



International Sociological Association
Research Committee on
Sociology of Education (RC04)

Newsletter

RC04 Sociology of Education

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From the Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Allow me to begin my first address in our newsletter by extending my warmest greetings to everybody. I wish all of you a fruitful term until the next World Congress. The membership of RC04 continues to remain at very good levels with over 190 members. Efforts will be made, however, to increase our membership and grow to over 200. Please note that those members whose membership expires on December are kindly requested to renew their ISA and RC04 membership as soon as possible. Very soon I will begin to send personal reminders to all members whose membership expires.

Since the last World Congress this past July, the RC04 board and other colleagues have begun to plan mid-term conferences in various locations around the world. We recognize that attending meetings that are far from one's home country may be difficult and costly, especially given the economic challenges that global sociology faces so the RC04 board encourages regional conferences. While several have been proposed, one is in a more advanced stage than the others. Please see information below.

The *Newsletter* continues the publication of ***Global Exchange***, intended to promote not only information exchanges, but also to facilitate collaboration among colleagues, especially collaboration that crosses national boundaries. Members are asked to submit 100-150 word synopses of their ongoing or planned research in which member in-put, idea exchanges, and actual research collaboration are encouraged. It is hoped that members will submit descriptions of their research projects to be included in future issues of the *Newsletter*. In this edition unfortunately not many contributions have been received. However, I encourage all RC04 members to make use of this channel of communication.

Marios Vryonides
Secretary, RC04
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From the President

Dear Colleagues,

I wrote to you two months ago to introduce the new RC04 board for 2010-2014 and our new secretary, Marios Vryonides. I wish to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as your president for the next four years. I especially want to thank our president for 2006-2010, Ari Antikainen, for his leadership and sage advice that helped our RC grow and prosper. He will continue his participation on the RC04 board as past president.

The new board and I have been discussing plans for the future. One of our goals is to continue to increase the size of the membership because the larger the membership of the Research Committee the more resources the International Sociological Association will allocate to the RC. We are currently among the larger RCs and are allocated the maximum number of sessions for the mid-term Forum and the World Congress. Additionally, we receive the maximum operational grant from ISA to carry on some of our activities and our membership is eligible to receive the most funds in travel grants for the Forum and World Congress. However, ISA has raised the size requirements for Research Committees. If we fail to grow beyond 200 members we shall no longer receive maximal benefits. I have asked each vice-president to serve as a regional membership chair and actively to seek out new members for RC04. Marios and I shall do the same. We are currently discussing how to implement our recruitment plans.

The current world economic situation, combined with the growing cost of attending conferences has led us to propose a mechanism to permit more RC04 members to attend at least one mid-term conference other than the Forum of Sociology that ISA first introduced in 2008. We discussed the advantages of scheduling several mid-term conferences that are located in different parts of the world. Our hope would be to hold a conference on each continent and thereby offer a balance between the Global South and North. Travel is expensive and if more regional conferences can be organized members of RC04 would be able to attend a conference in one's region without long and expensive air travel. To that extent I have encouraged the vice-presidents and others active in RC04 to explore offering a mid-term conference in their region. If the conference is linked to a regional or national sociological association, RC04 co-sponsorship would require that our membership pay the same registration fee members of the regional or national association pay, even if they are not members of those associations.

We have begun to discuss the creation of an RC04 journal. The board and I are examining the logistics of how such a journal could be developed and maintained. To this extent we shall be in contact with editors of web journals, RCs that have their own journal and, of course, the membership of RC04. The RC04 board welcomes your input in these matters.

It is my hope and that of the RC04 board that the next four years will be productive and exciting for our RC and that our growing membership continues to see RC04 as a beneficial element in their professional careers.

Best regards,
Gary Dworkin
President, RC04 (2010-2014)

Global Exchange

This is the sixth issue of the *Newsletter* column entitled **Global Exchange**. This initiative from the previous editor of the RC04 newsletter is indeed a very important one because as noted in the previous edition it “affords the membership the opportunity to describe one of their current or pending research projects and seek suggestions, ideas for future directions, as well as possible collaboration with other RC04 members.”

The abstracts of approximately 100-150 words and should be sent to the editor by e-mail for inclusion in future issues of the *Newsletter*. Please consider submitting a description of your project to the editor for inclusion in future issues of the *Newsletter*. It is hoped that RC04 members will contact the researchers whose projects are listed below with suggestions, commentary, and even offers to collaborate or share reports and publications. Submissions to **Global Exchange** should be sent to m.vryonides@euc.ac.cy

Presented is one report on a Current Sociology publication on and a new collaborative project:

Current Sociology Volume 58 Number 4 Monograph 2 July 2010

Education in a Globalized World

Editors: Stephen J. Ball, Anthony Dworkin and Marios Vryonides

This special edition of “Current Sociology” brings together sociologists who examine issues relating to current trends in education amidst influences from so-called neo-liberal ideologies in a globalised world. The papers focus on several key facets of the globalization of education. Ari Antikainen focuses on the Nordic social democratic model and discusses the transforming of the capitalist welfare state and education under influences from current ideologies of competitiveness and innovation. Dennis Beach explores the current global service economy and investigates the restructuring in the education and health service sector in Europe and more globally. Miranda Christou examines the emerging educational processes in an age of globalization (harmonization of educational systems, transnational testing, student mobility) and argues that they require new ways of interrogating the construction of difference and inequality. Hautsonen et al, examine how Finnish, Irish and Swedish teachers perceive reform initiatives in the field of education which they see as being influenced by the neo-liberal ideology. James et al examine school choice practices and processes in terms of orientations and motivations, and ethnicity and class. Finally Ira Papageorgiou adopts a ‘radical approach’ in her examination of the effects of globalization in the field of adult education.

Collaborative research project: «Children's voices: exploring interethnic violence in the school environment»

Partners

- University of Primorska, Science and Research Centre of Koper, Slovenia (Leader)
- European University Cyprus
- London South Bank University, UK
- Dipartimento di Scienze politiche e Sociali, Università degli studi di Trieste, Italy

The project aims to address the implementation of children's rights and specific problems of the under-researched topic of interethnic and intercultural violence in the school environment. The general objective is to analyze the nature and extent of violence-related phenomena in the school

environment that arise from xenophobic and racist sentiments and/or discriminatory practices. The conditions of interethnic and interracial relations among children and youth across EU states are highly heterogeneous and require a flexible approach, which is why findings of studies and everyday empirical evidences of interethnic violence in schools need to be constantly examined. The situation in this field is changing rapidly and it is becoming even more complex due to EU enlargement, globalization processes, and diversification of migration flows.

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***Report on the World Congress in Gothenburg,
Sweden, 11-17 July, 2010***

The World Congress was a great success for both the International Sociological Association and for RC04. ISA reported that 4,800 individuals attended the conference and RC04 was very well represented. There were over 200 papers accepted for the 20 RC04 sessions, the integrative session with RC45 (rational choice) and RC28 (social stratification) and the joint sessions with RC13 (leisure) and RC23 (science and technology).

While the World Congress was clearly a success, the cost of attending the conference was comparatively high and many members whose papers were accepted were unable to attend. In order to assist with the higher cost of a conference in Scandinavia, the RC04 board provided more travel grants to members than had been the case for the 2006 Durbin World Congress. ISA continued to offer travel and registration grants. Specifically, ISA awarded travel and registration grants to three RC04 members from currency B and C nations who had applied to the parent organization for support. RC04 provided our own travel grants to four additional RC04 members from currency B and C nations whose applications had not been selected by ISA.

Session organizers and chairs reported several no-shows, likely in part because of the high cost of the World Congress and economic conditions in the world today. Nevertheless, most sessions had a sufficient number of papers to fill the time slots completely. The largest percentage of no-shows occurred at the poster sessions and it may necessitate making changes in such sessions. Many universities and organizations will not reimburse individuals who participate in poster sessions, but will in more traditional paper sessions. Logistic problems further complicated the poster sessions. The posters were placed in a different building than where the authors were to present their posters. Because of this scheduling difficulty, RC04 offered to send electronic versions of the posters to the membership after the conference, along with a request that members provide feed-back to the authors. Three authors provided copies of their papers and posters and these were sent out to the entire RC04 membership in early September.

The RC04 board is concerned that attendance at some conferences has become too expensive for many members. As part of my presidential greeting I shall discuss a proposal to offer a series of regional, mid-term conferences in different parts of the world. This would permit more RC04 members to attend at least one mid-term conference without traveling great distances and incurring excessive expenses.

Gary Dworkin,
President of RC04 (2010-2014) and

Co-Program Organizer for RC04,
2010 World Congress of Sociology

New: Journal of Social Research and Policy

The online version of the first issue of the Journal of Social Research and Policy (JSRP) has been released. JSRP is a bi-annual journal published by a team of the Department of Sociology and Social Work of the University of Oradea and is guided by a prestigious International Advisory Board (<http://www.jsrp.ro>). As the journal's title is suggesting, the editorial board intends to host primarily scholarly papers relying on the results of applied researches or of empirical studies with clear applicability in public policies. Most of the articles included in this first issue answer the call launched at the beginning of 2010 which appealed for articles referring on 'Education and Life Chances'. The series of studies with relevance for educational policies is opened with an empirical analysis of the evolution of differences in opportunities for access to higher education between urban and rural youth in Romania in the post-war era (Bogdan Voicu and Marian Vasile). The rest of the studies from included in this thematic section deal with topics like: parents' involvement in their descendants' educational career (Claudiu Ivan), violence in Hungarian schools (Mariann Buda and Erika Szirmai), gender segregation in the schools located in the border regions of Hungary, Romania and Ukraine (Fenyves Hajnalka), migration of Romanian academics (Robert Reisz) and an analysis of the evolution mechanisms of quality assurance in the Romanian higher education (Ana-Maria Dima).

The journal contains several off-topic papers: evaluation of a program for the reduction of youth alcohol consumption in Kentucky (Ramona Stone and Sarah Hendrix), confidence building strategies in the French building industry (Catherine Comet), a theoretical and empirical inquiry into the relationship connecting subjective well-being with death penalty using mainly data from USA (Maarten Berg) as well as an analysis of the linkages between urban governance regimes and local welfare systems in Flemish municipalities (Bram Verschuere and Diederik Vancoppenolle). In addition, the journal published three book reviews and a research note.

For the next issue, which is going to be released in December 2010, the editors are proposing a topic which is at least as interesting: 'National, Regional and Global Identities: Trends and Intertwinings'. The editors are waiting the articles to be submitted until September 15 electronically to office@jsrp.ro. All submitted papers will be subjected to a rigorous double-blind peer review process. Before submitting articles, the authors are requested to refer to consult the editing norms which are published at <http://www.jsrp.ro/for-authors>.

Adrian Hatos, director

Activities & Calls

Networking—that's what ISA and the Research Committees (RC) are about. Globally, that means ISA meetings every four years where languages from every region of the world can be heard. Each RC has its own session at the international meetings, and many hold midterm meetings in cities around the world where members can share ideas and recent research. That creates opportunities for collaborations between departments, research centers, and individuals.

The integrative sessions at ISA provide links between Research Committees; in Sweden such a session was held between Sociology of Education, Stratification, and Theory/Rational Choice. The presenters did an excellent job of integrating these three interest areas, and conversations between participants continue.

RC 04—Sociology of Education—is planning several midterm conferences and we welcome anyone interested with open arms. The first planned conference will be held in Tampa, Florida, from January 13 to 15, 2012.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES:

RC04 CONFERENCE IN TAMPA, FLORIDA ON “EDUCATIONAL TRANSITIONS” (2012)

How do students transition from home to pre-school, from Kindergarten to primary school, from high school to work or university, and from university to professions? These questions have interested a number of scholars from around the world and raise further critical issues regarding the roles of governments and businesses on educational transitions. This conference continues the discussions begun at two sessions at the ISA meetings last summer in Sweden.

The conference will review the models of transitions in different societies; discuss problems such as gaps in the transitions; and propose policy considerations at the national and global levels in the school to work, school to school, vocational training, teachers in transition, and other topics related to transitions. Papers, panels, and policy discussions will be the format for the conference. Academics and policies makers are encouraged to join the discussion. We plan to include some policy makers from government(s), United Nations, and think tanks or NGOs who are concerned with these issues in education.

The conference will be held in January of 2012 in Tampa, Florida, from Friday afternoon, January 13, to Sunday, January 15, 2012, with an optional tour Friday morning. The conference will be located in a hotel near the Tampa airport for convenience, and is accessible to Tampa Bay, Orlando (Disney), and other tourist venues.

Costs are still being negotiated, but the conference hotel should be between \$150 and \$200 per room, per night. The conference costs will be kept as low as possible, but cover basic organizational costs, refreshments, and meeting rooms.

The area should be very appealing, especially in January for those from cold climates. Tampa is on the gulf water, and transportation into downtown Tampa is available. Disney World and other attractions are about one hour away. Some might want to combine the conference with a holiday.

A few more conferences are currently being planned in several parts of the globe. As soon as more details are available they will be forwarded to RC04 members

Miscellaneous

Book reviewers wanted

The International Journal of Contemporary Sociology is currently inviting members of RC04 who wish to review Sociology books to contact the book review editor Marios Vryonides M.Vryonides@euc.ac.cy in order to get a list of books for review.

Research Committee on Sociology of Education RC04

Established in 1971

■ Objectives

RC04 is an active group with annual or bi-annual meetings on sociology of education topics. Regular meetings are held at the World Congress of Sociology (every four years) and at the RC's Midterm Conferences (in-between world congresses); in addition, meetings on special topics are held.

■ Board 2006-2010

President: A. Gary Dworkin (USA) gdworkin@mail.uh.edu

Secretary: Marios Vryonides, M.Vryonides@euc.ac.cy

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Past-President: Ari Antikainen (Finland) ari.antikainen@joensuu.fi

■ Newsletter

An informative newsletter is mailed to members twice a year. It contains conference abstracts, research summaries and exchange, members' news, conference news, country reports, and the new feature, Global Exchange.

Editor: Marios Vryonides, M.Vryonides@euc.ac.cy

■ Membership

Dues: \$30 for a 4-year period; contact International Sociological Association for payments.

■ Website

<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/rc04.htm>