

International Sociological Association  
RC 20  
*Comparative Sociology*

December 2014 Newsletter

Strasbourg: 6 January, 2015

Dear colleagues,

*The Yokohama World Congress is now behind us. I was quite satisfied with the overall quality of our sessions which were well attended. You will find hereafter a report on our business meeting.*

*It is already time to prepare the ISA Forum which will take place in Vienna, Austria (10-14 July, 2016). As usual, we are requested to provide our final list of sessions more than 16 months in advance! I draw your attention to the fact that members who would like to suggest one should let me have their proposal (title + name, affiliation and address of the session organiser(s) + description and call for papers) by mid-March 2015. The board will then discuss these and we will send our final list to the ISA headquarters by the beginning of April.*

*I wish you all a very fruitful 2015.*

*Jean-Pascal Daloz  
RC 20 President*

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**Business meeting report (Yokohama, 18 July 2014)**

Present: Sylvain Beck; Jean-Pascal Daloz; Morten Frederiksen; Dmytro Khutkyy; Celia Munoz-Goy; Fumiya Onaka; Hanno Scholtz; Frederick C. Turner; Robert van Krieken; Marcus Quandt; Andrey Rezaev; Yuriy Vasserman; David Weakliem.

### 1. Report on RC activities

Jean-Pascal Daloz gave a full report regarding the August 2010-June 2014 period. RC activities essentially took place within the framework of ISA gatherings (Congress + 2012 Buenos Aires Forum of Sociology to which the RC fully participated). A RC 20 Conference was also organised in Strasbourg in March 2014 on 'Sociological Schools of Thought and Comparative Analysis' (to be published in the journal 'Comparative Sociology'). Approved.

### 2. Financial report

The RC has received 1,120 € (grant for the Strasbourg conference in March 2014) and 1,333 € (RC fees in June 2014) during this period. There was no spending until Spring 2014 (1441.67 € related to travel and accommodation expenses for participants to the Strasbourg RC conference). Approved.

### 3. Report on the June/July 2014 elections

Results (please refer to the previous newsletter) were approved. The composition of the new board can be seen on the RC website.

### 4. Request for a merger of RC 20 and WG 02

Robert van Krieken presented the request on behalf of WG 02 (which also emphasises comparative perspectives) and explained why it would be important for RC 20 to have 'new blood'. Frederick Turner asked where the interest of our RC would lie? Hanno Scholtz said that he saw advantages in this merger and that he was rather in favour. He also insisted, however, on the fact that WG 02 was strongly related to one school of thought (configurational, Eliasian) and that it had not been in the tradition of RC 20 to favour one school of thought. Another problem might be the number of sessions and time allocated to our RC. Y. Vasserman expressed the view that such a merger might bring newcomers but also lead to the departure of some members, while A. Rezaev added that 'new blood can kill the patient'. Technical questions, such as who should formally decide about this (the two respective boards with a subsequent ratification by all members?) as well as what the name would be.

It was decided not to take any decision at this stage, that it should be given further reflexion and that the request would be considered again on the occasion of the 2016 Vienna Forum.

## **Vienna ISA Forum (message from the organiser)**

After broad dialogues and consultations, it is my pleasure to share with you the theme for the upcoming ISA Forum of Sociology, to be held in Vienna, Austria, 10-14 July 2016: “The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World.” This theme is meant to provide a platform for the wide spectrum of our many Research Committees (RCs), Working Groups (WGs), and Thematic Groups (TGs) and to encourage forward-oriented research ranging from the tiny worlds in micro situations to the broadest macro dynamics affecting the entire planet. The rather uncommon plural “s” in futures points to the diversity of possibilities, projects, and visions. Social actors aspire, desire, envision, expect, fear, imagine, plan, and ultimately shape in their more or less contentious interactions at multiple scales new conditions. Empirical, theoretical, and normative research from around the world is needed to help tackle the critical problems and opportunities in our age of advanced globalization. While sessions related to the umbrella theme are particularly welcome as a way to connect across RC/WG/TGs, all units are of course free to convene sessions on any topic of their liking.

Although many organizational aspects remain to be worked out over the coming weeks, the following information is pertinent for the next steps:

With best regards,  
Markus

Markus S. Schulz, PhD  
President, ISA Forum 2016  
ISA Vice-President for Research

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### **Position offer**

Deadline: 7 January 2015

Professor (f/m) of Empirical Social Research

The Institute of Sociology at the University of Graz is a leading institution in research and teaching in Austria and offers the discipline sociology at a high international level. Thematic specialisation contributes a comprehensive and differentiated orientation both in basic and applied research and teaching.

In research we pursue the following specialities: Theory and history of sociology, cross-national comparative and historical-sociological research, Applied sociology, Gender sociology and Economic sociology.

Our teaching encompasses all levels of sociological programs (BA, MA and Ph.D.) and we contribute to neighbouring programs at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics.

In addition, our department is a partner in a Joint-Study program in Cultural Sociology and in the Gender Studies MA Program in Graz.

We are particularly concerned to teach our students practical skills in sociological research in order to engage them in research at an early stage and offer advanced students the opportunity to practice peer teaching.

We are also doing counseling, applied research, and contribute regularly to media and adult education.

The Institute of Sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics is seeking to appoint a Professor (f/m) of Empirical Social Research (40 hours per week; permanent employment according to the Austrian Law on Salaried Employment (AngG); Expected starting date December 1st 2015 )

Research and teaching responsibilities.

The professor will be in charge of empirical social research with a macro-sociological perspective in teaching and research. Necessary is a competence in a broad range of research methods, in particular quantitative ones, and the will to collaborate with other methodological orientations.

We expect a record of research and publications in macro-sociology, analysis of social structures with cross-national comparative and/or a historical-sociological approach. Additionally, we expect the active collaboration within the department's research group "Cross-national comparative and historical-sociological research" and the willingness to co-operate with members of other research groups in the department of sociology.

Her/his field of activities comprises teaching (in English and German) at all levels of studies in sociology and neighbouring disciplines, support and supervision of young academics as well as project-fundraising and conducting research projects at the national and European level.

Participation in one of the university-wide research platforms is desirable ("Heterogeneity and Cohesion" or "Cultural history and history of ideas of Europe").

Requirements for employment

- Completion of an appropriate university degree at a university in Austria or abroad
- Habilitation or equivalent qualification in sociology
- Excellent scientific qualification in research and teaching for the relevant subject and profile of the professorship
- Work experience abroad after Master's degree
- Competence in subject-specific project acquisition
- Management and leadership experience
- Gender mainstreaming competence

The candidate is expected to demonstrate his/her educational and didactic skills. Further qualifications required: international publications and academic participation; teaching experiences and the ability to teach in German and English; will to inter disciplinary collaboration, in particular with neighbouring disciplines at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Economics; past experience with third-party-money both in the preparation and the execution; participation in international research collaboration (projects and networks).

Individuals from outside the German speaking world are encouraged to apply; non-native German speakers are expected to reach a competence in German to be able to function in research, teaching and administration within 3 years.

Planned date and time of the hearing ("Applicant lectures"): end of May/beginning June 2015.

## Classification

Salary scheme of the Universitäten-KV (University Collective Agreement): A1 Minimum salary. The minimum salary according to the classification scheme of the collective agreement is EUR 65.769,20 gross per year (14 monthly salaries). Salary subject to negotiation.

Application deadline: January 7th 2015 Reference number: PR/15/99 ex 2013/14  
The University of Graz is striving to increase the number of women, particularly in executive positions, and thus explicitly encourages qualified women to apply. In case of equal qualifications, women will receive priority consideration.

If you are interested, please submit your application documents in accordance with the general application guidelines (which can be found at <http://jobs.uni-graz.at/en/Berufungsverfahren>) within the deadline. Your application documents should include the reference number of the position and be sent by email to: [bewerbung.professur@uni-graz.at](mailto:bewerbung.professur@uni-graz.at)

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### **Recent publications by RC 20 members**

Stephen KALBERG, *L'éthique protestante et l'esprit de la démocratie : Max Weber et la culture politique américaine*, Lormont : Le Bord de l'Eau, 2014.

Nikolai GENOV, 'Upgrading Employability of Unemployed as Constructive Individualization', *Comparative Sociology*, 13 (2014), pp. 162-84.

Antonio V. MENENDEZ ALARCON, *French and US Approaches to Foreign Policy*, London and New York: Palgrave, 2014 (sociological study comparing political elites perceptions of foreign relations).