To the presidents of the Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups of the ISA
To the RC/WG/TG Program Coordinators of the IV ISA Forum of Sociology

Timetable of the IV ISA Forum of Sociology

Dear colleagues,

The IV ISA Forum of sociology will be held online, from February 23rd to 28th, 2021.
Please have a look at the Forum timetable below as well as at information concerning specific sessions.

This timetable includes the hours of different time zones. Please note that some time zones conversion was not accurate in the timetable version that circulated on the RC president mailing-list, as there will be some time differences in February due to the summer/winter times in the North and South hemispheres.

In my previous VPR letter, I announced RC program coordinators would be able to adapt the schedule of their panels to different time zones, which was a request by various RC presidents. This proposal received the full support of the Research Coordination Committee. However, the ISA decided to maintain the original timetable. It will thus not be possible to schedule Forum panels outside of the timetable schedule that you will find below. My apologies for not having been able to better support this proposal.

Various RC presidents also asked to extend the Forum a few more days in order to limit the daily time spent attending online panels and provide more possibility to adapt to different time zones. The ISA has extended the Forum dates to Sunday February 28th. It is important as most of us will be teaching on weekdays. Each RC will have the possibility to move some of its sessions to Sunday.

In the past few weeks, I have received several e-mails by RC presidents and boards asking me to reconsider and lower the Forum registration fees. As a former RC president, I fully understand your concerns. As a VP for research, I share them and made various proposals for a more accessible and decentralized Forum. However, the registration fees are not decided by the vice-president for research or by the Research coordination committee. The ISA took other considerations into account, building on a different model for this online Forum. I am thus unable to provide replies to your questions about the cost of the Forum or other financial matters. For questions concerning the ISA Forum finance and registration fees, please refer to the ISA secretariat, to the ISA Vice-president for finance and/or to the ISA finance committee.

You will find practical information concerning different session formats below. Please have a look at the previous letter and at the ISA Forum website and guidelines for session organizers for more complete information.

A short and important period in the Forum preparation starts on October 16th. Session Organizers and Program Coordinators have until October 25th to organize panels, move some participants from one session to another and merge two sessions in order to open a new panel, based on the updated version of the program and information you will receive about the confirmed participants in your RC/WG/TG program. It is also the time to decide if you want to open a new call for abstracts and to circulate it. New abstracts may be upload on the Confex platform between October 26th and November 12th. You will find the remaining steps of the Forum preparation agenda below.

I would like to thank those of you who took part in the exchanges concerning the Forum on the "RC presidents mailing list". This list aims at opening a discussion space among RC presidents and to make the RC perspectives heard in the ISA. Please don't hesitate to use it to share your opinions, questions, feedbacks and good practices, and hopefully to build common initiatives among various RCs in a near future.

Stay safe in this long-lasting pandemic.

Geoffrey
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I.   Forum timetable

Porto Alegre	09:00-10:30	10:45-12:15	12:30-14:00	14:15-15:45	16:00-17:30	17:45-20:00
UTC	12:00 - 13:30	13:45-15:15	15:30-17:00	17:15-18:45	19:00-20:30	20:45-23:00
Berlin	13:00 - 14:30	14:45-16:15	16:30-18:00	18:15-19:45	20:00-21:30	21:45-24:00
New Delhi	17:30-19:00	19:15-20:45	21:00-22:30	22:45-00:15	00:30-02:00	02:15-04:30
Tokyo	21:00-22:30	22:45- 0:15	0:30-2am	2:15-3:45 am	4am-5:30 am (next day)	5:45 - 8am
Melbourne	23:00-0:30	01:45-02:15 am	02:30-04:00 am	04:15-05:45 am	06:00-07:30 am (next day)	07:45-10am (next day)
New York	7:00-8:30	8:45-10:15	10:30-12 noon	12:15-13:45	14:00 - 15:30	15:45 - 18:00
Los Angeles	04:00-05:30	05:45-07:15	07:30-9:00	9:15-10:45	11:00-12:30	12:45-15:00
February 23 Tuesday	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	Opening ceremony Opening plenary		RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG
February 24 Wednesday	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	2 Semi-Plenaries (LOC-SBS & ALAS) PDS Publications	RC/WG/TG PDS Junior Senior Scholars	RC/WG/TG	Common Sessions
February 25 Thursday	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	2 Semi-Plenaries (LOC-SBS & CLACSO) PDS Publications	RC/WG/TG PDS Teaching Sociology	RC/WG/TG PDS Publications	Common Sessions
February 26 Friday	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	2 Semi-Plenaries (LOC-SBS & ISA) PDS Publications	RC/WG/TG PDS Teaching Sociology	RC/WG/TG PDS Publications	Common Sessions
February 27 Saturday	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	2 Semi-Plenaries PDS Publications	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	
February 28 Sunday	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	Closing Plenary	RC/WG/TG	RC/WG/TG	

PDS = Professional Development Sessions

II. Sessions

RC/WG/TG *Joint Sessions* will be scheduled by Confex, *regular sessions* will be scheduled by program coordinators.
All the timeslots (including the new timeslots on Sunday) will be shown when we reach the stage of session scheduling.

Roundtable sessions
Roundtable sessions will be transformed in regular sessions.
Program coordinators are encouraged to move RT confirmed participants to other regular sessions in order to avoid an excessive number of speakers in these RT sessions.

RC/WG/TG assemblies/business meetings
As it was the case in previous ISA forums and congresses, RC/WG/TG may schedule their assembly/business meetings in one of the time slots of the Forum, or at any other time during the days of the Forum. If you choose to schedule it outside of the Forum official timetable (e.g. after the Forum program), you will need to organize yourself the online platform to hold the meeting.

Pre-conferences and other RC panels
RCs may maintain the panels planed in their "pre-conferences" or organize other complementary panels.
These panels will be self-organized by each RC, which means that the participants don't have to pay the Forum registration fees but that these sessions won't be hosted by the ISA Forum online platform.
They may figure in a program diffused by the RC that combines the sessions at the ISA Forum and other RC sessions.

The Research Council Business Meetings (Meeting of RC Delegates and WG/TG Observers):
Two Research Council Business Meetings were planned during the Forum. They are **postponed to Saturday 6th and 13th of March.**
A consultation will be organized to set the time of the meeting. The probably that works for most time zones seems to be from 11.00 to 15.00 (time of Porto Alegre).
Please join us to these important meetings. It will be a unique opportunity to reflect on the Forum, propose future events and share good practices among RC/WG/TG.

Professional Development Sessions (PDS):
PDS organizers were free to choose any timeslot in the initial Forum timetable. They may ask to reschedule their session to another timeslot.

III. *RC grants and registration grants*

The ISA honours **registration grants** (and the rates) that were already allocated by each RC/WG/TG. If recipients of a registration grant cancelled their participation, Program Coordinators may reallocate these registration grants to other presenters who are individual ISA members in good standing. Changes must be communicated to the ISA Secretariat (isa@isa-sociology.org) before December 5, 2020.

RC activity grants that were allocated for activities connected to the Forum (e.g. the RC pre-conference) may be used for other activities planned by the RC before 2024 and hopefully before the 2022 congress. We ask the concerned RCs to send a short note by the end of March explaining which activities they intend to support with this grant.

IV. *ISA Forum calendar for registration and new abstracts*

The Forum calendar adopted and diffused in April 2020 has not changed. I copy it below.
Please keep in mind that important actions are required before October 25th.

End of September to October 15th.
- A message will soon be sent by the ISA to all the authors of selected abstracts inviting them to confirm their participation to the Forum and informing them about the **possibility to update their abstract and title in the congress platform, in consultation with their session organizers or RC program coordinators, before October 15th, 2020.**
- **Session Organizers and Program Coordinators are encouraged to contact the participants and to ask them to confirm their participation** before October 15th, 2020.
- Session Organizers and Program Coordinators will be granted access to the online platform (ConFex). Based on information about already cancelled presentations, they may **upgrade "distributed papers" and papers presented at a roundtable to "oral presentation" in a regular panel.** Session Organizers and Program Coordinator shall inform the concerned participants about the new status of their paper and ask them to confirm their participation in the Forum.
- RCs new calls for abstracts may start circulating during this period.

15 October 2020: Final day to confirm participation by authors of the already accepted abstracts. *Authors of confirmed abstracts have until December 15th to register at the "early registration rate".*

16 - 25 October 2020
- Based on the updated program, Session Organizers and Program Coordinators may re-organize panels, move some participants from one session to another and merge two sessions in order to open a new panel.
- Distributed papers or roundtable presentations may be upgrade to oral presentations during this period too.
- The ISA secretariat and the RC/WG/TG publish and circulate the calls for new abstracts.

26 October – 12 November 2020: Submission of new abstracts
The ConFex platform will be open for new abstracts.
- Authors may indicate in which session of the RC/WG/TG their proposal would better fit.
- The new abstracts proposals will be submitted to a single "bucket" session for each RC. (i.e. all the new proposals will be sent to the same session. Program coordinators will then allocate them to specific sessions).
- Organizers of sessions with several withdrawals are encouraged to advertise their session and to invite colleagues who work on the session's topic to submit abstracts.
- Invitations may be issued to speakers for Common Sessions and Semi-plenary Sessions to replace speakers who will not be able to attend the Forum.
- Program Coordinators should encourage presenters to pay registration fees before November 15th, 2020 in order to have more clarity about sessions' programs.

12 November 2020: Deadline for new abstract submissions

13 – 17 November 2020: Selection of the new abstracts by Session Organizers and Program Coordinators
18 – 22 November 2020: Program Coordinators re-arrange sessions based on the selected abstracts.

24 November 2020: Authors and co-authors are notified about the acceptance or rejection of their abstracts

15 December 2020: Presenters final registration deadline
Early registration fees will apply.
Confex sends out the last reminder to register. Presenters who have failed to register will be automatically deleted from the program.

18 December 2020 - 8 January 2021: Final modifications
- Session Organizers modify sessions based on withdrawal of non-registered presenters.
- Chairs and discussants are assigned from among the registered participants.
- Program Coordinators complete sessions' schedule according to the conference timetable.

In case the type of an individual's presentation is changed, or if a presentation is transferred to a different session, Confex will send notifications to authors with final session and presentation details after December 15th, 2020.

27 January 2021: Online program published