Editorial

Now it is time to start preparing for the next World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama in July 2014! In this issue you will find the first Call for Papers for all history of sociology sessions. Our research committee has been allocated 18 session slots this time, and in addition the ISA has approved one of our integrative session proposals. Altogether this means that we will be able to offer a mixture of different types of sessions – from regular paper presentation and joint sessions to author meets critics and panel sessions.

The 19 sessions cover themes such as "History of Japanese Sociology", "The books that made sociology", "Failed Sociologists" and "General Session", meaning that there should be lots of interesting stuff for everyone! So, please read the list of sessions carefully, start thinking about your own potential contribution and note already by now in your calendar the deadline for abstract submissions: 30 September 2013!

Besides the information about the Yokohama Congress, this issue also contains, as usual, a "Recent publication"-section and a presidential message from Peter Baehr, the latter including some really positive news...

Also as usual, enclosed with this Newsletter issue you will find an updated membership list. Please observe that some of you need to renew your memberships. The next issue of the Newsletter will be distributed in November 2013. Any contributions are as always more than welcome!

May 2013
President’s Message
by Peter Baehr

Dear Colleagues

The current May Newsletter is discernibly shorter than its November predecessor. Then, inter alia, we had much to report about the past summer’s successful Dublin Conference. And we were also providing session information to help members prepare for the Yokohama Congress in Japan next year. Please remember that Per Wisselgren and I welcome features you send us about your work, about forthcoming workshops and conferences, and about anything relevant that touches on the history of sociology.

One bit of news I think will interest you. In early 2014, a new journal will be launched with a strong connection to our RC. It is called *Serendipities -- Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences*. While a number of us have played small roles in its genesis, the prime mover and creative powerhouse behind the enterprise is Christian Fleck of the Institut für Soziologie der Universität Graz, and a past President of our RC. *Serendipities* is a new interdisciplinary journal published as an open access, peer reviewed, online only periodical. It is devoted to sociological and historical studies of the social sciences in their broadest meaning. While its title pays homage to Robert K. Merton and his insistence that the development of any scholarly activity is influenced by unanticipated and anomalous instances, the journal does not expect contributors to follow a narrowly defined program. Rather it seeks to encourage the use of a variety of concepts, methodologies and theories to study the trajectories of the social sciences. The pertinent time span ranges from the pre-history of the several disciplines, through to the period of their formation and their consolidation (or their decline).

Papers are welcome from any theoretical or methodological perspective that covers any of these periods. Case studies or investigations of longer lasting developments, papers focusing on a single scholar or on groups, schools, and research trends are equally appreciated by the journal so long as they conclude with more or less generalizing insights. Purely descriptive studies are not disallowed, but the emphasis of the journal is on the presentation of findings in a way that makes them applicable to other cases, periods, disciplines, and fields. Papers that translate concepts and insights from research fields (sociology of science, criminology, stratification etc.), social studies of sciences, or philosophy and history of sciences into the sociology and history of the social sciences are also relevant to *Serendipities’* remit.

An unusual feature of the journal is its acceptance of submissions in English, French, German, and Spanish for reviewing. Authors whose articles are accepted will then be asked to provide an English version for publication. Stylistic and orthographic copy-editing will be provided. And *Serendipities* will publish three kinds of texts. Articles will appear whenever one is ready. The book review section will cover new publications from and in any language, and function both as a forum for critical evaluation of new books and as a platform for those who are not able to read them in their original. A third part will be an archive section where items from the past are made visible to the scientific community, e.g. letters, unpublished manuscripts, administrative documents etc., together with short commentaries on the significance of the documents.

Some of the topics that the editors hope to see covered in *Serendipities* are the development of methodologies and research techniques, the institutionalization processes...
of disciplines and research directions, the “traveling of ideas” from one scholarly culture to another, the role of funding agencies, and the relation among the social sciences, the state, and social movements. Finally, the interaction of social science with publics and different kind of clients is a matter of great interest to the journal.

I think you’ll agree that this is an exciting prospect. If you would like more information about the journal and its editorial board, do contact Christian at christian.fleck@uni-graz.at

Have a terrific summer.

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For more detailed presentations of the individual members of the board, please see the November 2010 issue of the RCHS Newsletter.
Call for Papers

Please find below the final list of accepted RCHS sessions for the forthcoming World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan. The list include fourteen regular paper presentation sessions, one joint session (in collaboration with WG02: Historical and Comparative Sociology), one author meets critics session, one panel session and one integrative session (in collaboration with WG02 and RC35: Conceptual and Terminological Analysis), plus one session for our business meeting.

Paper proposals are welcome for the fourteen regular sessions and the joint session. Please observe that all proposals/abstracts must be submitted via the online abstract submission system. The system will be open from 3 June until 30 September 2013. (More info about the deadlines below.) The sessions below are listed according to type of session and in the order they were proposed:

Regular paper presentation sessions

1. History of Japanese sociology (Session organizer: Kiyomitsu Yui, Kobe University, JAPAN: yui@lit.kobe-u.ac.jp)

This session welcomes paper proposals on any aspects of the history of sociology in Japan.

2. Cold war social science (Session organizer: Christian Dayé, University of Graz, AUSTRIA: ch.daye@uni-graz.at)

The recent years have seen an increasing interest in the role social scientists and social scientific knowledge played in shaping political strategies during the Cold War. Especially in the U.S., but also in Western Europe and in other countries, social scientists came in close relation to decision-makers in military and government agencies. This was, at least for some observers, a historically new situation for the social sciences. As C. Wright Mills put it in *The Sociological Imagination*, social
scientists have "[f]or the first time in the history of their disciplines ... come into professional relationship with private and public powers well above the level of the welfare agency and the county agent." In Mills' view, this resulted in a profound change in the orientation and the societal position of social sciences: "Their positions change – from the academic to the bureaucratic; their publics change – from movements of reformers to circles of decision-makers; and their problems change – from those of their own choice to those of their clients."

However tendentious and simplifying Mills' perspective upon the history of social sciences is, it opens up several potential potential lines of inquiry for historians of sociology. Papers in this session can explore the relations between the social sciences and the Cold War in many ways: (1) they can investigate the latter's influence on the cognitive character of contemporary social science; (2) they can explore institutional and organizational innovations (e.g. think tanks) supposed to mediate between social science and politics; (3) they can deal with the supposed consequences of social scientific theories or empirical findings on foreign policy; (4) they can explore how the relationship of national sociologies was altered by events of the Cold War; or point in any other way to the change brought about to the intellectual trajectory of social sciences by the new situation Mills alluded to.

3. Ordinary sociologists (Session organizer: Jennifer Platt, University of Sussex, UNITED KINGDOM: j.platt@sussex.ac.uk)

Most biographical work in the history of sociology is on exceptional sociologists. They are very interesting, but can we as sociologists really understand their careers without knowing more about their social contexts? And can we really understand the social production of sociology without knowing how the rank and file used to do it? This session invites papers - about individuals, departments, cohorts, or the discipline in a whole country - who have not been prominent or exceptional. Their 'ordinariness' could be defined on the basis of preliminary data (rising only as far as the median academic rank? publishing a number of books or articles around the average, and receiving an average number of citations to them? holding a post at a typical institution?), or could be attributed more impressionistically. Descriptive issues to be addressed could be what were their opportunities (class background, historical period, educational institutions, sponsorship, region, voluntary or forced movement between countries)? What were their family circumstances? What was the academic hierarchy, and what ranks did they rise to at what career stages? What social status did academic sociologists have at the time? What, if anything, have they published? What associations did they belong to? Did they participate in local politics or charitable activity? Was their intellectual energy mainly directed to teaching?

4. Sociological trajectories from the global south and peripheral countries (Session organizers: Fran Collyer, University of Sydney, AUSTRALIA & João Marcelo Ehlert Maia, Fundação Getúlio Vargas, BRAZIL: fran.collyer@sydney.edu.au)

The history of sociology as we know it has been mainly a Northern enterprise. Textbooks and mainstream accounts tend to focus on sociologists and theories from Europe or North America, leaving aside the contributions from other regions of the world. This session will thus include papers from, and about, sociology as it has been, and is currently practiced in countries from the Global South and the world periphery. Papers may interrogate concepts such as post-colonialism, imperialism, modernisation or globalisation, or may be empirical, focusing on the impact of these, or related, social dynamics. We particularly welcome papers which adopt a comparative or
transnational perspective, focusing on biographies, intellectual traditions, discourses and institutions.

5. Transnational organisations in the history of the social sciences (Session organizers: Per Wisselgren, Umeå University, SWEDEN & Jennifer Platt, University of Sussex, UNITED KINGDOM: per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se)

Studies on the history of sociology have often used the nation-state as a taken for granted framework. There are many good reasons for this. But most social research is at the same time, as Heilbronn, Guilhot and Jeanpierre (2008) have argued, embedded also in transnational relations of various kinds. This session pays special attention to transnational organisations in the history of sociology and related social science disciplines. Today a few studies are available on e.g. the International Sociological Association and the International Social Science Council (Platt 1998, 2002). But there are several other organisations that have either been transnational in character or had explicitly international aims. These include the Institut International de Sociologie (IIS), UNESCO and its branches, the Asociación Latinoamericana de Sociología (ALAS), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), the Asia Pacific Sociological Association (APSA), the European Sociological Association (ESA), the European Union, and many more. Paper proposals dealing with any of such organisations, or related transnational and organisational questions in the history of social sciences are welcome. The possibility of a publication based on the session will be explored.

6. Translations (Session organizer: Andreas Hess, University College Dublin, IRELAND: a.hess@ucd.ie)

Almost anywhere around the world a closer look into any sociology course outline or any sociology bibliography will reveal the many book titles that have been translated from another language. The history of sociology would almost be unthinkable without translation. However, translation is not just a mechanical exercise about the compatibility and appropriateness of words and sentences but also about meaning and context. This session will address the complications that usually arise when meaning and context of the original text differ from the context in which the text is read. This session will include case studies of sociological translation(s) and perception(s) outside the original context(s); it will also look into the issue of cultural peculiarities, neglect or ignorance, non-translation, misperceptions and cultural misunderstandings.

7. The history of ideas of transformation processes (Session organizers: Sven Eliaeson, Uppsala University, SWEDEN & Larissa Titarenko, Belarus State University, BELARUS: sven.eliaeson@ucrs.uu.se)

There are a number of works that stick out. Unthinking Talcott Parsons is difficult; up-dating Parsons a natural theme. There are many stages-theories, only to mention W W Rostow and Stein Rokkan. Rokkan might have the Northwest-European experience in focus but his stages have high relevance for any comparison. Four-stages-theories from Scottish Enlightenment are early examples of transformation theorizing, and same goes for Karl Marx and Max Weber. Samuel Pufendorf as an early bird and forerunner for later studies on civil society could also be mentioned, and Karl Polanyi’s Great transformation could also be listed as examples; same for
Francis Fukuyama, Norbert Elias, Gunnar Myrdal and Joseph Schumpeter, etc. Transformations East of the Elbe after die Wende are naturally important fields of application, addressing such issues as why development to rule of law and democratic civic culture fails in Russia, succeeds in Estonia, and sort of in between in Poland. The different roads to Modernity are path-dependent.

8. Geopolitical framing of social sciences (Session organizer: Albert Tzeng, International Institute for Asian Studies, Leiden, THE NETHERLANDS: p.w.tzeng@gmail.com)

Geopolitics shaped the history of social sciences in various ways. On the one hand, the scholar migration driven either by imperial expansion or by wars played a critical role in the dispersion of social scientific expertise; it also prone to cast an impact on the intellectual trajectories of those displaced scholars. On the other hand, the emerging interests and concerns in the changing geopolitical context are often channelled to the setting of scholarly agenda by either state authorities or private funding bodies. The earlier development of colonial scholarship; the various scholarly impacts brought by World Wars; the Cold War investment by the United States in exporting social sciences abroad and developing “area studies” at home, were just some examples. This panel invites papers that explores, and critically reflects upon, the geopolitical framing of social sciences and its legacies.

9. History of empirical social research and statistics (Session organizer: Irmela Gorges, Freie Universität, Berlin, GERMANY: I.Gorges@gmx.de)

The session wants to attract papers that deal with the emergence or development of methods of empirical social research and/or statistics in any country. All forms of analyses are welcome, case studies, longitudinal studies etc. The analysis should be, if possible, embedded in the historical context of the respective country.

10. Circulation of social science knowledge – the influence of textual and contextual elements (Session organizers: Wiebke Keim, Veronika Wöhrer, Ercüment Çelik, & Christian Ersche, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, GERMANY: Wiebke.Keim@soziologie.uni-freiburg.de)

Studies of circulation of knowledge and ideas have increased steadily over the past years – the current state of the literature on the theme is extremely rich, but also disparate. This session intends to focus on historical studies on the circulation of social science knowledge. While there is a tendency in the literature to focus either on contextual factors, pointing to the situatedness of knowledge and the external conditioning of its circulation, or on an exclusively text-based interpretation of circulating ideas beyond their context, we encourage contributions that attempt to link the two perspectives, i.e. text and context, in innovative ways. We particularly welcome contributions that conceptualize particular problems around the international circulation of knowledge between places that enjoy differential status and recognition within the international scholarly communities (i.e., across a “centre-periphery-divide”). Systematic, in-depth and empirically grounded research that allows to critically question critiques of parochialism, provincialism, localism, Eurocentrism or particularism, i.e. critiques often voiced against social science knowledge that internationally circulates, especially across power and status differentials, are particularly welcome.
11. The books that made sociology (Session organizer: Filipe Carreira da Silva, University of Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM: fcs23@cam.ac.uk)

This session welcomes papers on the books that helped make sociology – the so-called “sociological classics”. Sociological classics such as Weber’s *The Protestant Ethic* or Durkheim’s *Division of Labour* have performed important functions over the years, which historians of sociology have been carefully documenting especially since the late 1980s debate on the “sociological canon”. Yet sociologists still know relatively little about the history of these books, let alone incorporate that knowledge in their teaching and research. A better understanding of this overlooked aspect of our heritage promises to destabilize entrenched yet deeply problematic understandings regarding the nature and scope of the sociological enterprise.

Research questions thus include: to what extent can sociological classics be seen as the mobile and material inscriptions of the different sociological traditions? In what ways can they be understood as active agents which assemble, shape and connect practices, and in doing so enact objects, constitute subjects, and inscribe relations, ontological boundaries and domains? What do we have to learn from tracing the geographies of these books, namely of their translations and re-editions? To what extent is the sociological canon – which books are included at any given point in time – a sort of an inverted utopia, i.e. a projection into the past of our future aspirations? Finally, to what extent does this historical re-examination of the sociological classics bring us a step closer to overcoming the dualism between history of theory and theory building?

12. The role of sociology in relation to other social sciences (Session organizer: Hedvig Ekerwald, Uppsala University, SWEDEN: hedvig.ekerwald@soc.uu.se)

What is the genealogy of the social sciences? Is there empirical support for a thesis of sociology within the social sciences being the subject most likely to correspond to physics within the natural sciences, a sort of mother discipline from which many of the other disciplines emanate? What counterarguments are there to such a thesis? What is the time order of the appearance of the disciplines on the social science field? What interdisciplinary relations form which mechanisms in the growth and expansion of the social sciences since the mid-19th century?

The questions are big and the answer consists of many small answers. Both theoretical, even speculative, and empirical contributions are welcome to this explorative session.

13. Failed sociologists and dead ends in the history of sociology (Session organizers: Christian Fleck, University of Graz, AUSTRIA & Eric Royal Lybeck, University of Cambridge, UNITED KINGDOM: christian.fleck@uni-graz.at)

The idea that the history of any scientific discipline follows the paths of linear progress by accumulating bits and pieces of research has been abandoned in recent decades. Progress is no longer an integrating idea about the emergence of disciplines. If this perspective, or mood, has any advantage for the writing of the history of sociology it should help raise new research questions. One of those new approaches in writing the history could be seen in the assumption that an analysis of cases of “dead ends” in the history of sociology might reveal something about the social and normative structures forming a discipline like sociology. Dead ends are seldom recognized by contemporaries; but how much time has to be elapse until a dead end is identified as such? Is there a consensus about what counts as a dead end or did sociologists quarrel about
what should be seen as a dead end and what not? Closely related to the explication of the meaning of dead ends is the question about the relationship between the occurrence of dead ends and those sociologists who acted as advocates of these approaches. Are particular types of sociologists prone to land in dead ends?

We welcome any paper which is more than just a description of a particular constellation of dead ends and discusses its case with regard to general patterns or potentials for generalizations.

14. General session on the history of sociology (Session organizer: Peter Baehr, Lingnan University, HONG KONG: pbaehr@ln.edu.hk)

This session welcomes paper proposals on any aspects of the history of sociology which are not covered by the other sessions.

Joint session (with WG02)

15. The emergence of sociology in an interdisciplinary context – nothing but success? (Session organizers: Wolfgang Knöbl, Universität Göttingen, GERMANY & Yutaka Koyama, Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, JAPAN: cymyt55@gmail.com)

Sociology as a discipline emerged in the late 19th and early 20th century when the so-called founding fathers of sociology such as Max Weber struggled with historical, economic, political and legal problems and in doing so nevertheless tried to establish sociology as an independent discipline. As we know, the institutionalization process of sociology turned out to be successful; sociology was able to emancipate itself from such disciplines as history, political economy, ‘Staatwissenschaft’ or jurisprudence. But this very success most probably had some costs as well which can be seen in the ongoing plea for more interdisciplinary cooperation: Thus, although it would be foolish to deny that historical sociology, economic sociology, political sociology or legal sociology as sociological sub-disciplines are still thriving today, the question should be allowed whether in the process of disciplinary institutionalization something has been lost as well.

In order to answer this question the organizers would like to ask members of the panel to look into the historical and national contexts of the emergence of sociology and how the interdisciplinary matrix at that time has shaped the (future) form of sociology. Questions as the following could be asked: Was it really the case that the sociological founding fathers were able to overcome the problems of historicism? Which problems and topics have been lost or have been forgotten when sociology in the end became firmly established within the (national) university system? Were there periods in the 20th century in which viable attempts can be detected to reintegrate the knowledge of neighbouring disciplines into sociology and – if so – who were the decisive actors and what were their motives in doing so?

Author meets their Critics (not open for abstract submission)

The book is a collective work that puts together articles from different Latin American researchers on the struggle for academic autonomy in the continent. The idea is to offer an opportunity to present a Southern perspective on a major theme of debate in our field, which is the so-called ‘public sociology’.

**Panel session (not open for abstract submission)**

17. The origins of modern and contemporary sociology (Session organizer: Shoji Ishitsuka, Tokyo University of Information Sciences, JAPAN: ishituka@rsch.tuis.ac.jp)

This panel session deals with the origins of modern and contemporary sociology. The panel consists of eight invited speakers from seven countries:

* Marcel Fournier from Canada will talk about Durkheim and Mauss;
* Shoji Ishitsuka from Japan about Simmel, Weber, and Lukács;
* Jeffrey C. Alexander from USA about the origins of cultural sociology in classical, modern, and contemporary sociology;
* Michel Wieviorka from France about Alain Touraine and social movements;
* Roberto Cipriani from Italy about precursors of the sociology of religion;
* Eliezer Ben-Rafael from Israel about S.N. Eisenstadt;
* Piotr Sztompka from Poland about Malinowski and Znaniecki;
* Federico D’Agostino from Italy about Pareto and Parsons.

In concluding this session we will set up a new space of investigation open to the sociological world as a thematization of the Origins of Modern and Contemporary Sociology giving to it a temporary synthesis from an open discussion.

**Business meeting**

18. RCHS Business Meeting

**Integrative session – approved by the ISA (not open for abstract submission)**

19. The global south and postcolonial perspectives in international sociology (Session coordinator: Raewyn Connell, University of Sydney, AUSTRALIA: raewyn.connell@sydney.edu.au)

The ISA is the bearer of a great prospect for sociology: becoming a genuinely international field of knowledge. A powerful contemporary change is the emergence of postcolonial and southern perspectives. Sociology's history is being re-thought; the economy of knowledge centred on Europe and North America is being analyzed; more complex international flows of ideas are being traced.

“Postcolonial sociology” is not a new specialization: it is a shift that affects all fields of sociology. Postcolonial perspectives are currently being explored in sociological theory, the sociologies of disability, education, gender and modernization, the history of sociology, and more.
This session responds to this moment in the ISA’s history, providing a forum to link postcolonial perspectives emerging in different areas of the ISA’s work. The session will allow researchers to compare changes in their own fields, and discuss the implications for world sociology.

Speakers will be asked to respond to a set of questions posed by the participating ISA units. Through the contact persons, units will be asked to propose issues about postcolonial and southern perspectives for discussion at the session. These will be redacted by the contact persons and the coordinator, and given (well in advance) to the speakers.

The session is intended to be interactive. The Chairperson will pose questions to the speakers, based on the agreed agenda, and invite debate as well as direct statements. In the second half of the session, contributions (time-limited) from the floor will be invited, involving exchange with speakers on the panel. At the end of the session, the speakers will offer short closing statements.

With this format, we cannot list ‘themes’ individually for speakers. Possible themes are: innovations within specific fields of sociology; postcolonial curricula for teaching sociology; new audiences across the majority world; relations between sociology and indigenous knowledge.

Speakers:
Sujata Patel, University of Hyderabad, INDIA  
Gurminder K. Bhamra, University of Warwick, UNITED KINGDOM  
Manuela Boatca, Freie Universität Berlin, GERMANY

Participating Units:
1) RC08: History of Sociology, Per Wisselgren, Per.Wisselgren@soc.umu.se  
2) RC35: Conceptual and Terminological Analysis, David Strecker, David.Strecker@uni-jena.de  
3) WG02: Historical and Comparative Sociology, Manuela Boatca, mboatca@zedat.fu-berlin.de

Deadlines

3 June 2013 Abstract submission. The on-line abstract submission system opens.

30 September 2013 Deadline for abstracts/paper proposals. Latest date for on-line submission of abstracts.

4 October – 24 November 2013 Abstracts selection: Session Organizers must complete selection of abstracts and provide a final presentation designation (oral, distributed, poster, round table). Session Organizers can move good quality abstracts unsuited for her/his session to the Program Coordinator for transfer to another session. Note: abstracts transfers should be done as early as possible so that abstracts may be transferred to other sessions.

30 November 2013 Distribution of notification letters. Session Organizer must send notification letters to:
1) Authors and co-authors of accepted abstracts;
2) Submitters whose abstract was rejected in this session but has been transferred to Program Coordinator for review and possible consideration in another session;
3) Authors of rejected abstracts.

A final presentation designation (oral, distributed, poster, round table) needs to be stated; this information can be modified later once registration check has been completed.


1 March 2014 **Submission of proposed ISA Grant Recipients.** Program Coordinator sends a list of selected individuals and amounts recommended to the ISA Secretariat (isa@isa-sociology.org) for verification and posting on the ISA website.

1 April 2014 **Registration deadline for presenters.** Confex prepares registrations matching with accepted presenters.

14 April – 1 May 2014 **Programme completion.** Session Organizer modifies sessions based on withdrawal of non-registered presenters. Chairs and discussants are assigned from among the registered participants. In case a type of individual’s presentation is changed, s/he sends a new notification. Program Coordinating Committee completes sessions schedule according to the conference timetable.

13-19 July 2014 **XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology,** Yokohama, Japan.

**Organization**

**RCHS Program Coordinator** Per Wisselgren is responsible for the practical organizing of the program, and for the communication with the ISA Secretariat, the Program Coordinating Committee and the Session Organizers.

**RCHS Program Coordinating Committee** – Peter Baehr, Kiyomitsu Yui, and Per Wisselgren – helps Session Organizers to decide on acceptance of abstracts and, if needed, to transfer abstracts between the sessions. The Committee also decides on the selection of ISA grants recipients, the final structure of the program, and any other principal matter that may arise during the preparations.

**Session Organizers** are responsible for all correspondence concerning her/his session. Session Organizers review and accept abstracts – if needed with the support of the Program Coordinating Committee. It is the Session Organizer’s responsibility to submit a correct session via the on-line system, and also to notify all abstract authors.
Guidelines for all presenters

Limited appearance on the Program
Individuals may be listed in no more than two sessions on the Program. This includes all types of participation – except being listed as Program Coordinator or Session Organizer who can organise a maximum of two sessions each. A “participant” is anyone listed as an author, co-author, plenary speaker, roundtable presenter, poster presenter, panelist, critic, discussant, session (co)chair, or any similar substantive role in the program. One cannot present a paper in the same session s/he is chairing.

RCHS and ISA membership
All presenters of papers in any session organised by the RCHS should be members of the RCHS. ISA does not require anyone to be a member in order to present a paper, and provides registration fees for members and non-members.

Registration payment
In order to be included in the program the participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay registration fees by 1 April 2014. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Program Book or in the Abstracts Book. In case of a co-authored paper, at least one author needs to pay the registration fee by the early registration deadline 1 April 2014 for her/his paper to be included in the program. Other co-authors must pay the registration fee if they wish to attend the conference.

Guidelines for session organizers

Organizers of invited sessions (author meets critics, panel and integrative sessions) will be requested to submit abstracts to their sessions between 3 June – 30 September 2013. Login details will be sent shortly from ISA/Confex.

Organizers of regular sessions (paper presentation and joint sessions) will have view only privileges between 3 June – 30 September 2013, and will receive login details from ISA/Confex on 3 June.

For more details about the conference format, the different types of sessions, the roles of program coordinators and session organizers, duties and deadlines, and rules for all presenters, please consult the Guidelines for Program Coordinators and Session Organizers available on the ISA Congress website: http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/guidelines-program-coordinators-and-session-organizers.htm
Recent publications

Below is a list of some recent publications by RCHS members. If you have a new publication related to the field, please let us know by sending a note to the Secretary! New members are especially encouraged to submit titles of new or fairly recent publications. Books, chapters and articles in any of the official ISA languages will be included as well as in other other languages (but with book descriptions preferably translated into any of the ISA languages).


After several decades in which it became a prime target for critique, universalism remains one of the most important issues in social and political thought. Daniel Chernilo reassesses social theory’s universalistic orientation and explains its origins in natural law theory, using an impressive array of classical and contemporary sources that include, among others, Habermas, Leo Strauss, Weber, Marx, Hegel, Rousseau and Hobbes. The Natural Law Foundations of Modern Social Theory challenges previous accounts of the rise of social theory, recovers a strong idea of humanity, and revisits conventional arguments on sociology’s relationship to modernity, the enlightenment and natural law. It reconnects social theory to its scientific and philosophical roots, its descriptive and normative tasks and its historical and systematic planes. Chernilo’s defense of universalism for contemporary social theory will surely engage students of sociology, political theory and moral philosophy alike.


How to become a member of the RCHS

Membership in the Research Committee on History of Sociology (RCHS) is open to all scholars who have demonstrated their interest in the area through teaching and/or research activities.

There are two forms of membership. Regular members are members of both the RCHS and the ISA. Affiliated members are members of the RCHS, but not of the ISA. For more info on the distinction, see the RCHS Statutes at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/rcs/rc08-statutes.pdf.

RCHS is a Research Committee of the International Sociological Association (ISA), so RCHS members are encouraged to become ISA members. If you would like to become a regular member you should fill in the electronic ISA membership registration form, which is available at https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm. The ISA website include several payment options, including credit card payments. Further details are available from the ISA website.

If you would like to become an affiliated member, you should pay your membership fees directly into the RCHS bank account and by additionally notifying the Secretary via e-mail (per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se) or via post: Per Wisselgren, Department of Sociology, Umeå University, SE-901 87 Umeå, SWEDEN. The basic RCHS subscription is US$30 for 4 years. For students, however, it is $15. The reduced rates also apply to members from non-OECD countries. You become a member as soon as your dues have been received by the Secretary. Please do NOT send cheques since extra charges apply. The RCHS bank account is located in Sweden. Banking details:

Name: ISA RCHS
Bank: Swedbank
BIC/Swift: SWEDSESS
IBAN: SE03 8000 0842 0292 3265 1928
(For payments within Sweden: Clearing number: 8420-2; Bank account number: 923 265 192-8)

For more info on the Research Committee on History of Sociology (RCHS), please visit our website at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc08.htm.

If you should have any queries regarding the membership or the RCHS, please do not hesitate to contact the Secretary Per Wisselgren at any time: per.wisselgren@soc.umu.se

Next RCHS Newsletter

The RCHS Newsletter is produced twice a year, usually in November and May. In addition to conference reports and information about upcoming events and meetings, it also includes lists of members and their addresses, information about new publications by members, news and notes about archives, book reviews, members’ work in progress, members’ moves and promotions, and obituaries. The purpose is to develop international contacts among scholars engaged in studying the history of sociology, to promote research in this field, and to encourage the international dissemination of such research.

Next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for November 2013.