

# Women in Society



## Chair's Address

*Evie Tastsoglou*

Warmest greetings to RC 32 members,

In making the transition from RC 32 chair elect to new chair, I would like to start by thanking the past Board, and in particular the past co-presidents Margaret Abraham and Esther Ngan-ling Chow, Secretary and Treasurer Cyndi Bogard and Newsletter Editor Bandana Purkayastha, for four terrific years of working together on most issues and for ensuring continuity in our RC 32 work as much as possible. These were years of great accomplishments under the leadership of Margaret Abraham and Esther Ngan-ling Chow, with such highlights as an Interim International Conference in Athens in May-June 2007; a second Interim meeting at the Mundos de Mujeres / Women's Worlds 10<sup>th</sup> International Interdisciplinary Congress in Madrid in July 2008; a third Interim meeting at the First ISA World Forum of Sociology in Barcelona in September 2008; *The Contours of Citizenship. Women, Diversity and Practices of Citizenship* (Ashgate, 2010) edited book that emerged but also went beyond the Athens Interim Conference; and last, but not least, the rich and superbly organized RC 32 program for the World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg in July 2010. In addition, these four years have been a time of great learning for me from the past co-presidents, as well as years of inspiration, and I certainly hope to continue and expand their legacy.

I would like to thank and congratulate our newly elected and current Board members, Akosua Adomako Ampofo (University of Ghana, Ghana) and Josephine Beoku-Betts (Florida Atlantic University, USA), Co-Chairs elect; Bandana Purkayastha (University of Connecticut, USA), Secretary – Treasurer; Antoinette Hetzler (Lund University, Sweden), Newsletter Editor.

## Notes from the Editor

This is my first Newsletter for Research Council 32, Women in Society.

This Newsletter is a bit special because it contains lots of information from the World Congress of Sociology in particular our Business Meeting for RC 32. You will find:

- Chair's Address
- "About Our Members"
- "Minutes from our Meeting"
- News
  - Essay Competition 2010
  - EU 7th framework and women
  - 2011 Women's Worlds Congress in Ottawa
  - Sociologist for Women in Society, Winter Meeting
  - On-going Research

Send information about your research, grants, books recently published, articles published, conferences, workshops, debates to your area representative (e-mail addresses are on page 2 and 3), or to me at [antoinette.hetzler@soc.lu.se](mailto:antoinette.hetzler@soc.lu.se)



Antoinette Hetzler, Editor

## Regional Representatives

### *Africa*

Oluyemi Fayomi, Covenant University, Nigeria, [olu\\_fayomi@yahoo.com](mailto:olu_fayomi@yahoo.com)

Abdul-Mumin Sa'ad: Nigeria, American University of Nigeria, Yola, [amsaad89@hotmail.com](mailto:amsaad89@hotmail.com)

James Odit, Regional Director of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Lusaka, Zambia [jodit@cypafrica.org.zm](mailto:jodit@cypafrica.org.zm)

### *Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Rim*

Cynthia Joseph, Monash University, Australia, [cynthia.joseph@education.monash.edu.au](mailto:cynthia.joseph@education.monash.edu.au)

Anne Seitz, Swinburne University of Technology, Lilydale, Victoria Australia, [aseitz@swin.edu.au](mailto:aseitz@swin.edu.au)

Shirley Hsiao-Li Sun, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, [hlsun@ntu.edu.sg](mailto:hlsun@ntu.edu.sg)

### *East, South and South East Asia*

Anita Dash, Ravenshaw University, Cuttack, Orissa, India, [dashanita@yahoo.co.in](mailto:dashanita@yahoo.co.in)

Jie Du, Women's Studies Institute of China, Beijing, People's Republic of China, [dujie@wsic.ac.cn](mailto:dujie@wsic.ac.cn)

Yu-Hsia Lu, Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, [luyh@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:luyh@gate.sinica.edu.tw)

Renu Ranjan, Magadh Mahila College, Patna, India, [renu.ranjan@gmail.com](mailto:renu.ranjan@gmail.com)

### *Europe*

Laura Maratou-Alipranti, National Center of Social Research, Greece, [lalipranti@ekke.gr](mailto:lalipranti@ekke.gr)

Analia Cardoso Torres, ISCTE, Lisbon, Portugal, [analia.torres@iscte.pt](mailto:analia.torres@iscte.pt)

Laura Corradi, Università Calabria, Arcavacata di Rende, Italy, [laura.corradi@unical.it](mailto:laura.corradi@unical.it)

Olesya Kirilenko, Rivne University, Rivne, Ukraine, [olesya\\_kirilenko@mail.ru](mailto:olesya_kirilenko@mail.ru)

### *Latin America and the Caribbean, South America, Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean*

Jeanne de Bruijn: University of the Netherlands Antilles, Curacao, Netherlands Antilles, [jgm.debruijn@una.an](mailto:jgm.debruijn@una.an)

Alicia Dambrauskas, Technical Adviser to the Ministry of Education and Culture, Uruguay, [aidambrauskas@gmail.com](mailto:aidambrauskas@gmail.com)

Alicia Itatí Palermo, at Luján National University, Luján, Argentina,

[apalermo@uolsinectis.com.ar](mailto:apalermo@uolsinectis.com.ar)

### *Middle East, West Asia*

Nazanin Shahrokni, University of Berkeley, USA, [nazanin@berkeley.edu](mailto:nazanin@berkeley.edu)

Nilay Çabuk Kaya, University of Ankara, Ankara, Turkey, [cabukkaya@gmail.com](mailto:cabukkaya@gmail.com)

### *North America, Canada and the United States*

Solange Simoes, Eastern Michigan University, USA, [ssimoes@emich.edu](mailto:ssimoes@emich.edu)

Sirma Bilge, Université de Montréal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada,

[sirma.bilge@umontreal.ca](mailto:sirma.bilge@umontreal.ca)

Vappu Tyyska, Ryerson University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, [vytyyska@soc.ryerson.ca](mailto:vytyyska@soc.ryerson.ca)

Manisha Desai, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, USA,

[manisha.desai@uconn.edu](mailto:manisha.desai@uconn.edu)

I am very inspired and proud of the enormous diversity we represent collectively and look forward to working with all of you, as well as all of our RC 32 members during the coming four years.

While I had the pleasure of meeting a number of you in person in the past and especially at the latest ISA Congress, there are still many of our members that I have yet to meet and hear from. As a result, allow me to briefly introduce myself: I am a Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Criminology at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Canada. I am also the Leader of the "Gender / Immigrant Women" Research Domain and network in the Atlantic Metropolis Centre of Excellence (AMC) which is one of five federal Centres of Excellence in Canada for interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral policy-oriented research on migration and diversity. Over the past twenty years my research has focused in the areas of Gender and International Migration; Immigrant Women in Canada and Southern Europe; Gender and Immigration, Settlement and Citizenship Processes and Policies; Crossing Boundaries, Transnationalism, and Diasporas; Race and Ethnicity; Diversity, Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism; Culture, Ideology and Politics. Some of my

recent books are: *Women, Migration and Citizenship: Making Local, National and Transnational Connections*, Ashgate Publishers, 2006 (co-edited with A. Dobrowolsky); *Security and Immigration, Changes and Challenges: Immigrant and Ethnic Communities in Atlantic Canada, Presumed Guilty?* Ottawa: Status of Women Canada (Policy Research Fund), Canadian Heritage, 2007 (bilingual edition in English and French. Co-authored with D. Crocker, A. Dobrowolsky, E. Keeble, and C. Moncayo); "The Experiences of the Second-Generation Canadian Youth". Special Issue of *Canadian Ethnic Studies*. Vol. 40, No. 2, 2008 (guest-edited); *Women, Gender and Diasporic Lives. Labor, Community and Identity in Greek Migrations*. Lexington Books, 2009 (editor); *The Contours of Citizenship. Women, Diversity and Practices of Citizenship*. Ashgate, 2010 (co-edited with Margaret Abraham, Esther Chow, and Laura Maratou-Alipranti); *Immigrant Women in Atlantic Canada: Challenges, Negotiations, Re-Constructions*, Canadian Scholars' Press/ Women's Press (in print, expected May 2011, co-edited with Peruvemba Jaya). I am currently working on two funded projects on the role of social networks in migration and settlement with a regional focus on Atlantic Canada.

### **Looking Forward**

For the next four years I would like RC 32 to continue to foster research on women and gender in society from a feminist intersectional perspective while making links between the local, national and transnational levels; and to do so with an emancipatory orientation, i.e. by making the connection between theory and practice for equity and social justice.

Some of the means by which I hope we can pursue the above goals are:

- **Strengthening links** between feminist researchers in the North and South through joint research, conference and publishing activities. In this regard my hope and plan is to expand the practice of co-organizing confer-

ence sessions between researchers from the North with researchers from the South, as this holds an excellent potential in bringing scholars together in longer-term collaborative relations out of which joint research and publications might emerge.

- **Planning and delivering sessions** for the interim at the ISA Forum, World Congress, but also at other regional, national and international conferences as interim meetings. Although, as I am writing this, the 2012 ISA Forum location is yet to be decided, the RC 32 Board discussed in Gothenburg and agreed on the merits of holding our interim conference with the Forum. We are eagerly anticipating the announcement of the winning bid by the ISA in the next month, so that we can start planning our own mid-term conference. We will keep you posted as soon as we have more details on this. Meanwhile, there was a call for submissions to the 2011 Women's Worlds Congress in Ottawa, disseminated through our RC 32 listserv, to which a number of our members have responded by submitting sessions. Although we will not know about acceptance before some time, RC 32 will put together a program, for a small interim "conference within a conference", as per the earlier successful model of Women's Worlds Congress in Madrid in 2008. Other possibilities for interim meeting venues include the ASA and ESA conferences – I would appreciate knowing from you which conferences you are planning to participate or organize sessions for, so that we can look into joint activity.

- **Initiating new and supporting existing collaboration** with other RCs in joint conference activities. We will be starting from RCs with which we have traditionally collaborated but other options are open, as long as there is mutual interest between various RCs as expressed through their Boards.

- **Strengthening contacts** with national, regional and international professional associations, research institutes and other organizational entities engaged in research on women in society. It is hoped that mutual support of

## “News of Our Members”

professional associations, cross-fertilization of ideas, increased membership for RC 32, as well as support for feminist research and women’s issues nationally, regionally and globally will be some of the outcomes of such contacts. In the next few months I will engage in a dialogue with the RC 32 Board as to how to strengthen these contacts. Beyond this however, I would be pleased to hear your ideas.

• **Initiating and supporting links** with community-based, national, regional and international NGOs working on promoting diversity and women’s equality in society. Here as well, the conversation is just starting within the Board and any input and concrete proposal you might have, I would be pleased to hear about and consider with our Board

I look forward to working closely with all of you in the next four years.

*Evie Tastsoglou*  
RC 32 Chair



**MARGARET ABRAHAM**, past RC 32 Co-President, was elected **Vice-President, Research** of the International Sociological Association for a 4-year term (2010-2014) at the XVII World Congress held in Gothenburg, Sweden from July 11-17, 2010. RC 32 is proud and honoured to have one of its former co-presidents being elected to the position of Vice-President, Research, ISA.

Margaret Abraham as VP specifically proposes to:

- Strengthen communication and collaboration among the RCs, WGs and TGs and between the various RCs, WG and TG and National Associations to promote international sociology.
- Develop more opportunities for comparative and cross national research between scholars from countries Global North and Global South.
- Expand avenues to increase diversity in perspectives and participation at ISA conferences, especially of under-represented groups, by identifying possible avenues for funding, suitable conference locations, and mechanisms to minimize language barriers.
- Build better bridges between sociologists and activists in promoting social justice, through research that can inform policy and practice at the local, national, transnational, and global levels.
- Establish opportunities for junior scholars to participate in ISA activities and collaborate with senior international scholars through the RCs, WGs, TGs and NAs.
- Leverage technology to develop protocols and streamline processes that enhance communication, cooperation, and efficacy in organizing conferences and associated publications.

On behalf of RC Board and membership congratulations, Maggie !

*Evie Tastsoglou*



**RC32 Business Meeting**  
**Thursday July 15th 2010 Time: 10:45**  
**-12:45**  
**Venue: Svenska Mässan F5**  
MINUTES

**Agenda**

**10:45 – 12:15**

- **Welcome by Co-Presidents:**  
*Margaret Abraham and Esther Ngan-ling Chow*
- **RC32 Activities Report 2006-2010 (Submitted to ISA)**
- **By-Laws Report and Discussion:**  
*Ann Denis and Marilyn Porter*
- **Thanks to the RC32 Board Members (2006-2010) and Committee members**
- **Results of the Election and Introduction of Board Members 2010-2014**
- **Announcements and Other Business**
- **Meeting adjourns**

**12:15 -12:45**

- **New Board President Convenes New Board Meeting**  
*Evangelia Tastsoglou*

The RC32 business meeting started at 10:50 with a welcome by the Co-Presidents Margaret Abraham and Esther Ngan-ling Chow to all the attendees (Approximately 120 people).

Margaret Abraham provided a brief summary of the RC32 Activities Report (2008-2010) by the co-presidents submitted to ISA Secretariat. The financial support provided by RC 32 and ISA for these activities was also noted. She reported the increase in RC membership to 258 as of April 2010 and the expected increase in July 2010 (registration World Congress July 2010). She provided a brief sum-

mary of the activities successfully undertaken for the period 2008-2010 including conferences; essay competition and newsletters (see attached ISA report):

1. **Mundos de Mujeres/Women's Worlds: 10th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, Madrid, Spain 3-9 July 2008.**
2. **American Sociological Association, Boston, USA 2008**
3. **First ISA World Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, Spain 5-8, September 2008**
4. **World Congress of Sociology Gothenburg, Sweden July 11 to 17, 2010**
5. **Essay Competition for New Scholars from the Economic South on "Women's Social Movements: Struggles for Change Throughout the World"**
6. **RC32 Newsletter**

The co-presidents acknowledged Bandana Purkayastha, the RC 32 Newsletter Editor, for creatively and systematically putting together the newsletters bi-annually in English for the past 4 years. In addition, Cynthia Borgard, secretary treasurer, was acknowledged for updating the membership list and for helping with the RC32 elections.

Next on the agenda was a report and discussion of the RC32 bylaws and revisions by Ann Denis and Marilyn Porter. Ann and Marilyn took the membership through the main revisions undertaken.

- 1) Use of the term "chair" instead of "president" (the majority voted for chair).
- 2) Whether to include institutions for RC32 membership (pro and cons were

discussed with the understanding that this needed further enquiry).

- 3) Whether to divide the role of the secretary and treasurer (the general decision was both options would need to be assessed ad hoc, and taken up for the next election).

The by-law revisions were passed unanimously. Ann Denis noted that she would make the revisions and send the final revisions to the new RC32 President, Evangelia Tastsoglou with a cc to the Margaret and Esther. The RC32 co-presidents thanked Ann and Marilyn for the immense work on the by-laws. Ann Denis was also recognized for her immense contributions to RC32 over a span of many years.

Next on the agenda was an acknowledgment and thanks by the co-president to all the RC32 Board Members (2006-2010), Award committee members (Evangelia Tastsoglou, Cynthia Joseph and Linda Christiansen-Ruffman) and session organizers for the various RC32 interim conferences. The co-presidents also thanked each other for a productive term. Bandana Purkayastha thanked Margaret for being the lead coordinator in organizing the World Congress, and both co-presidents, Maggie and Esther for their leadership over the last four years.

**Next on the agenda, Esther Chow announced the results of the election and introduced the new Board (2010-2014):**

Next item of business included announcements:

New RC32 President announced and congratulated Margaret Abraham for winning the elec-

tion to the post of Vice President Research of the International Sociological Association.

Esther Ngan-ling Chow announced about an SWS initiative, handed out fliers and asked those interested to contact her.

The RC32 business meeting was adjourned.

**12:15 -12:45**

- **New Board President Convenes New Board Meeting**  
*Evangelia Tastsoglou*

Evangelia Tastsoglou congratulated the New Board members on their election and thanked the outgoing Co-Presidents for their accomplishments, contributions and leadership of the past four years.

A quick go-around of introductions and exchange of ideas about activities in the new term followed.

It was the unanimous agreement of the New Board to move forward with an interim meeting planned for the next ISA World Forum to be announced later in the fall. In addition, it was agreed that other international and regional conferences will serve as venues for RC 32 interim meetings, starting with the Women's Worlds 11th International Interdisciplinary Congress on Women, in Ottawa, Canada in early July 2011.

It was also agreed to stay in close contact, exchange news and information, and discuss issues by e-mail and the use of the Board and membership listservs that would be transferred from Hofstra University to the University of Connecticut, the institution of the new secretary and treasurer, Bandana Purkayastha. Bandana will notify members of when the new listservs are ready for use.

Meeting adjourned at 12:45

# NEWS

## **Retika Rajbhandar, Kathmandu, Wins Essay Competition for New Scholar from the Economic South**

The Research Committee on Women in Society (RC32) of the International Sociological Association organizes every four years 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 social movements. The 2010 topic was "Women's Social Movements: Struggles for Change Throughout the World". 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 to enter this competition.

The winner of the 2010 Award of the Essay Competition for New Scholars from the Economic South was **Retika**

**Rajbhandari** from Kathmandu, Nepal, for her paper on "The Ambiguities of the Women's Movement: Activism in Farwest Nepal as a Case Study". The three-member Adjudication Committee\* were unanimous in their praise of Retika's essay which provide valuable insights into the politics and power differentials within the women's movement in Nepal. Congratulations and best wishes in your continuing studies and activism in the Women's Movement, Retika! This year the award was in celebration of the life and leg-



acy of Dr. Helen Ralston (1929- 2006), Professor Emerita, Saint Mary's University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada and long-time member RC 32 and ISA. Helen Ralston was a cosmopolitan Canadian of Australian origin, a teacher, academic, nun, feminist and activist. As a researcher and a feminist she was involved in ethnic, migration and transnational issues always working to improve the lives of women and the underprivileged of the world.

The financial contributions to the 2010 Award by ISA, RC 32, Hofstra University and Saint Mary's University are gratefully acknowledged.

*Evie Tastsoglou*

(\*Linda Christiansen Ruffman, Cynthia Joseph and Evie Tastsoglou )

## **A Long Way from Equality in the European Unions Seventh Frame Program.**

[2010-11-25] The glass-ceiling for European women researchers is still in place. All this according to the expert group charged with evaluating the EU 7th framework program. The program has been running about half of its time period. The evaluators are of the opinion that the EU-Commission can do lots more to increase the participation of women within the research program..



# More News... ..



## **Women's World congress 2011, Ottawa Canada. 3-7 July, 2011**

Inclusions, exclusions, and seclusions: Living in a globalized world

The theme of Women's Worlds 2011 is "Inclusions, exclusions, and seclusions: Living in a globalized world". Why? Where globalization and women are concerned, provocative questions abound:

Does globalization include, exclude, and/or seclude women?

As global hierarchies realign, how are gender roles and identities evolving?

How are social identifications like power, privilege, citizenship, and nation affected?

Ours is an increasingly integrated world – one where boundaries are shifting under growing flows of capital, goods, power ... and people. Who and where we are as individuals and communities becomes less clear within this contemporary, globalized context.

Around the world, women are grappling with changing political, cultural, economic, social, and environmental realities. And the effects of numerous crises – be they economic, ecological, or health-related – intensify obstacles to women's equality.

Globalization has contributed to the destabilization and marginalization of women and communities. Yet certain consequences have yielded positive results for women. Globalization has meant enhanced communications and organizing – trans-national connectivity that must be deepened as women's organizations and networks struggle to sustain themselves and maintain resilience in the face of forces that oppose women's equality.

Women's Worlds 2011 will be a place for the exploration of these complex matters through reflection, learning, and sharing a variety of ideas and experiences – especially those of women most deeply affected.



[www.womensworlds.ca](http://www.womensworlds.ca)



# And More News...



## 2011 Winter Meeting

DATES: February 3 to 6, 2011

PLACE: on the San Antonio riverwalk at <http://www.eltropicanohotel.com/>

### Program and Call:

2011 will mark the 40th anniversary of the first Winter Meeting of the Sociologists for Women in Society. As our organization reaches this milestone, many have expressed a desire to pause and reflect on the path that we have taken to become this well-established organization and to (re)imagine our future both inside and outside of the academy. This year's meetings will provide us with opportunities for this process. Events you can look forward to include honoring our founding leaders, celebrating our milestones, and discussions of our strategic directions so that we can (re)imagine the future of SWS. Sessions will feature addressing the continuing needs of feminist sociologists inside and outside of the academy, such as: working with media, doing applied work, the changing face of discrimination, doing anti-racist work, preparing for careers in the 21st century, doing more with declining resources, and doing interdisciplinary work. We will also continue our tradition of providing a forum for emerging and continuing work at several roundtable sessions.

If you are interested in presenting your work, you are invited to submit an abstract. These should be 250 words or less and should be submitted to [teore@stcloudstate.edu](mailto:teore@stcloudstate.edu) by November 30, 2010.

See you in San Antonio!

**(Editors Note: Short notice, but could be worth trying for a late submission of an abstract if you will be or can be in the vicinity of San Antonio, Texas February, 2011. For those not able to attend, we will try and have a summary of the Winter meeting in our next News Letter)**

# And More News...

## Awarded Research Grant

We know from our Newsletter Spring 2010 that the Scandinavian countries have invested resources in advancing Gender research. Liisa Husu gave us a good picture of what is going on in the Scandinavian Countries. Here is a repeat on important websites for each country given us by Liisa.

**Denmark** (Kvinfo)

<http://www.kvinfo.dk/> **Finland**

(Minna) <http://www.minna.fi>

**Norway** (Gender)

<http://gender.nu> **Sweden**

(Swedish Secretariat for Gender Research,

<http://www.genus.se/english>

**Iceland** (Centre for Gender Equality) <http://jafnretti.is>

**Nordic** (NIKK - Nordic Gender Institute)

<http://www.nikk.no/English>.



Diana Mulinari

We can announce even more good news from Scandinavia. The National Swedish Research Council announced the results of 2010 Grant Competition in November and the second largest grant was awarded to Gender Research. A group of Gender Researchers from Lund University and Gothenburg University, with **Professor Diana Mulinari**, Lund University, as principal investigator was awarded 10 million Swedish Crowns (approximately \$1.5 million dollars). The project is a five year research plan entitled **"Dream of Change: Women and the creation of civil society in the Arctic region, Asia, Latin America and Europe."**

The research group summarizes the project in their grant proposal as follows:

*Conflict over gender and power has been central to the history of modernity. It is the comparative, historical and international analysis of the interaction of gender and the field of the political that is the focus of the project. We want to analyze the different kinds of women's organizations, of civil society organizations targeting women and children and of feminisms that evolve in diverse national/regional contexts. We want to critically assert the varied, contradictory and conflicting roles that women's organizations and feminisms play in strengthening democratic practices within civil society. We want to explore the heterogeneity of women's organizations and of civil society organizations targeting women and children asserting the variety of meaning giving to gender equality and feminism globally. The project is composed by a number of case studies from different regions (Arctic, Asia, Europe and Latin America). While the methods used will be adapted to the individual projects the research team share a methodological inspiration, the notion of global ethnographies. Questions regarding the meaning of feminism and the relationship between movements of social protest and feminism remain contested issues globally. These questions are the core of this research program.*