



FUTURES RESEARCH
Newsletter of the
International Sociological Association
Research Committee 07 on Futures Research
(ISARC07)

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Masini
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2016
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Dear Colleagues,

I am very glad to share with you information about the exciting sessions our Research Committee has programmed for the Third ISA Forum of Sociology to be held in Vienna on July 10-14 2016. The general theme of the Forum is: **The Future we Want, Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World.** RC07 Program for the Forum is set under the title: **Processes, Trends, and Future Scenarios.** In this Newsletter issue you will find information about all the sessions that RC07 will be hosting as well as those we are jointly organizing with other ISA RCs and WG. The call for abstracts is open at the Forum site, and I urge you to submit your paper proposal.

Bear in mind that the deadline for abstract submission is September 30th 24:00 GMT. Please, do not send your abstract to session organizers. Abstracts (in English, French or Spanish) can ONLY be submitted via the Confex website: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/cfp.cgi>

It will be a pleasure to greet you in Vienna.

Elisa Reis

**ISARC07 Lifetime Achievement Award
for
Eleonora Barbieri Masini**

As announced at the World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama last July, Eleonora Barbieri Masini had been awarded the ISA-RC07's Lifetime Achievement Award for Distinguished Contributions to Futures Research. Since Masini was unable to travel to Japan due to her advanced age, the award was presented to her during a meeting in Italy. RC07 Board Member Mariolina Graziosi and Carmen Leccardi, the former President of the European Sociological Association, organized a special event in honor of Masini at the University of Milan. Markus S. Schulz, Chair of the Lifetime Achievement Award and Past-President of RC07 was there and said the opening words saluting Eleonora Barbieri Masini. As he highlighted on the occasion,

“Eleonora Barbieri Masini has pursued futures research with extraordinary energy, spirit, and compassion over several decades. She has been among the pioneering members of our research committee and served for many years as its deeply committed president. Masini's scholarly work has laid important foundations for the scholarly study of how we imagine and shape our futures and has inspired generations of sociologists all around the world.”

Our congratulations to the much deserved prize winner, and our thanks to Mariolina, Carmem, and Markus for their initiative.

The Futures We Want: Global Sociology
and the Struggles for a Better World



3rd ISA Forum of
SOCIOLOGY

July 10–14, 2016
Vienna, Austria



RC07 Program on Processes, Trends, and Future Scenarios

Call for Abstracts

Anyone interested in presenting a paper should submit a 300 words abstract on-line directly to the ISA Submissions System:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2016/cfp.cgi>

Program Coordinator:

Andre SALATA, PURGS, Brazil: andresalata@gmail.com and isarc07info@gmail.com

List of Proposed Sessions

Capitalisms, 21st Century

Session Organizer(s)

Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE, University of California, USA, jnp@global.ucsb.edu

Session in English

With the rise of Asia and emerging economies, a key question is: do they conform to Anglo-American neoliberal capitalism or do they represent different types of capitalism? This concerns how economies are coordinated, which is a strategic question in relation to the quality of growth, development and finance, inequality and participation in regional and international institutions.

Care and Careworkers: Intersectional and Comparative Perspectives. Exploring the Future of Social Inequalities

Session Organizer(s)

Bila SORJ, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, sorjbila@gmail.com

Nadya GUIMARAES, University of São Paulo, Brazil, nadya@usp.br

Session in English

Societies are experiencing a strong rise in the number of elderly people, albeit at different paces and in response to different dynamics. This aging process generates new demands and is reconfiguring traditional care activities. Care services have become a significant area of paid work, resulting in an expanding professional labor market. Careworkers combine the experience of multiple forms of inequalities, both in North and South countries. How a construction of care in different socio-cultural environments will shape at large society's future well-being?

This session welcomes comparative analysis and the diversity approaches, focusing on the interaction between gender, race, age, nationality and migratory status in order to better understand how inequalities operate in the institutional domain (on employment conditions, careers, organization, public policies) and the subjective meanings carers give to their own work. We also welcome papers dealing with issues like professional training and border disputes, emotional labor and intimacy, care in the context of immigration and transnationalism, and care policies.

Class, Consumption and Wealth Distribution: Trends and Perspectives for the Future

Session Organizer(s)

Celi SCALON, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, celiscalon@gmail.com

Chunling LI, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, China, licl@cass.org.cn

Session in English

This session is focused on the debate about social stratification, income, consumption and class structure, with special attention to emerging economies. In this sense, our aim is to discuss the paths and trends that can shape the future of a world facing geopolitics and geoeconomics transformations. The key question is: To what extent can the changes in the last decades point in the direction of a global scenario in which societies can become more inclusive and less unequal?

Diagnosis of the Times: Tendencies in Education and Society

Session Organizer(s)

Lars Geer HAMMERSHØJ, Aarhus University, Denmark, lgha@edu.au.dk

Session in English

The session sets out to explore diagnosis of the times as an analysis strategy of diagnosing tendencies in current society. As the pace of change in society accelerates, diagnosis of the times becomes increasingly important as a tool of orientation in order to determining the tendencies in society. This is especially the case with education as education by definition is about preparing the new generation for living and working in future society. Thus, education appears to be a privileged field of diagnosis.

Diagnosis of the times can be traced back to the founding fathers of sociology and the intersection of philosophy and sociology. It is in the words of Foucault about looking for a difference: “What difference does today introduce with respect to yesterday?” That is, diagnosis is the precarious endeavor of interpreting indications in society (tendencies) of transformations of conditions of the times (that constitute today).

Despite the increased need and request of diagnosis of the times, there appears to be a lack of methodological reflection of this kind of analysis strategy with a few exceptions – notably sociologist Ulrich Beck and social-analyst Lars-Henrik Schmidt.

The session engages in the discussion hereof including on how diagnosis of the times differs from the description of society of social sciences and from projecting developmental trends and future scenarios of future studies. To illustrate, specific diagnosis of the relation of tendencies in education and society are presented and discussed.

Identity and the Future

Session Organizer(s)

Mariolina GRAZIOSI, University of Milan, Italy, mariolina.graziosi@unimi.it

Session in English

The rapid social change known by contemporary society has deeply influenced the process of formation of individual identity and the type of individual identity formed. In traditional society, individual identity was the result of a collective project, therefore the individual identity was socially determined. The transition to modern society, in particular the process of individualization, made central the question “Who am I?”, making identity an individual project. With the radicalization of the process of individualization, and the process of globalization, the individual identity has become more and more an individual project that can change periodically, making identity fluid, segmented and fragmented.

Sociologists like Anthony Giddens or Zygmunt Bauman have analysed the new forms of identity that characterize the late modernity. Giddens spoke of self-identity as a reflexive project, while

Bauman spoke of liquid identity. Today we need to reflect on these two models and see if they are still valid.

I believe it is crucial to answer the following questions: can we still speak of the need of an identity or are we back to the idea of a mask that the person wears according to the social settings? Should we speak of a fluid identity that changes over time and space? Which are the effects of the fluid identity on the inner life of the individual?

Paths to Social Justice in the BRICS Countries

Session Organizer(s)

Jayanathan GOVENDER, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Africa,

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Tom DWYER, University of Campinas, Brazil, tomdwyer@terra.com.br

Kiran ODHAV, North West University, South Africa, kiran.odhav@nwu.ac.za

Mokong Simon MAPADIMENG, North-West University, South Africa,

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Session in English

Social justice is a global project but not an absolute concept. It is theorized and proposed for experiences of inequality; systems of power; geo-politics of wars and conflicts; production and consumption capabilities; discriminatory and exclusionary praxes; monetization of the environmental and global resources; social politics of feminism, gender and sexualisation; and skewed ICT landscape. Individually and collectively, these factors contribute globally to intense oppressive processes and attendant struggles.

The efforts towards some idea of social justice are ideologically, geographically and socially varied, contested and claimed. These efforts span global institutions, social movements, civil society formations and even individuals.

The session seeks to recognize the varied paths, mechanisms and processes towards social justice in the BRICS countries. It hopes to provide an opportunity to share conceptual understanding, knowledge, and social commitment towards current and future social justice dispositions, movements and projects.

Scenarios and Future Societies

Session Organizer(s)

John URRY, Lancaster University, United Kingdom, j.urry@lancaster.ac.uk

Session in English

This session will examine the relevance of scenarios in developing understanding of how societies of the future will be organised. Papers are invited both from those who have been

involved in scenario developments and from those who wish to analyse conceptually what is involved in scenario work in sociology. The presumption of this session in thinking futures is that they are sociomaterial, that is not simply technological but also not “purely” social.

Socio-Ecological Struggles and Emergent Innovations in the Sociogenesis of Democratic Futures

Session Organizer(s)

José Esteban CASTRO, Newcastle University, United Kingdom, esteban.castro@ncl.ac.uk

Session in English Spanish

This session invites papers focused on the interrelations between social struggles against socio-ecological inequality and injustice (e.g. lack of access to essential goods like clean air and water or the violent displacement of populations caused by large-scale human interventions), and the emergence of social (including socio-technical) innovations aimed at overcoming inequality and injustice and fostering substantive democratization to bring about desirable futures.

We welcome papers that have a comparative-analytical approach, and that address the imagining and construction of futures in a historical-sociological and comparative perspective. The papers can be theoretical and empirical, and may address problems located at different temporal and spatial scales such as the interaction between single events and broader, longer-term processes, as well as innovations developed to foster progressive social transformations at different scales, from local to global. Examples of questions that we would like to have addressed in this session are:

- What conditions, factors and processes facilitate the emergence of social innovations in the context of socio-ecological struggles?
- What are the mechanisms that make these innovations successful in fostering progressive social transformations (e.g. that help to bring about conditions for the development of substantive democratic politics)?
- What are the critical factors to make these innovations sustainable and replicable?
- What are the main obstacles to sustain and replicate these innovations in the construction of democratic futures?

We welcome papers that adopt inter- and transdisciplinary (dialogue with non-academic knowledges) approaches.

Structural Possibilities and Religious Extremism

Session Organizer(s)

Eliana HERRERA-VEGA, Ottawa University, Canada, area.eliana@gmail.com

Session in English French Spanish

World society features distinct and contradictory communication flux that occurs simultaneously: first, there is the modern proposal that takes the sociological form of differentiation by functions. Here, there is a general semantic that offers formal access to individual rights and legal protections, promising to integrate individuals within as many social systems as society has. Second, traditional societies address complexity by re-instating structures of stratification featuring religious centralized power.

The two semantics collide in the technological speedway and this collision has dire effects at the levels of agency and structure. For both functional differentiated and stratified societies, the collision is an opportunity that offers a set of possible futures.

First, the stratified society may react to the clash by developing the legal, political and economic structure that is required for guaranteeing formal human rights and distinct, autonomous social systems. Conversely, such society can react to this irritation by violently upholding anti-modern structures and extremist religions.

Second, many distinct possibilities arise for modern societies, such as a defense of the promises of Modernity or, contrariwise, a risk of de-differentiation. De-differentiation in modern societies would attempt to diminish the effects of alienation (that technological and systemic developments entail) by returning to a simplified version of politics: the primary definition of friend and enemy, a definition that denies universal human rights.

This session accepts papers that study aspects of this communicative clash and its future effects in creating positive and negative feedback loops for world peace.

The Cultural Dimension of Innovation Processes

Session Organizer(s)

Massimiliano RUZZEDDU, University Niccolò Cusano in Rome and World Complexity Science Academy, Italy, mruzzed@hotmail.com

Session in English

In the current debate, innovations seem to be exclusively the object of economic studies. The importance of innovation processes mainly consists of the possibility of value production for entrepreneurs, political authorities and citizens. Innovation is desirable because it can contribute to the development of a given geographical area, raise the occupational levels and improve the commercial balance. However this idea is based upon the theoretical frame of the goal-oriented action, for which social actors are supposed to act according to rationalistic criteria and always try to enlarge the gap between cost and income, with no regard to their own emotions, values and beliefs.

On the contrary, in order to understand and enhance the innovation processes, it is necessary to also take into consideration the cultural dimension. For instance, the unprecedented pace of innovation, which began with the Second Industrial Revolution in the 1800s, does not only have

economic roots: it also depends on the scientific revolution, the end of traditional societies and a widespread faith in the progress that had set a favorable environment for innovation, especially in terms of acceptance of new technologies by large masses.

This framework might help to understand, for instance, the cases of failed innovation: where social representations of science and technology are negative, and the common idea of time does not consist of beliefs in historical progress and evolution, the introduction of new technologies might be problematic.

This session will accept papers, both theoretical and empirical, that highlight the relationship between culture and innovation processes.

The Future of Education

Session Organizer(s)

Gabor KIRALY, Budapest Business School, Hungary, kiraly.gabor@pszfb.bgf.hu

Session in English

In our rapidly changing societies tertiary education is faced with different, often interrelated challenges. On the one hand, social factors affect its significance, such as losing its traditional social and economic roles, the accelerating and often abrupt nature of social changes and the uncertainty as a natural consequence of these changes. These social transformations seem to devalue professional bodies of knowledge in contrast to generalized skill sets. On the other hand, our new technological environment also deeply influences educational spaces and practices. Phenomena such as students' different style of information processing and altered concentration span, the omnipresence of information and communication technologies, as well as the appearance of new, digital forms of learning and teaching (like MOOCs) all challenge educational patterns and the established routines of both lecturers and management staff.

In relation to these aspects, a diverse and widespread discourse emerged from the feeling of an ongoing severe role change in order to identify new functions and practices for higher education. This session aims to contribute to this discourse through exploring the future trends of higher education. Session organisers will welcome contributions from anyone who has an interest in the following topics:

- Theoretical studies dealing with the current trends of higher education and their impact on institutions and individual actors.
- Empirical studies aiming to explore new types of inequalities, future visions of or new paths for higher education.
- Case studies discussing new forms of learning and teaching, which address contemporary or future challenges of higher education.

The Politics of Conflict, Reconciliation, Memory, and Trauma: Paving a Path for the Present and Future

Session Organizer(s)

Lynn RAPAPORT, Pomona College, USA, lrapaport@pomona.edu

Session in English

What are the possibilities and limitations of depicting traumatic memory? How is the past related to the present, and how does it impact the future? How do groups remember past atrocities? Does the past exist in the past, or does it exist in the present when we think about things that have passed? How do memories of past conflict impact the future?

Memory provides the linkage between the past, present, and future. This session will address issues of conflict, reconciliation, memory and trauma, paying attention to how the aftermath of violence affects the present and future. Can traumatic memory be represented? If so, how and by whom? Who has the legitimacy to represent the trauma, and what are the political ramifications of various means of commemoration and representation? How has trauma, particularly from the aftermath of violence, served the politics of remembering and forgetting, the politicization of suffering, the use and abuse of representation, and impacted the discussion of future reparations and/or reconciliation?

The session will showcase sociologists dealing with any aspect of the memory of conflict, trauma, and/or reconciliation in the aftermath of collective violence – war, genocide, or terrorism. Papers that deal with the representation of traumatic memory by victims, ethnic groups, the media, nation states and/or museums are welcome. Papers could also be about memory and memorialization, commemoration, memory and identity politics (constructing victims and perpetrators), political sites of memory, or how memory impacts future negotiations of retributive justice, forgiveness and forgetting.

Contested Futures of the South

Joint session of RC07 Futures Research [host committee] and RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

Session Organizer(s)

Dieter NEUBERT, University of Bayreuth, Germany, dieter.neubert@uni-bayreuth.de

Session in English

They do not only challenge their government or existing economic structures but express their own concepts of a (better) future – the future they want. Examples are the “Arab Spring”, the Brazilian protest movement before and after the football world cup, protests in Burkina Faso after an army take over or movements for consumer rights in India. Their concepts for the future

may be directed towards freedom or development, may express the desire for better conditions of living or consumption, or the concepts may refer to tradition religion or claim moral standards. However, even when the movements represent considerable parts of the societies, they are hardly uncontested. The visions of the future are at stake, intensively debated and more often than not in conflict with other visions.

The session aims to analyse these conflicts and the contested concepts and visions of the future in the Global South. Examples of questions that we would like to be addressed in this session are:

- What are the conflicting visions and concepts of the future in particular countries or regions?
- Who are the carriers of these concepts and visions?
- Do we observe particular regional or global trends, or waves of particular concepts and visions?
- Under which societal conditions do particular concepts and visions emerge?

Elites, the Poor and the Welfare State in Unequal Democracies

Joint session of RC07 Futures Research and RC18 Political Sociology [host committee]

Session Organizer(s)

Felix LOPEZ, Institute of Applied Economic Research, Brazil, felixlopez@gmail.com

Session in English

Social science typically expects democracy and distribution to correlate and yet we now live in an era of democracy with increasing inequality. We remain unaware of the reasons why elites moved toward highly distributive welfare states in early democracies but not in more recent democracies, such as the ones in Latin America, Africa and South Asia. Furthermore, we now observe how elites in established welfare states begin to cope with inequality once again in North America and Western Europe. As several authors have argued, distribution is in many ways affected by the reactions of elites to the poor.

As argued by Swaan (1988), it was the acknowledgment of the interdependence between rich and poor that triggered the creation of welfare policies in Europe and in the US. And yet this pattern has not been replicated in the developing world. What are the preferences and perceived incentives behind such contrasting attitudes? What do they suggest as future trends for distribution patterns?

This session will look at the relationship between elites and the poor, and its consequences for future welfare policies. We will discuss the results of recent surveys with political and economic elites in Latin America and South Africa, and welcome sociologists and political scientists engaged in empirical research or conceptual work on elites and distribution, elites and social

policy, elite reactions to the poor, comparisons between elite and mass opinions and perceptions, ethnic and symbolic dimensions of elite-mass conflicts, historical developments of the welfare state, and other related subjects.

Imagining Futures through the Visual

Joint session of RC07 Futures Research and WG03 Visual Sociology [host committee]

Session Organizer(s)

Gary BRATCHFORD, t.b.c., United Kingdom, g_bratch@hotmail.co.uk

Session in English

This session invites papers on research and case studies that consider how futures are being presented, mediated, performed, designed, narrated or imagined through a range of visual practices. Emphasizing the importance of visibility and communication, the session will consider:

- How sociology and visual studies combined can be used to conceptualize current relations between vision and visibility.
- The representation of varying social spheres, communities, environments, social movements, state and non-state actors on and offline.

As such, this session welcomes research that investigates what Schulz (2015) refers to as “future moves” within the discipline, as well as future visions in addition to research dealing with the assembly of visual material that point to an understanding or re-reading of our potential futures. Examples may include:

- The analysis of ecological or activist photographs that delineate a future disaster as a possible outcome of the present (Harimen, 2014).
- The accumulation and analysis of contemporary activist material found on multiple platforms, that when brought together, create a “visual coherence” evoking a trail, and thus an idea of an injustice, which is yet to be recognized (Azoulay, 2011).

Papers are also welcomed on a range of topics that address motives and practices for future change or future action, supported by visual content. These can include (but are not limited to):

- The networked circulation of individual and group self-portraits with banners and signs that promote call for changes in policy, political visibility and/or social equality.
- What methodological tools are best applied when examining futures through a socio-visual lens.

Looking at Past and Present Inequalities for a Less Unequal Future

Joint session of RC07 Futures Research [host committee] and WG02 Historical and Comparative Sociology

Session Organizer(s)

Elisa REIS, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, epreis1@gmail.com

Session in English

Equality and social justice have always been on the agenda of sociology. Meanings attributed to them remain the subject of philosophical and ideological debates. Yet these two values are deeply rooted in the practice of our discipline. We look at the social distribution of material and symbolic goods aiming to make them more efficient, more productive, more just – i.e., to a large extent, we trust sociology may concur to better developments in the future.

At the same time, research on social inequality has been circumscribed by the focus on the nation-state. Studies of global inequality overwhelmingly consist of comparisons of wealth and income between nations. Yet neither a focus on patterns of global stratification nor towards spatial relations across national boundaries follow from such studies. Nor has the innovative potential of feminist theorists' demands for full-fledged incorporation of gender inequalities and supra- and subnational inequality contexts substantially transformed the analytical framework of studies of social inequalities. New conceptualisations largely leave structural inequalities of gender, race, and ethnicity untouched and, in the process, maintain the nation-state framework to which the classical dimensions of class and status were tailored.

The session will therefore inquire how sociologists have conceptualized equality, how they explain historical patterns of inequality, and what questioning the nation-state framework and consideration of structural gender, racial and ethnic disparities do to our efforts to promote more just patterns of distribution in the future. Theoretical and empirical approaches to such questions and critical analysis are welcomed.

Social Movements and the Future They Want

Joint session of RC07 Futures Research [host committee] and RC47 Social Classes and Social Movements

Session Organizer(s)

Geoffrey PLEYERS, FNRS/Université catholique de Louvain & CADIS/EHESS, Belgium, Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be

Session in English

Social movement scholars can make a significant contribution to the third Forum of the ISA entitled “The Futures we Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World”. Social movements are major actors of our societies and contribute to shaping possible futures.

This session welcomes both concrete analysis and theoretical contributions on how progressive or conservative social movements imagine, shape and implement alternative futures. We notably welcome contributions on how social actors and social movements imagine and contribute to shape alternative lifestyles, policies and sociability in the global age, increasingly shaped by both global interdependency and the finitude of the planet.

The Future of University Research and the National Innovation Systems

Joint session of RC07 Futures Research and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology [host committee]

Session Organizer(s)

Jaime JIMENEZ GUZMAN, IIMAS/UNAM, Mexico, jjimen@unam.mx

Session in English

Since the inception of the National Innovation Systems in the 1990s, universities have been subjected to direct some of their efforts to satisfy the scientific and technological needs of industry and service agencies in general. Universities have been assigned a central role in fostering societal development and national economic prosperity. This was supposed to boost university-industry cooperation, technology transfer and patenting by universities. New organizations and activities to speed up the commercial utilization of academic research were established, including technology transfer offices, more industry sponsored research projects, and spin-off companies.

Has this given rise to a distortion of the mission of the university? Particularly, has the mission of enhancing knowledge for knowledge sake been hampered? Some researchers complain they do not get enough financial support for projects when research is not related to applications. In sum, what is the future of university research and national innovation systems? Can we expect a proper balance in the sponsorship of applied and not applied research? Could not applied long-range research be properly supported regardless of its inapplicability? Should universities become the technological arm of big corporations?

We invite colleagues interested in this relationship to submit abstracts along these and related topics and engage in an exciting discussion about the future of university research in the light of new obligations.



**International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Futures Research (ISA-RC07)**

President: Markus S. Schulz <isarc07@gmail.com>
Secretary-Treasurer: Hiroyuki Toyota <htoyota@kansai.gaidai.ac.jp>
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc07.htm> and <http://futures-research.org/>

Membership Form

This form is for new and current RC07 members with already updated ISA membership. Please **send the completed form** directly to the ISA secretariat per **email: isa@isa-sociology.org** or **fax: +34-913 524 945** or **postal mail to: ISA, Facultad de Ciencias Políticas y Sociología, Universidad Complutense, 28223 Madrid, SPAIN**

In case you are not yet a member of ISA, then please use the general form to join both ISA and RC07 available at: http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm.

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RC07 membership fees cover a period of four calendar years. Applications received before October 15 will be processed for the current calendar year. Applications received after October 15 will be processed for the following calendar year. Please indicate your selection:

- Supporter US\$40 (voluntary)
- Regular US\$20
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The International Sociological Association Research Committee 07 Futures Research (ISARC07) was founded in 1971 and is dedicated to the promotion of future-oriented social research. A newsletter with details of ISARC07's activities is published about twice a year. For more information on ISARC07 and on how to become a member, please visit our websites at:

<<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc07.htm>> and <<http://futures-research.org/>>.

Contact email: <isarc07info@gmail.com>