

Women in Society



ISA Research Council 32 | Newsletter December 2012

Chair's Address

Dear RC 32 Members and Friends,

With a highly successful Second ISA World Forum, serving as the venue for our own RC 32 Inter-Congress conference on “Women, Social Justice and Democratization,” behind us, I hope that we can take this relatively quiet fall time to reflect about our collective accomplishments, to process the lessons we learned at the sessions and outside, from one another and from the experience of the great vibrant city of Buenos Aires, and to plan for the future.

RC 32 held twenty regular sessions, three of which were joint sessions hosted by other Research Committees, and two roundtable sessions of four and three parallel roundtables each, respectively. Session topics covered a broad range of issues relevant to women, social justice and democratization in various regions of the world and globally; from economic empowerment, to violence; gender policies; gender, science and technology; women and poverty; the ethics of intersectional politics; identity politics and skilled migration; the role of language in shaping gender justice and sexual rights movements; women, leisure and the family in an age of transformations; to challenging the logic of neoliberalism: labor-feminist coalitions and work-family policy campaigns.

We filled all the timeslots we were allotted, running sessions from 9 a.m. on August 1 to 5 p.m. on August 4. There was a reception and business meeting at a restaurant off site. Plenary and Open Forum sessions continued until late in the evening. The quality of presentations was high, the number of no shows minimal, and session attendance very good, despite the wonderful distractions of the downtown campus. Although several sessions ran out of time for discussion, informal chatting continued outside of the meeting rooms.

In this newsletter we have included reports from specific sessions and are hoping to include more in forthcoming newsletter issues. Details of our RC 32 on line program are at: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/rc/rc.php?n=RC32>. Details of the ISA World Forum, including an abstract book, program book and plenary session and open forum videos are at: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/>.

While most of our sessions and paper presentations were in English, presentations in Spanish and Portuguese were integrated throughout our program in mixed language sessions. Consecutive interpretation, PP presentations in English, private whispered interpretation by kind bilingual volunteers and other ad hoc arrangements were utilized to make the sessions accessible to everyone regardless of language.

An earlier letter with my immediate reactions and acknowledgements of various organizations and individuals who were key in the success of the conference is included in this newsletter.

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Dear RC 32 Newsletter Readers,

I hope you enjoy reading the December Newsletter. This is the last Newsletter I will be putting together for RC 32. It has been enjoyable communicating with so many of you and finding out about what you are doing. Although I am not continuing as editor of the newsletter, because of my own research commitments, I will be looking forward to reading the RC 32 Newsletter in the future.

Best wishes,

Antoinette Hetzler,
Professor of Sociology
Lund University, Sweden



The ISA had received overall a very enthusiastic response to this Second World Forum, with 55 Research Committees, Working Groups and Thematic Groups submitting approximately 650 sessions in the call for abstracts. A vibrant, bilingual program was put in place with significant participation by Latin American colleagues. There was a wealth of ISA organized activities, including plenaries, a reception and a party. The Forum was co-sponsored by ISA and two Latin American sociological associations, the Argentinian Sociological Association and the Latin-American Sociological Association.

The work of the Second World Forum has been continuing after the Forum was officially over, with a variety of postings on the website, such as the Abstract and Program Books and the Plenary videos. One of the brand new ISA initiatives associated with the Second World Forum that I want to particularly alert you to is the *Social Justice and Democratization Space*: <http://sjdspace.sagepub.com/>. The purpose of this site is “more equitable knowledge production, exchange, dissemination, and action by people across the globe”. This is part of the ISA effort “to be continuously sociological relevant, resourceful and innovative in shaping our world.” Our RC 32 members are invited to and can make invaluable contributions to this site.

Finally, this newsletter launches for RC 32 the preparation for the **XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014**. Some initial organizational guidelines, along with a list of important deadlines are included here. The first deadline, the call for session proposals, is forthcoming on January 15, 2013. Discussion has started in our Board about a possible theme for the RC 32 sessions within the ISA frame of “Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology”. For more about the Yokohama World Congress you can consult the website at: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>.

I look forward to working with you for the next two years on the exciting preparations of the RC 32 Program for the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama.

With best wishes,

Evie Tastsoglou
RC 32 Chair



... And a few thoughts about the Conference from Evie Tastsoglou ...

"Letter to RC 32 Members, August 24, 2010

Dear Colleagues,

As the Second ISA World Forum in Buenos Aires has now come to an end, I would like to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts with all of you:

First of all, the conference was highly successful and hugely inspiring.

Apart from being a colossal organizational achievement, the Second ISA World Forum was characterized by unique features, in terms of both real and virtual venues for the engagement and participation of diverse local, national, regional and global publics (e.g. open fora, social justice and democratization space, activists' sessions, various ISA on line initiatives and others). Such features made it overall into a unique experience for participants. At the same time, because of these features, the Forum had historical significance in terms of ISA's progress to build a global sociology.

RC 32 sessions in particular were dynamic, full - with rare exceptions - and of high scholarly quality. Our session organizers and chairs (often impromptu due to ISA regulations) did a fabulous job - and so did our presenters. Great discussions took place within sessions, to the extent that time permitted, and continued afterwards. New friendships and networks were formed and old ones were renewed. We are hoping to have a number of session reports for our fall newsletter. We had fun at the RC 32 reception (cum business meeting) at LA FAROLA - heartfelt thanks our RC 32 member, Roberta Villalon, for arranging this.

Our Argentinian colleagues and RC 32 Regional Representatives and members extended warm hospitality to us. We sincerely thank them, especially Alicia Itati Palermo, Co-President of the Local Organizing Committee, President of the Argentinian Sociological Association and RC 32 Regional Representative, as well as our local liaison colleague, Prof. Mónica Castro.

Above all, we are grateful to UBA, the University of Buenos Aires, for providing the wonderful historic venue to us, but also the vibrant and amazing city of Buenos Aires for hosting us.

Finally, as the Research Committee for Women in Society, RC 32, we took special notice and are particularly proud of the plenary on "Gender and Human Rights", a high visibility public event representing the culmination of RC 32 efforts of many years, which materialized under the leadership of former RC 32 Co-president, current ISA Vice-President, Research Council, and ISA Forum President, Margaret Abraham. Congratulations to Maggie for a fantastic conference and for her very inspiring opening speech."

Evie Tastsoglou

**A Very Happy
Luncheon
Gang!!!!**

**RC 32
Business
Meeting 2012**

Buenos Aires



Report / Minutes
RC 32 Reception and Business Meeting
Location: “La Farola” restaurant, Buenos Aires
Friday, August 3, 2012, 12:30- 2 pm
(Submitted by Evie Tastsoglou, RC 32 Chair)

Acknowledgments

Evie Tastsoglou expressed her deepest appreciation on behalf of RC 32 to a number of individuals who made this interim conference of RC 32 at the ISA World Forum in Buenos Aires a big success.

In particular the following people were acknowledged:

1. Session Organizers and session chairs
2. Session presenters and participants
3. Roundtable organizers: Vappu Tyyska and Linda Christiansen – Ruffman
4. Roberta Villalon for organizing the RC 32 luncheon
5. Professor Monica Castro for assisting RC 32 as local liaison
6. The entire RC 32 Board for being available and for working together in the planning of this huge event, especially Antoinette Hetzler and Bandana Purkayastha, but also all the Regional Representatives present in Buenos Aires (Anita Dash, Vappu Tyyska, Laura Corradi, Analia Cardoso Torres, Jeanne De Bruijn, Alicia Dambruskas, Alicia Itita Palermo, Sirma Bilge, Nilay Cabuk Kaya, Nazanin Sharhokni, Manisha Desai, Solange Simoes).
7. Past RC 32 co-chair and World Forum President Margaret Abraham for her unwavering support throughout and for trouble-shooting all the little and big issues I was constantly bringing to her attention.

Margaret Abraham thanked Evie Tastsoglou and all the RC 32 organizers, presenters and participants.

1. Approval of Minutes of Business Meeting of July 2010: deferred for the next Business Meeting.
2. Announcements
3. Evie Tastsoglou requested 2-paragraph summaries of main points of discussion from session organizers for the RC 32 newsletter. We are hoping to feature a number of these reports into subsequent newsletters in order both to share with members who did not attend the Forum as well as to stimulate further discussion and exchange.
4. Recent past RC 32 activities included: (1) July 3-7, 2011. Event: Women’s World, Ottawa, Canada. The overall conference theme was ‘Inclusions, exclusions, seclusions: living in a globalized world.’ Rc-32 members organized a total of thirteen sessions. RC 32 shared a table at the conference with information about ISA and RC 32 activities and membership with another organization, the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW). Women’s Worlds, an international interdisciplinary conference on women, is held every three years in different parts of the world. A distinctive feature of Women’s Worlds 2011 was that it was trilingual – in English, French and Spanish. (2) September 6-10, 2011. In collaboration with the Working Group N°11, “Gender, inequality and citizenship”, of the Latin American Sociological Association (ALAS), and with the Working Group “Gender” of the Argentinian Sociological Association (AAS), RC 32 organized a panel on "Dimensions of gender equity in Latin America and the Caribbean" at the XXVIII Congress of the Latin American Sociological Association in Recife, Brazil, 6-10 September 2011. The title of the Congress was “Latin American Open Borders” www.alas2011recife.com. The coordinator was RC 32 Representative for Latin America and the Caribbean Alicia Itatí Palermo, from the National University of Luján (Argentina) and the Argentinian Sociological Association.
5. Mohammed Bamyeh, new editor of *International Sociology Review of Books*, is inviting us to submit proposals for themes, debates, or materials of particular interest that you would like ISRB to highlight. ISRB reviews books, but also regional or local debates, as well as non-book materials (audio-visual materials, blogs, zines, etc.) that could be of interest to an international community of sociologists. The journal is especially interested in reviews of materials available in languages other than English.

6. A brief report on the ISA Research Council Business Meeting was provided by Evie Tastsoglou. Feedback on the Confex system was solicited and received from several of our RC 32 members. Criticisms of the system were echoed by many other committees at the ISA Research Council Business Meeting at the Second ISA Forum of Sociology on July 31, 2012. The ISA is looking into these issues and will address them for the World Congress. Evie also invited RC 32 members to bring issues forth for reporting at the next Research Council Meeting on Saturday, August 4, 2012.

7. Bandana Purkayastha, RC 32 Secretary and Treasurer, gave her report on our spending for the conference and reiterated instructions to members who have been approved for financial support about how to get reimbursed.

8. Antoinette Hetzler, RC 32 newsletter Editor, explained the newsletter process and reminded participants to keep sending her items relevant for the newsletter.

9. Adjournment

Opening Address: Sociology, Social Justice and Democratization in the 21st Century

Margaret Abraham, ISA Vice-President and 2nd ISA Forum President,

Professor of Sociology, Hofstra University

Introduction:

In July 2012, Radha Krishna, a 40 year old farmer from Miryalguda, India tried to commit suicide by immolating himself in front of the governor's house. The police immediately pinned the farmer down and arrested him. In his shirt pocket, they found a note stating that he was committing suicide to protest against the injustice in society. More than a quarter of a million farmers have committed suicide in the last 17 years in India, making for the largest wave of recorded suicides in human history.² Many of these individuals faced mounting debts, the inability to get credit from banks, and failures of their cash crops—all factors associated with neoliberal policies adopted by the states.

The tragic consequences of the global economic crisis and political repression can also generate moral shock that leads to resistance and mobilizing for democracy. On December 17, 2010, Mohamed Bouazizi-- a 26 year old, high school educated, street vendor and breadwinner for a family of eight, working in the city of Sidi Bouzid, Tunisia, immolated himself after his livelihood was threatened. A policewoman had confiscated his vegetable cart and its goods, collected the fine of \$7, and then according to witnesses slapped him, spat in his face and insulted his dead father.³ Bouazizi unsuccessfully sought justice from the state. He repeatedly requested meetings with local officials and had lodged a complaint that was refused less than an hour before he set himself on fire. Bouazizi's suicide tapped into and amplified resentments against rising unemployment fueled by the power of the state and its oppressive policies. A wave of demonstrations in the streets immediately ensued, sparking the Tunisian Revolution and the greater Arab Spring.

The consequences of poverty, lack of opportunity, and gendered violence can be particularly severe for women and children. On December 16, 2010, Marisela Escobedo was shot dead as she continued to protest the lack of justice in the murder of her 16 year old daughter, Rubi two years earlier. Rubi's body (39 pieces of charred bone) was found in a dump in Juarez, Mexico. Marisela's fight for justice for her daughter directly confronted a system of sexism, corruption, and impunity. Juarez, has been called the city of femicides for the murder of hundreds of young women, often raped and tortured. This border city of over one million, has been decimated with more than 3000 murders since 1990, giving it the title of the "murder capital of the world"⁴.

These stories are not only about India, Tunisia and Mexico. In fact these situations exist in the most developed countries too. These stories tell us of despair, but also of struggles for social justice and social change. They are also emblematic of the inequalities and both significant challenges to and opportunities for promoting social justice and democratic institutions. These examples also highlight similar injustices in very different societies. Many activists have also identified these similarities and have joined together across borders to challenge a global economic and political system that deepens social injustices globally.

On October 15th 2011, vast numbers of people took to the streets and squares in over 1000 cities and 82 countries to end inequalities and for global change. They raised their voices to let politicians and bankers know that they do not represent the 99%. Condemning poverty, inequality, environmental devastation and corporate and government collusion, they firmly but without violence demanded for social justice and insisted that the will of the majority be heard.⁵

A few comments on the state of the world

The emergence of the information and high-tech economy has redefined notions of time, space, distances, boundaries, and borders. By altering the social and natural environments, these developments have also changed patterns of global interaction. States have increasingly enabled and accommodated the economic forces of the global market economy-- often in the interests of a new class of global/transnational elite, but with little opportunities or protections for the poor, marginalized and dispossessed.

Remarkable strides in technology, science, medicine, and communication have been accompanied by deepening social and economic inequalities and the persistence of human rights violations. Over 1.4 billion live in poverty. 3.5 billion or 50% or of the world lives on less than two and half dollars (2:50) a day.⁶ Over 780 million people still use unsafe drinking water; that is approximately one in nine people⁷. On the other hand the ten richest people in the world are cumulatively worth 395.4 billion dollars.⁸ If they created their own country, they would have the 30th largest GDP of the 182 countries in world. The International Labor Organization, in its annual report on global labor conditions released on April 30th 2012, forecast that more than 200 million workers will be unemployed in 2012. 50 million jobs have been wiped out since the 2008 financial crisis and do not expect worldwide recovery in jobs and incomes for at least another five years.⁹

The recent UN women's progress report notes that while there have been strides in women legal rights, vast numbers of women continue to be denied the control over their own bodies, excluded from decision making and denied protection from violence. 603 million women still live in places where domestic violence is not considered a crime and even where there is some progress in legal framework, millions of women report experiencing violence in their lifetimes and usually at the hands of an intimate partner. The systematic targeting of women for brutal sexual violence is also characteristic of modern conflicts.¹⁰ Human rights still seem to be out of reach for large numbers of women. The consequences of poverty and lack of opportunity can also be particularly severe for LGBTQ, ethnic and religious minorities.

Deep social inequalities exist not only across economic regions, but also within societies, including some of the wealthiest economies. In the United States, the top 1% controls 40% of the total wealth and almost a quarter of the total country's income.¹¹ There are approximately 50.7 million uninsured in the U.S., which is roughly 16.3% with no health insurance. To put this into some perspective, that is 1.5 times the population of neighboring Canada.¹²

These stark inequalities and injustices have led to growing unrest across the world among those who face the brunt of economic exploitation, social exclusion and political repression. Issues of social justice and democratization are being pushed to the forefront. We have witnessed the use of new social media as well as the growth and proliferation of horizontal, transnational networks of individuals and NGOs. (Examples of the utilization of new social media—the mobile media center practices of the Egyptian protesters which defused to OWS).¹³

Ordinary people across the globe are mobilizing and challenging oppressive social, political, and economic regimes with indomitable courage; striving for social justice, and daring, against all odds, to take difficult and by no means linear or standard roads to democratization. In some societies the struggle to achieve social justice has involved efforts to dismantle the existing state apparatus and to either establish or reform electoral systems and systems of governance so that they are more representative of different groups, and that the representatives are more accountable to these groups. In others, it has involved efforts to increase popular participation in state policy formation and implementation. Still in others, movements have sought to create alternative institutions that embody direct democracy and delink communities from corporations and states. The roads taken depend upon the strategies and power relations among the particular states, corporations, and movements.

So what is the Role of Sociology in the 21st century?

The 21st century poses its own quagmire of complex issues and formidable dilemmas that require us as a global community of sociologists to increasingly participate as stronger societal stakeholders in building a more just society. We as sociologists, have much to offer, if we form research and teaching partnerships with organizations promoting social justice and democratization. These partnerships deepen our understandings of local manifestations of dominant global processes, differing aspirations and conceptions of social justice and democracy, and effective transformative strategies in certain social contexts.¹⁴

In a gathering of primarily sociologists, I don't have to recount the history of what we have done. We know that sociologists and social scientists have long been interested in generating research that affects social transformation. Take, for example, the works of Karl Marx, Harriet Martineau, Emile Durkheim, Jane Addams, W.E. B. Du Bois, Gunnar Myrdal, M.N. Srinivas, Aníbal Quijano, Susie Castor, Pablo González Casanova, and Florestán Fernández -- just to name a very few. We are also familiar with transformation brought by groups of sociologists for instance feminist sociologists, have highlighted gender inequalities and their intersectionality with other forms of inequalities, providing important theoretical frameworks and methodologies and practices to proactively address social justice. They have also shown women's contributions and the challenges women encounter in the process of democratization. As sociologists have documented, social movements in different parts of the globe have challenged dominant structures and various types of systematic discrimination. Latin American Sociologists have historically played an important role in addressing issues of social justice and democratization.

Surely, the social tsunamis of inequality in the 21st century require us as sociologists to critically reexamine and reassess existing theories and methods of research as well as offer **new formulations** that can illuminate the ongoing global crisis.¹⁵ The times we live need even more equitable, collaborative relationships between sociologists and larger publics if we wish to contribute to the promotion of social justice and democracy. Activists theorize and have forms of knowledge often devalued in academia, particularly mainstream academia, though this is slowly changing. Collaborations with movements and communities make our scholarship not only more relevant, but also more rigorous. We have and can strengthen our theories and methods by partnering with communities to not only document social injustices, human rights violations, political and economic inequality, corruption, government and corporate collusion, but for offering paths to global fairness and develop effective strategies for social change.¹⁶ In the process of these collaborations, we will have to reconsider what is meant by democratization in the 21st century, effective forms of contestation, processes of democratic transition, and the social boundaries of communities.¹⁷

The importance of our research is matched by the *importance of our teaching*. We must ensure that students and publics see how sociology offers important ways to examine, understand, and influence the world we live in. We need to expand the classroom to be more inclusive, effectively incorporating emergent technologies to create *free and open collective spaces* for collective knowledge production, consumption and distribution.

Conclusion

Let me conclude by noting that despite all of the violent inequalities that plague the world, I am consistently struck by people's relentless pursuit of justice and democracy. Whether it is Radha Krishna, the farmer in India, Marisela Escobedo in Mexico, Mohamed Bouazizi in Tunisia, the indignados and the hundreds of thousands of Occupy protestors across the world, people are increasingly conscious of the injustices that favor the few at the expense of the many. As a discipline, Sociology needs to intensify our focus upon critically addressing the connections and contradictions between globalization, social justice, and democratization.

This 2nd ISA forum is timely as it brings us together to truly explore how we as sociologists, as engaged citizens, and as human beings can substantively address issues of social justice and democratization. Four days with hundreds of sessions organized by the ISA research committees, important collaborations with the local organizing committee, ALAS and AAS provide an amazing opportunity to broaden and deepen our sociological lenses on social justice and democratization. We get an opportunity to think about the possibilities for how to further and more effectively partner with the broader public to reduce social inequalities. I am confident that when we look back upon this time, we will see it as a moment when our diverse voices came together, using our sociological imagination to leave sociological footprints for paths to a more just world.

Report from an RC 32 Session - Buenos Aires

Identity politics and skilled migration: Negotiating social justice issues, Glenda BONIFACIO and Cynthia JOSEPH

Of the 6 accepted papers for oral presentation, only 2 contributors made it to the actual session in Buenos Aires: Bernadetta Siara (City University London) on “Polish women in the British labour market: Experiences of de-skilling and re-skilling”, and Bernhard Weicht (Utrecht University) on “Loving carer or skilled worker: The social, political and economic construction of migrant care workers.” With the exception of Floya Anthias and Cynthia Joseph who earlier conveyed their inability to participate in the session, other presenters were not able to communicate about their final participation (Chrysnthi Zachou, Evaggelia Kaerante, and Emilia Araujo) which left the session organizer in quandary.

During the allotted time for the presentations, Bernadetta and Bernhard were able to use the time to elaborate on their research findings and accept questions from the audience. Mainly, Bernadetta’s work centered on the experiences of de-skilling and re-skilling of Polish women in UK to integrate in the labor market; and Bernhard’s focused on problematizing ‘identity politics’ relative to the migrant care workers in Europe. The existing structures and practices in place in some EU countries shape the life choices of migrant workers, but also facilitate the ways in which they negotiate such in host societies. A very enlightening exchange of ideas and researches followed.

Submitted by,

Glenda Tibe Bonifacio
University of Lethbridge
November 25, 2012

New Publications and Achievements

Barbara J. Risman and Georgiann Davis , 2012, “From Sex Roles to Gender Structure”. *Sociopedia*. ISA. On-line journal, Sociopedia.isa.

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Social Production and Reproduction at the Interface of Public and Private Spheres, edited by **Marcia Texler Segal, Esther Ngan-ling Chow, and Vasilikie Demos**. London: Emerald Press, 2012.

We would like to announce a book publication of the latest volume #16 in the Advances in Gender Research Series (Emerald Press, UK, 2012). Visit the web site of Emerald Press to download articles which you may be interested in research, teaching, and personal reading. Here is a synopsis of the book.

This volume focuses on the gendered interfaces of the public and private spheres of life. In the 21st century these are no longer separate as women and men move from one to the other in the course of their daily lives and their life spans. The chapters examine the ways individuals, families and societies strive to balance paid and unpaid labor, engage in parenting and accomplish other care-work, seek education for themselves and their children, and respond to the mass media, sometimes under conditions of poverty or violence and often across international boundaries. These are the ways social life is produced and reproduced, protested and commodified by women and men in the social systems and constraints within which they act and interact. Questions addressed by the authors are framed in terms of current gender theory. The resiliency and agency of women are demonstrated by a group of international scholars through the comparison and analysis of empirical data from several countries including the UK, USA, Canada, Taiwan, Indonesia, South Korea, the Philippines, Spain and the People's Republic of China.

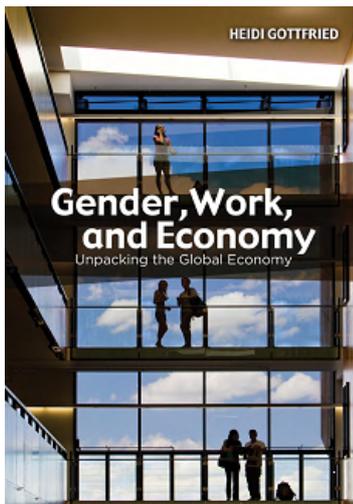
Snehalata Panda

Awarded Emeritus Fellowship
Published five articles on gender and tribe in *Indian Journal of Public Administration*,
vol LVIII,(3) Local Government
Quarterly,(LXXXII,3)Kuruskhetra,(vol60,#8 and #10)etribal trbune(vol
4, issue 4)



Dr. Josephine Beoku-Betts

has been selected by the Florida Commission on the Status of Women (FCSW) to receive the FCSW Florida Achievement Award for her outstanding contributions and service to her community. The award was presented at a ceremony at TCC Capitol Center on Thursday, Nov. 15, 2012 at 12:30 p.m.



Gender, Work, and Economy: Unpacking the Global Economy Polity Press, 2012

Heidi Gottfried

This engaging new text uses a feminist lens to crack open the often hidden worlds of gender and work, addressing enduring questions about how structural inequalities are produced and why they persist. Making visible the social relationships that drive the global economy, the book explores how economic transformations not only change the way we work, but how we live our lives.

The full extent of changing patterns of employment and the current financial crisis cannot be fully understood in the confines of narrow conceptions of work and economy. Feminists address this shortcoming by developing both a theory and a political movement aimed at unveiling the power relations inherent in old and new forms of work. By providing an analysis of gender, work, and the economy, Heidi Gottfried brings to light the many faces of power from the bedroom to the boardroom. A discussion of globalization is threaded throughout the book to uncover the impact of increasing global interconnections, and vivid case studies are included, from industrialized countries such as the US and the global cities of New York, London, and Tokyo, as well as from developing countries and the emerging global cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Dubai.

This comprehensive analysis of gender and work in a global economy, incorporating sociology, geography, and political economy perspectives, will be a valued companion to students in gender studies and across the social sciences more generally.

For more information, and to order, visit <http://www.polity.co.uk/book.asp?ref=9780745647647>

Positions Open

Assistant Professor, School of Social and Behavioral Sciences (Sociology)

The New College of Interdisciplinary Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University invites applications for the tenure track position of Assistant Professor in Sociology with an emphasis on structures of class inequality. Applicants must have expertise in class inequality in global contexts, including the U.S. Of particular interest are scholars who explore inequality using historic, comparative, extended case and/or institutional ethnographic methods in their research. To qualify applicants must have a PhD in Sociology by August, 2013, evidence of an ongoing research program and level of publication consistent with experience, and evidence of successful college/university teaching.

Application procedure: Send the following items electronically to Jamie Howell at NewCollegeJobs@asu.edu: 1) a letter of application, 2) a current curriculum vitae, 3) three samples of scholarly work; 4) teaching evaluations or other evidence of teaching accomplishment; and 5) the names and contact information for three references (references will not be contacted without candidate notification). Application deadline is January 7, 2013; if not filled, applications will be reviewed weekly thereafter until the search is closed. For complete application information and requirements see <http://newcollege.asu.edu/jobs>. Arizona State University is an equal opportunity/affirmative action employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply. ASU's complete non-discrimination statement may be found at: <https://www.asu.edu/titleIX>.

The OECD is launching the [Thomas J. Alexander Fellowship Programme](#) to support individuals in conducting quantitative, evidence-based research on education, particularly in emerging economies. The programme, named after a former director of the OECD's Education, Employment, Labour and Social Affairs department, will provide funding for up to one year, including time spent at OECD headquarters in Paris. Fellows, who will be encouraged to link their research to education policy and practice, particularly on equity in education, will be selected from among individuals working at universities, research institutes, government agencies or professional organisations. Candidates will be selected on the basis of the originality, potential, and scientific rigour of their proposals. Fellows will be expected to produce a publishable research paper or report at the end of their fellowship. Only [online applications](#) will be accepted.

Wayne State University: Department Chair, Department of Sociology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

The Department of Sociology at Wayne State University invites applications for a Professor and Department Chair to begin fall 2013. We are seeking an active scholar who has the experience, vision and energy to take the department to a new level. Area of expertise is open, but preference will be given to candidates whose research agenda fits within one of the department's current concentrations in the areas of medical sociology and urban sociology. In addition to administrative experience, we seek candidates with a strong research record, a record of external funding, and demonstrated excellence in teaching. The Chair is designated as the chief academic officer of the department and should have credentials which demonstrate a distinguished record of scholarly achievement, broad appreciation of programmatic research and a strong commitment toward graduate and undergraduate education. Moreover, this individual will be responsible for recruiting, evaluating and directing faculty; coordinating and supervising departmental programs and activities; acting as a liaison to other units within the university; forging external and internal ties for research; actively pursuing external funding; and teaching and providing a supportive teaching environment.

The Department of Sociology offers BA, MA and PhD degrees with concentrations in medical sociology, urban/labor sociology, and race and gender inequalities. The department is committed to offering a broad learning experience that enables an understanding of how social institutions and patterns of social interaction shape individual lives and prepares students for careers inside and outside of academia. The department is currently composed of 12 tenured and tenure-track faculty, and serves nearly 200 undergraduate majors and 100 graduate students.

Wayne State University is dedicated to preparing students to excel by combining the academic excellence of a major research university with the practical experience of an institution that by its history, location and diversity represents a microcosm of the world in which we live. Founded in 1868, Wayne State is a Carnegie RU/VH institution offering more than 400 academic programs through 13 schools and colleges to nearly 32,000 students. Wayne State's main campus in Midtown Detroit comprises 100 buildings over nearly 200 acres; its five extension centers offer higher education to people throughout Southeast Michigan. Wayne State boasts the most diverse student body among Michigan's public universities. Its students represent 49 U. S. states and more than 60 countries.

Additional information about Wayne State University and the Department of Sociology can be obtained from the following websites: www.wayne.edu and <http://clasweb.clas.wayne.edu/Sociology>. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, current CV, and the names and contact information of three professional references (letters of reference will be requested at a later date) to Douglas Whitman, Ph.D, Chair, Search Committee, Sociology, 2228 F/AB, 656 W. Kirby St., Detroit, MI 48202. PDF versions may be submitted to sociologychair@wayne.edu. An online application is also required for all applicants. Visit <http://jobs.wayne.edu> and upload a letter of interest and curriculum vita. The position number 039028. Review of applications will begin November 15, 2012 and continue until the position is filled. Wayne State University is an Affirmative Action/Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

SEARCH FOR SWS EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Sociologists for Women in Society announces an opening for a part-time position of Executive Officer. SWS is a feminist community of scholars, activists, practitioners, and students committed to improving women's opportunities and status in society. A detailed description of the SWS Executive Officer's position is posted on the SWS web site, <http://www.socwomen.org> <<http://www.socwomen.org>>. Preference will be given to those familiar with, and committed to, SWS's mission and goals, those with a Ph. D. in sociology, and those with an institutional affiliation (university, college, or non-profit organization). Interested applicants may apply by submitting a letter of interest, CV, contact information for three references and letter of support from the applicant's Department Chair, Dean or supervisor with budgetary authority to Professor Manisha Desai, Department of Sociology, University of Connecticut. Manisha.Desai@uconn.edu <<mailto:Manisha.Desai@uconn.edu>> <<mailto:Desai@uconn.edu>> <<mailto:Desai@uconn.edu>>>. The members of the committee are Patricia Martin (current President), Heather Laube, Denise Copelton, and graduate student representative, Ilana Demantas.

A letter of interest should include a statement of the applicant's vision for SWS and ability to fulfill the duties of Executive Officer (see details of part-time position of Executive Officer and full-time position of Administrative Officer on the SWS webpage). Compensation will include partial salary assistance, for released time. The application should indicate how the host institution will support the Executive Office and an estimated budget specifying costs for release-time, operating expenses for the office, and anticipated overhead (if any) to the host institution. Institutional support information should be corroborated by a letter from an official with budgetary authority. Applications received by (December 31, 2012) will receive full consideration. The Search Committee Chair and Search Committee will screen applications and take into consideration the promotion of affirmative action and cultural diversity, as well as qualifications of the applicant and resources available from the applicant's institution. After receiving input from multiple sources, the Search Committee will forward its recommendation(s) to SWS Council which will make the final decision. A maximum of three finalists will be interviewed by SWS members and Search Committee at the Winter Meeting, Tamaya, New Mexico (February 7-10, 2012). Once Council makes an official offer to the candidate, and the candidate accepts, one or more SWS senior officers will visit the EO's campus to meet with officials. The intention is to complete the process by July 1, 2013, with the EO's term to begin as soon as possible thereafter.

Work in Process

Dr. Renu Ranjan is the Head of department PG Center of **Sociology Magadh Mahila College Patna University Bihar** since 1974. She did her master thesis on Socio-economic characteristics of Non-voters in Bihar and obtained her PhD in 1984. Her substantive research focuses on Scheduled caste community. She is a leading figure and Professor of eminence in gender studies, and writes on issues of women, equality and difference with a special reference to the study of social change. She is also Chairperson for Equity Foundation Forum for Women and Children. Dr. Ranjan has written us that she is currently involved in two projects both, as she writes concerned with the "imbalanced sex ratio as a serious challenge for Indian and specifically our Region i.e. Bihar.

One, I am working on a project of ACTION AID Bihar, on **Awareness Campaign against Declining Sex Ratio in Naubatpur Block of Patna District**, and Two, **A Study on Violence Against Dalit Women and their accessibility to law with specific focus on PWDVA 2005 in Bihar.**"

Dr.(Prof.) RENU RANJAN

Gender Knowledge Centre
Magadh Mahila College
Patna University
Patna, Bihar, India - 800001.

E-mail : prof.renuranjan@gmail.com



Call for Articles - AG About Gender

We would like to announce the opening of the call for articles for the 4th issue of the international journal on-line AG About Gender (ISSN 2279-5057), entitled **‘The impact of labour market reforms in Europe on the underrepresentation of women’s work and on their life’** Editors: **Isabel Fanlo Cortés and Susanna Pozzolo**

This number of the journal aims at triggering a reflection on the impact of the labour market reforms which, in the last decade, have affected several European, on the legal and social status of women. The call invites proposals for theoretical and empirical research contributions, concerning different disciplines in the social sciences: from law to economics, from sociology to political philosophy, from cultural anthropology to the geography of gender. The articles can be submitted to the journal in Italian or in English, and must be sent by **february 28th 2013**. In order to be able to submit a paper, it is necessary to register.

We would like to remind you that that you can submit contributions on the issues raised by the magazine at any time by following the instructions at the link above. Thank you very much for your attention and... enjoy your reading!

For any queries, please contact the Editorial Team at redazione.aboutgender@gmail.com

The Editorial Board, AG About Gender – International Journal of Gender Studies

Upcoming Conferences, Call for papers

From Suzan van Dijk and Marie-Louie Coolaha Herewith the Call for Papers for a conference in Budapest (May 2013), which is exactly in our field, co-organized by Jasmina Lukic, member of the NEWW advisory board. We discussed with her the possibility of presenting 1 or 2 COST sessions. These might focus on the transnational dimension and the use of a relatively wide approach. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would be interested in participating!

Call for papers
Transnational Women’s Literature in Europe
24-26 May 2013

Budapest, Hungary

<http://www.femtranslit.eu>

Literary conference at the Central European University, Budapest,
in cooperation with FP7 Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship and Akademie Schloss Solitude

Confirmed keynote speakers:

Francoise Lionnet

Azade Seyhan

Jean-Baptiste Joly

Transnational perspective in literary studies offers a much needed framework in which phenomena that cannot be addressed properly within the limiting outline of national literatures can be studied. This is particularly important when we speak about migrant literature, which has such a strong presence in the global literary scene, and which for decades now has exerted such a powerful influence on European cultural production. In the age of intensified migration within and into Europe, literary production of transnational women has become both an enriching and challenging factor in many European national literatures, and an area in which the very concept of identity is being questioned. At the same time, narratives of transnational women writers form a crucial part of understanding key issues about European migrancy and European identity.

This conference investigates theoretical questions related to the idea of transnational literature, focusing in particular (but not exclusively) on narratives of (re)location, transition and mutability that appear in the literature produced by transnational women writers. The focus will be primarily European, but other views, in particular comparative ones, can also be utilised. Papers on individual authors, as well as comparative and theoretical studies are welcome. All proposed topics are to be examined primarily from a literary perspective.

Possible subject areas include but are not limited to

- Theorising transnational literature (world literature, comparative literature, transnational literature)
- Interdisciplinary perspectives of transnational literary studies
- The place of transnational literary studies within the wider framework of transnational studies
- Questioning Europeanness
- Exilic and diaspora narratives in contemporary literature
- Memory: remembering and forgetting
- Language, languages, bilingualism, translation
- Literary representations of generations, matrilineage, second generation migrants
- Literary migrations, movements, relocations, cross-cultural encounters, cross-pollinations
- Migration narratives of ethnic minorities
- Transnational literary genres, life writing, fiction, drama, poetry, internet
- National canons in transnational perspective
- Minor and minority literatures
- Paranational communities, non-belongings in literary texts
- Transnational ecological perspectives in literary texts
- Politics of location, immobility-movement, being-becoming
- Eroding stereotypes, labelling
- Power and powerlessness
- Literary representations of the ethics of care: elder care, child care, narratives of transnational care arrangements, geographies of care
- Strategic exoticism, market strategies: literary publishing
- Sex trafficking and prostitution narratives
- Agency and authenticity
- Transnational movement within Eastern Europe, post- communist narratives
- Trauma and healing, narrative repair
- Literary representations of class differentiations, social mimetism
- Religious transnational identities

Please send your abstracts, no longer than 400 words, using the Online Abstract Submission System before **15 January 2013**.

Information and application on the conference website <http://www.femtranslit.eu>.

All questions regarding the abstracts, or if you are considering submitting a panel proposal, should be addressed to abstract@femtranslit.eu.

Conference organizers

Dr. Jasmina Lukic

Associate Professor, Head of Department of Gender Studies

Central European University

abstract@femtranslit.eu

Dr. Borbála Faragó

Marie Curie Intra-European Fellow

Department of Gender Studies

Central European University

abstract@femtranslit.eu

Inequality and Integration in Times of Crisis

Since Karl Marx first described the enormous social inequalities and their potential for social change at the beginning of industrialization in the 19th century, the origins, extent, and consequences of social inequality, as well the level of inequality which a society is willing to tolerate, have been major themes in sociology. Our discipline has taken on the theme of inequality in multiple areas ranging from research on unequal educational and labor market opportunities, unequal income distributions, gender and health inequality, and inequality in life expectancy, to mention only a few. There are innumerable national and international conferences devoted to these themes.

Do we need yet another one? Is inequality still a problem in our society?

The answer to this question is undoubtedly yes. In particular, the economic crisis at the start of the 21st century underlines the fact that the theme of inequality has not lost its relevance. Above all, the European debt crisis inclines us to suspect that social inequality is growing. In comparison with economic boom times, almost all the European countries feel the pressure of stabilizing their economies and cutting back on public expenditures. This will also impact redistributive policies to reduce inequality and bring about new challenges for integration policies addressing the emerging disparities. At the same time as inequalities within European societies are exacerbated, disparities between states are also rising, which will likely have adverse effects on European unification, not to mention creating new challenges for Switzerland as well.

The European debt crisis came at a point in time when global environmental and demographic problems worsened simultaneously – the aging of industrialized countries and population explosion in developing countries. The inequality effects of climate change and the unequal distribution of population growth will lead to an increase in migration and elevate the immigration pressure on the European Union and Switzerland. For this reason, Switzerland, as well as the other European countries, grapple with questions of managing migration and integration.

Inequalities – as problematic they may be – are also in some sense an opportunity. They increase the diversity of society and can bring about new ideas, innovation, and growth. Our desire and ability for social integration depends, above all, on the ultimate balance between these advantages and disadvantages. Within the framework of the various foci of the research committees, the conference will concentrate on the opportunities as well as the risks associated with these social changes.

Call for Organizers

If you would like to organize a plenary session, please submit the title of the plenary as well as the designated contributions (including titles, abstracts, and the names of the contributors) to the organizing committee by January 15, 2013 (by e-mail to sgskongress2013@soz.unibe.ch). A plenary session usually includes three contributions.

If you would like to organize a workshop (parallel session), please submit the theme proposal and call for papers for the workshop to the organizing committee by November 30, 2012 (by e-mail to sgs-kongress2013@soz.unibe.ch). After the organizing committee accepts the proposal, the call for papers will be published. The organizers of the workshop are responsible for collecting the submissions and selecting the contributions to be included in the workshop. The final program of the workshop (including titles, abstracts, and the names of the contributors) has to be submitted to the organizing committee by March 15, 2013 (by e-mail to sgskongress2013@soz.unibe.ch).

Information

Further information about the conference can be found on our homepage:

www.sgs-kongress2013.unibe.ch

Latin America Conference Ireland (LACI)

*Latin America at a Crossroads:
Between Globalisation & Regionalisation*

Dublin: 23- 24 May 2013

Important Deadlines:

- Panel proposals: **15 December 2012**
- Abstract Submission: **5 January 2013**
- Notification of acceptance: **31 January 2013**
- Full paper submission: **1 May 2013**

Submit to:

LACI@ucd.ie

More Info:

www.sites.google.com/site/laciconference



University College Dublin

UCD Schools of: Social Justice; Geography, Planning & Environmental Planning; Sociology; Applied Social Science; and Politics and International Relations

And a Call for Papers from Jennifer Jihye Chun for a Mini-Conference

From Jennifer Jihye Chun:

I am pleased to share the following Call for Papers for the Mini-Conference, "Labor and Global Solidarity: The US, China and Beyond" which will take place in New York City on August 12, 2013. RC44 is one of the co-sponsors of the mini-conference which is being organized by the American Sociological Association's Labor and Labor Movements Section and the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Please see below for details.

CFP: Mini-Conference: Labor and Global Solidarity – The US, China and Beyond

The Labor & Labor Movements Section of the ASA and the Society for the Study of Social Problems are pleased to announce a Mini-conference entitled **Labor and Global Solidarity – The US, China and Beyond** to be held concurrently with the ASA and SSSP meetings in New York City on **Monday, August 12th, 2013**. The conference is co-sponsored by: the Asia and Asian American Section of ASA; the Labor Studies Section of SSSP; the Murphy Institute for Worker Education and Labor Studies at CUNY; the UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education; the Manhattan College Labor Studies Program; Critical Sociology; the Labour Movements Research Committee (RC44) of the International Sociological Association; and the China Association of Work and Labor of the Chinese Sociological Association.

The one-day mini-conference will bring together scholars and practitioners to address the changing landscapes of work and labor organizing at multiple scales, from the local to the transnational. Facing the global re-organization of production chains, the expansion of precarious work, hostile political climates, and the continued world-wide economic malaise, workers and their allies nonetheless continue to act, from escalating unrest across China, to new models of organizing in NYC, to greater cross-border solidarity, North-South and South-South.

To engage these developments and spark discussion, the conference will include panels on both local, global and transnational labor issues and organizing strategies. We also seek a mix of activists and academics. Finally, the mini-conference is an opportunity for international exchange as five labor scholars from China will be participating throughout the event and across the different panels. Papers including the U.S. and China are especially welcome, but topics and evidence from all over the world are appropriate.

We invite submissions of abstracts (min. 300 words) or full papers on a broad range of topics related to local and global labor, but are particularly interested in submissions that address the following themes of the conference:

- **Labor in China**
- **Insurgency and Institutions**
- **Organizing (im)migrants – here, there and in the diaspora**
- **South–South Solidarity**
- **Transnational Labor Organizing – How & When does it Work**
- **Informal work, informal worker organizing**
- **Monitoring international supply chains from the shop floor(s)**
- **Responses to global economic crisis**

To submit an abstract or paper, please send it to the conference co-organizers: Carolina Bank Munoz (carolinabm75@gmail.com), David Fasenfest (critical.sociology@gmail.com), and Steve McKay (smckay@ucsc.edu). **Abstracts or papers are due February 15, 2013.**

If submitting an abstract, full drafts of accepted papers are due June 30th, 2013. Papers presented at the conference will also be considered for publication in a planned special issue of the journal *Critical Sociology* and/or in a separate edited book. Conference participants will be responsible for covering their own travel and lodging expenses (though meals for participants on the program will be provided).

The conference will be free and open to the public.

XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology
Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology
Yokohama, 13-19 July 2014

Guidelines for Program Planning

1. Sessions will last 110 minutes
2. RC 32 is allotted 26 sessions
3. Types of sessions:
 - Paper presentation sessions: 4-5 papers. All other papers will be “distributed” only.
 - Featured or Keynote speaker sessions: organized by coordinator directly. 35-60 min. duration; presentation by leading scholar from outside RC as well. Presentation is followed by discussion
 - Panel sessions: organized by coordinator or session organizer, not open for abstract submission: debate around specific theme
 - Invited sessions: organized by coordinator or session organizers, not open for abstract submission.
 - Author meets their critics: organized by coordinators and session organizers.
 - Roundtable sessions: 5 roundtables in single room. Each one will accommodate 5-6 papers
 - Poster sessions
 - Joint Sessions: cannot be more than 50% of all sessions of RC.
 - Integrative Sessions: around a debate on a common theme. With national associations, other collective members, and at least three RCs. Deadline: 15 January, 2013.
 - Business meeting (evening, shorter time-slot)
4. Languages: 3 official languages (English, French, Spanish), yet possibilities exist for other languages
 - Although English is the administrative language of ISA, the Association does have three official languages, English, French and Spanish.
 - Presentations are primarily in the official three. However RC/WG/TGs are encouraged to support language diversity. If paper presentations are in languages other than English, then it is up to the RC/TG/WG to work this out creatively, given that ISA does not have funds to support simultaneous interpretation.
 - Suggested possibilities:
 - to have a translation of the abstract available as overheads, Power Point or distributed hard copy;
 - for the presenter to use a mixture of English and their preferred language;
 - to provide an oral sequential informal interpretation/summary by another RC member;
 - to have a whispered interpretation/ summary provided by another RC member;
 - to have a volunteer typing on a computer a summary of the remarks as they are made;

Most likely, there are other strategies as well. Implementing the strategies requires advanced planning, including the recruiting of qualified volunteers. It is equally important that the possibility of using such strategies also be widely known in advance, for the information of both potential paper presenters and also members of the audience and for the necessary technological devices to be available on the spot.

- Conference rooms are provided with screen and computer for PowerPoint presentations.

5. Deadlines:

- Call for sessions: January 15, 2013
- Call for papers: April 7, 2013
- Integrative session proposals: January 15, 2013
- Abstract submissions: June 3- September 30, 2013
- Abstract selection: October 4- November 24, 2013
- Notification letters: November 30, 2013
- Application for financial support deadline: January 31, 2014
- Submission of proposed grant recipients: March 1, 2014
- Registration deadline for presenters: April 1, 2014
- Final modifications: April 14 - May 1, 2014

6. Role of Program Coordinator and Session Organizer

- The Program Coordinator of each RC, WG and TG is responsible for organizing a program of high-quality sessions.
- In cooperation with the Board of the group the Program Coordinator must define session themes and, perhaps, an overall theme for the group's program, and choose competent Session Organizers who will ensure that the program achieves the academic quality expected at a World Congress.
- The Program Coordinator will be contacted by the ISA Secretariat about any matters concerning the group's program and, if needed, the Program Coordinator will then inform Session Organizers.
- After the issuing of the Call for Papers, the Program Coordinator will help Session Organizers to decide on acceptance of abstracts submitted on-line by conference participants. If needed, the Program Coordinator can transfer abstracts between various sessions of the group.
- The Program Coordinator is expected to keep close track of the progress made by each Session Organizer and decide on the final structure of the program. The Program Coordinator is also responsible for sessions' schedule.

- Session Organizer is responsible for all correspondence concerning the session. It is the Session Organizer's responsibility to submit accurate details about the session. All changes/updates should be done via on-line system.
- It is very important that Program Coordinators and Session Organizers respect conference deadlines. No extension of deadlines is possible.

7. Rules for all presenters

- Limited appearance in the Program: Participants may be listed no more than twice in the Program. This includes all types of participation – except being listed as Program Coordinator or Session Organizer. Program Coordinators and Session Organizers can organize a maximum of two sessions where their names will be additionally listed in the program.
- A "participant" is anyone listed as an author, co-author, plenary speaker, roundtable presenter, poster presenter, panelist, critic, discussant, session (co)chair, or any similar substantive role in the program.

A participant cannot present and chair in the same session.

- ISA and RC/WG/TG membership ISA does not require anyone to be a member in order to present a paper, and provides different registration fees for members and non-members. Those RCs which require that presenters in their sessions are members of the RC, and/or also of ISA, should clearly inform potential presenters about these requirements from the very start of conference preparations.
- Registration payment: In order to be included in the program the participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay registration fees by April 1, 2014. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Program Book and in the Abstracts Book.
- In case of a co-authored paper, in order for a paper to appear in the program, at least one co-author should pay the registration fee by the early registration deadline April 1, 2014; the names of other co-authors will be listed as well.
- If other co-authors wish to attend the conference they must pay the registration fee.

