate; interpersonal relationships; popular culture; and examining epidemics and pandemics in terms of the intersectional and social justice issues that encompass race, class, gender, nationality, age, sexuality, ethnicity, disability, etc.; caring for self and others; education and pedagogy (including homeschooling); and social action, activism, and advocacy.

Resources for submission may include but not be limited to:

- Newspaper Articles
- Magazine Articles
- Scholarly Articles
- YouTube Videos
- Blogs
- Podcasts
- Other forms of Social Media
- Book Publications
- Poetry and the Spoken Word
- Ted Talks and Public Lectures
- Class Lectures
- Class Discussions (small and large groups)
- Class Assignments

Submissions will be accepted in the following languages through **July 15th, 2020**: English,

French, Chinese, Arabic, and Spanish.

Please send your submissions to hara bastas, Chair, SWS International Committee, at (ravinheart@hotmail.com) along with a short bio of 100 words including your current, or most recent, institution and e-mail address. All submissions will be acknowledged in the final product.

A working group of SWSers led by the International Committee and some Global Partners and Associates will produce the syllabus and reading resources list. These will be posted on the SWS COVID-19 Global Concerns webpage and will be shared globally with other professional organizations and institutions selected by our global contacts. The objective is to make these resources available worldwide by August 2020 for course development, as well as professional and personal enrichment to our members, colleagues and friends. We welcome your participation and invite you to share this announcement with your professional networks.

****THE END****

Dear RC32 Members and readers of this newsletter,

I hope that you have enjoyed reading the newsletter as much as I have enjoyed creating it and celebrating your accomplishments. If I haven't already done so in personal emails to you, I thank each and every one of you for your contributions and for making this newsletter possible year after year. Please also stay tuned for the call for our winter newsletter. In the meantime, please take care, stay well and stay safe!

From you newsletter editor – Shweta Majumdar Adur,
Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology
California State University, Los Angeles.