

**International Sociological Association
Research Committee on Women in Society**
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc32.htm>

**RC 32 Newsletter
June 2013**

Contents

- Contents
- Editorial
- Message from the Chair
- Notes from the Treasurer & Secretary
- Global News
- New Publications / Members Publications
- ISA World Congress, Yokohama Japan 2014,
- RC 32 Essay competition for new scholars from the economic South on "Women's/Feminist Social Movements: Advocacy for Change throughout the World"
- Call for Papers and Manuscripts
- Announcements
- Obituary Roxana Ng (Ann Denis & Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, RC05)

Editorial

Greetings to our RC 32 community from Australia! We are into the winter season here in the Southern Hemisphere – while it is summer in the Northern Hemisphere and we have the tropical weather around the equator. On one level, these are predictable seasons – yet on other levels there are some major changes happening to the climate in these various regions – as it is with social and economic changes.

In our June newsletter, we have great scholarly contributions from our RC32 members highlighting some of the major national and global socio-cultural and economic changes shaping women's access to resources and opportunities in these current times we live in. Topics discussed include:



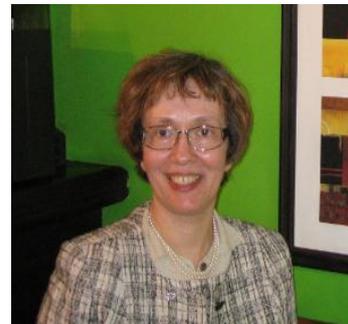
- The successful campaign led by Laura Corradi (University of Calabria, Italy) in defending her University's Gender Studies program,
 - Greek women negotiating the economic crisis in Greece (Maria Stratigaki, Panteion University, Greece)
 - Gender and cuts in postsecondary education funding in Alberta (Glenda Tibe Bonafacio, University of Lethbridge, Canada)
 - Centre for Gender Studies in Portugal by Analia Torres and Fatima Assuncao, Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal
 - Women's Rights are Human Rights, Heidi Safia Mirza, University of London
 - Winter Meeting of Sociologists for Women in Society (Bandana Purkayastha, University of Pennsylvania, US),
 - International Women's Day by Anita Dash, Ravenshaw University, India

We also celebrate our RC32 members' publications (namely books and special journal issues) in this newsletter – and I welcome more contributions for this section for the next newsletter. And finally we also have our exciting RC32 program for the upcoming **XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014**. I look forward to meeting you all there!

Thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter – and I look forward to more contributions for the next newsletter

Cynthia Joseph
RC32 Newsletter Editor

Message from the Chair



Dear RC 32 Members and Friends,

Let me first extend my warmest welcome to our new RC 32 Newsletter Editor, Dr. Cynthia Joseph, Monash University, Australia and wish her a lot of success in her new role. Cynthia had a tall order to fill, but I think she has lived up very well to the challenge in the present Newsletter. I have full confidence she will continue to do so, with the essential support and participation of all of us by contributing news and commentaries on significant issues to women in our parts of the world.

Preparations for the **XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology, Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014** have been fully under way while this newsletter is being produced. Reflecting the ISA 2014 World Congress' main theme on "Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology", the theme of the Research Committee 32 conference program is: "**Women and Gender in an Unequal World: Challenges and Promises for Global Sociology**". Our theme focuses on the experiences, agency and struggles of diverse categories of women and women's movements for equality and social justice in an unequal world. Sessions will consider the organizational and institutionalized expressions of women's lives in national sites and global cities, many of which have undergone vast economic and social transformations in recent years – yet being located within the intersections of colonial legacies, traditionalism, nationalism and globalization. We seek to provide new understandings of the intersections of gender with other

forms of social divisions in the midst of technology-induced change, the changing social organization of work, intensifying population movements, political upheaval and emerging political configurations, ongoing local, national and global struggles and the challenges of sustainability in present day society. These new conceptualisations of women in society, gendered experiences, practices and identities, and the gendered nature of social institutions contribute to the current debates on the societal transformations within the interplay of the local, national and global.

Our RC 32 Board and I are proud to present our program in this newsletter. The program has been available for electronic submission of abstracts since June 3, 2013. It consists of 20 regular sessions, a Business Meeting, an Awards meeting, two roundtable sessions, nine sessions joint with other Committees (including a joint roundtable), and two competitively won integrative sessions for a total of 34 sessions. As before, there will be a competition for the best essay award to a junior sociologist from the Economic South (details are included in this newsletter). Our session organizers did an awesome job in putting together interesting, imaginative and thought-provoking sessions. My most sincere appreciation for their hard work and dedication, as well as for the indispensable input, and support, of our RC 32 Board in organizing this program. Of course, the final success of our program depends entirely on the enthusiasm and uptake of the session topics and questions by our members wishing to submit abstracts and present their work at the Congress.

A few important and upcoming deadlines in preparation for the Congress are:

- 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

For more about the Yokohama World Congress you can consult the website at: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>.

I look forward to hearing from you and working with you on the RC 32 Program for the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama.

With best wishes,

Evie Tastsoglou

RC 32 Chair

Notes from the Treasurer & Secretary

RC-32 funds move.

Due to the increasing difficulty of operating the research committee funds--disbursing the money from one country to other countries—ISA has now allowed RCs the possibility of moving the research committee funds to ISA. RC-32 will move its money to the ISA, though we will keep full control of how we disburse our money.

Bandana Purkayastha, Treasurer.

RC-32 members

On April 4, 2013, we had 277 members in good standing, i.e. members whose dues are current for ISA and RC-32. Please check and renew your memberships. Only members in good standing will be able to present papers at the 2-14 conference in Yokohama.

Bandana Purkayastha, Secretary.

Global News



Picture: Vandana Shiva with Laura Corradi at the University of Calabria during the campaign

A National Campaign to defend Gender Studies at the University of Calabria in Italy is Successful!

By Laura Corradi

The University of Calabria (a Southern region of Italy) had decided to close down the course of **Gender Studies taught by RC32 European representative and feminist sociologist Laura Corradi**. The bad news did not leave Italian activists indifferent.

Early this year, the University of Calabria (a Southern region of Italy) had decided to terminate the Gender Studies program taught by RC32 Europe regional representative and feminist sociologist Laura Corradi. The university's choice to do so was politically and economically motivated, which yet again indicates that in times of financial cuts and economic crisis, gender issues are always relegated to the margins. The gender program does not incur any fees from students for the past ten years. Students organized written petitions and threatened to organize gender studies classes in the street, in dining halls and in the cities' squares. Students also voiced out about what is lacking in the Italian universities' policies and the need to articulate knowledge generally left at the margins.

The decision to close this Gender Studies program was strongly criticized by various quarters and was reported in the media. The university department commented that the program was not terminated but 'frozen' for a period. An official query was submitted to the University Council by one of the local politicians, MP Celeste Constantino. The gender studies program was reinstated and renamed as "Gender Studies and Intersectional Methodology". Laura Corradi had to terminate one of her other courses, 'Sociology of Health and Environment' that was attended by many students in the areas of Social Work, Political Sciences, Philosophy, and Media Education...Every battle has casualties.

The course has been an important site of empowerment for many girls, young feminist doctoral students, migrant researchers, and scholars engaged in feminist thought and practice in the Italian region of Calabria. The Gender Studies program at the University of Calabria is one of the few gender studies program in Italy.

Students involved in the 'fight' to re-instate the Gender Studies program at the University Calabria spoke of a sense of empowerment in their actions. For example, Matilde commented "I wish to thank all the feminists and all the people who signed the petition and helped us ... When the goal is the same, people have to stay united!". Elma notes that "Vandana Shiva gave us her support when she visited here and that gave us strength to continue with our fight...it has been wonderful to see that our petition was successful ...we had support from not just feminists, but men and women who believe in the importance of gender studies"

The Impact of the European Economic Crisis on Women in Greece by Maria Stratigaki, Panteion University

The austerity measures taken by the Greek government to address the enormous budget deficit have major implications for gender relations and gender politics in contemporary Greece. There continues to be cuts in salaries, pensions, social benefits, social infrastructure and other public spending related to social and human rights. However, tax evasion, corruption and high prices in basic consumer goods and services continue to prevail in Greece. There is an increasing rate of unemployment and poverty. The economic crisis has made Greece one of the poorest nations in the European Union. In December 2012, women's unemployment rate was at 29.9 per cent while for men it was 23.5 per cent. There has been an increase in women's unemployment rate compared to that of men. Greek men's unemployment rate has increased to the point that the labour force participation for Greek men and women are now almost similar. Greek women's labour force participation has always been low and they have been concentrated in the traditional feminine occupations.

So, in fact the European Union economic crisis has reduced the gender gaps in pay and labour force participation, but in negative ways. In fact, women have not actually made advances in labour force participation but it is the case of men's lower labour force participation in the Greek context. This trend is similar to other EU member states hit by the economic crisis. In fact, there is a clear reduction on gender gaps in pay, employment, unemployment and job segregation following austerity measures. Gender gaps tend to reduce but not by women advancing in the labour market (as it was the case till now) but by men going down to meet women's levels in participation, salaries and segregation¹. But, is the leveling downwards of gender gaps in employment progress in terms of gender equality? It is important to note that job segregation seems to have protected female employment. Women are in feminine occupations and thus cannot be fired or replaced by men.

There is a financial cost to gender inequality. As recent studies have demonstrated, gender inequality in the labour market damages GDP records. Implementation of equality between women and men could be a response to the current economic crisis as it could lead to a potential 25% increase of GDP.² Many organizations (eg. Catalyst, the US research organisation and McKinsey & Company),³ have delivered studies suggesting a link between gender balance and performance and come up with very similar results: that having more women in leadership is correlated with stronger financial returns.

7% Cuts in Postsecondary Education Funding in Alberta, Canada: Gendered Implications by Glenda Tibe Bonifacio, University of Lethbridge, Canada

The single largest cut to funding to postsecondary education in Alberta in about two decades was announced on March 7, 2013 by the conservative government of Premier Alison Redford, the first female premier of the province. The 7% cut to the operating grants in 2013-2014 surprised administrators, faculty, staff and students of the 26 postsecondary institutions in the province expecting a 2% increase over the next three years as promised in the pre-election budget in 2012. Colleges and universities received the biggest hit of the budgetary cuts as the

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/justice/gender-equality/files/progress_on_equality_between_women_and_men_in_2011.pdf

² http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.17994!menu/standard/file/EUstudie_sidvis.pdf

³ <http://www.20-first.com/9-0-better-bottom-line.html>

Redford government deals with an operating deficit of \$451 million in 2013, and is expected to soar to \$20 billion in the next three years as bitumen prices took a dive.

Alberta is the wealthiest province in Canada, the driver of the national economy with strong growth and low unemployment records compared to the rest of the provinces and territories. Its economy is basically tied to oil and gas resources and continuously in need of skilled labour force to sustain its growth and development. Alberta has the highest number of temporary foreign workers (TFWs) per capita, with 68,319 of them present in the province as of December 1, 2012. Education is key to the development of a skilled workforce in all aspects of the economy and society. Reducing the funding to colleges and universities have left many to wonder why a vibrant provincial economy would basically ignore the significant impact to its present and future pool of highly-qualified labour force. The seeming disregard of the value of postsecondary education, in its broad context, has left me to question whether there is a relationship between the budget cuts and the high demand for TFWs in the province. I would preclude that the Alberta conservative government would have no qualms about developing its own local labour force since it can easily access a ready supply of cheap labour of TFWs, particularly coming from developing countries like the Philippines—the number one source country of TFWs in Canada.

But there is a more sinister implication of the budget cuts to postsecondary education: gender. Alberta is not only a province with embedded conservative values in politics, it has one of the highest record of domestic violence where 1 in 10 men believes hitting a woman is OK. Colleges and universities have more female students than male students. Women, as studies have indicated, need postsecondary education to compete in the labour market where brawn seems to rule in manufacturing and extractive industries. Women predominate in the service and health care sectors, which are vulnerable to reduced programs in neoliberal governance. As a consequence of the budget cuts, Mount Royal University in Calgary announced in April 16 the suspension of several diploma programs such as in disability studies, music performance and theatre arts; certificate programs in forensics, journalism, perinatal care, and aging. Lethbridge College announced in April 30 that the Office Administration, and Fashion Design and Marketing diploma will no longer be offered starting September 2013; the Early Childhood and Education diploma and the Educational Assistant certificate will be offered in alternative format, not anymore delivered on-site. Olds College has also announced the termination of its 50-year old Office Administration program effective September, the start of the Fall session. More culling of programs and services are expected in the next few months. Ironically, all the announcements so far are very timely when those likely to advocate against these cuts (i.e., students and faculty), an expected miracle in Alberta, tend to be away for the summer.

Based on these programs affected by the budget cuts—what I call the ‘sacrificial offering’ of college and university administrations to balance its operating costs—women are highly vulnerable. Access to education for women in rural areas appear in jeopardy as some satellite campuses are vent to be closed. Programs that are very popular among women like office administration are first on the chopping board. Of course, men will also be affected in how postsecondary institutions handle its financial resources. A thorough examination of the gendered effects of the 2013 budget cuts in colleges and universities in Alberta needs to be explored, particularly in the thrust of the Redford government to align courses and research towards commercialization. At this time, my insights come from what appears to be visible and direct based on news releases thus far.

Portugal has a Centre for Gender Studies by Analia Torres & Fatima Assuncao, Portugal

The Interdisciplinary Centre for Gender Studies (CIEG) is a dynamic and unique research centre in Portugal, which focuses specifically on gender issues. CIEG was established last year, and is based at the School of Social and Political Sciences of the Technical University of Lisbon (ISCSP-UTL). Its members work on gender issues from a variety of perspectives and disciplines.

Our team is committed to the following aims: to promote, develop and disseminate relevant research on gender; to offer innovative postgraduate courses in partnership with other universities; to foster lively debates between different perspectives and disciplinary approaches to the study of gender; to engage the general public and key organizations in an informed discussion of gender issues; and to disseminate the results of CIEG's activities through different kinds of publications. CIEG has three broad strands of research: gender, feminisms and women's studies; policies, institutions and citizenship; and gender and the construction of contemporary societies.

Our members belong to different national and international research teams, and have published extensively on gender issues. CIEG is already running a number of national research projects, in partnership with other Portuguese Universities and national institutions, such as the Commission for Equality in Labour and Employment. Among our current international partners are organizations from several European countries, as well as universities based in the UK, Spain and Brazil; Moreover, CIEG organizes the seminar series *Gender in Debate*.

We will celebrate CIEG's first year of intense activity with the seminar "*Reflecting on the crisis from a gender perspective*". This event will be held on 24 May at ISCSP-UTL, and we invite you all to join us for a challenging debate! You can learn more about us by visiting <http://cieg.iscsp.utl.pt/>

Anália Torres, RC 32 board member, CIEG's coordinator
Fatima Assunção, CIEG founding member

Women's Rights are Human Rights! Young Muslim women at the HUMANITAS Symposium by Heidi Safia Mirza, University of London, London

It was International Women's Day 2013 and 18 years since the 1995 UN Beijing World Conference on Women declared women's rights are human rights. But we still have a long way to go in securing women's global access to health, education and the right to full economic and political participation. So says Melanne Verveer, HUMANITAS Visiting Professor in Women's Rights at Cambridge University. As President Obama's former Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, she delivered a series of powerful lectures during March 4-7th drawing on her extensive experience in the US State Department and international feminist activism to argue that there is a moral imperative for gender justice and equity. As she says, "The gender gap in women's political, social and economic participation is not just short-changing women around the world, but is also short-changing global economic growth for all." In the concluding HUMANITAS Symposium on Monday 11th March I was privileged to join leading feminist thinkers Henrietta Moore, Sara Ahmed, Susie Orbach and Sarah Franklin to debate 'Gender Equality: A Moral and Foreign Policy Imperative' at King's College Cambridge. Drawing on my research on young migrant Muslim women in schools, I examined how gender violence and the

symbolic power of the veil limits young women's right to education. Caught between conflicting ideologies, their experiences in British schools are shaped by the powerful Islamophobic discourses that have circulated since 9/11. Wearing of the veil has become a key symbol for many young women, but often invites both unrestrained racist public comment and open legitimate attention from teachers. On the other hand some parents, brothers and other young men seek to control their daughters' and sisters' emerging sexuality through religious ideas that are both political and patriarchal, and sanction gendered violence, including honour crimes, and forced marriage. The consequence of being caught up in these competing discourses of school and family are great for the young women who, worryingly, have high rates of mental distress and trauma, including depression, attempted suicide and eating disorders. My talk concluded that while educational policy must address the human rights violations of young women's bodily rights, it is also crucial that policy perspectives move beyond stereotypical views of Muslim women and look at violence not as a cultural matter, but as a gendered issue to be treated in the same way for all young women.

The HUMANITAS Symposium was held at King's College Cambridge in honour of International Women's Day and was sold out, but is recorded and available CRASSH website (Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities)
<http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/2335/>

The report on the EU Migrant girls in schools project is available for download at
<http://www.medinstgenderstudies.org/news/new-migs-publication-young-migrant-women-in-secondary-education/>

Winter Meeting, Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS), US by Bandana Purkayastha

Bandana Purkayastha, RC-32 Secretary Treasurer, started her term as President of Sociologists for Women in Society, the organization started by US feminist sociologists in 1971 and has grown into a powerhouse of feminist power. President Bandana Purkayastha organized her Winter meeting on the Santa Ana Pueblo in New Mexico. The theme of the meeting was 'Connecting Circles: research/Activist Knowledge in the 21st century.' Margaret Abraham, ISA Vice President for research was a plenary speaker at this conference. Shobha Hamal Gurung was a member of the program committee. Several other RC-32 members attended, including President Elect Josephine Beuku Betts, past RC 32 President Kalpana Kannibiran, Manisha Desai, Marlese Durr, Rebecca Bach. Catherine (Kate) Berheide, Melanie Heath, Anjana Narayan, Barbara Risman, Marcia Segal, and Solange Simoes.

Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) held its Winter Meeting on the Santa Ana Pueblo outside Albuquerque in New Mexico, USA. SWS was founded in 1974 by feminist sociologists who were frustrated with the patriarchal control of the discipline. Its journal, *Gender & Society*, was first produced around a kitchen table. Since then *Gender & Society* has become one of the top ranked Sociology journals in the US, and the top ranked Women's Studies journal. ISA RC-32's secretary/treasurer, Bandana Purkayastha, was elected as President of this organization in 2011 to serve a term as President Elect (2012-13) and President (2013-2014). As President Elect, Bandana organized the conference in 2013. She narrates some of interesting side - lights about this conference.

Choosing the site of this conference was a revelation about the way in which the political landscape has recently changed in the US. Typically this conference is organized in the US Southern US because the weather is warmer in February. But , as scholar of intersectionality

and human rights, I was looking for a few other standards. I was looking to organize the conference in a state which met good human rights standards. I wanted to find a state where there were no explicit laws against women's ability to control their own reproduction. I also wanted to find a state that had not legalized racial profiling of immigrants. A few states had passed local laws that allowed the police to stop and search people *on suspicion* that they were undocumented migrants. I also did not want to go to a state that had anti-union laws. In other words I wanted to make sure I met good standards of race/class/gender. I ended up with New Mexico as the only state in Southern US that met these standards!



Picture: Bandana and Josephine

I was lucky because the Santa Ana Native Americans had a beautiful and environmentally balanced resort hotel near one of their sacred mesas. The conference was organized in this beautiful place. The theme of the conference was 'Connecting Knowledge of Circles: Research/Activist Knowledge in the 21st century' and I spoke about the need to centrally consider scholarship from the two third world to expand the scholarship in the one third world. I used an example from an interview about the 1940s famine in Bengal India to show that some of the research questions that appear as 'new themes' in the one-third world have been discussed and conceptualized in more holistic ways in parts of the two-thirds world. I pointed out that at one level globalization brought some types of research and activist knowledge to different corners of the world, at another level, valuable knowledge remain fragmented and unheard because of existing knowledge hierarchies.

The conference also featured ISA's own Vice President for Research, and SWS member Margaret Abraham as a plenary speaker. She set the tone of the conference by talking about globalization, social justice and women's activism and voices. In another plenaries American Sociological Society's President, feminist sociologist and SWS member Cecelia Ridgeway. In a third plenary, Jane Bennet from the Gender institute in Cape Town, South Africa, and Amina Mama (originally from Cape Town) spoke about the need of scholars/activists from the one third world to go beyond good intentions and partner, in different ways, with scholars and activists from the two thirds world, paying close attention to their agendas and practices as the fulcrum for organizing.

This highly successful conference brought a number of ISA RC-32 members to Tamaya-the place of peace - on Santa Ana Pueblo, including including President Elect Josephine Beuku Betts, past Rc 32 President Kalpana Kannibiran, Manisha Desai, Marlese Durr, Rebecca Bach. Catherine (Kate) Berheide, Melanie Heath, Anjana Narayan, Barbara Risman, Marcia Segal, and Solange Simoes.

International Women's Day, Ravenshaw University, India by Anita Dash, India

The Department of Sociology, Ravenshaw University, state of ODISHA, INDIA organized a one day symposium on the theme "Civil Society, Democracy and Women's Security in the contemporary times" on the occasion of International Women's Day (8TH March,2013). Eminent sociologists, writers and jurists participated in the panel discussion. Invited speakers included Anita Dash, Satish K. Sharma of Himachal Pradesh University, Gopa Nayak, an alumni of Oxford University, Debadatta Das, an eminent jurist, Santanu Acharya, a scientist and Rita

Ray. The speakers highlighted the continuing axes of inequalities that Indian women encounter in their daily lives, including issues of women's safety in public and private spaces and the caste system. Debadatta Das shared his own personal experiences in adopting a Muslim girl child from Bhopal and education provides her with choices in her career and social pathways. Santanu Acharya questioned the caste based inequalities and gender discrimination drawing on one of his novels and his lived experiences.

New Publications / Members Publications

Inanna Publications and the *Canadian Woman Studies Journal* invite you to Celebrate decades of Canadian feminist research, publishing, activism and vision at the launch of **"Women in a Globalizing World: Transforming Equality, Development Diversity and Peace"** edited by **Angela Miles dedicated to Rosalie Bertell and Roxana Ng**

Congress 2013, University of Victoria, BC, June 4 from 2:00 to 4:00pm. At the Book Expo, Inanna Booth no.47

This exciting interdisciplinary collection of ground-breaking work brings together almost seventy articles by formative feminist writers, researchers, activists and visionaries to illuminate the profound globalizing processes of our time. Critical analyses of current globalization and possible alternatives are presented in the context of global feminist dialogue and activism since the 1980s. Together, the articles provide a comprehensive overview of the agenda and processes of neo-liberal globalization; women's activist responses to the consequent environmental and social destruction; and visionary feminist alternatives worldviews and values. We are pleased to launch this book at Congress with many Contributors to the book as well as many long term Readers and Contributors to the *Canadian Woman Studies Journal*.

For Contents and Order Information please email: inanna.publications@inanna.ca
Detailed information will also be available on the Inanna website at www.inanna.ca

Anthias, Floya; Kontos, Maria & Morokvasic-Müller, Mirjana (Eds.) (2013) *Paradoxes of Integration : Female Migrants in Europe*. Springer

<http://www.springer.com/social+sciences/population+studies/book/978-94-007-4841-5>

Special Issue *Australian Feminist Studies*, 2013, Vol. 28, Issue 75, *Men/Masculinities: New Directions in Australian Theory and Practice*, Editors: Richard Howson, Chris Beasley and Martha Augustinos <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/cafs20/current>

Raewyn Connell has an article "Master Builders: Research on Men and Masculinities and Directions for Australian Theory and Practice", pp. 7-13 in this special issue.

Special Issue *Women's Studies International Forum*, 2013, Vol 36, Issue 1, *Gender, Culture and Work in Global Cities: Researching Transnational Migrant Women*, Editors: Cynthia Joseph and Catrin Lundstrom

Tanaka Sigeto (2013) *A Quantitative Picture of Contemporary Japanese Families: Tradition and Modernity in the 21st Century*. Japan: Tohoku University Press.

This volume contains 14 chapters on result of quantitative analyses using micro data, as part of research results of Tohoku University Global COE Program, "Gender Equality and Multicultural Conviviality in the Age of Globalization." It includes a wide range of issues on the contemporary Japanese family, such as the differences between son and daughter in parent-child relationships under stem family tradition, unpaid work and sexual division of labor in household, women's employment and work-family conflict, and gender inequality after divorce and stepfamily experiences.

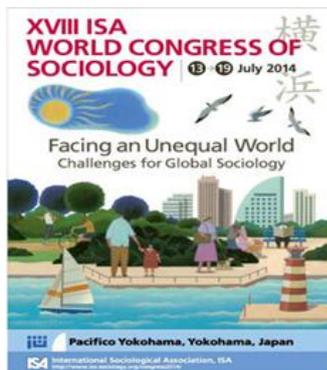
ISA World Congress, Yokohama Japan 2014,

We have two integrative sessions at the 2014 ISA World Congress!

RC32-RC31-RC38-RN33 - Integrative Session

Crisis, Transnational Migration, and the Gender Order in Europe

Session Convenors: Evangelia Tastsoglou, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, NS, Canada, President of ISA RC 32; Roswitha Breckner, University of Vienna, Austria, President of ISA RC 38; Marco Martiniello, Université de Liège, Liège, Belgium, President of ISA RC 31; Martina Löw, Technical University of Darmstadt, President of the German Sociological Association; Maria Carmela Agodi, University of Naples, Italy and chair of RN 33; Michael Meuser, University of Dortmund, Germany and vice-chair of RN 33.



Description: The focus of this integrative session is on the ways in which European societies, in the midst of ongoing socio-economic crisis, encounter and deal with new transnational migration flows, mainly of women and young people without prospects in their home countries. What is the impact of transnational migration and

consequent transnational family arrangements, in the context of socio-economic crisis, on gender relations and the gender order across European societies? The latter are dealing with the dual challenge of the new role of women entering the globalized world of flexible, de-regulated work on the one hand, and the shortage of the labour supply for reproductive work according to the dominant gender order, on the other.

New migratory patterns and behaviors of marginalized persons and groups are being developed as means to achieve self-inclusion. Among feminists there is a consensus that inequality is gendered in terms of civil, social, and political citizenship rights. Different modes of women's inclusion into citizenship, both as a status and a practice, have been identified in different citizenship regimes. In migratory circumstances new patterns of behavior, biographical prospects, family arrangements and community building are being developed, challenged by inclusion into citizenship both as a status and a practice in different citizenship regimes.

Questions that this session addresses include but are not limited to:

- What happens to the social citizenship rights of the new migrant workers from the EU Southern, Eastern and third countries to the North and what happens, in particular, to female workers?
- How those acting in these new social spaces deal with the challenges of new family arrangements and citizenship under conditions of crisis and gendered inequality?
- What can we learn from the “case” of Europe? What are the implications of a new gendered transnationalization of migrant generations in Europe from a global perspective?

RC02 - RC32 - RC44 Integrative Session

The Global Migration of Gendered Care Work

Session Organizers: RC02 Economy and Society Heidi GOTTFRIED, Wayne State University, USA; RC32 Women in Society Evangelia TASTSOGLU, Saint Mary’s University, Canada, RC44 Labour Movements Jennifer Jihye CHUN, University of British Columbia, Canada

Not open for submission of abstracts.

Description: Care work, a form of unpaid and paid labour performed primarily by women, is a major site of job growth across both the developing and developed world. The increasing demand for care workers in a variety of sectors – from private homes to long-term elder care facilities to public hospitals – has contributed to the global migration of care workers.

Transnational flows of women workers, especially from poorer migrant-sending countries to wealthier migrant-receiving countries, raise critical questions about the dynamics of new forms of inequality, subordination and commodification associated with globalized care chains.

- How do global hierarchies influence the patterns and characteristics of care migration?
- In what ways do changing demographics, institutional policies and cultural practices affect the supply and provision of care across national borders?
- What are the social costs and consequences of global care chains for care workers and their families?
- How are care workers attempting to challenge the unequal relations of power and authority that underpin low-paid and precarious forms of care work?
- What are the means and modes of organizing among care workers?

To investigate the intersecting avenues of inquiry among gender, political economy, migration, social inequality, labor movements, and work, this integrative session draws on academic and community researchers from three primary Research Committees (RC44, RC02, RC3). We will also seek paper presenters and dialogue with research committees that are also engaged in this area of inquiry, including RC19, the Research Committee on Poverty, Social Welfare and Social Policy, and RC31, Research Committee on Migration.

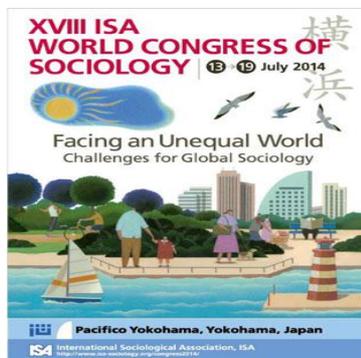
RC32 Call for Papers for the ISA World Congress, Yokohama, Japan 2014

Program Theme: Women and Gender in an Unequal World: Challenges and Promises for Global Sociology

Program Coordinator: Evangelia TASTSOGLOU, Saint Mary's University, Canada,
evie.tastsoglou@gmail.com

Number of allocated sessions including Business Meeting: 26.

On-line abstracts submission:



June 3, 2013 - September 30, 2013 24:00 GMT.

The direct submission link:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2014/cfp.cgi>

Proposed sessions in alphabetical order:

A Cross-National Comparative Approach to CEDAW as an Instrument to Effect Women's Rights and Gender Equality

Session Organizers:

Solange SIMOES, Eastern Michigan University, USA, ssimoes@emich.edu

Manisha DESAI, University of Connecticut, USA, manisha.desai@uconn.edu

The Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, dubbed the "international bill of rights for women", has been adopted and ratified by 187 of 193 countries. The US – surprisingly to some but not to all - stands out as one of the few countries, together with Iran, Somalia, Sudan, Palau, and Tonga, that have not ratified the Convention. By ratifying CEDAW, countries commit to end de jure as well as de facto discrimination against Women. Nevertheless, besides the usual gaps found between policy making and implementation, there are other issues that lead to a debate about the extent to which CEDAW has been an effective instrument to foster women's rights and gender equality.

On the one hand, the Convention has been used by women's and feminist movements worldwide in order to demand the establishment of institutional mechanisms for monitoring and implementing gender equality policies, plans and programs in critical areas of women's

lives. On the other hand, several countries have ratified CEDAW with “reservations” that, arguably, directly or indirectly clash with the object and purpose of the Convention.

This session’s objective is to allow for a cross-country comparative approach to the varied ways the Convention has been promoted – or not – by the women’s movements and governments throughout the world as a key tool to effect institutional change leading to gender equality. How - and to what extent – has CEDAW been implemented in the countries where it was ratified? Why have some countries – and notably the US – not ratified the Convention? What are the implications of that domestically and internationally? In sum, what can we learn by an international dialogue about the Convention, comparing the different contexts in which CEDAW was ratified or not, effectively implemented or not?

Author Meets their Critics

Session Organizer:

Glenda BONIFACIO, University of Lethbridge, Canada, bonifacioglenda@gmail.com
RC32 members` new books are being presented and discussed.

Confronting De-professionalization, Deskilling and Inequality: Immigrant Women’s Alternative Strategies for Survival

Session Organizers

Patience ELABOR-IDEMUDIA, University of Saskatchewan, Canada, patience.elabor-idemudia@usask.ca

Guida MAN, York University, Canada, gman@yorku.ca

Contrary to contemporary notions of universalism, liberalism, democracy and equality in a globalized world marked by massive movement of people internationally, immigrants of color continue to confront discrimination on the basis of race, class, gender, ability and religious affiliation.

In Canada for example, the selection of immigrants for admission based on the point system, has led to the impression that discrimination has been eliminated from the process with equality prevailing. The fact remains, however, that upon arrival in the country after going through the rigorous screening process, the foreign credentials of most immigrants, particularly those of minoritized women, are devalued resulting in their de-professionalization and deskilling. This results in their inability to become gainfully employed for self- actualization in the Canadian society.

This session will explore the social, political and economic dimensions of this trend as well as examine the survival strategies adopted by minoritized immigrant women for coping with their marginalized position in their newly adopted country. Specific focus will be placed on immigrant women from China, Nigeria/Ghana and India in the presentation.

Gender and Work in a Global Context

Session Organizers:

Shobha Hamal GURUNG, Southern Utah University, USA, gurung@suu.edu

Kumiko NEMOTO, Western Kentucky University, USA, kumiko.nemoto@wku.edu

Modernization, democratization, and globalization have prompted many nations to make gender equality a political, economic, and social imperative. The emerging adoption of egalitarian policies, combined with the women's movement's wide exposure of local women's low status, has promoted the participation of women in the labor force and the reconciliation of work and family life. However, gender inequality and sex segregation persist in formal and informal sectors; occupational and organizational institutions; and local and globalized market places.

The session invites papers that examine organizational, employment, labor, and workplace structures and processes that produce or reinforce inequality of gender, as well as the roles of actors such as workers and employers in mediating and shaping social and cultural outcomes of inequality in local and global contexts.

The session will deal with papers that illuminate gender, work, and inequality in contemporary contexts, focusing on either macro or micro processes, with local or comparative perspectives. We are interested in understanding the various shapes of gender inequality that intersect with cultural, economic, and policy factors.

This session hopes to investigate thoroughly the formal and informal, organizational, and cultural processes and mechanisms in which gender inequality is reinforced.

Gender in Sexual Minorities Research: Focus on Asian Scholarship

Session Organizers:

Saori KAMANO, National Institute of Population and Social Security Research, Japan, s-kamano@ipss.go.jp

Day WONG, Hong Kong Baptist University, China, daywong@hkbu.edu.hk

It is conventional academic wisdom that the world is unequal, but there is less attention on the inequality embedded in sociological knowledge on the world, such that certain topics remain marginalized and certain regions remain mostly an object of research than a source of scholarship. In the past decade, research on sexual minorities in and produced in Asia has gained some visibility in international interdisciplinary conferences and an explosion of publications.

Following in this trend, we aim in this session to bring together current sociological research generated in the Asian context addressing the intersection of gender with sexualities. This section seeks theoretical and empirical research that explores these and related questions: What does recent research in Asia and/or on Asian subjects tell us about the configuration of gender and the category "women"? How do heteronormativity, heterosexism, homophobia, male-domination, sexism, and binary thinking (e.g. male versus female) mutually constitute the experiences of "women" and "men" in the Asian context? What implications do recent lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer studies in Asia have on current understanding of gender inequality? How do social divisions based on class, ethnicity, nationality, colonial experiences, and politics intersect with the relationship between gender and sexual orientation?

In light of growing critiques of the Euro-American domination of sociology, this session aspires to destabilizing, and hence, enriching Sociology in general and in particular the field of gender, by giving voice to hitherto neglected research on sexual minorities in Asia.

Gender, Culture and Innovation in the Bio-Economy

Session Organizers:

Cynthia JOSEPH, Monash University, Australia, cynthia.joseph@monash.edu
Josephine BEOKU-BETTS, Florida Atlantic University, USA, beokubet@fau.edu

The significance of bio-technology and the emerging bio-economy to primary production, health and industry, as well as national and global economic outputs, has been well documented (OECD, 2012; Roy & Ong, 2011). Understanding the social, cultural and technical dimensions of this sector also provides valuable knowledge regarding higher-level skills (complex communication, analytical and problem-solving skills) that are vital for productivity growth, GDP and successful participation in the global bio-economy (Dutta 2012, OECD, 2012). The focus of this panel is professional and semi-professional women in the biotechnology sector, an untapped group of knowledge workers in the bio-economy and knowledge economy (OECD 2012).

The papers on this panel explore the ways in which social relations and power dynamics within the bio-technology sector shape women's identities working in this sector and their access to resources and opportunities (e.g., promotion, appropriate mentoring, networking opportunities).

Women in the bio-technology sector are not just scientists and professionals; they carry their cultural identity (as members of ethnic and religious collectives), their gender roles, their familial roles, community roles with them into their biotechnology workplace. This panel also looks at how the occupational identities of women in the bio-technology industries are bound up with their interactions with technological/technoscience artefacts and the work culture in emergent industries. Increased participation of women in the science, technology and innovation sectors will lead to a greater influence in shaping responses to some of the major socio-economic and scientific questions which impact directly on the lives of women (for example, targeted therapies for breast cancer, gender-sensitive health research, ethnopharmacy, management of plant biodiversity).

Gender, Violence, and Disaster: Rebuilding and Co-Construction through Participation

Session Organizers:

Mieko YOSHIHAMA, University of Michigan, USA, miekoy@umich.edu
Azumi TSUGE, Meiji Gakuin University, Japan, tsuge@soc.meijigakuin.ac.jp

In this session, findings from a number of empirical investigations of women's experiences over the two years following the Great East Japan Disasters in March 2011, will be presented. These studies of varied methodologies, coupled with participant observations and community-based participatory workshops, will elucidate the extent to and the ways in which gender and various other sociocultural and structural forces interactively affect women's experiences in/after disaster at the individual, organizational/professional, community, and societal levels; how women, individually and collectively, respond to and make meaning of loss and destruction caused by disasters; and how they begin to take action to address them.

This session will examine the social processes of loss and dislocation, as well as rebuilding and co-construction in the lives of women in the dynamic interaction of social, cultural, and political environments in Japan and globally.

Gender, Violence, Human Rights, Peace: Activist / Research from Different Parts of the World

Session Organizers:

Bandana PURKAYASTHA, University of Connecticut, USA, bandana.purkayastha@uconn.edu
Akosua ADOMAKO AMPOFO, University of Ghana, Ghana, adomako@gmail.com

This session will showcase current knowledge about gender, violence, human rights and peace. People's ability to build lives of human dignity – which is the ultimate objective of human rights – requires conditions of peace. We are acutely aware that violence spans a continuum from wars to violence in intimate spaces. Much of this violence is gendered so that the effects of violence – the gamut from coercion to physical and sexual abuse – are unequally borne by women. Scholarly and activist discussions of peace and human rights are often directed to macro or micro level structures and cultures within societies.

Papers in this session will emphasize activist and research knowledge on peace, claims for human rights, and efforts to mitigate violence in the authors' part of the world.

Gender, Work and Family under Globalized Economy: Asia and Beyond

Session Organizers:

Esther Ngan-Ling CHOW, American University, USA, echow@american.edu
Yu-Hsia LU, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, luyh@gate.sinica.edu.tw
Shirley Hsiao-Li SUN, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, shirley.sun@nyu.edu

The purpose of this session is to examine changing gender relations in connection with shifting employment conditions and family relations in globalized economies in Asia.

Global economic fluctuation and recession since preceding decades' global economic restructuring and late 1990s' financial crisis brought about the increasing deregulation and privatization in the labor market which has resulted in increasing insecurity in the work organization and employment relations. Informal, precarious, contingent and migration-based work are examples of changing employment practices. Petty entrepreneurship is another prominent strategy for local industries, especially in Asia, in coping with market's uncertainty. Various patterns of discrimination, inequality and injustice accompanying with the changing work organizations, employment relations and practices are in fact directly linked to gender relations, power and control.

In addition, citizenship rights and regimes have various relationships with production and social reproduction and thus affect diverse men's and women's identities, experiences, agencies and lives differently. For example, some citizenship regimes emphasize "conditional citizenship", where citizens' access to state welfare depends on their full employment; while other regimes stress citizenship-rights, universal state support is provided based on citizen-status. Papers may address either how changes in paid or unpaid work affect gender relations within and across households or how changes in family structure and dynamic shape gender relations in the workplace and/or both.

We aim to contribute to a deeper and more holistic understanding of the interconnections among gender relations, economic production, and social reproduction in Asia and beyond.

These interconnections may be further compounded by intersectionality of class, race, ethnicity, nationality and age in different socio-cultural contexts.

Theoretical works based on Asian experiences and comparative research between Asia and other regions are particularly welcome. Possible topics include, but are not limited to, the following: Gender differences in entitlements, Employment relations by gender, Family, work and women's agency, Gender dynamics in family business, Gender, citizenship, and flexible employment, Gender, employment & fertility, Gender, family, work & migration

Gendering BRICS: To what extent and how have Economic Growth and Economic Development been translated into Increased Gender Equality in Emerging World Economies?

Session Organizers:

Bila SORJ, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, sorjbila@gmail.com
Solange SIMOES, Eastern Michigan University, USA, ssimoes@emich.edu

In the last decade the five BRICS - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa – gained increasing world recognition as emerging powers, distinguished by their large, fast-growing economies and significant influence on regional and global affairs. A lot of attention has been given to the fact that, as of 2013, the BRICS countries represent almost 3 billion people, with a combined nominal GDP of US\$14.9 trillion. Not much has been said, however, about the impact of economic growth on the reduction of poverty and inequality in general, and we know very little about the extent to which economic growth has translated into greater development gender equality.

This session will look into the relationship between economic growth, development and gender equality in the BRICS countries by asking: What have been the gains for women in education, labor force participation, employment sector (formal/informal), type of work (paid/unpaid), equal pay, occupational desegregation, access to top level positions, and the domestic division of labor? To what extent have gains led to greater equality between gender and among gender (among women on the basis of class, race, and ethnicity)?

Moreover, moving beyond the description of the current domestic market and labor positions of women and men in the BRICS economies, this session will seek to develop a cross-country comparative approach, supported by empirical evidence, of the factors that might explain gender inequality within and among BRICS such as economic variables (development models, growth rates, gendered economic globalization processes), political-institutional factors (type of state, social policies, labor relations, women's movements agendas and influence), and value orientations (traditional versus modern attitudes towards gender roles). In sum, to what extent and how do economic growth and economic development translate into increased gender equality in the BRICS?

Global Cities and Women's Emotional Labor

Session Organizers:

Marlese DURR, Wright State University, USA, marlese.durr@wright.edu
Iris E. HARVEY, Kent State University, USA, iharvey1@kent.edu
La Pearl LOGAN WINFREY, Wright State University, USA, lapearllogan.winfrey@wright.edu

As women in the global North and South experience recurring socio-cultural and economic stalemates, the question arises whether we recognize the effects of emotional labor and emotional well-being on their lived experience. Do we understand the influence of socio-cultural traditions united with religiosity for these women? Do we recognize how aspects of daily life tie to and inhibit their emotional well-being? Are we aware and/or informed on exactly how contraction and expansion of the global labor market impacts women's concerns with socio-cultural traditions and well-being?

And, finally, are we attentive to the linkages between emotional labor and well-being with stressful life events for women globally? Such questions address the social psychological status of women intertwined with ever-increasing social transformations and /or legislation for social change. We invite papers addressing these questions across social, national, and international contexts.

Topics may include: Gender and social psychological independence; emotional well-being and supplemental household income; religiosity, socio-cultural pressures inside and outside the home; women's movements and emotional conflict; stressful life events for women as breadwinners; social transformation and women's well-being.

Interrogating Gender and State in Local, National and Transnational Contexts

Session Organizers:

Evangelia TASTSOGLU, Saint Mary's University, Canada, evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca
Margaret ABRAHAM, Hofstra University, USA, margaret.abraham@hofstra.edu

Not open for submission of abstracts.

This invited session aims at discussing the role of contemporary states in regulating gender relations, gender identities and gendered institutions in local, national and transnational contexts. To what extent and how are states still key – players in regulating gender? What has been the impact of globalization, multiple and intersecting structures of inequality, technology, international human rights and social movements on states regulating gender? The family, law, violence against women, immigration, security, the military, but also the labor market and welfare are some of the instances where states have historically played key roles.

Latin American Women's Agency and Resistance in a Globalized World. Acciones y resistencia de las mujeres latinoamericanas en un mundo globalizado

Session Organizers:

Alicia I. PALERMO, Universidad Nacional de Luján, Argentina, apalermo@uolsinectis.com.ar
Alicia DAMBRAUSKAS, Ministerio de Educación y Cultura, Uruguay,
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Session in English/Spanish

During the five centuries of colonization of Latin America, women have been involved in multiple struggles for their people and their own rights, yet their stories, with few exceptions,

have remained silent and invisible. An example of this during the Conquest was the “strike of wombs” episode by native Nicaraguan women who wanted to avoid giving slaves to the well-known oppressor Pedro Arias Dávila. This event is practically unknown. On the other hand, in relation to the symbolic position assigned to women, the sad story of Malinche is well known. She was the Aztec woman considered a traitor because as a slave, she became lover and translator of Hernán Cortés, her captor.

The male, western and white glasses through which we have looked at our historical vicissitudes have generated omissions, misrepresentations and forgetfulness that require the emergence of different perspectives in order to broaden our horizon. Embarking on this quest we’re inviting research papers about women’s resistance and women’s movements in Latin America. The purpose of the session is to share, analyze and disseminate learning about different approaches striving to achieve equity.

The social movements of Latin American women, since the beginning of the 20th century have taken different forms in claiming rights, and facing discrimination and injustice. Nowadays, the globalized world under a market logic, far from improving the distribution of wealth, has consolidated differences, discrimination and injustice. Therefore, we want to underscore the need to collect the wide diversity of voices and experiences of Latin American women, historically and presently subjected to discrimination based on gender, class and ethnicity (among others), and to carry out this session as a forum to develop critical thinking and promote another globalization guided by the hope of transformation.

Durante los cinco siglos transcurridos desde el inicio del proceso de colonización de América Latina, las mujeres han sido protagonistas de múltiples luchas por sus derechos y los de sus pueblos, sin embargo sus historias, salvo excepciones, han permanecido en el silencio y la invisibilidad. Poco y nada se sabe de la “huelga de úteros” que realizaron indígenas nicaragüenses para no dar esclavos durante la conquista al sí muy conocido opresor Pedro Arias Dávila. En cambio, sugestivamente en relación al lugar asignado simbólicamente a las mujeres, sí ha tenido amplia difusión la triste historia de Malinche, indígena azteca identificada con la traición por haber sido entregada como esclava y oficial de amante y traductora de Hernán Cortés.

Los cristales masculinos, occidentales y blancos con que hemos observado nuestra peripecia histórica han generado omisiones, tergiversaciones y olvidos que hicieron y aún hacen necesaria la emergencia de otras perspectivas que amplíen el horizonte de nuestra mirada. Es en esa búsqueda que invitamos a presentar investigaciones vinculadas a las múltiples formas que ha adoptado y adoptan en la actualidad la resistencia femenina y los movimientos de mujeres en Latinoamérica, a los efectos de compartir, analizar y difundir aprendizajes que estimulen el logro de la tan anhelada y postergada equidad de género.

Los movimientos de las mujeres latinoamericanas, desde inicios del siglo XX, han adoptado diferentes formas para reclamar el ejercicio de sus derechos, afrontando la discriminación y las injusticias. En el actual mundo globalizado bajo una lógica mercantil, que lejos de mejorar la distribución de la riqueza, ha consolidado las diferencias, entendemos relevante recoger la diversidad de voces y experiencias de las mujeres latinoamericanas, discriminadas por razones de género, clase y etnia (entre otras) y concebir esta sesión como una instancia para desarrollar una reflexión crítica y promover otra globalización signada por la esperanza de la transformación.

Looking at Inequalities through the Intersectional Prism: Potentialities and Challenges

Session Organizers:

Bula BHADRA, University of Calcutta, India, bulabhadra@gmail.com

Laura CORRADI, University of Calabria, Italy, lauracorradi.sociol@gmail.com

Feminist theories of intersectionality for the last 30 years focused on how categories of oppression such as like race, ethnicity, nationality, class, different abilities, age, sexuality and gender, do intersect (Davis 1983, Crenshaw, 1994, Collins, 1998, Wekker, 2004, Lykke, 2003, 2005, McCall, 2005, Verloo, 2006, Yuval-Davis, 2006, Meekosha 2010). The benefits of intersectional approaches are due to the fact that it can be applied to a broad range of research topics. Integrally connected to the concept of intersectionality is the question of power, Foucault (1973), introduced as procedures of exclusion and inclusion leading to multi-dimensional inequalities.

Within the frame of post-colonial theory such a vision of power has been deconstructed as embedded in western domination – as Annibal Quijano pointed out in *La colonialidad del poder* (1992). In spite of greater analytical and explanatory ability of intersectional approach, there is still a serious dearth of intersectional studies globally to address the complex problems of multifaceted inequalities of our times.

This particular session will address issues related to the complexity of intersectionality towards identities in transition; the debate about additive and transversal intersectionality. We'll try to answer to questions like: how should we make intersectionality more 'mainstream'? How can we combine intersectional approach and post-colonial ethics and politics? The task of de-colonizing sociology from dominant ideologies proposed by many authors (Mignolo 2011, Connell 2007) are urgent and necessary process for a foundation of global social sciences that do not replicate the center-periphery dichotomy and inequalities within our studies.

Negotiating Gender and Generation in Transnational Cultures

Session Organizers:

Marilyn PORTER, Memorial University, Canada, mporter2008@gmail.com

Peruvemba JAYA, University of Ottawa, Canada, jaya.peruvemba@uottawa.ca

This session brings together research areas that are often separate. There is interesting work being done throughout the world on the family structures and practices of different ethnic and cultural groups; on the impact of policies and practices of multiculturalism on families; on the ways generations of immigrant families interact and negotiate change. The approaches and the problems vary in complex ways in different countries and contexts.

In this session we encourage contributors using a feminist perspective to address aspects of the following: transnational migration; families and gender relations; the realities of multiculturalism policies and politics for families; and cultural and ethnic transmissions across generation.

The goal of this session is to develop a more sophisticated analysis of these topics and to highlight the relations between gender, race, class, ethnicity and cultural diversity.

The session especially encourages researchers looking to compare their work with that of others with the aim of developing fruitful research collaborations.

RC32 Awards / Reception

Session Organizer:

Evangelia TASTSOGLU, Saint Mary's University, Canada, evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca

RC32 Business Meeting

Session Organizer:

Evangelia TASTSOGLU, Saint Mary's University, Canada, evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca

RC32 Roundtable Session I. Women's Experiences in Labor Markets, Families and Households in Globalized Society

Session Organizer:

Josephine BEOKU-BETTS, Florida Atlantic University, USA, beokubet@fau.edu
Session in English

RC32 Roundtable Session IA. Housewives at the Intersection of the Local, National and Global

Session Organizers:

Ayşe SAKTANBER, Middle East Technical University, Turkey, sakta@metu.edu.tr
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A. Idil AYBARS, Middle East Technical University, Turkey, aybars@metu.edu.tr

This roundtable aims to focus on the category of housewives with a view to understanding the way they shape and are shaped by the local, national and global transformations. These transformations reveal themselves best in the rise of different trends such as traditionalism, conservatism, nationalism and cosmopolitanism. While the question of housewives has often been conceptualized within the limits of the domestic sphere, they equally interact with the economic, social and political trends at the local and the global levels.

To approach the issue of housewives from such a broad perspective is necessary within the context of the changing balance between work and private domains, increasing global mobility, intensified technological transformation, as well as newly emerging political configurations. The agency of these women has generally been neglected by mainstream studies on this specific category. However, the changes in the political arena and social class configurations point to the importance of the agency of these women, who are often regarded as a 'silent majority'.

The changing organization of politics, the altered experience of motherhood and work, the rapid dissemination of global markets, global meanings and global consumption patterns through technology and the new media, the impacts of cultural globalization, the changing perception of the self in its relationships with others, as well as the increasing horizontal and vertical movement and geographic mobility of women all imply that women from different class backgrounds now experience housewifery in different manners and dimensions.

The objective of this roundtable is to open up the possibility for new thinking on the experiences, practices and identities of housewives in a changing world.

RC32 Roundtable Session II. Women and Gender in an Unequal World

Session Organizer:

Akosua ADOMAKO AMPOFO, University of Ghana, Ghana, adomako@gmail.com

RC32 Roundtable Session IIA. Are White Collar Women Workers “Proletarianized” in the Globalized Economy?

Session Organizer:

Aylin AKPINAR, Marmara University, Turkey, aakpinar@marmara.edu.tr

Globalization has involved feminization but the actual form that this has taken has raised some conflicting interpretations. On the one hand it has been argued that the demand of higher levels of multi-skilled work would bring more women to the higher levels of the labour market. On the other hand it has been argued that women were still over-represented in lower-paid & lower quality non-standard work even if their numbers have increased. Some others have pointed to the fact that women workers were seen as semi-skilled and that they had less promotion chances.

According to other researchers white collar women workers had lost their autonomy in the workplace as a result of the impact of technology. Yet, it was agreed upon that under the global economy the role of the state was marginalized and as a result women were left by themselves to bargain for the conditions of their employment.

We are in need of knowledge of the working conditions and gendered experiences of white collar women workers. The feminization of the “call centre work” has been assessed to a certain extent. Yet, we are still in need of information about the women workers’ working conditions in finance & banking sectors, human resources & management sectors, insurance companies, research companies as well as in plazas and the like.

This roundtable aims to contribute to bring in empirically based research knowledge by calling in for papers under the questions which will be formulated within the framework of this important issue.

Social Transformation of the Middle East and the Shaping of Gender and Family Relationships

Session Organizers:

Suaad Zayed AL-ORAIMI, United Arab Emirates University, s.aloraimi@uaeu.ac.ae

Nazanin SHAHROKNI, University of Berkeley, USA, nazanin@berkeley.edu

Rima SABBAN, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates, rimsabban@zu.ac.ae

The Middle East today is one of the fastest changing regions in the world. Change is becoming the rule to a certain extent more than stability and continuation. Family in the region has been a site of great changes, and significant adaptation as well.

This session proposes to look at social change in the region and its impact on the family from multiple perspectives: the inner-family perspective such as (family intimate relationships, gender relationships, gender roles, family domestic violence, changing family values, changing family structures, changing beliefs and so on); and the outer-family perspective where the outside world impact families and their ability to survive, adapt, and be sustained.

Some of the suggested impacts on the family could be those of social media and / or technological advancements. Changing ideologies and beliefs could be looked at as the outer-family perspectives impacting the family. For example, feminism could be seen as an ideology which has shaped families and gender roles in the region.

Finally, the session examines ways in which victims of violence can utilize collective belief systems (feminism or other) as a tool for self and collective empowerment. When studying the family, this session focuses more on the gender dynamics of it, however it is not limited to it.

Thinking Gender on a World Scale: Prioritising Feminist Theory from the South

Session Organizers:

Raewyn CONNELL, University of Sydney, Australia, raewyn.connell@sydney.edu.au
Laura CORRADI, University of Calabria, Italy, lauracorradi.sociol@gmail.com

In sociology and gender studies we are familiar with ideas from the global North and less familiar with feminist research and theories from the rest of the world. Following the professional norms of sociology, we rarely frame our research and international discussions with ideas from the global South where the great majority of the world's women live. Feminist sociologists such as Fatima Mernissi, in Morocco, and Teresita de Barbieri, in Mexico, offered new conceptual perspectives decades ago. Yet little of this kind of thinking gets general international recognition or circulation.

This situation is ripe for change. Chandra Talpade Mohanty has called for "Feminism Without Borders", Chilla Bulbeck for "Re-Orienting Western Feminisms" and Valentine Moghadam discussed the reshaping of feminism by transnational networks. There is an international movement for a post-colonial revolution in social science, in Africa, South America and India, with active members within ISA. The workshop is intended to bring these issues together within RC 32.

We give priority to theory because of its strategic role in sociology. Speakers in the panel will be invited: to present conceptual or strategic work on gender issues from their regions, to respond to such work from global South regions and to offer thoughts on the reshaping of global gender theory

Participants in the workshop will have time to interact with developing proposals. One outcome of the session will be practical suggestions to RC 32 about how to foster South/South exchanges in feminist sociology.

Women and the Economic Crisis: New Challenges and New Forms of Gender Inequalities

Session Organizers:

Chrysanthi ZACHOU, American College of Greece, Greece, czachou@gmail.com

Laura MARATOU-ALIPRANTI, Athens University, Greece, alipran3@otenet.gr

The recent economic crisis and the austerity measures imposed on several countries in Europe and other parts of the world, challenged women's position in society and the labor market, undermined their rights, impeded the realization of their aspirations, reinforced existing gender inequalities and created new ones. This session aims to document the crisis' impact concerning the nature of gender-based power imbalances and their ideological or structural basis. Through case studies or comparative research, it intends to address the consequences of crisis in economic and socio-cultural terms, for diverse categories of women both in the context of specific nation-states and across the globe, as they are experienced individually or collectively. The submitted papers could focus on:

- the special hardships encountered by different categories of women (occupational, social, class, age, racial /ethnic etc.)
- the impact of declining standards of living, the dismantling of the welfare state and poverty on women's social position
- the (changing) nature of gender relations and the ways in which identities become (re)negotiated
- the differential patterns of male-female experience in the private or public sphere
- new forms of displacement and migration
- collective responses or activist commitment to the 'cause' of gender equality and social justice.

Given the growing scholarly interest on the economic crisis in national and global terms, this session intends to contribute to the discussion about the ways in which this crisis intersects with gender ideologies and creates structural inequalities and new challenges for women today.

Women in the Academic Workplace: Challenging the Dynamics of Gender, Power and Knowledge

Session Organizer:

Smita VERMA, Isabella Thoburn College, India, smitten_yeah@yahoo.com

Women's underrepresentation within academic space continues to be a reality even in our days, after decades of struggle for gender equality. Although the patriarchal organization of the university has stimulated an ongoing dialogue among intellectuals in academia giving rise to activities challenging dominant male perceptions and gender segregation, women continue to be relatively excluded, and at best subjected to acts of tokenism in the name of equal representation.

Gender influences women's experiences within the academy as faculty members, as well as the academy's expectations of them. This calls for a serious dialogue to acknowledge and understand the hiatus between the reality of universities today and the expectations from women faculty in universities. Discussing issues of leadership, promotions, tenure, among others will help in identifying and understanding the distinct pattern of gender bias across

cultures and also diverse degrees of disempowerment at different stages in the process and in different locations.

The session proposes to focus not just on the quantitative analysis but also the qualitative understanding of the subjective experiences of women in academia. It is important not just to acknowledge and discuss the diversity of marginalization but also delineate the dynamics of power and knowledge experiences, so as to challenge the monolithic and masculine university structure.

Work, Women, Class and Care: Working Women in Contemporary European Cities

Session Organizer:

Evelyn MAHON, Trinity College, Ireland, emahon@tcd.ie

Maria KONTOS, Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany, kontos@soz.uni-frankfurt.de

This session emanates from research on FLOWS – a European FP7 project on the impact of local welfare systems on women’s participation in the labour market which is generating rich accounts of women juggling work and childcare, and responding to the care needs of their elderly relatives in eleven European cities. The European social agenda strives to promote social inclusion and to reduce social inequality. But women within the European Union still participate in the labour market under different social welfare systems and employment conditions. Gendered care related issues persist within all class contexts so women’s revolution is still an incomplete one. Similarities and differences between women from different class positions are emerging.

This session invites papers on women’s commitment and orientation to work in different class positions, how they enact their roles as working mothers, the roles played by fathers, social networks, nannies, domestic help and access (or not) to affordable childcare. How do women in different classes and occupational groups negotiate a balance between their work and family lives and do welfare state care policies help to reduce class related inequalities between working women?

Joint Sessions

We have 9 joint sessions.

1) Constructing Gender within Youth Activism

Joint session of RC32 Women in Society and RC34 Sociology of Youth [host committee]

Session Organizers:

Anna-Britt COE, Umeå University, Sweden, anna-britt.coe@ucgs.umu.se

Darcie VANDEGRIFT, Drake University, USA, darcie.vandegrift@drake.edu

The papers in this session will address the construction of gender within young people’s

activism, including the intersection of gender with other social hierarchies (class, race/ethnicity/nationality, age). Youth civic engagement has occupied the attention of researchers and policymakers globally during recent decades. Today, young people practice and imagine civic engagement differently than in previous generations. They embrace activism through social movements, voluntary services, social media, identity organizations, cultural production, and even militant movements. They find less appeal in institutional or formal politics. Activism appears to be among the key forms of political socialization, the process whereby young people learn political culture and develop ideas about political issues, including gender justice. Yet less attention has been paid to relationships between young people's activism and gender as a social hierarchy. Potential topics for exploration include how young people contest gender injustice or reproduce existing inequalities as they develop strategies, ideologies, identities, organizations and alliances. Youth activism involves gender performances and engagement with/in gendered social structures. And they will typically carry into adulthood values and ideas adopted during youth activism. Papers that explore the session topic are welcome from a variety of research focuses, theoretical perspectives, conceptual tools and empirical cases.

2) Contested Citizenship: Transnationalism, Ethnicity, Gender and Sexuality

Joint session of RC05 Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations and RC32 Women in Society [host committee]

Session Organizers:

Patricia TOMIC, University of British Columbia Okanagan, Canada, patricia.tomic@ubc.ca
Lloyd L. WONG, University of Calgary, Canada, llwong@ucalgary.ca

Mobility is one of the most significant features of the present. Not only people, but ideas, discourses, human relations, commodities of every kind, capital, concepts, knowledge, and values, transfer from place to place, sometimes instantly, sometimes with great difficulty and under tremendous stress. However, in the global context, mobility comes together with borders and power. Indeed, while borders have become more flexible for goods, capital, and data, if people are involved, they open easily only for some; for others, borders have become increasingly rigid. Hence, both, mobilities and immobilities characterize contemporary societies. Gender is one of the key elements that decide mobilities and immobilities affecting women in particular and in significant ways. But gender cannot be considered independently from its intersection with class, race, sexuality and ability. This session invites papers that deal with the ways in which societies of flow (Castells, 1996) intersect with gender; in particular, how societies of flow are being impacted by the diversity of women's agency. Topics may cover (but are not limited) to the following:

- Societies of flows, feminism and transnational solidarities.
- South-North women's migration, critical human rights theory, and contested citizenships.
- Global inequalities, women, technologies and the transnational.
- Transnational economies, labour, gender and human rights.
- Race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality and migration.
- Discourses of family, human rights and transnational economies.
- Global Capitalism, transnational flows of ideas, communications and women in the global South.
- Gender, sexuality, the global South and cultural mobility.

- Methodological and theoretical contributions to study gender, sexuality, ethnicity and citizenship in the context of mobility and global inequalities.

3) Feminist Movement and (Women's) Human Rights

Joint session of RC32 Women in Society [host committee] and RC47 Social Classes and Social Movements

Session Organizers

Angela MILES, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, Canada, angela.miles@utoronto.ca
Dai NOMIYA, Sophia University, Japan, d-nomiya@sophia.ac.jp

In the last few decades globally hegemonic neo-liberal fundamentalism has brought increasing inequality, social devastation and ecological destruction in both the economic north and south (Miles 2001, Harvey 2007). Currently, we are also seeing what has been variously called an evolving 'regime of international law' or evolving 'human rights regime' (Cmiel 2004, Ignatieff 2000, Iriye et al eds. 2012). In this context, feminists at both local and global levels appear to be adopting 'women's human rights' framing across their broad spectrum of struggles around health, media, environment, energy, food security; democracy, indigenous rights, land rights, migrant and worker rights; poverty, structural adjustment, international debt, and international trade; violence, militarism, and peace. This session will explore the context, substance, significance, challenges, potentials and pitfalls of this major strategic development in feminist movements. Papers with local, national or global focus are invited which throw light on any aspect of this large topic including: case studies of shifts to human rights/women's human rights framing of particular women's issues or in particular contexts of women's movement; explorations of the factors influencing the increased movement adoption of human rights/women's human rights framing; and reflections on the political, practical, theoretical, philosophical consequences/contributions of feminist engagement with and re-conceptions of human rights/women's human rights for women's movement and/or human rights discourse more broadly

4) Intimate Labor in Asia

Joint session of RC32 Women in Society and RC44 Labor Movements [host committee]

Session Organizers: Hae Yeon CHOO, University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada, hy.choo@utoronto.ca
Pei-chia LAN, National Taiwan University, Taiwan, pclan@ntu.edu.tw

With the rise of the service industry and consumerism, and the shifting dynamics of global capitalism, multiple forms of intimate labor are emerging across Asia including domestic work, sex work, and carework. This panel explores the labor practice of the workers, institutions that organize intimate labor, new possibilities of labor organizing, intersecting forms of social inequality, and social relations that are formed at the site of the intimate labor. We welcome case studies from Asia and papers that examine variations within Asia or locate Asia from a comparative perspective.

5) RC32 Roundtable Session IB. Naming Marriage as Gendered

Joint session of RC25 Language and Society and RC32 Women in Society [host committee]

6) Representation and Restoration of Women's Experiences: Navigating between Colonial History and Postcolonial Present in the Asian Context

Joint session of RC32 Women in Society and RC38 Biography and Society [host committee]

Session Organizers

Hee-Young YI, Daegu University, Korea, biograf@hanmail.net

Gabriele ROSENTHAL, Georg-August University of Göttingen, Germany, g.rosenthal@gmx.de

Bandana PURKAYASTHA, University of Connecticut, USA, bandanapurkayastha@yahoo.com

This session aims to explore and restore the multilayered aspects of women's experiences in postcolonial history in the Asian context. Based upon women's biographies and oral life histories, this session will analyze how women negotiate the boundaries between state, nation, class, and gender, and examine how researchers can historicize them. Not only feminist theoretical approaches to hidden personal life histories, but also critical methods to hear, understand, and speak to the 'historical other' will be considered throughout the whole session. Since the 1990s when the testimonies of former comfort women drafted into the Japanese military forces during WWII garnered worldwide interests, there has been a great deal of research emerging in the field of women's oral life history, especially in the East Asian countries. Since then, biographies of women, social minorities, or ordinary people have enabled many social scientists to rethink the meaning of History, Science, Reality, and/or Truth and have led to a growing interest in the unwritten, silenced experiences of people.

Presenters in this session will pay attention to women who have experienced war, poverty, and gender violence; argue that women are not just powerless victims of history but active agents navigating the boundaries between structures and ideologies; and question our normative understanding of history, politics, and society. As such, this session will shed light on the theoretical and methodological implications of women's oral life history with regard to the representation and restoration of women's experiences in post-colonial Asia.

7) Women, Leisure and Gender Politics in Globalising Times

Joint session of RC13 Sociology of Leisure [host committee] and RC32 Women in Society

Session Organizers:

Ishwar MODI, India International Institute of Social Sciences, India, iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

Cynthia JOSEPH, Monash University, Australia, cynthia.joseph@monash.edu.au

This session examines the ways in which women experience inequalities in gaining access to leisure activities in globalising times. Leisure activities amongst family and community members are gender-specific and age-specific realities. In a globalized world, information communication technology including commercial entertainment and electronic devices in domestic space has changed the patterns of leisure amongst women. The papers in this session examine how these new forms of technology are related to gender and cultural politics, and social inequalities in terms of women's access to leisure activities.

8) Women Negotiating Work and Family

Joint session of RC06 Family Research [host committee] and RC32 Women in Society

Session Organizers:

Maitreyee BARDHAN, Basanti Devi College, India, maitreyee25@rediffmail.com
Anita DASH, Ravenshaw University, India, dashanita@yahoo.co.in

This session looks at the ways in which women juggle multiple roles in being an active citizen through their labour force participation and their roles in the family and household. Women's roles within families can be diverse including women-headed single parent families, co-parents and women as carer of the elderly. The papers in this session should consider how global trends and societal changes in relation to gender and work politics impact on women's familial roles in the Asian region. Themes included in this session are: women-headed single parent families and work politics, women, elderly care and work politics and working women and their dependence on domestic workers

9) Women, Transnationalism and Diaspora

Joint session of RC05 Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations [host committee] and RC32 Women in Society

Session Organizers:

Ann DENIS, University of Ottawa, Canada, adenis@uottawa.ca
Ulrike M. VIETEN, University of Sheffield, United Kingdom, u.vieten@sheffield.ac.uk

The focus of this session is women who belong to a racialized or (other) ethnic minority in a diaspora and who are also transnationals. We consider women to be transnationals if they act in multiple spatial-social sites of belonging which cross one or more nation state borders. Though ethnic minorities might be part of diasporic communities, they are not necessarily transnational (but this session focuses on ones where this is the case). We welcome papers from different regions across the world and are open to analyses which examine, theoretically and/or empirically, the intersectional impact of being women and transnationals in conjunction with diasporic residence and ethnicity/"race". Analyses may focus on negotiating individual identities or on more macro approaches to the context of ethnic/racialized pluralism which exists to a greater or lesser degree in the society and/or its social institutions. Comparative analyses are welcome, as are feminist ones.

RC 32 Essay competition for new scholars from the economic South on “Women’s/Feminist Social Movements: Advocacy for Change Throughout the World” Call for Papers and Manuscripts

Established: 2001

Frequency: every four years

Essay competition submission deadline: September 06, 2013

The Research Committee on Women in Society (RC32) of the International Sociological Association is organizing a world-wide essay competition to stimulate the formation of a theoretical framework for comparative studies on the changing position of women throughout the world, with emphasis on the analysis of feminism and women’s social movements. Papers should provide an analysis of the effects of feminism and/or women’s movements in bringing about change in various spheres of women's lives, paying particular attention to issues of political, economic, religious, and social justice.

Papers should identify patterns of social, economic, or political formation, and building of solidarity ties and/or other relevant dimensions for the analyses of social movements. Papers can examine different approaches to advocating with the State and dominant elites on issues of social justice, including monitoring and enforcing women’s political, economic, and social rights. Studies of emerging women’s/feminist movements in the economic South and issues that inform their development and advocacy around different forms of discrimination can also be submitted, as long as they contribute to the sociological analysis of social movements.

Papers should include both theoretical formulation and empirical research.

An International Jury will be established by RC32. Papers will be evaluated on the basis of their use of sociology to work out questions about women's social movements; their conceptual innovation; their way of developing the arguments; the possibility of their use in a comparative international framework. Papers that are not on the topic as outlined above will not be considered.

Eligibility

New scholars who are sociologists and are normally residents of the Economic South or are members of indigenous groups, including students temporarily in the North during their graduate studies, are eligible. Only one submission, whether as author or co-author, is allowed.

Language of submission

Written papers in English, French or Spanish, the official languages of ISA are invited. Capacity of verbal communication in one of these languages is also desirable.

Format, presentation and accompanying information for 2013 essay competition

Candidates must submit an original paper that has not been previously published anywhere. Papers should be typed and double spaced. Maximum length is 6000 words (i.e. no more than 20 pages of text) and a maximum of 10 pages of references and notes. Notes and the

bibliography should appear at the end of the text. The paper's title but not the applicant's name should be on the top of the paper. Since papers will be judged anonymously, name, address, e-mail, phone and fax numbers (if relevant) and an abstract of the paper (250 words maximum) should be submitted on a separate page. A brief curriculum vitae should also be submitted. Papers which do not conform to these requirements run the risk of being rejected. An electronic version (.doc or .pdf) of the paper should be e-mailed as an attachment to the Committee Co-Chairs of the 2013 essay competition for new scholars from the economic South: Akosua Adomako Ampofo and Josephine Beoku-Betts; adomako@gmail.com and beokubet@fau.edu. Please indicate "RC32 Essay competition" in the subject of your message. An electronic acknowledgement will be given upon receipt of the electronic submissions.

Deadline for the 2013 competition is September 6 2013. The winner(s) will be notified by January 15, 2014.

Award

Competition winner(s) will be invited to present their papers at the XVII World Congress of Sociology which will take place in Yokohama, Japan, in July 2014. The winner(s) will receive an award certificate at the RC32 Reception. Although full funding cannot be promised, RC 32 will provide partial financial support to help the winner(s) attend the conference.

Call for Papers and Manuscripts

Are you working on Human Right projects?

I am looking for dynamic proposals for books on Human Rights. I am the Series Editor for Frontpage Publications www.frontpagepublications.com

I decided to accept the series editorship of this small independent press because I was concerned about the ways in which the emphasis on markets trumps cutting-edge ideas among many presses. My own experience in getting *Human Rights: Voices of Young Activists* (2012) was very pleasant. (See http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YtG_nSnLDng&feature=youtu.be) for one marketing strategy. Frontpage has offices in Kolkata, India, and London, UK.

Contact me to discuss your project. Bandanapurkayastha@yahoo.com

Announcements

- The ISA organized a parallel session that was selected to be held at the time of the meeting of the **UN Commission on the Status of Women**. This session was on Tuesday, March 5 at 12:30 p.m. in the Downstairs Room at the Salvation Army building (221 East 52nd St.; New York, New York 10022; USA). The session was open to the public.
- **Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association**, June 26 – 28, 2013 University of Bern, *Inequality and Integration in Times of Crisis*
- **International Convention of Asian Scholars**, Macao, P.R. China
24-27 June 2013 <http://www.icassecretariat.org/ICAS-8>
- 2013 Six-Week **Women's Human Rights Education Institute**: WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION INSTITUTE (WHRI): BUILDING A PEACEFUL WORLD IN AN ERA OF GLOBALIZATION, May 22 – June 28, 2013
Directed by: Alda Facio, LLP with Angela Lytle, MEd; Angela Miles, PhD; Martha Morgan, JD, Mary Eberts, Debby Danard, PhD; Sujata Thapa, MA; Denisse Temin, MA. Centre for Women's Studies in Education (CWSE), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT). Offered in Association with Fundación Justicia y Género, Costa Rica. For full information and the online application form, see our website at: www.learnwhr.org For inquiries, contact WHRI Executive Director Angela Lytle at info@learnwhr.org

- **WOMEN'S RIGHTS ARE HUMAN RIGHTS! CEDAW for Change ONE WEEK INSTITUTE** June 3 - 7, 2013 Directed by Alda Facio, LLP and Martha Morgan, JD, with Angela Lytle, Med Centre for Women's Studies in Education (CWSE), Ontario Institute for Studies in Education of the University of Toronto (OISE/UT)
 For full information and the online application form, see our website at: www.learnwhr.org
 For inquiries, contact WHRI Executive Director Angela Lytle at info@learnwhr.org
- **2014 Women's World Hyderabad**, 17-23 August 2014. The theme for this conference is "Gender in a changing world" <http://womensworld2014india.com/>
- **2013 European Sociological Association (ESA)** conference, 28-31 August 2013 in Torino. <http://www.esa11thconference.eu/home>. RN 33 on Women and Gender Studies has a challenging and interesting session's program, see more in <https://www.esa11thconference.eu/call-for-papers/research-networks/RN33>
- **Revisiting the first international congress of Africanist in a Globalised World**, October 24-26 2013, Institute of African Studies, University of Ghana. Deadline for Proposal submissions: 17th April, 2013, Abstracts (200 words maximum, should be sent to the following address - iasconference@ug.edu.gh

Obituary Roxana Ng

By Ann Denis and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, RC05

It was with great sadness that I learned of the sudden passing of Roxana Ng on January 12, 2013. Roxana was a long-time member of RC05, and will be sadly missed within the Canadian and international sociological and feminist scholarly associations, as well as within community networks related to anti-racism, immigration and feminism. Her forward-looking, community-based, feminist and anti-racist work has been an inspiration for many of us of how to combine critical community activism with scholarship.

Since her emigration from Hong Kong to Canada in 1970, Roxana was a tireless feminist and anti-racist researcher and activist. In the early 1970s, she was a co-founder of the Vancouver Women's Research Centre, one of the first research centres in Canada. After obtaining her BA and MA at the University of British Columbia, she completed her doctorate at the University of Toronto. She taught sociology for several years at the University of New Brunswick, and since 1988 worked as an educator and researcher at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), an early centre of Canadian feminist and critical anti-racist thinking, which is now part of the University of Toronto. Most recently her work at OISE included being Head of the Centre for Women's Studies in Education. Roxana remained active within her communities throughout her life, and was much sought-after to address both community and academic groups.

Many of us knew Roxana as an engaged member of several sociology, ethnic studies and feminist associations, among them the International Sociology Association (including RC05), the Canadian Sociology Association, the Atlantic Association of Sociologists and Anthropologists, the Canadian Ethnic Studies Association, and the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women (CRIAOW). To each of these – and others as well – she brought her feminist questioning and critical mind, her enthusiasm and her lively involvement. It was both pleasant and stimulating to have an opportunity to listen to and exchange with her at conferences and meetings and learn from her publications. Over the years she challenged the organizations and scholarship in which she participated to consider additional community-based questions and concerns – in particular social justice concerns related to women, immigration, racism, and social class. She will also, I am sure, be remembered as a demanding yet supportive and encouraging supervisor and colleague, frequently collaborating with her students and co-workers.

She was ahead of her times in her engagement in both the academy and the community, particularly in her attention to diverse women's and ethnic/immigration communities' understandings and attempts to change systemic cultural and institutional barriers in their relations of ruling. An anti-racist and a holistic feminist approach were integral to her analysis, and her work reflected what is now called intersectionality long before the concept had been given this name.

Ann Denis and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman