

International Sociological Association  
RC 20  
*Comparative Sociology*

December 2008 Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

Here is the second newsletter for 2008.

Complements of the season,

Jean-Pascal Daloz (Chair, RC 20)

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**Events**

RC 20 participated in the 1<sup>st</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology held in Barcelona at the beginning of September. Please refer to the programme of our sessions in the previous newsletter (June 2008).

Being in Barcelona was very pleasant indeed. However, attendance to our panels was rather unequal, to say the least. In the future, the question will arise as to whether our preference is to participate in such an official Forum or to organise our own interim conference somewhere. Please, do not hesitate to express your views on that matter.

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**Gothenburg World Congress, 2010**

Members of the board have already been informed that the ISA headquarters request us to submit session topics for the July 2010 XVII World Congress of Sociology (to take place in Gothenburg, Sweden) as early as January 2009! and they have been invited to make proposals. Several of them have already expressed their interest and I would like to seize the opportunity of this newsletter to remind them that they should send their respective titles + short descriptions (to [jean-pascal.daloz@politics.ox.ac.uk](mailto:jean-pascal.daloz@politics.ox.ac.uk)) no later than January the 9th.

Other RC 20 members willing to organise a panel should feel free to send a proposal at the above e-mail address. Needless to say, the session will have to be of high quality (the originality of the proposed topic will be taken into consideration) with a potential to attract attention. As far as is possible, all intended papers will have to be comparative or at least present case studies addressing the very same theme. We do not know yet how many panels our RC will be entitled to have (this depending on the number of members in good standing at the beginning of the year of the Congress). The final selection will be made by the Chair and the Executive secretary in agreement with other members of the board.

As usual, we shall also have some sessions about 'Current Research in Comparative Sociology' allowing us to welcome papers on various topics. We might also have a round table, about methodological issues for instance.

Let me insist on the fact that paper proposals should not be submitted at this stage, only session topics.

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## **Grant**

RC 20 is going to apply again for a grant from ISA.

Last year, our application was rejected because one of our board members was not in good standing. He has been contacted and has immediately renewed his membership. However, the Executive committee has refused to reconsider its decision.

I am therefore urging all board members to make sure that they have paid their ISA and RC dues by the beginning of 2009, if need be. Thank you.

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## **The Foundation Mattei Dogan Prize in Sociology**

RC 20 has nominated Professor Jeffrey C. Alexander (from Yale University) for this 'life achievement in Sociology' prize, to be awarded by the International Sociological Association at the occasion of its next World Congress.

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Let me remind you that all RC 20 members are welcome to send information about their conferences, significant publications or other matters related to the

field of Comparative Sociology if they wish to have them included in our newsletter.

## **Comparative Sociology (journal)**

As you know we have a fruitful relationship with the journal *Comparative Sociology*. Please find updated information about this journal and the related Brill series hereunder.

*Comparative Sociology* ([www.brill.nl/coso](http://www.brill.nl/coso)) is a quarterly international scholarly journal published by Brill of Leiden, Netherlands dedicated to advancing comparative sociological analyses of societies and cultures, institutions and organizations, groups and collectivities, networks and interactions. In addition, book-length manuscripts may also be submitted to the related book series, *International Studies in Sociology and Social Anthropology* ([www.brill.nl/issa](http://www.brill.nl/issa)).

Two issues of the journal each year are devoted to “special topics,” and six topics currently open for submissions (through July 2009) are:

- Democratic Quality and Social Democracy
- Constitutional Courts Cross-Nationally
- Institutional Design
- Bourdieu on Professions
- Public Realm Ascent v. Field Autonomy Ascent
- Enlightened Localism (edited by Benjamin Gregg)

Consult the Website for descriptions of each.

Editor-in-Chief is David Sciulli, Professor of Sociology, Texas A&M University, and Columbia University Ph.D. in Political Science ([compsoc@tamu.edu](mailto:compsoc@tamu.edu)). Submissions are welcome not only from sociologists but also political scientists, legal scholars, economists, anthropologists and others. Indeed, the journal and book series are particularly keen to receive works of comparative political sociology and comparative legal sociology. All submissions are peer-reviewed and (initial) decisions are typically made within less than three months.

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## **Call for papers**

### **EUROPE & THE WORLD BEFORE AND AFTER 1989**

**Trans-national and comparative perspectives on Eastern & Western Europe**

**Research Network 1989 with The University of Padua, Polish Academy of Science (PAN**

## **GSSR), Sciences Po (CERI) and GESIS (Service Agency Eastern Europe)**

Anniversary Conference <http://www.cee-socialscience.net/1989/>

**10-12 June 2009, University of Padua, Italy**

The Europe-wide impact of 1989 deserves thorough examination. The year was a watershed for events, which came in its aftermath: European Union enlargement, trans-national economics and changing values on both sides of the Berlin Wall. We seek to stimulate dialogue and new research projects that examine changes for actors and organizations not just in the region formerly known as Eastern Europe, but equally in Western Europe. Indeed, we encourage the examination of the reconfigurations that occurred across the world, linking the 'before' and 'after' of 1989.

We have two aims in mind:

To showcase the best new work on the before and after of 1989, especially insofar as it enlarges our horizon by offering a comparative perspective, analysing regional interdependencies and tracing trans-national impact. Postdoctoral scholars and junior faculty are particularly encouraged to apply.

To garner continued public and academic attention beyond 2009 by selecting and promoting new research programmes that principally would be worthy of post-doc mobility stipends or principal investigator awards. In doing so, we suggest to feature panels on the trajectory and careers of actors as the preferred means of tracing change and continuity across the rupture of 1989.

### **Open call for panel proposals: Before and after 1989**

Panel proposals are solicited on any topic of interest, preferably of trans-national and comparative focus. Proposals that demonstrate the significance of 1989 not just for CEE, but also for other European regions or for Europe in relation to the world, are welcome.

Panel organisers should be aware that panels will last 100 minutes (3-5 speakers). Participants must hold a PhD (by 31.12.2008). Panel organisers may choose to contribute. Co-authored papers are welcome. Panel proposals must have a general abstract and provide an abstract for each contribution. Panel organisers may submit a draft proposal to the programme committee by 01 December 2008 for feedback in December 2008. The final deadline is 10 January 2009 for selection within two weeks. Invited participants will be required to submit a full and proofread paper by 30 April 2009. All papers will be distributed with the RN 1989 Working Paper Series (ISSN 1867-2833). Please submit your panel proposal as a single file to [apply1989@iz-soz.de](mailto:apply1989@iz-soz.de)

### **Call for featured panels: Trajectories of development and adaptation of political, economic, and social actors and organizations**

Proposals for featured panels are invited on how a) 1989 and subsequent developments impacted the position and trajectories of the actors in question b) the strategies aforementioned actors used in order to adapt to the new political and economic reality.

To stimulate the development of panel proposals, we pose the following questions:

1. Political actors: How can we assess the role(s) that communist successor parties have played in transition politics? How has the agenda of leftist western parties changed in the post-1989 environment? Conversely, what were the determinants of the political fortunes of the former anticommunist movements and how have they evolved throughout transition? What were the determinants and patterns of their collaboration with ideological allies at the supranational level? How does this play out at the European level, both in the European Union and beyond?
2. Economic actors: What were determinants of success or failure for former socialist enterprises in the post-1989 environment? What were the respective roles of the old social networks, the state, and the foreign investors in the adaptation of these actors? How did the business strategy, management and production process of firms located in Western Europe change? How have labour markets changed and what is the impact of mobility and migration? How do we judge the future sustainability of integrated European capital, labour and service markets?
3. Social actors: How have the communist-era labour unions, which were the 'transmission belts' of the communist party, transformed themselves into fully-fledged labour unions? What are patterns of trans-national labour collaboration throughout the EU? How has civil society across Europe changed in the aftermath of the collapse of communism? What has the collapse of communism meant for gender relations across Europe? How have rising inequality and economic challenges throughout Europe altered the European political scene?

Anybody interested in these featured panels is strongly encouraged to contact the programme committee and to submit a draft proposal by 01 December 2008. N.B. With a focus on political, economic and social actors, panels examining other domains such as the state, the military, cultural sphere, the legal system and the European Union and other European institutions are also very welcome. Terms and conditions as above. Please send your single file to [apply1989@iz-soz.de](mailto:apply1989@iz-soz.de)

### **Open call for posters: The best of doctoral research**

The programme committee solicits poster proposals from doctoral students engaged in research that is related to the conference theme in the widest sense. The public conference will feature a dedicated poster sessions of two hours – to leave ample time for personal introductions and discussions. The purpose of the poster session is to bring together post-docs and doctoral researchers in the spirit of mutual exchange and in the spirit of fostering mentoring and research collaboration in future.

Doctoral students wishing to present a poster should submit an abstract and their full details to the programme committee by 10 January 2009. Please send your single file to [apply1989@iz-soz.de](mailto:apply1989@iz-soz.de)

## **Publication, career advice and further research opportunities**

Participants will be invited to consider book and journal publication opportunities with the Research Network 1989, including a 'digital collaboratory' under development in conjunction with a network of European university presses. Further details will be available in spring 2009.

Panel organisers (or a nominated substitute) will be able to participate in 'Early Independence,' the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) programme for Postdocs. The CPD programme is designed to prepare post-docs for applying to and holding principal investigator awards.

The RN 1989 offers the opportunity to extend and expanded collaborative projects by means of a Working Group (also open to advanced PhD students). Seed money may be available.

Terms and conditions for RN 1989 membership, Working Group formation and the CPD programme are available on the website: <http://www.cee-socialscience.net/1989/>

Professor Antonio Pavan (Padua), Professor Andrzej Rychard (PAN), Professor Jacques Rupnik (Sciences Po), Ulrike Becker (GESIS), Dr Chris Armbruster (RN 1989)