Message from the President

Dear RC32 Members,

It is with deepest gratitude that I send you my greetings as the new president of RC32: Women, Gender, and Society. I would like to extend my thanks to outgoing co-presidents, Josephine Beoku-Betts and Akosua Adomako-Ampofo for their guidance and support as I have moved into this new position.

I also want to thank long-standing members Bandana Purkayastha and Margaret Abraham for their continuing encouragement and advice. It was with great sadness that I agreed to become president-elect following the untimely death of Cynthia Joseph on June 15, 2016. She was Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Education at Monash University in Australia. Our final newsletter of the 2018 year will include a memorial to her contributions to RC32 that were celebrated at the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Toronto, Canada. In this newsletter, I would like to thank the outgoing board members and regional representatives for their dedication and hard work during their 2014-2018 term and warmly congratulate our new board members and regional representatives:

Co-Presidents-elect
Marlise Matos, Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), Brazil,
Solange Simoes, Eastern Michigan University, USA

Secretary
Alicia Itati Palermo, Universidad Nacional de Luján, Argentina

Treasurer
Manashi Ray, West Virginia State University, USA

Newsletter Editor
Shweta Majumdar Adur, California State University, Los Angeles, USA
Regional Representatives

Africa
Agatha N.T. Eguavoen, Ambrose Alli University, Nigeria
Tayo Ola George, Covenant University, Nigeria

Asia (South, Southeast, East)
Bula Bhadra, Calcutta University, India

Europe
Ignazia Bartholini, University of Palermo, Italy
Francesca Alice Vianello, University of Padua, Italy

North America
Jan Marie Fritz, University of Cincinnati/University of Johannesburg, USA/South Africa,
Jaya Peruvemba, University of Ottawa, Canada

In the following pages, our new board and regional representatives introduce themselves. We have a number of unfilled regional representative positions, and our past-presidents will be holding a bi-election in the next months. Please consider running as a regional representative if you would like to be more involved in RC32! We want to hear your voices.

Melanie Heath
RC32 President

Dr. Melanie Heath, President-Elect

Melanie Heath is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at McMaster University, Canada. Her research interests include gender, sexualities, family politics, globalization, and the law. She has studied gender and racial ideologies in the Promise Keepers movement; the social consequences of marriage promotion policies on inequality in the United States; the politics of family transformation and same-sex marriage; and comparative legal and cultural framings of polygamy in regard to women’s and religious rights.

Her publications appear in *Gender & Society Qualitative Sociology, Signs The Sociology Quarterly, Sociological Perspectives,* and *Contexts.* She is the author of *One Marriage Under God: The Campaign to Promote Marriage in America*
As president of RC32, her objective is to provide opportunities for feminist sociologists across the globe to network and publish. She is working with the RC32 Board to organize the publication of a special issue in an international journal, such as International Sociology, on a topic of interest to global feminist scholars. RC32 will provide a workshop at the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology in 2020 to present and receive feedback on potential submissions. At the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, an invited panel will feature the papers that have been selected for publication.

Dr. Marlise Matos, Co-President-Elect

Marlise Matos is an Associate Professor of Political Science at the Federal University of Minas Gerais (UFMG), one of the top five universities in Brazil and the largest federal university. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology (UFMG) and a master's degree in Psychoanalytical Theory (UFRJ), and received her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University Research Institute of Rio de Janeiro. Dr. Matos directs NEPEM, the Center for Studies and Research on Women (UFMG), whose mission is to develop research and teaching on gender relationships in Brazilian society and to extend a gender perspective throughout the university, the country and also in Latin America. Under her tenure, Dr. Matos has focused on consolidating gender, race, and sexuality as relevant themes for academia. She is committed to recognizing and reconsidering the contributions of feminist leaders, feminist intellectuals, and the feminist and women’s movement from the Global South. Her main research interests include gender and politics, feminist theory, public policy, sexual and reproductive rights, and citizenship.

Her recent publications include:

- Forthcoming “Gender and Sexuality in Brazilian Public Policy: Progress and Regression in Depatriarchalizing and Deheteronormalizing the State” In: Friedman, Elizabeth J., Testing the Transformation Gender, Sexuality, and the Latin American Left.
“Gender Theories or Theories and Gender? If and how gender studies can become a new field for the sciences” Revista Estudos Feministas (UFSC). Vol. 16, 333-357.


In the last five years, NEPEM has increased its extension activities in the community. The Center is currently working on a project that monitors the human rights programs and policies of the municipal government of the capital of Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte for UN Sustainable Development Goals. NEPEM is in the process of offering a course on human rights and justice for women community leaders. Among the most recent research projects, NEPEM has worked on an analysis of access to the Brazilian justice system through the perspective of minority groups. It is currently undergoing a comparative study that seeks to understand (1) if and how public policies for women have been made in the Latin American region, and (2) which actors/actresses are committed to this agenda within the national executive branch in distinct countries in the region. She integrated the first UNWomen Civil Society Advisory Group. In her last research she was responsible for two surveys research (in partnership with Professor Sonia E. Alvarez/UMASS) during the last two National Conferences of Policies for Women in Brazil where she performs a deepening and systematization of information regarding the public policies developed for the autonomy of women and the experience of women’s collective participation.

**Dr. Solange Simoes, Co-President-Elect**

Solange Simoes is Professor of Sociology and Women's and Gender Studies at East Michigan University. She conducts international comparative research on issues of gender, race, class, and the global environment, with a special interest in women and globalization, transnational feminism, gender political inequality, and gender and work. She has collaborated with colleagues from several continents, such as Brazil, China, Japan, the Netherlands, Canada, and Russia, and has taught and/or conducted fieldwork in places as diverse as Brazil, China and South Africa.

Her recent publications include


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**Dr. Alicia Itatí Palermo, Secretary**

Alicia Itatí Palermo is a Sociologist and PhD in Education. She is a Full Professor and Lead researcher at the National University of Lujan. She currently works at the National University of Lujan in the following positions:

- Head of Research Programs: Education and Gender and Research Methodology.
- She is a member of the Academic Committee of the following careers: Doctorate in Social and Human Orientation, Master in Women and Gender and Master in Education Policies.

She has conducted several researches in Argentina and in cooperation with other countries in the area of gender studies. She is editor of the Journal “Sociological Horizons”, of the Argentinean Association of Sociology (AAS.) She is Delegate of the ISA’s Council of National Associations by Argentina since 2009. She is Director of the Center of Studies and Social Research – AAS (Center member of CLACSO). She has experience in organizing scientific events about Women and Society in Latin America. She has been co-president of the Local Organization Committee and vice-president of the Scientific Committee in the Second Forum of the ISA (Buenos Aires 2012). She has been President of the Organizing Committee of the VIII South-South Regional Forum Workshop: Basis of Ethical Participation in Scientific Production in Higher Education, AAS, ISA, ALAS, CLACSO, With a grant from ISA, 2016. As a RC 32 regional representative
(2010-2014 and 2014-2018) she has organized and conducted sessions in all the ISA world congresses. Her areas of research interests are: Education, Research Methodology, Gender, Youth, Scientific Journals, Youth and political participation.

**Dr. Manashi Ray, Treasurer**

Manashi Ray is Associate Professor of Sociology at West Virginia State University. Her scholarship explores the intersections of international migration and transnationalism. She uses concepts from migration and transnational studies—including migrant capital, Bourdieu’s theory of capital, social ties, transnational spaces, life course perspectives, and policies of sending and receiving countries—to understand migratory processes, motives, and cross-border mechanisms impacted by technological innovation and globalization.

She studies migrant and refugee populations from South and East Asia, asking why and how migrants, non-migrants, and refugees engage in migratory movements, adopting a gendered perspective to unravel migratory patterns and settlement experiences. Dr. Ray’s work on international migration, transnationalism and refugee movement has been published as book chapters and in leading academic journals: *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Development, Economic and Political Weekly*, and in a leading Indian newspaper, *The Economic Times*.

Dr. Ray has teaching experience of over 12-13 years both in India and in the US. Before coming to the US, she worked as a research analyst in international non-governmental organizations. Dr. Ray teaches both online, blended and in-class courses on Sociology of Family, Gender, Race and Ethnicity, Social Inequality and Sociology of Globalization, and would be enthusiastic to develop and teach courses on “Gender, Mobility, and Transnationalism” or a colloquium on “Migration in a Turbulent World” (with a focus on Asian countries).

Dr. Ray is a firm believer in the culture of co-operation and teamwork, and shared governance. She will bring those strengths to bear in serving as your treasurer of RC 32.

Her recent publications include:


Dr. Shweta Majumdar Adur, Newsletter Editor

Shweta Majumdar Adur is an Assistant Professor of Sociology at California State University, Los Angeles. Prior to this, she served as an Assistant Professor of Women and Gender Studies at California State University, Fullerton. She completed her Ph.D. in Sociology from the University of Connecticut and a Master’s in International Development from the University of Pittsburgh. She also has a Masters in Sociology from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

Dr. Adur’s research interests include gender, sexuality, violence, human rights and migration. Broadly speaking, she works within a transnational feminist and intersectional framework to examine a range of questions around social justice and belonging. Her most recent research asks how queer South Asian individuals and organizations construct, develop and negotiate their individual and collective identity in the United States. She is the co-author of the book “As the Leaves Turn Gold: Asian Americans and Experiences of Aging” that engages with issues surrounding aging and social inequality from a transnational perspective. Her publications have appeared in peer reviewed journals as well as book chapters in edited collections.

Her recent publications include,

Dr. Josephine Beoku-Betts, Past Co-President

Josephine Beoku-Betts is Professor of Sociology and Women's Studies at Florida Atlantic University. Her primary research is on postcolonial and feminist standpoint discourses on science with emphasis on the educational and career experiences and perspectives of African scientists. Her current research is on Women’s Peace Movements and Post-War Reconstruction in Sierra Leone and Liberia.

Dr. Beoku-Betts has co-edited one book and several articles and book chapters in feminist and other scholarly journals. She was formerly co-regional editor for Women’s Studies International Forum, and co-Book Review Editor for Gender & Society. Dr. Beoku-Betts received the 2015 SWS Feminist Activism Award from Sociologists for Women in Society, recognizing her "contributions to feminist activism and her consistent use of sociology to better the lives of women."

Dr. Beoku-Betts is serving as a Fulbright Scholar for the 2018-2019 academic year at the Institute for Gender Studies and Documentation (INGRADOC) at the University of Sierra Leone. During her term as a Fulbright Scholar, she is providing expertise in strategic planning for program and curriculum development in a new Gender Studies undergraduate degree program. She will also teach courses in the M.Phil. and M.A. degree programs in Gender Studies.

In addition to teaching and program development, Dr. Beoku-Betts continues her research on “Women’s Political Activism in Post-War Sierra Leone.” Specifically, she is studying the Fifty-Fifty Group, a local women’s NGO that advocates for women’s increased involvement in political leadership, increased
awareness about women’s citizenship rights, and provision of support for women running for elected office. Her work examines how this NGO leverages political transformations in the state, for example, the newly elected government of the Sierra Leone People’s Party (SLPP) 2018, to demand legislation and policies which promote gender equality and women’s rights. She will consider whether changing political opportunities to restructure gender relations in a deeply embedded patriarchal culture will lead organizations such as Fifty-Fifty to refocus their goals and analytical frameworks using feminist standpoints that are openly assertive in their engagement with the state.

Dr. Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Past Co-President

Akosua Adomako Ampofo is a Professor of African and Gender Studies at the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana (UG). She received her BSc in Architecture and MSc in Development Planning from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi; a PG Diploma in Spatial Planning from the University of Dortmund; and her Ph.D in Sociology from Vanderbilt University. Her teaching, research and activism address issues of African Knowledge systems; Higher education; Identity Politics; Gender relations; and Popular Culture.

Dr. Adomako Ampofo is the President of the African Studies Association of Africa http://www.as-aa.org/index.php/officers; Immediate past Co-President of the Research Committee on Women and Society of the International Sociological Association https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc32-women-in-society/; Co-Editor, Critical Investigations into Humanitarianism in Africa blog, www.cihablog.com. She is a fellow of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. From 2010-2015 she was the Director of the Institute of African Studies (UG) and was also the foundation Director of UG’s Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy.

A few of her recent publications include:

Dr. Adomako Ampofo has an eclectic mix of academic and civic engagements. At the University of Ghana where she has taught since 1989, she has been a two-time elected member of the Council. She is a member of numerous national and international associations, CSOs and boards including the Ghana Domestic Violence Coalition; the Network for Women’s rights in Ghana; the Council for Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA); the (US) African Studies Association. She has consulted for organizations such as the Ghana Ministry of Finance; Save the Children; UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF.

Her work has been variously recognized; she has been a Junior Fulbright Scholar; a New Century Fulbright Scholar and a Senior Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence. Dr. Adomako Ampofo has been a Fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation’s Belagio centre. In 2010 she was awarded the Feminist Activism Award by Sociologists for Women and Society, SWS; In 2015, she was the African Studies Association (of America’s) African Studies Review Distinguished lecturer. The article was published in the journal as follows: “Re-viewing Studies on Africa, #Black Lives Matter, and Envisioning the Future of African Studies” *African Studies Review* (59)2: 7-27 (2016).

As a public intellectual Adomako Ampofo is frequently invited as a speaker on University campuses and other critical sites around the world. Follow her on twitter@adomakoampofo.

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**Dr. Tayo Ola George, Regional Representative: Africa**

Tayo Ola George is an Associate Professor of Gender and Development Studies at the Department of Sociology, Covenant University, Nigeria. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology, Master of Science Degree and PhD in Sociology with specialization in gender and development studies. She has over 12 years teaching, research and mentoring experience at the University level. To date, she has over 40 scholarly publications in notable journals, book chapters and conference proceedings in research focus: gender, development studies, women empowerment issues, widowhood & property inheritance, women’s access to land, ICT, health policy, education, religion and conflict management. She is a recipient of several awards and research grants. She won the prestigious CIPMN award for the best female in the professional examinations in 2001. She is a network member of the Council for Development of Social Research in Africa.
(CODESRIA) Institute Dakar, Senegal and won CODESRIA grant for thesis writing in 2009, ISA Travel grant to attend the ISA Laboratory workshop for Ph.D. Students in Sociology held at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria in 2007. She is very passionate about women in society and hope to see women of colour liberated from the shackles of poverty, injustice and inequality through her research efforts. In September 2018, she organized the first Multidisciplinary Women’s International Conference with the theme “Advancing Women in Academia and Industry: Strategies Policies and emerging issues in the 21st Century and currently editing two book projects for publication in high impact open access journal outlets. Her love for promoting Africa’s rich cultural heritage motivated her to organize two separate cultural events at Covenant University Nigeria in collaboration with the Centre for Black African Arts and Civilization from Lagos between 2016 and 2018.

Her recent publications include:


Dr. Agatha N.T. Eguavoen, Regional Representative: Africa

Biography not available
After 28 years of teaching and Research in the Dept. of Sociology, University of Calcutta, Bula Bhadra is at present a Visiting Professor in the Dept. of Humanities & Social Sciences, Indian Institute Engineering, Science and Technology, Shibpur, West Bengal, India (Institute of National Importance, Ministry of Human Resources, Govt. of India) where she currently teaches Research Methodologies with special reference to Intersectional and Feminist methodologies along with interface between Science, Technology and Gender. Her research interest and areas of specialization includes Sociology of gender, Sociology of childhood, and Sociology of technology.

She has supervised 13 PhDs and 16 MPhil’s on Gender & Childhood. Presently she has undertaken two projects: 1. “Women Engineers in India: Confronting Leaky Pipeline and Glass Ceiling” (DST, Govt. of India) 2. “Micro Solar Dome: An affordable Lighting Solution for Slum Dwellers”, (A project of SEED, DST, Govt. of India).

She is also recipient of “Professor D. N. Mazumdar Memorial Gold Medal – 2017” as Distinguished Social Scientist by Indian Social Science Association in 2017. She was Regional representative & Board Member of RC 32 (2014-2018) and RC 53 (2014-18) & Secretary and Treasurer (2018-2022), ISA. She is also the Expert Member, Schemes of Science for Equity, Empowerment and Development (SEED) Division of Department of Science & Technology (DST, Govt. of India) and was the Convenor, Research Committee on Sociology of Childhood and Youth, Indian Sociological Society (ISS), New Delhi, 2012---2017.

As a feminist, post-colonial researcher and faculty from global South Dr. Bhadra constantly strives to blend theory with practice. As Regional Representative from South Asia she is eager to build a bridge among feminists from different regions and persuasions so that we can collaborate successfully meaningful research publications followed by actions for confronting different patriarchal, unequal and racist positions. For this she proposes a Skype/e Conference for exchange of ideas from different regions before our 2020 Forum in Brazil so that we can decide some of our priority areas of publications and active interactions with Women’s organizations for successful theory-praxis fuse.

Her recent publications include,
Dr. Ignazia Bartholini, Regional Representative: Europe

Ignazia Bartholini (Palermo University) is currently serving as Researcher (permanent position) and she is professor of Sociology, Social Policies and Sociology of Deviance too. Moreover, she serves on the AIS-Study of Gender executive committee for second consecutive mandatory and she recently constitutes the “Gender Studies Section” of SPE. In the last years, she was visiting professor at universities of Beograd (2014), Ljubljana (2015) and Sheffield (2017).

The main scientific interests focus the violent and deviant behavior and include widely the areas of gender, globalization, social justice, immigration and domestic violence. Her studies try to answer to specific questions mostly through qualitative methods (expert interviews and participant observation). She conceives of sociology as a public good that links research and action.

Despite the recent budget cuts in academia, she has tapped new funding sources through European call. She is the second Italian researcher, after Franca Bimbi, to have get a grant about more than 1 million euro for deepening her analysis on gender violence on refugees / asylum seekers who reach the shores of Mediterranean Europe. She is currently the principal investigator of an EU Project – PRoximity On Violece: Defence and Equity of Programme REC-VAW-AG-2016 in Horizon 2020 framework.

She published in various journals on social theory, sociology of violence and the sociology of deviance and Results from her other researches have been discussed and published in Italian, English in several book chapters and edited volumes.

As a regional representative, she intends to promote the development of theory, methods, and practice concerning women in society and the gendered nature of social institutions in the different areas of world. She intends also to encourage the critical evaluation of current sociological paradigms from the perspective of all subordinate groups and minority groups, including migrant women and LGBT persons; to promote new research perspectives of social policies and foster consciousness concerning women's rights throughout the world; to improve research and the links among different research groups, organize meetings, to encourage other means of communication, cooperation and collaboration among researchers at the national, regional, and international levels; to forge links with the research committees on women in other international social science associations.

Her recent publications include,

- 2013: Violenza di prossimità. La vittima, il carnefice, lo spettatore e il “grande occhio”, Franco Angeli, Milano, pp. 3-209 (ISBN 9788820458737).
Dr. Francesca Alice Vianello, Regional Representative: Europe

Francesca Alice Vianello (Ph.D.) is Lecturer in Sociology of Work at University of Padua (Italy). Her main areas of research and teaching are migration, work and gender. Currently, she is the PI of the research project “Migration and Occupational Health: Understanding the Risks for Eastern European Migrant Women” financed by the University of Padova and the Scientific Responsible for the Research Unit of Padova for the project financed by the European Commission “Towards shared interests between migrant and local workers”.

She participated in different research projects in the field of migration studies adopting the “engendering migration theory”. Specifically, she conducted a study on unemployed migrant workers from Morocco and Romania and an investigation on everyday life strategies of Ukrainian, Moldovan and Romanian migrant families across borders. Furthermore, she cooperated with the National research project “Conditions for recognition. Gender, Migrations, Social Spaces” (PRIN 2009) and with the Daphne European Commission Project “Speak Out! Empowering Migrant, Refugee and Ethnic Minority Women against Gender Violence in Europe” both of them directed by Franca Bimbi.

During 2013 she was visiting post-doc at the Department of Sociology II of Complutense University of Madrid, with the supervision of prof. Joaquin Arango. For her Ph.D. dissertation she did a multi-local ethnography on the migratory practices and meaning of Ukrainian women and their transnational social networks. This study gave the way to one monographic book and several essays in Italian and English cited in international publications. Results from her other researches have been discussed and published in Italian, English and Spanish in several journal articles, book chapters and edited volumes.

As a regional representative, she expects to support the involvement of Southern Europe’s sociologists in RC-32’s activities. Furthermore, giver her research networks, she hopes to improve the participation of sociologists from Eastern and Central European countries to the RC-32.

Dr. Jan Marie Fritz, Regional Representative: North America

Biography not available
Dr. Jaya Peruvemba, Regional Representative: North America

Peruvemba S Jaya is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication, Faculty of Arts, at the University of Ottawa. Prior to that, she has been in teaching in faculties of business in the USA and Canada. She has a PhD in Business Administration (Organizational Behaviour and Organizational Studies) from the University of Rhode Island, USA, MA in Sociology from the Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi, India and BA (Hons) in Sociology from the University of Delhi, India.

Her research interests include the areas of gender diversity and multiculturalism in the workplace, immigration and gender, immigrant women, South Asian immigrant women’s experience, immigrants’ issues, interpersonal communication, identity formation and construction processes, postcolonial theory, and intercultural communication. She is also interested in ethnic media, qualitative research methodologies. She is a research affiliate of the Atlantic Metropolis Center of Excellence for research in Integration Immigration and Cultural Diversity, and is affiliated with the Institute of Women’s Studies, University of Ottawa. She is a member of the Organizational Communication Research Group of the University of Ottawa, Department of Communication and a member of the interdisciplinary Diversity and Equity Research Group (DERG) at the University of Ottawa. She was a co-investigator on a SSHRC funded Partnership development project on multicultural media: Ottawa Multicultural Media Initiative (OMMI). She has collaborated with Dr Evangelia Tastsoglou and Barbara Cottrell on a Status of Women Canada funded project on navigating anti-violence work among immigrant women in Atlantic Canadian provinces.

Among her published works is an edited volume with Dr. Evangelia Tastsoglou on immigrant women in Atlantic Canada. Also more recently in 2015 she was part of a diverse collective along with Ms Rashmi Luther (project lead) Dr. Monia Mazigh, Ms. Ikram Jama, Ms. Lucya Spencer, Dr. Vanaja Dhruvvarajan and Ms. Yumi Kotani that brought together stories form 50 racialized immigrant women all over Canada. This collective of seven women who co-edited the volume, included women from both academia as well as community activists dealing with immigrant women’s issues. Some of the projects she is currently working on include: participatory action research as a methodology to study immigrant women’s health; examining the religious identity of South Asian immigrant women in Ottawa; intergenerational
communication among immigrant grandmothers in Ottawa; and looking at immigrant women with disabilities in the Canadian context.

She has published in journals such as Organization, the Journal of Applied and Behavioral Management, Journal of International Business and Entrepreneurship, Journal of East West Business, Journal of the Academy of Business Education, Canadian Ethnic Studies, and The Qualitative Report. She has published numerous conference proceedings in a range of national and international conferences and presented at many national and international conferences.