

# Futures Research Newsletter

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2007

**Research Committee 07**  
**International Sociological Association**



Daleshin

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## Editor's Note

Dear Colleagues:

This newsletter establishes channels of communication between us once again. Through it we can keep in touch and continue to be informed of the activities of our current members and of the upcoming Barcelona conference which involves RC07.

This issue of the Newsletter reports on the presentations at the sessions organised under the auspices of the Committee at the 2006 ISA 'World Congress of Sociology' in Durban, South Africa. It is to be hoped that the stimulating presentations of colleagues there will lead to further intellectual contact and research collaboration.

Markus Schulz and his team are currently hard at work planning ahead for the Barcelona conference in September, 2008. It will be an occasion affording an opportunity for us all to meet in person, renew our relationships and establish new ones, all before the next World Congress.

In future editions of the Newsletter, it is planned to regularly include thought-provoking articles and we would welcome submissions from members. Your creative feedback and suggestions are also invited!

Kind regards,  
Radhamany Sooryamoorthy

### **New Board Members of RC 07**

#### **President**

Markus Schulz, UIUC & NYU, USA ([markus.schulz@nyu.edu](mailto:markus.schulz@nyu.edu))

#### **Vice-President**

Jan P. Nederveen Pieterse, University of Illinois, USA

#### **Secretary**

Hiro Toyota, Miyazaki International University, Japan,  
[htoyota@yahoo.com](mailto:htoyota@yahoo.com)

#### **Board Members**

Mark Herkenrath, University of Zurich, Switzerland  
Kamlesh Mohan, Punjab University, India

#### **Past President**

Reimon Bachika, Bukkyo University, Kyoto, Japan

#### **Newsletter Editor**

Radhamany Sooryamoorthy, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa  
([sooryamoorthyr@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:sooryamoorthyr@ukzn.ac.za))

## **President's Column**

Dear Colleagues:

Our Research Committee on Futures Research (RC07) continues to tackle big issues of our times with intellectual courage and scholarly rigour. We had a very successful World Congress last year in Durban with participants from all around the world, and we can now look forward to another fascinating set of sessions next year at the First ISA World Forum of Sociology in Barcelona.

Our sessions in Durban dealt with conceptual issues of how to approach the future in theoretical model-building and a wide range of substantive issues, including culture, values, visions, religion, media, technology, and the roles social movements, elites, and civil society can play in shaping alternative futures and democratic development. Our special session on the relation between public sociology and the congress theme "quality of existence in a globalizing world" attracted an international panel of distinguished speakers and turned out to be a great success. The relation between public debate and social research will be further discussed as the ISA

has adopted it as its overall motto for the World Forum in Barcelona. A more detailed report on our activities is included in this newsletter.

It is a pleasure to present in this newsletter an exciting Call for Papers for the World Forum. We have assembled an array of sessions on topics such as new global trends, religious values and symbolism, transnational feminism, governmentality, and the social implications of next-generation architecture and design. In the past, each of the ISA's fifty-three Research Committees had held its own mid-term conference at some point in the four-year period between World Congresses. This time almost all RCs are participating in this joint forum, which facilitates logistics and collaboration between RCs. Continuing the very rewarding collaboration from Durban, RC07 has teamed up again with other research committees, planning several sessions on the notion of a leisure society (with RC13 Sociology of Leisure), contentious politics, power and persuasion (with RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action,

and Social Change), and new mediascapes (with RC14 Communication, Knowledge, and Culture, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology, and RC32 Women in Society), among others. Barcelona is an amazing city. Do not forget to bring some extra-time to visit the many historic and modern landmarks and museums in Barcelona as well as nearby sites such as the Dalí museum in Figueres.

Barcelona will also be a good opportunity for developing plans for the ISA's next World Congress, to be held in Göteborg, Sweden, July 11-17, 2010. (Yes, you may mark your calendar!)

Last but not least, let us welcome Radhamany Sooryamoorthy,

University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, as the new editor of the newsletter. The newsletter is the major venue of interaction among us between conferences and an important means to display our activities to the ISA at large. Help us with your contributions, brief essays, perspectives and reflections on the direction of futures research, announcements of activities and publications to make the newsletter a vibrant organ for all of us.

Best regards,

**Markus S. Schulz**  
*President*  
*ISA-RC07 Futures Research*

### **Report on Durban World Congress**

**XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology**

Durban, South Africa, 23-29 July 2006

The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World.



**Report from the ISA World Congress in Durban, 2006**  
*ISA RC07. Programme Coordinator: Markus S. Schulz*

The XVI World Congress in Durban was the first ever in the ISA's history held in Africa. It was convened under the motto "The Quality of Existence in a

Globalizing World" and brought together more than 3,000 scholars from all around the world with an unprecedented strong participation by scholars from the African

continent. It was also a fascinating experience for many participants to learn first-hand about the multicultural city of Durban and a vibrant society in a period of rapid transition since the long struggles against apartheid. The social contradictions of our globalizing world were also experienced in a very physical way as heavy security measures surrounded the congress venues.

The programme of the Research Committee on Futures Research (RC07) featured 10 academic sessions with more than 40 participants from 18 different countries of all five continents. RC07 was able to hold at this World Congress more sessions than it would otherwise have been allotted thanks to five Joint Sessions, which were co-organized with other Research Committees, including RCO2 (Economy and Society), RC14 (Sociology of Communication, Knowledge, and Culture), RC16 (Sociological Theory), and RC23 (Sociology of Science and Technology). The idea of Joint Sessions is promoted by the ISA as a way to reduce the fragmentation of the discipline and foster dialogue across RCs. It was a successful experiment for RC07, as it helped foster a concern for the future in the research of

other RCs and to engage with crucial developments in a wide range of fields. The following is a summary of the papers presented at the respective sessions.

### **Session 1: Featured Session on the Congress Theme: Public Sociology and the Future of Social Existence in a Globalizing World**

Reimon Bachika and Markus Schulz organized this session with the aim of exploring the affinities between public sociology and future-oriented sociology in a global perspective. Sociologists in the USA have increasingly bemoaned the gap between academia and practical relevance and have begun searching for ways to make sociology more relevant to public debates. Michael Burawoy (University of California, Berkeley), served as a discussant, had brought the notion of public sociology to prominence when the American Sociological Association (ASA) convened its successful 2004 Annual Meeting in San Francisco under his presidency. The idea of this session was to bring American and international scholars together to reflect jointly on the relations between sociology and public debates in different countries and contexts, to learn from and inspire one another. Apart from formal

papers, the panel also included informal presentations by scholars who had been invited to share their specific experiences in public sociology.

Jeff Goodwin (New York University) talked about his experience as the editor of the American Sociological Association's *Contexts* magazine. *Contexts* was launched in 2002 with the explicit mission to further public sociology. It is not targeted to specialized audiences but caters to a general educated audience including sociologists. It features some of the latest research in an engaging and accessible manner. More information on *Contexts* magazine is available at: <http://www.contextsmagazine.org>

Pamela Oliver (University of Wisconsin at Madison) described her experience in making sociology relevant to public debates by translating sociological findings to different target audiences. In her research, Oliver had found enormous racial disparities in incarceration rates. To make it easier for her varied audiences (activist groups, police officials, and legislators) to understand the data, she visualized them in graphics. A website serves as a repository to access her materials more widely

(<http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/~oliver/RACIAL/RacialDisparities.htm>).

Manisha Desai (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA) contributed a distinctly feminist and global perspective to the discussion. Drawing on her work in India, Desai emphasized that research tasks can look very different depending on whether one views the world from the "centre" or the "margins."

Raquel Sosa (UNAM, Mexico) reported on her experience of how she came as an academic to join the government of Mexico City first as a Minister for Social Development, then as a Minister of Culture and face the real-time pressures of public office while trying to implement progressive politics. Sosa is now active in the Mexican democratic resistance movement and serves as a cabinet-member in the Legitimate Government of Mexico that the former mayor and long-time presidential front-runner candidate Andrés Manuel López Obrador formed after the controversial 2006 elections.

David Miller (Strathclyde University, Glasgow, UK) argued in his paper that prominent social scientists such as Beck, Giddens, or Thrift have failed in advancing public sociology or any policy-oriented role because their theoretical approaches prevented

them from engaging with capitalism empirically. Miller suggested that the mystification of capitalism by current sociology could be overcome through empirical studies of how corporate actors and their government allies shape the actually existing capitalist regimes. In his vision, a committed public sociology would have to tackle, and not sidestep, corporate power.

Gudrun Hessler and Kai Unzicker (both from the University of Bielefeld, Germany) presented their findings from an empirical case study of the interaction and knowledge exchange between academic sociologists and practitioners in local government, labour relations, social work, and schools. They argued that this interaction and the ways of disseminating knowledge needs to be better understood at a time in which university research faces increased pressure to legitimate itself in public and tends to lose funding to competing networks of research centres, think tanks, and other institutions.

The lively discussion that followed the presentations showed that there was great interest in public sociology and the efforts to make sociology more socially

relevant. In some countries, the borders between sociology and public engagement are more porous than in others, as is shown by a number of Latin American academics who play leading roles as public intellectuals and as leaders in movements and governments. Of course, one may add, that in some national contexts sociology is too 'public' in the bad sense of 'public' being defined by a regime or elites. The point is to make sociology relevant to open public discourse by supplying needed data, exposing non-obvious mechanisms, and helping to make, in the sense of C. Wright Mills, the social dimension of issues perceivable that would otherwise only be deemed to be personal. It is an encouraging sign that the issue of public sociology is being taken up again by the ISA as a guiding motto for the next congress in Barcelona.

### **Session 2 and 3: Values and Religion in a Globalizing World**

These two sessions were chaired by on Reimon Bachika and featured seven presentations on this common but somewhat shifting theme. Four of them focused primarily and three secondarily on values, while one of the presentations touched on religion. The variety of the topic notwithstanding, the papers, as seen

below, proved to be complementary to each other.

Kamlesh Mohan (Panjab University, Chandigarh, India <kamleshmohan14@yahoo.com>): “Contesting the Values of Militarism and National Chauvinism: The Need for a Gandhian Perspective.” With a thorough critique of both traditional and popular culture, parts of which reflect the use of violence for solving personal, national, and international conflicts, Mohan pointed out how a culture of violence could fuel insecurity in daily life, while also underscoring a culture of militarism/fascism. Describing how forms of violence in movies and on TV are part of children’s play and in school curricula, she further pointed out how these forms of violence were bound up with gender roles, gender hierarchy, and images of masculinity. While emphasizing Gandhi’s courage to condemn the inaction of those in power with respect to higher standards of values, she argued that a new paradigm should be constructed on the basis of Gandhi’s idea of non-violence.

Tetsuo Maruyama (Bukkyo University, Kyoto, Japan, <tetsu-ma@me.ccnw.ne.jp>): “Traditional Ethics and Religions in East Asian

Societies as the Common Values of the Global Sphere.” Maruyama’s focus was on the relativization of cultural identities under conditions of nation-state building and the limitations of anthropocentric rationalism as developed in the West, which allegedly was designed to conquer and destruct nature causing a growing gap between the rich and the poor. Maruyama, following Ritzer, maintained that the present Western development is characterized by “McDonaldization.” He argued for the exploration of really universal values for which Buddhist and Confucian ethical thinking could provide useful leads, especially because these traditions were non-dogmatic and tend to enhance the quality of life.

Lynne Ciochetto (Massey University, New Zealand <L.M.Ciochetto@massey.ac.nz>): “What are the Effects of Daily Exposure to Television and the Internet on Children and Adolescents?” Ciochetto presented advertising as a major force in the change of cultural values and priorities in the contemporary world. She argued that advertising played a dynamic role in linking the economy, culture and value systems, expanding consumerism and materialist values. Consumption is happily embraced everywhere and

it is particularly the young who are targeted by advertising. In the interest of selling global products, advertising ultimately promotes unsustainable global consumption and causes a major modification of values. The presenter also showed how the case studies of advertising in democratic India and Communist China in recent decades illustrated the same trend.

Reimon Bachika (Bukkyo University, Kyoto, Japan <bachika@bukkyo-u.ac.jp>): “Symbolism and Values: The Quality of Life.” Bachika argued that values concern the excellence of life in three fundamental dimensions: the self, personal relations, and social existence. It is these dimensions that are often in turmoil due to value conflict. At any point in time, these dimensions can be seen as being in a definite state, reflecting a certain degree of well-being/distress. These states can be conceptualized as “non-linear total phenomena,” that are unpredictable except for very short spans of time, nevertheless show regularity over long spans of time. This must be taken to mean that, in order to persist, the positive quality of life in these

dimensions must be greater than their negative quality.

Jianghong Li and Fiona Stanley (University of Western Australia <jianghongl@icmr.uwa.edu.au>): “Solving “Modernity’s Paradox”: Structural Determinants of Child Health and Wellbeing.” Presented by Li, the argument went as follows: Description of various problems of youth today, namely, suicide rates, mental disorders, child obesity, and drug abuse, all of which show a growing trend that has been labelled as the “modernity’s paradox,” referring to the trend of deterioration “despite economic prosperity, medical and technical development.” Li discussed these youth problems in broad historical and social contexts, touching on several macro-sociological issues of neo-liberalism in political culture, the changes in the labour market and the cultural change. Intended to make some policy implications, the paper highlighted the importance of the problems involved in macro-sociological issues.

Leo M. Semashko (Institute of Strategic Sphere, Tetrasociological Studies Russia <semashko@peacefromharmony.org>): “Harmonization of the Religious Sphere: New Values and Social Priorities.” Pointing out the world of religion as characterized by two

conflicting tendencies, one deriving from an emphasis on peaceful community life and the other deriving from latent social disharmony, Semashko argued that, in order to counter this latent conflict, it is necessary to rethink the present social priorities and the relationships between social classes. His key argument was that the social classes in industrial societies were disharmonious. Rewiring, so to speak, social classes as “sphere classes,” that is, classes based, not on status, economic and political power but on the actual division of labour and employment in the various societal spheres, would greatly change the constitution of societies, where, in various ways, the highest priority would be given to children. The presenter maintained that the possibility of realization of this social reorganization is greatly enhanced by the recent development of information technology. As far as values are concerned, social harmony itself would get top priority.

Takashi Usui (Kibi International University, Okayama, Japan): “Post-Fastfood Values and Organic Agriculture: A Case Study in South-Western Japan.” Usui presented an interesting study on

the values involved in the present food industry and people’s eating habits. Focusing on several aspects of this issue, Usui contrasted the so-called fast-food and slow-food modes of eating and their relation with the increasing production of “organic agricultural products.” He argued that the economy-centered fast-food production was a typical case of McDonaldisation, while the slow-food movement was health-conscious and community/consensus-oriented. He based his argumentation of his comparative surveys of two agricultural areas in South-Western Japan that produce organic food. He concluded that slow-food tended to become the main-stream style in Japan.

#### **Session 4: The Future and Sociological Theory (Joint Session with Research Committee on Sociological Theory, RC16)**

This session was jointly organized and chaired by Elisa Reis (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), on behalf of RC16, and Markus S. Schulz, on behalf of RC07. Three papers were presented:

1. Mariolina Graziosi (Università degli Studi di Milan, Italy): “For a Sociology of the Subject: The Contribution of the Classics to the Understanding of Contemporary Man’s Destiny”

2. Alan How (University of Worcester, UK): “The Author, the Text and the Canon: Gadamer and the Persistence of Classic Texts in Sociology”

3. Napoleón Velástegui Bahamonde (Federation of Ecuadorian Sociologists, Guayaquil, Ecuador): “The Globalization Constitutes a Historical Regularity”

Two more papers were offered for distribution.

4. Carlos de la Puente Viedma (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Spain): “Teoría, Métodos y Técnicas de la Sociología del Futuro: ¿Reinterpretar el pasado?”

5. Dmitry Ivanov (St. Petersburg State University, Russia): “The Past, Present and Future in the Perspective of Dialectical Theory.”

**Session 5: Futures of Science and Technology** (Joint Session with the Research Committee on Sociology of Science and Technology, RC23)

This session was jointly organized Jaime Jiménez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico), on behalf of RC23 and Markus S. Schulz, on behalf of RC07. Two papers were presented and discussed:

1. Cheryl B. Leggon and Willie

Pearson, Jr. (both Georgia Tech, USA): “Race, Gender and the American Scientific Enterprise: The Ramification of Exclusion in a Global Market”

2. Marika Jokinen (Statistics Finland): “Home and Technology: Potential of Technology in the Domestic Domain”

**Session 6 and 7: The Futures of the New Mediascapes:**

**Communication, Knowledge, and Culture in a Globalizing World** (Joint Sessions of Research Committee on Futures Research, RC07, and Research Committee on Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture, RC14)

The large number of papers dealing with the new media made it necessary to convene two sessions on this theme. Both were jointly organized and chaired by Gaëtan Tremblay (Université du Québec à Montréal, Canada), on behalf of RC14, and Markus S. Schulz, on behalf of RC07. Four papers were presented and discussed in each of the two sessions.

*Part I: Theoretical and Policy-Oriented Approaches*

1. Mariella Berra (University of Turin, Italy): “New Commons or Intellectual Property Rights? The Future of Innovation”

2. Karunamay Subuddhi (IIT

Mumbai India): “Democratic Care and Control Mechanism in the Information Society”

3. Kathy Petite Jamison (University of Illinois, USA): “The Social Contract in a Post-modern Communications”

4. Mun-Cho Kim (Korea University): “Information Technology and the Shaping of the New Social Order”

*Part II: Empirical Approaches*

1. Thorsten Quandt (University of Munich University, Germany) and Thilo v. Pape (University of Munich University, Germany):

“The Construction of New Mediascapes: Empirical Findings on the Social and Personal Shaping of (New) Media”

2. Giuseppina Pellegrino (University of Calabria, Italy): “Mobile Mediascapes: Ubiquity as a Metaphor for Interaction”

3. Christoph Engemann (University of Bremen, Germany): “Electronic Government and the Welfare State Management in the EU”

4. Radhamany Sooryamoorthy (University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban), B. Paige Miller, Mariano Sana (both Louisiana State University, USA), Paul Mbatia (University of Nairobi, Kenya), and Wesley Shrum (Louisiana

State University, USA): “Does Mobile Telephony Reduce Globalization? ICTs and the Structure of Personal Networks”

**Session 8: Alternative Visions of World Society: Global Economic Elites and Civil Society in Contestation** (Joint session with the Research Committee on Economy and Society, RC02)

This session was jointly organized by Mark Herkenrath (University of Zurich, Switzerland), on behalf of RC23, and Markus S. Schulz, on behalf of RC07. Three papers were presented and discussed:

1. William K. Carroll (University of Victoria, Canada): “Hegemony and Counter-Hegemony in a Global Field of Action”

2. Thomas E. Reifer (University of California at San Diego, USA): “The Social Foundations of Global Conflict and Cooperation: Waves of Globalization and Global Contestation, 19th to 21st Century”

3. Rebecca Giem (University of California at Riverside, USA) and Erika Gutierrez (University of California at Riverside, USA): “The Politics of Representation: Social Movements and Non-Governmental Organizations in the World Social Forum”

A fourth paper was offered for distribution by Sidney Tarrow

(Cornell University, USA) titled “Rooted Cosmopolitans and Transnational Activists”

**Session 9: Author Meets Critics: Jan Nederveen Pieterse’s Globalization or Empire?**

Although the local organizing committee failed to warn RC 07 that a request for an extra-session had been approved before the conference, Markus Schulz ably pulled together at the last minute an excellent “author meets critics” panel to discuss Jan Nederveen Pieterse’s book (2004)

*Globalization or Empire?*

Nederveen Pieterse’s (hereafter, JNP) work is important, but not well-recognized, at least in the United States. His 1989 book, *Empire and Emancipation: Power and Liberation on a World Scale* (Westport, CT: Praeger), is a fascinating challenge to World Systems Theory, and far superior. Proceeding to ask, “if Europe colonized the world, how did Europe emerge?,” Nederveen Pieterse gives an overview of world history from the Crusades to today that demands attention.

Schulz asked JNP to give an overview of his new book, *Globalization or Empire?* for RC

07. Then Schulz and the audience joined into the conversation, creating a very vibrant and stimulating session.

In this new book, JNP asks what is the relationship between globalization and empire? He is very clear on the connection:

*In my view, globalization is a dynamic of far greater moment and historical duration than empire. Globalization refers to the long-term historical trend of greater worldwide interconnectedness; imperial episodes are part of this trend, so empire is part of globalization. Globalization also serves as a flag word for concurrent changes that unfold amid unequal relations of power, and imperialism is but one form that unequal power relations take. Empires come and go, globalization continues (p.v).*

The logical question that followed, however, was what kind of globalization. JNP discussed *Pax Americana*.

Because he did not collapse either globalization or imperialism into just economic processes—JNP argued that these processes were both economic and political (including geo-strategic), with the question in any particular situation being which was primary—he provided a very

robust argument. His argument deserves wide consideration.

Kim Scipes' major question to JNP was about the concept of "Dixie capitalism," which he used as a short-hand for the economic strategy that developed in the American South after the Reconstruction period (circa 1865-1877) following the US Civil War. This strategy was "based on low-wage, labour-intensive, high-exploitation production, and hostility to unions" (p.3).

This, unfortunately, did not come from and was not limited to the South: this describes US industrial relations in general (which emerged overwhelmingly in the American North) from the early beginnings of industrialization in the early 1800s until the mid-1930s, when the rise of the industrial union movement (organizationally represented by the Congress of Industrial Organizations or CIO) began limiting exploitation and management control on the shop floor. The CIO in particular, followed by the American Federation of Labour, successfully challenged those relations between, roughly 1937 and the late 1970s, but especially since the election of Ronald Reagan as US President in 1980, Corporate

American and their allies in both the Republican and Democratic Parties have been working to return the US back to those earlier conditions. Thus, we cannot blame the re-emerging conditions on the South or on the Republicans alone.

Of major importance, however, was JNP's probing of the new features of the neoliberal empire. He defined these as "a mélange of political-military and economic unilateralism" and saw in it "an attempt to merge geopolitics with the aims and techniques of neoliberalism (p.41).

Despite Scipes' disagreement on the historical trajectory of US economic strategy, this is a very thoughtful and thought-provoking book that merits wider circulation. The audience in Durban responded wholeheartedly to the analysis.

### **Session 10: The Promises of Civil Society Action in the Improvement of Democracy**

This session was proposed by Angel Gustavo López Montiel (Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey, Mexico) and chaired by Reimon Bachika (Kyoto, Japan). Three papers were presented:

1. Jorge Cadena-Roa (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Mexico): "Citizenship Claims and the Consolidation of Democracy in Latin

America.” The author argued that citizenship rights and democracy come from secular processes of struggle and negotiation between states and their subjects that make rapid progress under favourable opportunities. In Latin America democracy came so late (compared to the US and Western Europe) because of the characteristics of state building in the region, the heterogeneity of the population and its extended poverty, and the way of insertion of the region to the world market. Given these conditions, the recognition and enforcement of citizenship rights and transition to democracy were delayed up to the last decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

2. Kevin J. Fandl (George Mason University, USA): “Recalibrating the War on Terror by Enhancing Development Practices in the Middle East.” The author argued that the foreign policy of the George W. Bush Administration was not being effective against terror because a military approach did not attack its real causes. Contrary to what was expected, the US efforts at

forced democratization in Iraq and Afghanistan were increasing terrorist activities against foreign targets. Fandl suggested that a more effective strategy would focus on development actions and fostering democratic values.

3. Luis Sandoval Ramírez (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México): “Alternatives to Neoliberalism and Capitalism in Mexico and the World: The Current Moment in the Economic Cycle.” The author argued that the current problems of neoliberal policies and capitalism make necessary the construction of an alternative, democratic, non-capitalist civilization in which citizens fight effectively against all forms of injustice (A Spanish manuscript is available under the title: “Alternativas al neoliberalismo y al capitalismo en México y el mundo: El momento actual de la coyuntura económica”).

*Reports from:* Jorge Cadena Roa  
Kim Scipes  
Reimon Bachika  
Markus S. Schulz

## Obituaries

### **Mario Kamenetzky (1927-2006)**

*Vice President* of RC 07 (1998-2002) and *Committee Advisor* (2002-6)

Mario Kamenetzky died of heart failure on 22 October 2006 in Jacksonville, California. Trained in engineering sciences, Mario Kamenetzky was involved in world economics for nearly 50 years as a professor, corporate officer, and as an independent consultant. He was a fellow of the World Business Academy. On retirement, he focused his studies and writings on the evolution of the structures of consciousness and their significance in organizations and social life. In this capacity he became an active member of RC 07.

We are grateful to Mario for his great assistance in organizing our midterm conference in Sao Paulo in September 2001.

### **Isao Araki (1942-2007)**

*Secretary-Treasurer* of RC 07 (1998-2006)

Isao Araki was a professor of sociology and media studies at Bukkyo University, Kyoto. He gracefully accepted the position of secretary of RC 07, at the Montreal Congress. We are grateful to him for serving two terms as secretary until 2006 and for his dedicated organizational assistance to the midterm conference of 2004, held at Bukkyo University. He died suddenly of a brain haemorrhage in the early morning of 21 February 2006.

*By* Reimon Bachika

## Members' Activities

### **Expert Group**

Eleonora Barbieri Masini was part of the High Level Expert Group on Foresighting the New Technology Wave of the European Commission: High Level International Expert Group (HLEG), for 2003-5.

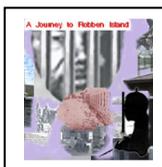
## **Tool**

Kazuo Mizuta of the Kyoto Sangyo University, Japan, as part of his vision for future studies, has developed a questionnaire to study the cultural personality in 2020. This tool has two versions of 'the way we are,' and 'the outlook for the future in 2020. Mizuta is prepared to allow those who are interested to use the questionnaire and offers to work with him. Interested members please contact at [kmizuta@cc.kyoto-su.ac.jp](mailto:kmizuta@cc.kyoto-su.ac.jp)

## **Digital Video Movies**

R. Sooryamoorthy has produced-directed the following digital movies. For copies of these movies, on DVD format, please contact at: [sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za)

### *A Journey to Robben Island, English, 20 minutes, DVD, 2007*



This movie takes us to Robben Island in South Africa which, since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, was used as a place of banishment, exile and prison. Set against the backdrop of apartheid and the struggle for democracy, the film is centred around the prison life of Nelson Mandela who spent 17 years of his imprisonment on this island.

### *Storing the Unstorable, English, 11 minutes, DVD, 2007.*



A group of botany students and their professor collect seeds and process them in their cryotechnology laboratory. The film also shows different stages of seed processing that includes application of in vitro biotechnology.

***Collaboration Blues*, English, 22 minutes, DVD, 2006.**



This movie shows how scientific collaboration could be a strenuous and long drawn process fraught with difficulties and problems despite the benefits it brings in. Revealed through the experiences of a long standing physical geographer in South Africa, the movie focuses on the personal and professional dimensions of scientific collaboration.

### **News about Members**

#### **Awards, Honors...**

Eleonora Barbieri Masini has become Professor Emeritus of the Gregorian University in Rome. Also received an honorary tribute from Pope John Paul II.

#### **Publications of Members**

- Barbieri, Masini Eleonora. 2006. *The Legacy of Aurelio Peccei*. Vienna: Club of Rome and Aurelio Peccei Foundation, European Coordination Centre for COR.
- Barbieri, Masini Eleonora. 2006. 'Women's Contribution to the Future of Democracy,' in: M. Mannermaa, J. Dator, P. Tuohonen (eds.). *Democracy and Future*. Finland: Committee for the Future.
- Barbieri, Masini Eleonora. 2006. 'Women's Role in Building Alternative Futures: Towards a Global Network of Women,' in: T. Mack (ed). *Creating Global Strategies for Humanity's Future*. Bethesda, USA: World Future Society.
- Herkenrath, Mark (ed.). 2007. 'The Regional Dynamics of Global Transformations.' Special Issue of the *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, 48(2).
- Herkenrath, Mark (ed.). 2007 (forthcoming). *The Regional and Local Shaping of World Society*. Muenster, Berlin, Vienna, etc.: LIT Press.
- Herkenrath, Mark (ed)..2007 (forthcoming). *Civil Society: Local and Regional Responses to Global Challenges*. Muenster, Berlin, Vienna, etc.: LIT Press.
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**Conference**



**First ISA Forum of Sociology: Sociological Research and Public Debate  
Barcelona, Spain, September 5 - 8, 2008**

The International Sociological Association is organizing its First ISA Forum of Sociology in Barcelona, Spain, September 5-8, 2008. The Research Committee Futures Research (RC 07) invites proposals for papers and sessions.

**Debating Futures: Global Trends, Alternative Visions, Public Discourse and the New Tasks of Social Research**

This program provides a platform for discussion of the challenges of our globalizing world and the

contributions of scholarly research to the wider public debates about the making of (alternative) futures. An array of sessions focuses on political, economic, and cultural trends, the agency of social movements and elites, the role of media, technology, values and symbolism. Other sessions provide opportunity to concentrate on conceptual issues and the role of academic research in a changing environment. The general theme and the proposed sessions are not exclusive; we expect particular panels reflecting other interests and concerns of the members as well as a broad spectrum of methodological and theoretical approaches, including interdisciplinary collaboration. We invite proposals

for papers, posters, and sessions on any of the topics indicated below or other issues related to futures research.

**Deadline:** 30 November 2007.

**Programme Coordinator**

Markus S. Schulz, ISA-RC07, email: <isarc07@gmail.com>

**Planned Sessions**

**1. New Trends in Globalization**

Organizer: Jan Nederveen Pieterse, UIUC, USA <jnp@uiuc.edu>

**2. The Decline of U.S. Hegemony (Or Can the U.S. Correct Itself?)**

Organizer: Jan Nederveen Pieterse, UIUC, USA <jnp@uiuc.edu>

**3. Comparative Research on Religious Values and Symbolism**

Organizers: Reimon Bachika, Kyoto, Japan <bachika@bukkyo-u.ac.jp>

Valuation and symbolization appear to be two basic capabilities of the human mind that fuel two distinct mechanisms/categories of culture: values and symbolic representations. These categories are particularly significant in religious thought and action, but also in the others areas of culture such as literature, art, and the visual

media. I would like to raise three series of fundamental questions in respect to this theme.

(1) Questions concerning the nature of these mechanisms: How do these mechanisms of culture function? Given that values and symbolic representations are characterized by a particular content and form respectively, how do they relate to each other? How different or how similar are they? Value in sociology is thought of as a normative concept, but how should its normative nature be defined?

(2) Questions concerning religious and secular values: How do religious and secular values relate to each other? Under what circumstances are religious and secular values contiguous or antagonistic? Could universal religious values have a chance of materializing in the foreseeable future?

(3) Questions concerning religious and secular symbolism: Are there factors that differentiate religious and secular symbolism in addition to content and form? Under what conditions are religious and secular symbolism contiguous/antagonistic or shareable/exclusive?

Since this topic evidently exceeds the field of religion, comparative research on related questions and issues in the arts and the media are highly welcome.

#### **4. Between Governmentality and Radical Possibilities: The Future of Transnational Feminisms**

Organizer: Manisha Desai, U of Connecticut, USA

<manisha.desai@uconn.edu>

Several recent articles and books have noted the dangerous liaison between feminism and globalization, or the need to take a break from feminism to address issues of gender inequality. This session aims to examine what possible feminist futures or grounded utopias are being imagined and can be imagined given the current conjuncture.

#### **5. Public Sociology, Policy Making, and Power**

Organizers: Raquel Sosa, UNAM, Mexico <rsosa@servidor.unam.mx> and Markus S. Schulz <isarc07@gmail.com>

#### **6. Architecture and Design: Social Relevance in the Era of New Digital Methods**

Organizer: Joerg Gleiter, Free U Bozen-Bolzano, Italy <jhg31@columbia.edu>

#### **7. The Role of “Future” in Sociological Theorizing**

Organizer: Elisa P. Reis, UFRJ, Brazil <epreis@alternex.com.br> and Markus S. Schulz <isarc07@gmail.com>

What role does the future and future-oriented thought play in social theorizing? How did sociological theory envision the futures of the past, and how does it envision future trends of the present? How is social imagination theorized in models of agency and structure, knowledge and power? How can the methodological tools of futures research such as scenario construction be brought to wider use in sociological research?

#### **8. Elites and Grassroots Movements in the Making of Global Futures (Joint Session RC07 with RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change)**

Organizers: Mark Herkenrath, U Zurich, Switzerland <herky@access.unizh.ch> and Markus S. Schulz <isarc07@gmail.com>

#### **9. Social Movements: Visions, Persuasion, and Power (Joint Session RC07 with RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change)**

**Organizer: Markus S. Schulz**  
<isarc07@gmail.com>

**10. Social Movements and New Media (Joint Session RC07 with RC48 Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change)**

**Organizer: Markus S. Schulz**  
<isarc07@gmail.com>

**11. The New Information and Communication Technologies: A Chance for Leapfrogging Development? (Joint Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)**

**Organizers: Czarina Saloma-Akpedonu, Ateneo de Manila U, Philippines <csaloma@ateneo.edu> and Markus S. Schulz,**  
<isarc07@gmail.com>

**12. The Internet: From Utopia to Nightmare? (Joint Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)**

**Organizers: Jaime Jiménez, UNAM, Mexico, <jjimen@servidor.unam.mx>, Hermilio Santos, PUCRS, Brazil <hermilio@puers.br> and Markus S. Schulz, <isarc07@gmail.com>**

**13. The \$100 Laptop: Creating a World of Addressable Consumers or Cosmopolitan Citizens? (Joint Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)**

**Organizers: Jaime Jiménez, UNAM, Mexico, <jjimen@servidor.unam.mx>, Hermilio Santos, PUCRS, Brazil <hermilio@puers.br>, and Markus S. Schulz, <isarc07@gmail.com>**

**14. Intellectual Copyright, Digital Inequality, and Global Hegemony (Joint Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)**

**Organizers: Jaime Jiménez, UNAM, Mexico, <jjimen@servidor.unam.mx>, Hermilio Santos, PUCRS, Brazil <hermilio@puers.br> and Markus S. Schulz, <isarc07@gmail.com>**

**15. Las Nuevas Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación en el Mundo Latino: Perspectivas Sociológicas desde Europa y América Latina / The New Information and Communication Technologies in the Latin World: Sociological Perspectives from Europe and Latin America (Joint Spanish Language Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of**

**Science and Technology)**

**Organizers:** Laura Cruz-Castro, IESAM, Spain <laura.cruz@iesam.csic.es>, Hermilio Santos, PUCRS, Brazil <hermilio@pucrs.br> and Markus S. Schulz, <isarco7@gmail.com>

**16. Gender, Science, Technology, Innovation, and the Future (Joint Session RC07 with RC04 Sociology of Education, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology, and RC32 Women in Society)**

**Organizers:** Solange Simoes, U Minas Gerais, Brazil <ssimoes@emich.edu> and Radhamany Sooryamoorthy, U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa <sooryamoorthyr@ukzn.ac.za>

**17. The Role of University Research in the Future (Joint Session RC07 with RC04 Sociology of Education and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)**

**Organizers:** Tamás Kozma <kozmat@ella.hu>, Jaime Jiménez, UNAM, Mexico, <jjimen@servidor.unam.mx>, and Radhamany Sooryamoorthy, U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa <sooryamoorthyr@ukzn.ac.za>

**18. Leisure Society: Dream or Reality? (Joint Session RC07 with RC13 Sociology of Leisure)**

**Organizer:** Ishwar Modi, IISS, India, <iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in>

**19. Open Session. Organizer, tba. Deadlines and Procedures**

If you wish to present a paper, please email your proposal with a title and a brief description of the proposed paper (150-250 words) to the session organizer(s) by **30 November 2007**. Be sure to include in your proposal your name and full contact information.

Paper proposals that do not fit to the topic of any of the planned sessions may be submitted to the RC07 Programme Coordinator for integration in additional sessions or alternative arrangements.

Session proposals are welcome too. They should include a title, a brief description of the topic, chair's name and contact information, and a list of four to six speakers and a discussant. Session proposals may be in any of the ISA's official languages, English, Spanish, or French.

Applications for limited financial support should be emailed directly by the applicant to the ISA Secretariat <isa@isa-sociology.org> before **31 January 2008**.

Notifications of papers accepted for presentation and further instructions will be send to participants by the end of January 2008. It is anticipated that online

registration opens in early 2008. 31May 2008 is the anticipated deadline for pre-registration and submission of accepted abstracts to Cambridge Sociological Abstracts for inclusion in the congress catalogue.

### **Abstracting Instructions**

Please make your abstract concise (150-250 words maximum), but also informative, providing a succinct summary of the paper's focus.

In the case of a paper based on empirical research, please include in your abstract:

(1) a statement of the premise, hypothesis, or subject of the study;

(2) a description of the supporting data, including the relevant subject population characteristics, methods used to obtain the data, and processes of analysis; and  
(3) a brief report of the findings or conclusions.

An abstract of a discursive or theoretical paper should include:

(1) a statement of the premise or subject, followed by  
(2) a step-by-step outline of the author's reasoning, and  
(3) any conclusions reached.

Please provide full citation information for referenced works, and do not use any abbreviations.

### **Other Information**

**Conference Venue:** The conference is planned to take place on the premises of the University of Barcelona, which is conveniently located in the centre of Barcelona.

**Climate:** Barcelona has a Mediterranean climate with September temperatures averaging 22 degrees Celsius (72 Fahrenheit) while mostly sunny and dry.

**Visas:** Spain is one of the fifteen signatory countries of the Schengen agreement. Nationals from the Schengen zone do not need a visa; nationals from the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Israel and the United States can currently remain in Spain as tourists for 90 days without a visa. Others may need a visa. Keep in mind that current regulations can change. You can obtain further information at the Spanish embassies and consulates in your country.

More information: One useful website to search for travel-related information seems to be Barcelona's official tourism site at URL:  
<<http://www.barcelonaturisme.com>>.



## **Announcements**

### **Newsletter**

Please send your comments and other news items for the next newsletter to: R. Sooryamoorthy, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa (sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za) and copies to isa-rc07@gmail.com.

### **Become a Member/Renew your Membership Today!**

Stay informed. Participate in RC07 events and activities to enhance your career and profession. Network with colleagues around the world.

Become a new member of the ISA Research Committee Futures Research (ISA-RC07) or renew your membership. The regular dues are only US\$30.00 for a four-year period, which is discounted for members in countries with softer currencies and for students (US\$10.00). For more details and registration form please visit the secure website: <<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>>