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1. Call for Papers of the International Conference on “The Impact of the 2020–2022 Pandemic on World Society”

Call for Papers of the International Conference on “The Impact of the 2020–2022 Pandemic on World Society”

ISA-RC55 Pre-Conference to the World Congress of Sociology

Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne, Australia, June 23–24, 2023

Please note that this pre-ISA World Congress conference in Melbourne covers travel and accommodation costs for participants. Researchers from the Global South (African and Latin American countries, International Sociological Association country categories B and C), doctoral students, and members of ISA-RC55 are in particular encouraged to apply for travel grants.

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Call for papers

The novel corona virus, COVID-19, was first detected in China in late 2019 and by mid-2020 it had become a pandemic across the globe. The pandemic and the measures implemented to contain it challenged not only individuals, countries and public authorities, but also world society as a whole. For world society the pandemic represents a new and dramatic experience of global risk and crisis.

The high levels of integration of national economies into the world economy allowed for unrestricted international travel and trade ensuring that this highly transmissible virus threatened every citizen in every country. Countries and international organizations, national and local authorities and health systems were forced to react and to implement strategies to handle the pandemic. In 2020, international borders closed restricting the movement of people into and out of countries. Furthermore, many countries introduced harsh internal lockdowns, restricting movement within cities and regions, and between cities and regions. The mix of measures implemented and their impact on the economy and society varied considerably across countries and world regions. Although vaccinations were developed relatively rapidly, their distribution across the world was patchy. Some wealthy countries of the Global North were initially over-supplied whereas some poorer countries of the Global South waited for months, prolonging their isolation. Furthermore, as new variants of the virus evolved, it became clear that some vaccines were less effective than others. Millions succumbed to the virus and millions more lost their livelihoods due to the economic impact of the restrictions imposed to slow the spread of the virus.

The global pandemic exposed the limitations of globalization as global supply chains were disrupted. Some industries slowly shut down as container ships carrying components remained at sea, unable to dock. Consequently, shortages of food and other essential supplies continue to impact the daily lives of millions. Migration, both between and within countries, slowed considerably due to border closures and travel restrictions. Many migrants returned to their country of birth forgoing their income to reconnect with their families. Uncertainty became endemic as the disruptions to daily life took precedence over future plans.

This call for papers invites contributions examining the impact of the 2020-2022 pandemic on world society and world economy, on national economies and societies, and between and

within national economies and societies. Issues that may be addressed by papers include (but are not limited to):

- Transformation and change of world society in the context of the global pandemic.
- Strategies and approaches of crisis management and coping strategies at the different levels of world society.
- Short-term and longer-term (negative and positive) impacts of the pandemic on particular aspects and parts of world society, world economy, and world polity.
- The health, social, economic and/or political impacts of the pandemic in particular countries or regions.
- The consequences of policy measures enacted to slow the spread of the virus.
- Behavioral impacts of the pandemic and their differences across countries and societal groups.
- The impact of the pandemic on social inequalities, social cohesion, trust and solidarity.
- The impact of the pandemic on quality of life and well-being.
- Indicators, measures, monitoring tools, and methodological approaches measuring/analyzing the evolution of the pandemic and its impacts.

Travel grants: The organizers award a limited number of travel grants covering airfare and accommodation (in full or in part). Accommodation, travel and visa support will be provided for one author per accepted full paper using the most economical travel route. Researchers from the Global South (African and Latin American countries, International Sociological Association country categories B and C), doctoral students, and members of ISA-RC55 are in particular encouraged to apply.

Submission procedure: Please submit a 1000 word paper abstract in English before **September 30, 2022 (CET)** to Jenny Chesters (jenny.chesters@unimelb.edu.au). The abstract should include the title of the paper, all author(s) names and affiliation as well as contact information. It should contain clear information on the research methods, data sources and analytical tools to be used. Please note that the organizers are seeking original contributions. Authors will be notified by **November 15, 2022** of paper proposal acceptance. Successful applicants are invited to elaborate their proposals into a full paper (25-30 pages, but no more than 8000 words) in English to be submitted by **February 15, 2023 (CET)**. *Authors will be notified by March 1, 2023* of full paper acceptance/rejection. Authors of accepted papers will be invited to the conference. Accommodation, travel and visa support (in full or in part) will

be provided for one author per accepted full paper using the most economical travel route.

Venue: The conference will be held at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne. There is no conference fee.

Publication: A selection of outstanding papers will be published in a conference volume. Authors of accepted papers will receive a publication fee once the paper has been finalized and accepted for publication.

Organizing committee: Jenny Chesters (University of Melbourne), Sandra Fachelli (Pablo de Olavide University), Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel).

Conference Sponsorship: The conference is supported by the World Society Foundation (Zurich, Switzerland), ISA Research Committee 55 on Social Indicators, and the Graduate School of Education of the University of Melbourne. For more information on the conference and for updates, please check at: <http://www.worldsociety.ch/>.

2. Call for Papers for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology 2023

Call for Papers for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology 2023

Sessions organized by RC55

RC55 Social Indicators Program Coordinator: Jenny Chesters, University of Melbourne (jenny.chesters@unimelb.edu.au)

The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology (Melbourne, June 25 – July 1, 2023) will be in a hybrid format: Oral sessions will be a mix of in-person and virtual presenters, based on the presenter's preference.

Please submit the abstract of your paper proposal online via the Confex platform before September 30, 2022! (select RC55 through the ISA/Confex platform or the hosting RC for the joint sessions; link opens on July 1, 2022).

RC55 Sessions

Indicators to Compare Social Stratification and Inequalities Among Countries

(session # 16387)

Session organizers: Sandra Fachelli, Pablo de Olavide University Sevilla (sandra.fachelli@gmail.com) and Pedro López-Roldán (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

We propose to receive contributions that address comparative research in the study of social reality, focusing on the construction and use of social indicators in comparative research of social inequalities among countries. Contributions can be of a theoretical nature, applied studies or methodological reflections (either in a quantitative, qualitative or mixed perspective), but which main object of study of the same phenomenon in different territories.

Social Mechanisms of Wellbeing in Comparative Perspectives

(session # 16434)

Session organizer: Masayuki Kanai, Senshu University (mkanai@senshu-u.jp)

Subjective wellbeing is an indicator of not only personal histories in a society but also the institutional arrangement of that society. Which kinds of life conditions (e.g., income, work, relation to others, ...) and life events (e.g., job changes, family formation, caregiving to elder parents, ...) affect individual wellbeing depends on a specific institutional/historical/cultural context (e.g., economic affluence, roles of the state, work-life balance, ...) of a society in particular time. This session invites comparative studies on these social mechanisms of wellbeing between different societies or between different times in a society to shed light on the characteristics and historical position of each society or each period. Empirical works with quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods research designs are highly welcome.

Gender Equality Measurement

(session # 16446)

Session organizer: Enrico di Bella, Genoa University (edibella@unige.it)

Gender equality is an increasingly important issue worldwide. Although the literature on gender studies has a long tradition, measurement experiences are still somewhat limited

and mostly carried out by international and supranational bodies (United Nations, European Union, World Economic Forum, etc.). The growing interest in the subject is due to several factors. First, countries are moving away from a cognitive/descriptive approach to the gender gap towards a definition of process and result indicators useful to define objectives, measure the distance from them and identify the best strategies to achieve them. In addition, some studies on gender inequality at the sub-national level are starting to be published and are of great importance in identifying territorial disparities. Second, it is increasingly common for each research project to consider a gender impact assessment (e.g. the EU's Horizon Europe programme). However, many researchers encounter difficulties at this stage and do not know how to choose the indicators for this purpose appropriately. Interest in gender equality indicators is therefore growing rapidly. This session discusses recent multidisciplinary methodological and applicative advances in measuring gender equality at various levels and their use in the decision-making process.

Sustainable Tourism Indicators

(session # 16448)

Session organizer: Enrico di Bella, Genoa University (edibella@unige.it)

Sustainable tourism is one of the main lines of development of the tourism sector at the international level. It benefits the host community, the local culture, the environment and eco-systems and the visitors. Many national tourism strategies integrate the principles of tourism sustainability at all levels. The development and consolidation of a sustainable tourism model require highly diversified actions in many different fields: cultural heritage, evaluating the impacts of tourism on social structures, governance of tourism destinations, development of monitoring systems for tourism sustainability, disability management in tourism destinations, etc. For instance, the system of protected areas, together with places of cultural interest, requires management practices that minimise tourism activity's environmental and social impact, contributing to preserving the environment. Thanks to tourism patterns, cultural heritage, including traditions and local culture, can offer new experiences and tourism to be commercialised for tourists. Both domestic and international tourists need to enjoy the local culture responsibly, and tourism experiences should incorporate genuine local products. However, the definition of tourism sustainability indicators is still limited to specific experiences. Much has to be done to support policy

makers to effectively define priorities, benchmark destinations and evaluate policy achievements. This session is devoted to presenting methodological reflections or applicatory studies on specific experiences of sustainable tourism measurement using indicators.

Causal Analysis in Happiness Studies: Developing an Agenda for Advancement

(session # 16807)

Session organizer: David Bartram, University of Leicester (d.bartram@le.ac.uk)

This session will feature papers that explore ways to improve quantitative analysis intended to address causal questions pertaining to social indicators and happiness studies. Most researchers in this area want to know what makes people happy – an inescapably causal proposition. A ‘causal revolution’ is taking place in certain fields (e.g. Pearl/Mackenzie 2018). These methodological developments point us beyond a mode of analysis where researchers construct a single regression model and then interpret all of the coefficients as equivalent ‘effects’ (a practice usefully described as the ‘Table 2 fallacy’). For this session, then, we invite papers that demonstrate the value of paying more explicit attention to ways of identifying a specific causal effect indicated by our core research question.

Priority will be given to papers that are likely to be accessible to session participants. Longitudinal work is valuable, but we also need work that uses cross-sectional data more effectively. A key question is how to select the right control variables. (An oft-used criterion – inclusion of controls on the basis that they are ‘other determinants’ of the dependent variable – is ineffective and likely to give biased results.) Papers might also consider the limitations of drawing substantive conclusions solely on the basis of statistical significance (‘decision by asterisk’); an explicit engagement with effect size is typically useful.

Measuring and Analyzing the Impact of the 2020-2022 Pandemic on Quality of Life and Well-Being

(session # 17120)

Session organizer: Christian Suter, University of Neuchâtel (christian.suter@unine.ch)

The COVID-19 pandemic peaked in 2020-21 and although every country experienced the immediate impact on the health of their citizens, the social, economic and political impacts varied widely according to the institutional arrangements in place and the measures taken to contain the spread of the virus, particularly during the first year before vaccines were available. Borders between countries were closed restricting travel and isolating families. Furthermore, within countries, restrictions imposed on the ability to work, attend educational institutions and enjoy social events resulted in dramatic changes to the everyday lives of millions of people. For this session, we invite papers focusing on the (short-term and longer-term) impacts of the pandemic, including intended and unintended consequences of policy measures, on citizens' quality life and levels of well-being (including its various dimensions). Papers may focus on one country or make comparisons across countries.

The Advantages of Analysing Longitudinal Data for Understanding Changes in Levels of Life Satisfaction

(session # 17198)

Session organizer: Jenny Chesters, University of Melbourne

(jenny.chesters@unimelb.edu.au)

The COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2022 provides a natural experiment of a scale rarely seen in modern times. Apart from the impact of the pandemic on health and health systems, the social and economic consequences continue to play out. Governments were forced to embrace budget deficits to maintain social and economic stability as the restrictions they imposed to limit the spread of the virus resulted in dramatic changes to the everyday lives of millions of people. Consequently, the pandemic affected everyone in every country regardless of whether or not they actually contracted the virus. For this session, we invite papers focusing on changes in levels of life satisfaction before, during and after the pandemic. Papers may report the results of analysis of longitudinal data from panel surveys or the results of cross-sectional data collected during different time periods to compare cohorts over time.

The Role of Trust and Subjective Well-Being in the Post Pandemic Recovery

(session # 17321)

Session organizer: Dolgion Aldar, Independent Research Institute of Mongolia,
(dolgion29@gmail.com)

There are significant international and national priorities and policies focusing on COVID-19 economic recovery. However, the focus on recovery from perspectives is lacking. To help development and policy practitioners to design and implement recovery policies that also focus on strengthening social cohesion, trust and subjective well-being, scholars and researchers are invited to submit proposals to this session.

Empirical and theoretical studies exploring trust and/or subjective well-being as determinants, means or outcomes of the government's pandemic response and recovery policies within specific countries, regions or across countries are invited. Assessments of pandemic response and recovery programmes in terms of their considerations on subjective well-being and effects are also welcome.

Youth Wellbeing and Changes of Social Institutions

(session # 17647)

Session organizer: Yi-Fu Chen, National Taipei University, (yifuchen37@gmail.com)

This panel invites studies that explore the impacts of social institutions on the wellbeing of youths. Studies on changes in family, education, or occupational systems and their impacts on the wellbeing of youths are especially welcomed. We also seek studies that address the relationships between changes in social institutions and youth wellbeing with either theoretical or methodological meanings. Studies focus on the transformation of modern society and its impact on youth wellbeing are also welcomed. Example questions are: How does the rise of digital society influence the wellbeing of the "digital natives"? How does the digital society influence youth wellbeing via the changes in family, education, or occupational systems? We expect both qualitative and quantitative studies presented in this panel.

Socioeconomic Inequalities in Times of Change: Indicators for Assessing Them in a Global World

(session # 17890)

Session organizer: Sandra Fachelli, Pablo de Olavide University Sevilla (sandra.fachelli@gmail.com) and Pedro López-Roldán (Autonomous University of Barcelona)

At a time when economic inequality is at the centre of the political debate, we seek to return the debate on inequality from a broad and multidimensional perspective that seeks to integrate traditional disciplinary approaches, particularly economic and sociological ones, to generate composite indicators of a socio-economic nature. In this sense, we intend to receive contributions that make a balance of the literature from the perspective of social and economic class in the international arena, as well as highlighting their mechanisms and processes, paying attention particularly, in the possibility of generate instruments that can measure inequality in comparatives way among multiple dimensions, specifically occupational, educational and economical. Additionally these multidimensional approaches can incorporate a gender perspective or a dynamic dimension over time.

Volunteerism in the Midst of the Pandemic

(session # 17974)

Session organizer: Joonmo Son, National University of Singapore (socioson@nus.edu.sg)

The COVID-19 pandemic has hurt numerous institutional arrangements the modern world established including domestic and international trade, tourism and transportation, education, jobs and works, political campaigns, sports, and the ways people communicate with one another. In essence, the pandemic reduced the scope and depth of social interactions significantly. No doubt that social interactions were a fundamental means that helped creat and maintain the aforementioned arrangements and others. An area heavily impacted by the pandemic is volunteerism field that usually took face-to-face social interactions as a dominant mode for most activities. This session seeks to study the pandemic's impact on volunteerism across countries. It is obviously expected that volunteers and their activities have declined due to the pandemic mainly because it suppressed the extent of social interactions. However, are there any international variations

in the degree of such reduction? Further, have there been any alternative approaches to volunteerism developed to make up for the lack of social interactions between volunteers and the recipients of their services? If so, are they effective enough to replace traditional face-to-face volunteerism even after the current COVID-19 crisis? Or are they only a temporary alternative to get through the pandemic period? Are there any cross-national variations of the employment rates and patterns of the alternative means of volunteerism?

Pandemic Crisis, War, and Resurgent Authoritarianism: Challenges for the Future of Social Indicators Research

(session # 17735, invited session, paper submission not possible)

Session organizer: Christian Suter, University of Neuchâtel (christian.suter@unine.ch)

The Covid19-pandemic peaking in 2020-2021 and the recent outbreak of the war against Ukraine are challenging societies and their citizens all over the world. These new crises and uncertainties – together with the already existing long-term big challenges like climate change and green transition, digitalization and big data, growing inequalities – are hitting contemporary societies in a context of rising nationalism, populism and authoritarianism. This invited session deals with the implications and challenges of these recent developments and societal transformations for current and future social indicators research. The session includes an introductory presentation followed by a roundtable discussion among 4-5 panelists.

Chair: Christian Suter, University of Neuchâtel

Introductory presentation: Alex C. Michalos, University of Northern British Columbia

Panelists and Discussants:

Sandra Fachelli, Pablo de Olavide University Sevilla

Filomena Maggino, Sapienza University Rome

Jenny Chesters, University of Melbourne

Enrico di Bella, Genoa University

Masayuki Kanai, Senshu University

Joint sessions with other RCs/TGs

Counting Populations during the COVID-19 Pandemic

(session # 17164, joint session with RC41 [Host = RC55])

Session organizers: Walter Bartl, University of Halle-Wittenberg (walter.bartl@soziologie.uni-halle.de) and Alberto Veira-Ramos, University Carlos III Madrid

Population censuses have become part of the indispensable epistemic infrastructure of modern statehood and seem to be equally indispensable for holding governments accountable through analysis and critique when they fail to deliver on their declared public policy aims. The relevance of population data has become especially visible during the COVID-19 pandemic in order to monitor the spread of the pandemic itself but also in order to devise measures of containment. While national statistical systems have been designed more and more systematically also because the United Nations have promoted population censuses and systems of vital statistics worldwide since the 1950s, the production of population indicators is by far not a global model that travels without translation. Some states have never managed to implement a consistent system of population statistics leading to various problems of invisibility and exclusion for vulnerable groups. In other cases, new forms of data gathering are replacing or transforming traditional data sources. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has hampered the global census round in many countries. How were the challenges posed by the pandemic met by national statistical offices? How did problems of data gathering due to the pandemic affect containment policies? We welcome conceptual and empirical papers that address one or more of these issues.

Making up People: Classification and Quantification of Populations in the Census

(session # 17163, joint session with RC41 [Host = RC41])

Session organizers: Walter Bartl, University of Halle-Wittenberg (walter.bartl@soziologie.uni-halle.de) and Alberto Veira-Ramos, University Carlos III Madrid

The relevance of population indicators for democratic politics has been widely acknowledged in the still young field of Quantification Studies. A basic assumption in this

line of reasoning is that there is an inherently political dimension to what seems to be methodological or technocratic issues in the construction and use of numbers in politics. Instead of describing reality, census taking shapes reality; it makes up people. The planned session picks up this argument by focusing on how populations are included, classified and quantified in the census and how these data are used in politics.

The production of population indicators is often largely hidden from public view, while indeed defining and classifying the population(s) to be considered in public policy. Demographic data are among the most reliable data for public policy formulation, which is why it is important that all potential addressees of public policy be counted as such. In some countries, public debates around population categories arise periodically when a new census is scheduled. In other countries, census taking seems to be a rather technocratic and depoliticized endeavor. But being counted is not only relevant for “statistical citizenship” in present politics, expectations about the future are also often narrated by using demographic data, which is typically based on the census.

We welcome conceptual as well as empirical papers addressing current issues of census taking.

Challenges and Opportunities in Measuring Violence

(session # 16146, joint session with TC11 [Host = TC11])

Session organizer: Oliver Nahkur, University of Tartu (olivernahkur@gmail.com)

Let us imagine a “Harsh World” at one extreme, “the war of all against all” as described by Thomas Hobbes, and a “Gentle World” at the other, where all people communicate nonviolently. Do we live in a “Harsh World”, a “Gentle World” or somewhere between the middle, and to which world are we trending towards? By headlines, it seems that we live in a quite harsh world and it gets harsher every year. But is this impression backed up by data? There is some evidence that a move towards a gentle world has occurred. For example, in the West homicide rates fell dramatically and quite continuously from the late Middle Ages through the middle of the twentieth century. According to Steven Pinker, we may be living in the least violent era our species has seen. However, investigating changes in the rate of violence is methodologically challenging. E.g., the repeat nature of domestic violence makes it hard to measure, especially the experiences of those relatively few people who suffer large

numbers of repeat offences. There are also other challenges in the methodology and measurement of violence and its change in our societies. Each source of data, including survey and administrative data, has its own pros and cons. This session calls for papers mapping the challenges and/or offering opportunities to measure the rate of violence in our societies to better able to answer to the question “how harsh or gentle our world is and to which world are we trending towards)”.

3. Activities, mobilities, and promotions of members

- **Ming-Chang Tsai** (Academia Sinica, Taiwan) :
Ming-Chang Tsai is elected into the Scientific Advisory Board of the World Values Survey Association for the term of 2022-2027.

4. New books and papers authored by members

- Ming-Chang Tsai (Academia Sinica, Taiwan) recently published:
 - a). Ming-Chang Tsai. 2021. “Ming-Chang Tsai: A Pioneer in Comparative Quality of Life Research.” *Applied Research in Quality of Life* 16:2279-2282.
- Oliver Nahkur (University of Tartu, Estonia) published:
 - a). Nahkur, Oliver, and Dagmar Kutsar. 2022. "Family Type Differences in Children’s Satisfaction with People They Live with and Perceptions about Their (Step)parents’ Parenting Practices" *Social Sciences* 11, no. 5: 223.
<https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci11050223>
 - b). Maasing, Helina; Nahkur, Oliver; Roots, Ave; Ainsaar, Mare (2021). Measuring the risk of immigration related conflicts. *Človek a spoločnosť*, 24 (4), 1–24.
<https://doi.org/10.31577/cas.2021.04.592>