

NEWSLETTER

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I. Introduction

In this edition of the RC03 newsletter we include the call for session proposals for the upcoming XVIII World Congress of Sociology which will be held in Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014.

We would like to thank those who participated in last year's Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires, Argentina. In particular the editors want to thank Debora Lacasa for acting as the RC03 liaison.

And finally, we want to send out our best New Year's wishes to everyone!

II. Call for Session Proposals – XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology

Deadline: March 15, 2013

In keeping with the themes of the XVIII World Congress of Sociology, RC03 invites session proposals focusing on the relationship between inequality and communities – political, economic, urban, rural, etc. – in an increasingly interdependent and globalizing world. We

encourage submission proposals to employ an interdisciplinary perspective. Joint Sessions with other Research Committees are also welcomed.

In formulating sessions proposals, consider addressing some of the following themes:

- Are new forms of inequality emerging in communities due to their interface with financial, commodity, cultural, migratory, and other global flows?
- Is it possible to speak about the emergence of global forms of inequality at the local level? Are these easily identifiable or do the particularities of place conceal the manifestation of these trends?
- Do transnational communities contain unique dynamics of inequality?
- Which research strategies are best able to capture the interface of community inequality dynamics in a globalizing world? Are new data sets required? Do researchers face specific challenges when conducting qualitative studies?

- What role do NGOs, multi-lateral institutions, and other global organizations play in reducing community inequalities?
- To what extent do global processes and formations augment or reduce existing community inequalities? Have novel strategies and mechanisms for confronting long-standing community inequalities emerged?
- To what degree can particular types of communities operate as incubators for developing innovative solutions to global challenges such as climate change and economic crises?

We encourage session proposals to consider these and other topics relating to inequality and globalization across a wide range of communities and their dynamics.

For questions regarding the above information or other matters pertaining to the 2014 World Congress of Sociology, please contact the Program Coordinators:

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III. Cultural Scenes Research Network

Culture and lifestyle are critical elements that explain social, economic, and political dynamics in local communities. This assertion is the central idea behind the Scenes Project which examines how culture - such as music, art, theatre, restaurants, and beaches - contributes to a community's vitality. The Scenes Project focuses on the foundational role of cultural amenity clusters, or Scenes, in community dynamics and evolution. These cultural amenity

clusters drive many aspects of communities such as growth, inequalities, urban policy, innovation, and economies. The Scenes Project thus constitutes a new way of understanding community life.

Researchers from a variety of countries are active in the Scenes Project. At the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology (Gothenburg, July, 2010) the central analytical framework and ongoing research were presented during the RC03 Business Meeting. Given the focus on the centrality of culture in explaining community dynamics, RC03 is pleased to support the Scenes' international research network and facilitate the interchange of ideas, data, and analyses on this subject matter. The network is coordinated by Terry N. Clark (University of Chicago, USA), Daniel Silver (University of Toronto, Canada), and Clemente J. Navarro (Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain).

The basic analytical elements of the Scenes approach and research conducted in different countries on amenity clusters have been published in several articles (for instance, Clark, T.N.; Silver, D. and Navarro, C.J.. 2010. 'Scenes', *Social Forces*, 88: 2293-2394), and monographs (see below).

Seoul/Tokyo/Chicago

Scenes Dynamics in Global Cities: Seoul, Tokyo, and Chicago. Wonho Jang, Terry Clark, Miree Byun. Seoul: Seoul Development Institute, 2011. 196 Pages.

https://dl.dropbox.com/u/5559963/Seoul%20Development%20Institute%20Report%202012.final_version.Revision1.doc.zip

Spain

Clemente J. Navarro, ed., *Las dimensiones culturales de la ciudad.* Madrid: Los libros de la catarata, 2012. 206 pp.

<http://www.catarata.org/libro/mostrar/id/765>

Paris

Stephen Sawyer, ed. *Une cartographie culturelle de Paris-Métropole*. Paris: Rapport à la Mairie de Paris, 2011. 149pp.
http://www.aup.edu/faculty/publications/Sawyer_CartographieCulturelle2011.pdf

Video on Paris Scenes, 25 min:

<http://joelukawski.wordpress.com/2010/12/17/paris-underground-exploring-urban-scenes/>

US/Canada Scenes book, November 2012 draft:

Daniel Aaron Silver and Terry Nichols Clark, *Scenes*. Authors' contract with University of Chicago Press. 2012. November 2012 draft:
https://www.dropbox.com/sh/22oa1c97rnphs/wd/aJBk_iX1n7

Volume on Chinese cities

Available in Mandarin from Di Wu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Di Wu diwu@gucas.ac.cn

For more information on the Scenes Project please visit:

<http://www.tnc-newsletter.blogspot.com/>

[scenes.uchicago.edu.](http://scenes.uchicago.edu)

<http://www.upo.es/cspl/scenes/>

beginning we met between the World Congresses on a more geographically limited basis, such as at the American Sociological Association (within which we founded a few years after RC03 the ASA Section on Community, currently Urban and Community). At the ISA World Congress in Mexico City in 1982, Harald Baldersheim suggested that some of us join in a common research enterprise. This led to the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, which continues actively. The Scenes Network extends these activities.

IV. Background on RC03

The RC03 was launched at the Evian World Congress in 1966. We were initially a Working Group under the Committee on Political Sociology of Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. In 1969 we became an autonomous Research Committee, with Terry Clark as President and Ken Newton as Secretary. World Congresses every four years joined larger sets of us from more countries, but from near the