

Research Committee 36 Alienation Theory and Research



RC36

Newsletter 35

February 2021

Dear Friends, Colleagues, and RC36 Members,

The New Year has been off to a somewhat troubled start as the public health crisis through which we have been living continues its movement forward. There are finally some signs of hope that we may slowly be coming to grips with the pandemic, with mass vaccination programs being implemented. But we clearly have at least several months still ahead of us before we might be able to start considering a return to some sense of normalcy. It is still much too early to begin relaxing our guard.

In this rather difficult situation, we in RC36 can look forward to our participation in the ISA Forum of Sociology, which will be held online beginning February 23rd. We wish to extend our thanks to the ISA for their efforts to ensure that the Forum will be taking place. The original delay in the date of the Forum led to significant organizational difficulties that were further compounded by having to transform the Forum into an online event. The Forum Program, which is now available on the ISA website, displays the results of the organizers' tireless efforts.

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The RC36 Program evolved significantly from the original program that had been approved for the original dates of the Forum in the summer of 2020. The changes involved resulted in large part from the re-opening of the Forum Program that was necessitated by the long delay forced upon us by the still ongoing pandemic – certain presentations were withdrawn by their authors, other colleagues stepped forward with new submissions, and news topics of interest emerged from the new proposals. We now have a full program of insightful and interesting presentations that accords with the maximum number of sessions allotted to us by the ISA.

In addition to our participation in the ISA Forum, we have also organized two RC36 sessions at the annual April International Academic Conference on Economic and Social Development that is hosted by the Higher School of Economics in Moscow. Over 50 countries will be represented at this event, which will also be held online this year, and a total of approximately 2000 participants are expected. The program, now in its preliminary form, will be finalized in the coming weeks. We look forward to making the acquaintance of new colleagues in what for many of us is a new academic community.

The participation of our Research Committee in the ISA Forum of Sociology and in the HSE April Conference ensures that we have met the requirement of having a minimum of two interim conference events between successive ISA World Congresses.

It is also necessary that we begin planning soon for the next ISA World Congress, even though the Forum has not yet been held. This somewhat unusual situation has arisen from the fact that although the Forum has been delayed, the World Congress remains scheduled for July 2022.

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A number of **World Congress deadlines** have already been scheduled for spring and early summer 2021. These include **March 15th**, when Program Coordinators are to be announced to the ISA Secretariat, and **April 15th**, when proposals are to be submitted to the ISA for Ad Hoc Sessions; for Integrative Sessions that involve at least three Research Committees, three National Associations, or a combination of the two; for Regular Sessions by National, Regional, Linguistic, and Thematic Associations; and for Author Meets Critics Sessions.

Other deadlines are:

April 30th, the Program Committee announces the proposals that have been accepted

April 1st – April 30th, the online Call for Sessions, including Invited Sessions

May 5th – May 25th, the Program Coordinators announce the final list of sessions

June 1st – 30 September 30th, online abstracts submissions

These are some of the more important issues to be discussed at our upcoming **Business Meeting**, which will be held during the Forum on **February 24th at 21:00 – 22:30 GMT**.

And so we have much to look forward to and take into consideration in the coming weeks and months leading up to summer. Although the Forum is first on our list of upcoming events, and certainly the most exciting, the planning that we have to begin almost immediately after the Forum's conclusion will have much to do with ensuring the success of our participation in next year's World Congress as well.

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On that final note, we would like to say that we very much look forward to joining those of you who will participate in the ISA Forum in two weeks time, even if only in digital space. We wish all of you who will be reading this letter all of the very best in making your way forward in these difficult times towards what will surely be a better day for us all.

Vessela Misheva, RC36 Program Coordinator for the ISA Forum of Sociology

Dirk Michel-Schertges, RC36 Board Member, Guest Newsletter Editor

Andrew Blasko, RC36 Secretary-Treasurer

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Letter from the President to ISA Members: President's Perspective

Greetings!

So far, 2021 has certainly not lived up to our wishes for this new year. We are currently experiencing one of the most disruptive pandemics in modern history, with 106 million confirmed cases and more than two million deaths globally. Against this background, the ISA seeks to pursue its mission working with the international sociological community through the pandemic-induced switch to online teaching/lecturing. We try to turn these predicaments into assets by democratizing the participation in scientific events with the possibility of reaching scholarly communities that cannot afford traveling, but also by reducing sociologists' carbon footprint of air travel. Of course, we all miss the conviviality of face-to-face encounters as well as the opportunities for networking, especially for early-career researchers looking for research partners or jobs. Let us hope that the post-COVID-19 era will strike a better balance between knowledge accessibility, climate change mitigation, conviviality, and networking.

As ISA president, while all my travel plans have been cancelled, I have been honored to give many keynotes with the national associations and in other conferences and workshops and interact virtually with our scholarly community. Each time, I remind sociologists that post-COVID-19 sociology should take a serious ethical turn by proposing normative methods, presuppositions, and explicit commitments.

ISA IV Forum of Sociology: in a couple of weeks

Starting on February 23, 2021 and during six days, this [IV ISA Forum of Sociology](#) will be our first virtual Forum, with over 800 sessions, more than 3,000 papers, and the participation of sociologists from 125 countries. We owe it to the endless effort made by the Program Coordinators and Session Organizers of 53 Research Committees, 4 Working Groups, and 3 Thematic Groups.

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I strongly welcome your active participation. For those who will not present a paper or chair a session, you can opt for [View-Only Registration](#). The technology to organise a virtual meeting of this size is very expensive and many financial decisions have been taken after very thorough discussions at different levels of our Association, taking into account the difficult situation worldwide not only for ISA individual members but also for collective ones. In total, 457 registration grants have been allocated. Besides, registration fees have been reduced by 50% while a Solidarity Fund has been created for those wishing to enable sociologists experiencing hardship to participate.

Leading scholars from different continents will share their perspectives in the Forum's Opening and Closing Plenaries: Michael Burawoy, Isabel Casimiro, Manuel Castells, Ashish Kothari, Rita Segato, Boaventura de Sousa Santos, and Maristella Svampa. This Forum will also be an opportunity for our global community to pay tribute to three of our most distinguished colleagues to which special panels are dedicated: Immanuel Wallerstein, Erik Olin Wright, and Marielle Franco. Besides hundreds of panels, let me highlight the Professional Development Sessions focusing on ISA publications, teaching sociology and social theory. There is also a special session designed for early-career sociologists, *In Conversation with Senior Sociologists: Making Connections, Bridging Generations*, as well as a Sociological Movies session. Check out the Forum on-line program [here](#).

This Forum wouldn't have been possible without the amazing and patient work of Geoffrey Pleyers, Forum President, the Research Coordinating Committee, the Local Organizing Committee headed by Hermilio Santos, and the ISA Secretariat in Madrid.

The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology scheduled for 24-30 July, 2022 in Melbourne, Australia, will focus on the theme "Resurgent Authoritarianism: The Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies." The vertiginous rise of authoritarianism, as well as populism, xenophobia, and racism make our task as sociologists more crucial than ever. For more information on the theme, go to the [Congress webpage](#).

Please note the April 15, 2021 deadline for submitting to isa@isa-sociology.org proposals for:

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- Integrative sessions which involve at least 3 Research Committees, 3 National Associations or a combination of the two
- Regular sessions by National, Regional, Linguistic and Thematic Associations

New collective members

I am glad to welcome new regular collective members that have joined the ISA recently: the Colombian, Serbian, and Vietnamese Sociological Associations and the Paraguayan Society of Sociology. My special thanks to Filomin Gutierrez, Vice-President for National Associations.

ISA forthcoming events

Due to uncertain travel protocols, the [5th Conference of the Council of National Associations](#) (CNA) to be held in Slovenia on the theme “Social Transformations and Sociology: Dispossession and Empowerment” has been moved from May 10-13, 2021 to November 22-25, 2021. Each national association is expected to send a representative who will present a paper and attend the CNA business meetings. A new deadline will be announced shortly to ensure a wider participation.

And finally

Much of what is accomplished by the ISA is the result of all the hard work and diverse contributions of our members. I also take this opportunity to thank our four vice-presidents, Filomin Gutierrez, Eloísa Martín, Geoffrey Pleyers, and Sawako Shirahase, as well as ISA Executive Committee members, ISA editors, ISA Executive Secretary Izabela Barlinska, and the ISA Secretariat for their work and dedication to the Association.

Stay safe! Salam,

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RC36 Program

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Sessions:

Wednesday, 24 February 2021

13:00 - 14:30

- [455 Globalization, Alienation and the Cultural Patterns of Right-Wing Extremism](#)

14:45 - 16:15

- [456 Alienation in the 21st Century: Revisiting, Reevaluating, Recentering](#)

18:15 - 19:45

- [JS-17 Alienation and the Reactionary Right](#)

20:00 - 21:30

- [457 RC36 Business Meeting](#)

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Thursday, 25 February 2021

13:00 - 14:30

- [458 Democratic Institutions, Critique and Alienation](#)

14:45 - 16:15

- [459 Alienation, Disalienation and Selfhood](#)

18:15 - 19:45

- [460 Alienation and Self-Alienation](#)

20:00 - 21:30

- [461 Alienation through the Prism of the Covid-19 Pandemic](#)

Friday, 26 February 2021

13:00 - 14:30

- [462 The Effects of Alienation on Democracy](#)