

To the presidents and the secretaries of the Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups of the International Sociological Association

Dear colleagues,

This second letter focuses on seven short but important topics for our RC/WG/GT internal life and organization.

1. The first ISA RC/WG/TG presidents directory;
2. Some support to share experience and questions about the RC statutes revision processes;
3. The call for grants for RC activities;
4. A quick reminder about two RC/WG/TG formal duties (the report and the newsletters)
5. The RC presidents mailing-list, now extended to the RC secretaries
6. Some information about the 2020 ISA Forum of Sociology
7. A panel and a meeting of the ISA at the CLACSO congress in Buenos Aires (16-23 nov. 2018)

The first “VP Research letter” mostly focused on initiatives to foster internal communication. It is now available on the ISA website.

https://www.isa-sociology.org/frontend/web/uploads/files/vpr_letter_%201_%20sept_2018.pdf

The next letter will be published in December and will focus on the 2020 ISA Forum of Sociology.

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1. RC presidents *Who is Who*

You will find in attachment the very first ISA RC/WG/TG presidents directory!

It is also available on the ISA website

https://www.isa-sociology.org/frontend/web/uploads/files/directory_isa_rc_presidents_2018_2022.pdf

Many thanks to the 58 RC/WG/GT presidents who sent me their short bionotes and the projects they have for their RCs in such a short delay! The missing RCs and Thematic Groups will be added in the directory in the next weeks, as they are holding internal elections this fall, are undergoing a reorganization process or have forgotten to send their new board composition to the ISA secretariat.

It is fantastic for the ISA to count on so many brilliant colleagues who have accepted to dedicate time and energy to their research committee. I look very much forward to working with each of you and to supporting your initiatives.

I hope this directory will help us to get to know each other and ignite new collaborations between RC, WG and TG presidents and boards. Together with the new RC presidents mailing list (isa-rcpresidents@listes.uclouvain.be), the directory aims at fostering a spirit of mutual support among RC presidents and at multiplying exchanges around projects, perspectives, good practices and suggestions between the 57 RCs and 8 Working or Thematic Groups.

2. RC/WG/TG statutes revision

The newly elected Research Coordinating Committee will continue the Statutes revision process commenced by the previous RCC in 2006.

I have received a specific demand for support from a RC who will start the process of **revision of its statutes**. A small support team has been set up among the Research Coordination Committee (RCC). This “Statutes revision support team” will be chaired by Professor Hiroshi ISHIDA from the University of Tokyo. He is a member of the ISA executive committee and has a previous experience in RC statute revisions. Two other members of the RCC will join the team.

The aim of the support group is not to get directly involved in the statute revision process of each RC. It will be available to answer specific question and will set up a platform to share questions and suggestions among the RCs. We propose to gather one delegate from each of the RC/WG/TG that plans to revise its statutes or that is required to do so by the ISA rules about transparency and internal democracy. We also ask for some experienced volunteers from RCs who have recently conducted a statutes revision process to join the group and share some tips and provide some good proposals for specific issues (e.g. statute articles that guarantee fair and transparent internal elections may actually be reproduced in other RC statutes).

If your RC is interested in getting some support for the revision of the statutes or if you have recently had a successful statutes revision process, please send an e-mail to Hiroshi (ishida@iss.u-tokyo.ac.jp) and to me (Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be).

3. 2019 applications for grants for RC activities

You will find in attachment the 2019 application for RC activities grants. Every Research Committee in good standing is entitled to apply for a grant once between the two World Congresses. These small grants provide an additional budget to develop the projects that the RC boards want to implement. It may help to organize a conference, to publish a collective book, to set up a PhD workshop or provide grants to allow researchers from the Global South to attend events organized by your research committee.

This year, we will pay a particular attention to projects in the Global South and/or including researchers from the Global South or regions where sociology particularly need to be supported. We are also be particularly interested in projects that include concrete outcomes for local students and young research. For instance, if you plan to organize an international conference, you may propose a couple of lectures by international participants for graduate and/or undergraduate students in a university in the host city.

You will find all the information about this application for grants and many other indispensable information on the ISA webpage dedicated to the “Aims and Requirements for Research Committees”:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/internal-organization/aims-and-requirements-for-research-committees>

4. RC/WG/TG activity reports and newsletters

Publishing two newsletters a year and sending a bi-annual report to the ISA secretariat is a strict requisite to have access to these grants and a compulsory duty for all RCs. For the RCs who have not done so yet (**RC 1,3,4,10,11,19,24,29,30,32,36,37,41,43,47,51, 56, WG01,WG05, TG03, TG04**), **please send your report before November 15th**.

Please send me also your newsletter and keep me posted about your RCs activities and projects.

5. *RC presidents mailing-list extended to secretaries*
isa-rcpresidents@listes.uclouvain.be

Various RC presidents have contacted me asking to include their secretary in the mailing list. I have followed their request and extended the mailing list and the letter recipients to the RC secretary.

Any member of the list is welcome to send a message. Please use the mailing list to share ideas, questions and good practices among RC presidents and secretaries.

The mailing list provides a space to get to know each other, to circulate practical information and to raise points that we would like fellow RC presidents and secretaries to discuss and/or the ISA Executive Committee to deal with. Note that the list focuses on organizational matters and internal communication of the ISA. It will not diffuse conference announcements, calls for papers or new publications, as the ISA provides various other channels for these purposes.

6. *CLACSO congress (Buenos Aires, 16-23 November):*
ISA RC meeting and ISA panel

From November 16th to 23^d, I will take part in the congress of the CLACSO (Consejo Latino Americano de Ciencias Sociales). If you or an active member of your board will be there, please let me know and please join us at ISA RC officers' informal meeting that will take place on Tuesday the 20th of November in the evening.

Join us at the ISA panel on Thursday the 24th of November "Hacia una sociología global. Pensar los desafíos globales a partir y con América latina" with Ana Rivoir (president of ALAS & ISA RC32), Boaventura de Sousa Santos and Teivo Teivanen.

7. *Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre, 14-18 July 2020*

The next letter will focus on the next ISA Forum of Sociology that will take place in Porto Alegre, Brazil, in July 2020. It will provide numerous excellent reasons to join us there as well as a first set of practical information.

Many RCs count on Brazilian or Latin American researchers in their board. I have been contacted by various other RC presidents who would like to start an exchange with a Latin American colleague who works in the RC research field and may help to foster a dialogue with scholars of the continent and to connect with research networks in Brazil and Latin America. We have been working with the two major Latin American associations in social sciences (CLACSO) and sociology (ALAS) to make sure that each of the RC will find a Latin American partner that will connect them to research networks and explain how the research topic/field is framed in Latin America. Please contact me if you are interested.