

NEWSLETTER INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
September 20, 2011

Volume 43, No. 1

Editors: Rachel Harvey and Terry Nichols Clark

*President: Terry Nichols Clark, University of Chicago**Vice Presidents: Peter Jambrek, Universitat Ljubljana; Michael Illner, Academy of Sciences, Prague; Rachel Harvey, Columbia University**Secretary: Dan Chekki, University of Winnipeg**Delegate to Research Council: Clemente Navarro, Seville, Spain**Vice Delegates to Research Council: Dominique Joye, University of Lausanne; Ari Ylonen, University of Tampere**Current Research Officer: Susan Clarke, University of Colorado**Members of the Board: Peter Achterberg, University of Rotterdam, Netherlands; Harald Baldersheim, University of Bergen; Hans Geser, University of Zurich; Dele Olowu, University of Ife, Ife-Ife, Nigeria; Filipe Carreira da Silva, University of Lisbon, Portugal; Lynne Zucker, University of California Los Angeles***I. Introduction**

In this edition of the RC03 newsletter we include a call for abstracts for the upcoming Forum of Sociology which will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, August 1-4, 2012. In keeping with the themes of this second Forum organized by the International Sociological Association, RC03's sessions focus on social justice and democratization more generally, and particularly in relation to communities in an increasingly globalized world.

The newsletter also presents an overview of the main RC03 activity last year, the World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden. A huge thank you is due to all session organizers, chairs, presenters, and discussants for contributing to the great panels and dynamic discussions. Thank you as well to the conference organizing committee and support staff in Sweden for their hard work, technical support, and great facilities. In the ten sessions allotted to RC03 many issues were covered, from the impact of the Great Recession on

immigrants and their sending and receiving communities, to an assessment of the significance of cultural processes in civic and political participation.

While the newsletter contains summaries of some sessions, a few core themes stood out across all the panels. Several of the papers

tackled the issue of social capital and its relationship to civic and political participation. A diversity of mechanisms, such as local institutions and forms of social capital,

were identified as critical in the production of trust. Whether such trust was seen to facilitate democratic civic and political participation was subject to debate, and clearly varied with the qualities and characteristics of social networks and institutions. Complicating these discussions were new forms of engagement and the diversity of citizenship forms and practices.

The importance of cultural processes in various types of communities was a central theme as well. Presenters addressed how the spatial boundaries, conceptions, and social networks of communities were culturally

Upcoming Election Alert: Ballots will be distributed to RC03 members on October 15, 2011. Please return your ballots to by November 1, 2011. To make nominations, please email Terry Clark at tnclark@uchicago.edu by October 5, 2011.

constituted. The significance of community lifestyles and cultural processes in specifying how variables such as race and class operated, and the divergent historical legacies produced through such dynamic interaction, was explored.

All the panels also pointed to the diversity of community forms. One of the most striking examples came from those focusing on consumption, markets, culture, and community. Community dynamics were seen to play central roles in markets for leisure products and consumer groups. Presentations also illuminated how the distinction between consumers and producers was blurred in many markets, and explored non-territorial processes in consumer and brand communities.

The sessions in Sweden thus provided a forum for discussing and debating various issues related to the qualities of communities, civic engagement, political participation, and cultural processes in communities, and many more critical themes.

II. Call For Abstracts – Second ISA Forum of Sociology, August 1-4, 2012, Buenos Aires, Argentina

Deadline: December 15, 2011

Session A:

Deliberative democracy: An intercontinental perspective

Chair

Norbert KERSTING, University Münster, Germany, kersting@sun.ac.za

Voter apathy and cynicism is growing. But also “unconventional” participation is facing a crisis. New social movements often seem to become violent meaningless protest. Are there any alternatives to the “brick or ballot”? In this

workshop on the one hand new forms of “dialogical deliberative instruments” such as participatory budgeting etc. will be analyzed. Both democratic channels are seen as an innovation and addition for mainstream traditional democracies. Nowadays democratic innovation seems to be generated mostly in the global South. Brazil and other countries “export” participatory instruments into the old democracies in Europe and Northern America. Here implementation differs. The panel tries to describe best practices and new trends in deliberative dialogical democracy

Session B:

Local Welfare systems in Latin America

Session in Spanish

Chairs

María Jesús RODRÍGUEZ GARCÍA, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain, mjrodgar@upo.es
María Rosa HERRERA, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain, mrherrer@upo.es

There is no doubt about the central role of local governments locus of welfare provisions. This issue has been analyzed in the European context, as well as in North America. The analyses of these local Welfare systems show the importance of two main dimensions: substantive (content of policies), and procedural (institutional arrangements to provide services among different levels of governments). However, the role of local government as service provider regarding social inequalities, its relations with other institutions and the public-private relationships, is a new area of research in the Latin American context.

We propose to analyze and integrate both dimensions (substantive and procedural) to study local welfare systems in Latin American countries. The aims of this session will be to answer some questions related to the specific situation of local welfare systems in that region, for instance: Which is the role of local

governments in service provision? How to define and analyze the local welfare system in that region?; is the local sphere a favorable structure of opportunities to canalize citizen's welfare demands? The session welcome empirical and comparative contributions, as well as methodological proposals about this issue.

Session C:

Changing dynamics of institutions among the under-privileged communities in South Asia

Chair

Kasi ESWARAPPA, National Institute of Rural Development, kasieswar@gmail.com

South Asia is a hub of under-privileged communities and it is even more so in the case of India. This may be due to their geographical location and ecological situation. Despite their geographical limitations, under-privileged communities have managed their traditional institutions and functioning well even after so much pulls and pressures from globalization and other forces. By under-privileged communities, we mean, people belonging to tribes/indigenous people, ethnic communities, minorities, other vulnerable sections of the society. The institutions are social, political, cultural, economic, religious and otherwise. Sociology in India and south Asia specifically engaged itself to unravel the existing systems of thought which gives a way to understand the intricacies and problems involved. There is also strong argument among the section of the scholars that because of these traditional institutional structures, there is prevalence of inequality in their societies. There are numerous studies and research available related to these arguments across south Asia.

Despite the prevalence of modern forms of democratic institutions, these communities have managed traditional institutions with quotidian practices. Thus, there is necessity and intellectual vigour to notice changing dynamics

of institutions empirically; ethnographic accounts of these institutions would definitely strengthen our academic exercise. These institutional practices among the communities may be seen and properly represented in other parts of the world. Keeping these things in the fore, our panel is interested to seek and to probe the changing dynamics of institutions among these groups of south Asia in particular and other regions in general. Thus, we consider that the ISA Forum of Sociology is an academic platform which bring scholars to lay the foundations for epistemological and sociological engagement. It is our pleasure to invite the scholars, academicians, research scholars who are engaged their studies situating around the 'community' studies.

Session D:

Top- down and bottom-up approaches: Social policy, citizen involvement, and economic development in Argentina. What is the role of local governments in implementing public policy?

Session in Spanish

Chairs

Oscar MADOERY, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina, cedet@unsam.edu.ar
María Pía VALLARINO, Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Argentina,
mariapia.vallarino@unsam.edu.ar

Globalization and State reform in Latin America have resulted in more complex and visible citizen claims, which in turn has given rise to changes in how public policy is implemented. Central governments have begun to consider the sub-national level as a necessary realm to reach their goals, while local governments have had to face these new claims as well as those entailed by citizens. In this context, it is worth discussing whether each type of public policy implies being implemented in its own fashion, whether relationships among social actors involve specific dynamics in this link between

governments, and whether such governments are sensitive to the issues that each type of public policy intends to address. More specifically, the purpose of this session is to discuss what is the maneuvering room for local governments in public policy measures, often in dialogue with the national government, as regards social policy, citizen involvement, and economic development, while analyzing what type of capacities would lead to expanding such room. The session shall discuss some cases from Latin America.

Information regarding abstract submissions can be found at:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/rc.php?n=RC03>

Questions regarding RC03 sessions should be directed to:

Rachel Harvey. Columbia University
(rmh2148@columbia.edu).

Clemente J. Navarro. Universidad Pablo de Olavide (cnavyan@upo.es)

III. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session Summary: Migration, Communities, and Economic Crises

By Simone Buechler, University of Illinois, Chicago, and Stephanie Buechler, University of Arizona

The panel highlighted the myriad types of crises associated with migration. Presenters addressed how economic, environmental, cultural, and political crises affect migration. The papers included rural to urban, urban to urban, rural to rural, internal, and international migration in examinations of Mexico-U.S. migration, U.S.-Mexico migration, Brazil-U.S. migration, U.S.-Brazil migration, and migration within Canada. The presentations by Fitzgerald and Corbett illuminated why many choose not

to migrate and instead decided to stay put and weather out the economic crisis. Discussion afterwards focused on why the coping strategies of different communities varied. The studies found that in the context of increasing barriers to circular migration, perceived differences in the two economies (home and migration destination) matter. The paper by Simone Buechler stressed that Brazilians now perceive Brazil's economy to be stronger than the economy in the U.S. which is part of the reason that they are cutting their losses and returning to Brazil. As Stephanie Buechler relayed, in Sonora, Mexico, which is located near the U.S. border, circular migration has been more feasible even with stricter border controls. However, the U.S. construction industry (which is where the majority of male migrants worked) has been particularly hard hit by the economic crisis causing migrants to have to make difficult decisions that often entail bringing their family members back to Sonora. Sometimes, they have to search for work in Sonora in dangerous and meagerly remunerated local employment.

Panel Program

Simone Buechler, Chair, University of Illinois at Chicago, United States

Stephanie Buechler, Discussant, University of Arizona, United States

A Smaller World? Rural Survivalism Meets the Ecological Disaster Scenario

Michael Corbett, Acadia University, Canada

Migration in a Mexican Border Community in the Context of Economic Crisis and Environmental Dislocations

Stephanie Buechler, University of Arizona, United States

Migratory Stasis and the Economic Crisis: Evidence from a Bi-national Mexican Migrant Community

David Scott Fitzgerald, University of California,
San Diego, United States

*The Brazilian Immigrant Community in Newark,
New Jersey: Housekeeping, Construction and
Return Migration with the Global Economic
Crisis*

Simone Buechler, University of Illinois, Chicago,
United States

**IV. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session
Summary: Spanning Research Silos:
Integrating Multiple Perspective of the
Global City and its Communities**

*By Herman L. Boschken, San Jose State
University*

The panel session examined the many threads of research currently attempting to conceptualize and empirically define what is loosely called the “global city” or “world city.” Panelists from many perspectives were drawn together to present representative research on the subject. As presented in a paper by Timberlake (managing editor, *Urban Studies*), the global city seems to be conceived either as (1) a set of synergistic urban “attributes” exhibited internally but focused on globalization or as (2) powerful and central nodes in a “relational” global network of urban connectivity. Part of Boschken’s paper illustrated how one distinguishes global cities according to the first model. Beckfield and Alderson, on the other hand, demonstrated how the relational network perspective led to understanding command and control of the global economy through centrality in the inter-urban network.

The panel also attempted to examine some of the disproportional impacts attributable to such cities at the top of the urban hierarchy. Boschken’s paper, for example, provided empirical evidence of the impacts global cities have relative to less global cities on the coastal

environments in which they are found. To broaden the discussion further, two discussants added immensely to the panel’s content, especially Clark’s argument that the global-city research needed to be integrated more with the general urban literature, and Pain’s concern for functionality of cross-silo management styles (i.e., competitive vs. cooperative) in global city policymaking. The conceptual energies and excitement were heightened by the panel adopting a “roundtable” approach which encouraged much audience participation. In the end, a great degree of satisfaction was expressed by panelists and audience members alike. There was general agreement that the topic warranted further discussion. Pain, for example, said, “it would be just great to have an extended time to discuss our work on another occasion.”

Panel Program

Herman L. Boschken, Chair, San Jose State
University, United States

Terry N. Clark, Discussant, University of Chicago,
United States

Kathy Pain, Discussant, University of Reading,
United Kingdom

Cities in Global Systems

Jason Beckfield, Harvard University, United
States

Arthur S. Alderson, Indiana University, United
States

Jessica Sprague-Jones, Indiana University,
United States

The Kaleidoscoping World Cities Networks

Michael Timberlake, University of Utah, United
States

*Global Cities are Coastal Cities: Implications for
Environmental Policymaking*

Herman L. Boschken, San Jose State University,
United States

**V. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session
Summary: Political and Civic Participation,
Democracy, and Citizenship Beliefs**

By Hilde Coffé, Utrecht University

A participatory public is seen as crucial for the well-functioning of democracy and has been a central topic in social science scholarship. Within the session, we had some fruitful discussions about great difference in forms of engagement across a diverse range of countries. An added dimension of complexity was that the studies employed different methodologies, including experiments and survey data analyses. Studies focusing on Eastern Europe revealed the varied types of participation. It was shown that Polish civil society suffers from a lack of a participatory public which was mainly ascribed to the economic situation and the historical communist regime. Yet, within Lithuania, the development of a group of so-called *monitorial citizens*, characterized by some political interest, high level of internal political efficacy, certain degree of political activity, and participation outside the realm of institutionalized politics, was found. Other research focused on the concepts of *stealth* and *dissatisfied* democrats which are both disaffected from politics, but which are very different from one another, with the first group being more likely to be of lower socio-economic status, less educated, more inactive, with little interest in politics, who are absorbed largely by private concerns, and only consent to participate in order to keep untrustworthy elites in check, and the second group more likely to be middle class, educated, active and articulate devotees of a vision of highly engaged citizens. Evidence was shown that both groups are present and can be distinguished in UK society. Yet, in contrast to what would be expected, both groups could not be distinguished clearly in terms of attitudes towards deliberative and parliamentary decision-making processes. A final paper

described the presence of Republican citizenship in Turkey.

To conclude, I believe it was an interesting session which showed that we have to move beyond more traditional types of participation and concepts of citizenship and consider the use of different methodological approaches if we want to get a fuller understanding of democracy.

Panel Program

Hilde Coffé, Chair, Utrecht University,
Netherlands

Harald Baldersheim, Discussant, University of
Bergen

*The Problem with Polish Civil Society – Why
doesn't it work right?*

Anna Szklarska, University Cracow, Poland

*Deliberative versus Parliamentary Democracy in
the United Kingdom: An Experimental Study*

Paul Webb, University of Sussex, United
Kingdom

Tim Bale, University of Sussex, United Kingdom

Paul Taggart, University of Sussex, United
Kingdom

The Practice of Citizenship in Turkey

Kurtulus Cengiz, Abant Izzet Baysal University,
Turkey

*The Search of Postmodern Citizenship in
Lithuania: Does Monitorial Citizen Exist?*

Jūratė Imbrasaitė, Vytautas Magnus University,
Lithuania

**VI. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session
Summary: Was Tocqueville Wrong? New
Challenges to Social Capital, Civic
Engagement, and Politics**

By Filipe Carreira da Silva, University of Lisbon

The session revolved around theoretical and empirical challenges to the Tocqueville-Putnam model of civic participation. In the first paper, Terry N. Clark, Susana Cabaço, and I made three claims that can be read as criticisms of this neo-Tocquevillian model of participation. First, a crucial shift in the political and economic structure of contemporary societies has been ignored – the rise of culture. Second, contemporary societies operate with a more comprehensive conception of democratic politics. Third, they distinguish multiple norms of citizenship, exploring the associated political repertoires. The paper's major finding was that the civic benefits of membership in cultural organizations vary consistently according to context. Paulina Sekula made use of the Polish case to critically re-examine the neo-Tocquevillian conception of civic participation. Resorting to both international surveys and national studies on civic engagement in Poland, she showed that elite-challenging activities, such as petitions, demonstrations, boycotts, and strikes, are still very much a part of the political repertoires of Poles today. The last two papers further extended this line of critical inquiry. René Millán (Autonomous National University of Mexico) discussed the results of a survey in three Mexican cities. His findings suggest 1) there is no significant correlation between the components of social capital (trust, reciprocity and voluntary associations) in those settings and 2) the impact of different forms of participation (parties, civic associations, NGOs, neighborhood organisms, social movements, clubs) on the formation of social capital and in the formation of collaborative culture to solve common problem varies according to the different institutional contexts and the traditional cultures of organizations. Dan Ferrand-Bechmann

presented two research projects. The first focused on underprivileged individuals living in poor housing conditions, while the second was concerned with cancer survivors who are currently acting as volunteers. Using these cases to revisit Tocqueville and new forms of citizenship, Dan Ferrand-Bechmann suggested more attention needs to be placed on the background experience of civic participants. In the case of cancer survivors, the experience led to a greater salience of self-help forms of participation, whereas in the housing voluntary associations, the volunteers and paid staff were engaged in a classical relationship of support between people having normal lodging and deprived families in need.

Panel Program

Filipe Carreira da Silva, Chair, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Dominique Joye, Discussant, Universite de Lausanne, Switzerland

The Rise of Culture: How and Why Arts Participation Promotes Democratic Politics
Terry N. Clark, University of Chicago, United States

Filipe Carreira da Silva, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Susana Cabaço, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Unconventional Public Participation in Post-Communist Poland: Its Determinants and Blockades

Paulina Sekula, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Civic Engagement and Diverse Participation Forms: Testing Putnam's Model

René Millán, Autonomous National University of Mexico, Mexico

Some Hypothesis on Sociology of Volunteers in Cancer, A French Perspective

Philippe Amiel, Gustave Roussy Cancerology Institute, France

Lionel Pourtau, Gustave Roussy Cancerology Institute, France
Dan Ferrand-Bechmann, Université de Paris 8, France

VII. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session Summary: Urban Communities and Citizen Action in an Age of Democratic Distrust

By Stephen Sawyer, American University of Paris

Unprecedented levels of abstention, crises in citizen confidence, and low levels of associative activity have all contributed, it has been argued, to a general malaise in contemporary democracy. How are we to understand the drastic shifts that seem to be taking place in citizen activity as old civic communities appear to be declining?

The panel sought to turn this common critique on its head by asking: while the changes in our present democratic culture are profound, do they represent a paradise lost or do we simply lack the necessary tools for understanding recent shifts in citizen communities and democratic legitimacy that, once understood, might actually strengthen new citizen demands? Our aim then was to explore the extent to which what appears to be a crisis in citizen efficacy may in fact be the result of asking the wrong kinds of questions. The papers presented attested to the idea that the nature of citizen efficacy and activism has fundamentally changed and suggested that we are missing the necessary tools and global theoretical frameworks to integrate these new practices into the field of community politics. The fundamental problem then is that of institutionalizing new forms of citizen mistrust that may in many cases actually place greater demands on their local officials than previous types of civic action.

The panel began with Paweł Starosta's presentation. He argued that participation is

lower among rural populations than urban populations. The paper looked at various forms of civic participation by community type using the European Social Survey and confirmed that participation was lower in rural areas due to their economic status.

This paper in the context of our panel led to a key question: would it be possible to divide the forms of participation in rural areas into two types—those delegating trust (membership, vote, contacting politics, working party) and those which mobilize distrust (protest, nimby, boycott). Based on Starosta's argument it appeared that the rural would be higher in the latter group. What conclusions might one draw about rural politics from such a hypothesis and how might it be further studies?

Building on this discussion, three key themes emerged out of the papers presented during the panel:

1) The temporality of contemporary citizen action. While the Tocquevillian paradigm has emphasized the regularity and steady frequency of local political engagement, the new citizen of distrust would seem to be driven by punctual and varied levels of short-term engagement. In general, the local citizen would seem to resist long-term instantiation of political ideals or practices in favor of occasional responses, which are more or less planned in advance.

Here, the paper of Melissa Edwards touched upon one of the areas that would seem particularly susceptible to the politics of distrust – environmental issues. She explained that she had originally intended to use the more traditional notion of social capital to understand grassroots movements. However, social capital proved to be too static and didn't actually help to explain what she was finding on the ground. In the realm of sustainable development, there was no agreement from beginning to end. It was a spontaneous movement that combined environmental and social justice – two themes

that are normally seen as contradictory and in opposition to each other.

This activism took place in a general context of distrust. Many people were reluctant to participate in any regular way. While bird watchers, for example, didn't want to be involved in direct action, they wanted to be a part of a coalition. Because there was agreement around the issue but not around the method to be used, there was the formulation of an identity claim—Creating a Brand for their movement in the form of mouse pads for example. They also shifted scales, going to the federal level and crossing party structures. The essential mechanisms of this form of activism were decentered control, dispersed leadership, diffuse identity, and informal communication. Echoing the discussion on Polish rural communities, Edwards emphasized that her case focused on a regional city not a full urban environment.

2) A second general theme, which emerged focused on mobilization in the name of individual or particular identities as opposed to larger collective ideas or principles.

María Jesús Rodríguez focused on decentralization (local government) and associations (activism), arguing that they are increasing in the realm of women's activism. She thus emphasized the role of women's identities in local activism.

In his paper, Damien Vanneste, specifically addressed the problem of urban policies that institutionalize trust and distrust. Using three case studies he approached the question of how localism played a structural role in political engagement. In particular he addressed the problem of how to undermine clientelism without uprooting locally implanted politicians. In particular, he focused on the question of how to combine two forms of legitimacy: proximity and impartiality. He argued that the complexity of localism lies in the fact that in each case localism functioned on different scales. There

were three forms: 1) clientelist: opacity of the political space is operative; 2) rules of governance: concentration of power is problematic; 3) participative logic: personalization of the political space.

In our discussion of his paper, we explored the extent to which there may be two types of legitimacy in the deployment of a localist discourse. There is a **procedural** legitimacy and a **substantial** legitimacy. In other words, in a context of mistrust the question is whether the local serves to legitimate political actions because it takes place among a small group of actors or is it because the issues being discussed are of a local nature.

3) Thirdly, citizens increasingly act as if they were trying to tie contemporary governmental structures in knots as they attempt to play different levels of government against one another. Instead of seeking the proper scale of governance to fuel political action on the ground, political action is inserted between various levels of authority to prevent and impede effective action.

Ngai-ming Yip and Ying Wu's paper touched on these questions through a discussion of homeowners' resistance in China. They focused on proactive claims beyond material rights and neighborhood activism. While local residents were forced to create traditional homeowners' associations, there were still increasing forms of resistance; forms of resistance which were very similar to those used by rural communities in other papers on the panel. In particular, they argued that these forms of activism played competing levels of government against one another.

The paper pointed out that these forms of activism generally contained: 1) A skeptical attitude toward existing rules; 2) Sought a wide and varied legitimacy; and 3) Claims were not closely related to immediate interests. Most of the neighborhoods were very new (developed since 2001) and the issues focused on material

interests including a general disbelief in the possibility of making laws work for them. As a result, there were also attempts at more eye-catching forms of resistance such as branding. This raises the question of to what extent this form of activism is taking place through the construction of new identities. For example, what about consumer identities—is there a process of formulating political demands as consumers? And how do they relate to the various scales of local, regional and national government?

While a broad range of cases were treated in our panel, from China, to Europe, and back to Australia, a general coherence emerged from the papers and the discussion. Overall, they suggested that local political actors were active, but were increasingly participating in non-traditional ways. It was also clear that new tools and theories are necessary to understand what is driving this participation.

Panel Program

Stephen Sawyer, Chair and Discussant,
American University of Paris, France

*Propelling Community-driven Conservation
Strategies: Emergent Community Organizing*
Melissa Edwards

*Proactive Claims for Normative Rights – Beyond
Homeowners’ Resistance towards the
Infringement of Material Benefits*
Ngai-ming Yip and Ying Wu

*Patterns of Political Participation in Polish Rural
and Urban Communities*
Paweł Starosta, Lodz University, Poland

*Urban Policies and the Survival of Localism –
How Combining Personalized Political
Regulation and Democratic Goals?*
Damien Vanneste

VIII. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session Summary: Communities as ‘cultural scenes’: Exploring the impact of culture on community socio-political processes and local policies

By Clemente J. Navarro, Universidad Pablo de
Olavide, Spain

The main idea in this session was that culture is an increasingly critical factor in contemporary economic, political, and social change. In fact, the presentation by Marta Klekotko showed the role of local culture as resource for local development in Radzionkow (Upper Silesia, Poland). Community identity and local traditions fostered the kind of social *milieu* necessary to promote local community development initiatives. Trust, cooperative attitudes, and social capital were based on local history and its cultural expressions. These dynamics were managed by a Socio-Cultural Society formed by the community’s inhabitants. In contrast to the thesis of creative cities, where cultural diversity and heterogeneity are main factors promoting local development, this case showed the importance of traditionalism and community integration. Kletotko’s presentation illuminated how ‘big’ and ‘little’ communities play two different ‘cultural games’ when trying to revitalize their territories. The role of culture as local resource was something more than creativity, diversity, or innovation. Tradition could also play an important role.

The panel also focused on how local identity and integration were factors that generated political conflict between, and within, communities. This process was demonstrated in Kaisui Kumpulainen’s analysis of the relations between three village associations and municipality officials in Middle-Finland. Despite the level of community integration and service delivery made by village associations, they didn’t have a statutory governmental structure. This established a dependent relationship with municipalities and promoted a combative subjectivity – as the defendants of local

community and among village associations. Thus, the paper showed the conflict between the 'community as cultural identity' and the 'community as legal authority'. Culture mattered for local communities, although they needed governmental statute to be effective as a factor in local development and welfare.

The paper presented by *Johan Zaaiman* showed the role of culture in shaping community inequalities. In spite of national government encouragement and initiatives to promote city integration, segregation remained the main image of South African cities after 16 years of democracy. Using a middle size city as a case study (Potchefstroom), the paper showed the strategy developed by the majoritarian party to use segregation along cultural divisions to satisfy their economic and political interests. Thus, culture was not only a 'natural' factor of community division, but an instrument to perpetuate social and economic inequalities. It was an instrument for exercising power in the community.

In sum, the presentations showed that community research has to pay attention to culture as a factor articulating economic, social, and political dynamics in contemporary societies. However, as the presentations indicated, the role of culture, or different kinds of 'cultures' (creative, innovative or traditional), shifted according the community size, their formal recognition, or economic inequalities. Comparative analyses are thus needed to understand the role of culture in community processes.

Panel Program

Clemente J. Navarro, Chair, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain

Stephen Sawyer, Discussant, American University of Paris, France

Local Culture Matters: Exploring the Impact of Culture on Local Policy-Making. The Case of Radzionkow in Upper Silesia Region in Poland
Marta Klekotko

Local Power, Space, and Change
Johan Zaaiman

The Construction of Rural Community Subjectivity through the Subordinate Relationship to the Municipalities
Kaisui Kumpulainen, Jyväskylä University, Finland

IX. World Congress of Sociology, 2010, Session Summary: Scenes – An International Emerging Theme

Terry Nichols Clark, Coordinator

Presentations were by Daniel Silver, Clemente Navarro, Stephen Sawyer and Terry Clark. These were drafts of reports that are now available for downloading from:

<http://public.me.com/tnclark1> then go to: International Research/International Scenes Book.

More videos, draft papers, and general news stories about the Scenes project can be found at: www.tnc-newsletter.blogspot.com

[You Tube overview of Scenes ideas by TNC: 5 15 minute videos. Summer 2011:](http://www.youtube.com/user/tnclark1)
<http://www.youtube.com/user/tnclark1>

"Scenes: Social Context in an Age of Contingency." Daniel Silver, Terry Nichols Clark, and Clemente J. Navarro. *Social Forces*, July 2010, Vol. 88, No. 5, pp. 2293-2324.