

RC41 NEWSLETTER 1_2017

Research Committee on Sociology of Population

International Sociological Association

Editor: Walter Bartl

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Article submissions are limited to 1,000 words, will be reviewed by the RC41 officers for possible publication, and may be edited for clarity or space.

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EDITORIAL

Dear Members of RC41,

The deadline for our sessions at the ISA World Congress in Toronto 2018 is approaching rapidly. Please, remember to submit your articles in due time. Furthermore, in October this year RC41 will co-host a workshop on governance by numbers in Halle, Germany. Registration for this event is still possible.

The manuscript of the edited volume which Jon Anson, Andrzej Kulczycki and myself are working on together with the authors is almost ready. We plan to submit it to the publisher by late October 2017 .

I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I wish you all the best for the winter term/semester!

Best regards,

Walter Bartl

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFERENCES

XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY. POWER, VIOLENCE AND JUSTICE: REFLECTIONS, RESPONSES AND RESPONSIBILITIES. *TORONTO*, CANADA, JULY 15-21, 2018

You may view the call for abstracts here:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018>

You can access the calls of RC41 here:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium478.html>

We will be hosting sessions on the following topics:

Sessions:

- Challenges to Population Health and Well Being
- Demography of the Lgbti Populations
- Fertility and Religion
- Inequalities and Their Impact on Mortality
- Population Indicators and the Politics of Expectations
- Population and Health of the Disadvantaged People
- The Demography of the New Family
- The Effect of the Increase in Life Expectancy on Intergeneration Relationships
- Violence Against the Elderly: Justice Denied

Please remind that the submission deadline is September 30, 2017!

GOVERNING BY NUMBERS: KEY INDICATORS AND THE POLITICS OF EXPECTATIONS
OCTOBER 5 - 7, 2017, WORKSHOP AT THE MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITY HALLE-
WITTENBERG, HALLE, GERMANY.

The workshop is hosted by the Political Sociology Section of the German Sociological Association (DGS), Research Committee on the Sociology of Population (RC41) of the International Sociological Association (ISA), Research Cluster Society and Culture in Motion of the Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg, and Halle Institute for Economic Research (IWH) – Member of the Leibniz Association.

Keynote speakers: Laurent Thévenot, Christina Boswell and Kenneth Prewitt.

Program: <http://wcms.itz.uni-halle.de/download.php?down=46503&elem=3060507>

Registration: <http://wcms.itz.uni-halle.de/download.php?down=46095&elem=3060949>

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE GERMAN DEMOGRAPHY ASSOCIATION (DGD), AGEING – WORK – HEALTH, ROSTOCK, GERMANY, SEPTEMBER 19-22, 2017.

The meeting will be part of the “Statistical Week” [Statistische Woche], the annual meeting of the German Statistical Society (DStatG).

Program: http://www.statistische-woche.de/fileadmin/Rostock/Guide_Rostock.pdf

Registration: <https://www.conftool.com/statistische-woche-2017/index.php?page=login&lang=1>

JOINT CONFERENCE FOR RC06 (FAMILY) & RC41 (POPULATION) INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION (ISA): CHANGING DEMOGRAPHY, CHANGING FAMILIES, SINGAPORE, 17-19 MAY 2018, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE

Abstract submission deadline: 1 November 2017

Details at: <https://singaporerc0641.nus.edu.sg/index.php>

PEOPLE

Guillermina Jasso delivered three keynote addresses recently:

(1) "Common Good, Self-Interest, and the Sense of Justice," presented at the Congress of the Swiss Sociological Association, Zurich, Switzerland, June 2017;

(2) "The Spirit of EITM: Three Theories and Five Tips," presented at the Summer Institute on the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), sponsored by the Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston, Houston, Texas, June 2017; and

(3) "Theoretical Insights for Empirical Inequality Research," presented at the Second International Workshop of ISA RC45 on Social Inequality, co-sponsored by the Stratification and Social Psychology Project in Japan and the International Sociological Association's Research Committee 45 on Rational Choice, Utrecht University, Netherlands, September 2017.

She also co-authored an August 4th op-ed for the Ideas section of Time.com, "How Donald Trump's New Immigration Plan Could Harm the American Workforce." Available at <http://time.com/4887558/legal-family-immigration-skilled-workforce/>

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Glorius, Birgit, and Birgit Leick, eds. 2016. *Geographies of Demographic Change: Theories and Narratives*. *Comparative Population Studies* 41, 3/4 (special issue).

http://www.comparativepopulationstudies.de/index.php/CPoS/pages/view/S_ISSUE.

Jasso, Guillermina. 2016. "Mathematical Sociology." In Janeen Baxter (ed.), *Oxford Bibliographies in Sociology*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Mathematical sociology is sociology expressed in the language of mathematics. It has no special subject matter or special domain, for all of sociology is its domain and all human behavioral and social phenomena are its subject matter. What is distinctive about mathematical sociology is its language, its vocabulary. While articles on particular topical domains expressed in ordinary language have sentences as their main elements—with a subject, a verb, perhaps an object, perhaps embellished with adjectives and adverbs—articles on particular topical domains expressed mathematically have equations as their main elements—a term to the left of the equals sign, to the right a term or terms linked by plus and minus signs, perhaps embellished with subscripts and superscripts. In the same way that sentences are combined into paragraphs, equations are combined into multi-equation models. And in the same way that nouns and verbs are modified by adjectives and adverbs, the terms in equations are modified by transformations and parameters. The task of mathematical sociology is mathematical statement of the terms and relations in all of sociology—from the foundational ideas of the discipline to the starting ideas for its subfields to the predictions and possibilities for all topical domains. Importantly, the task is not embraced for its own sake, though it would be easy to do so based on notions of parsimony, precision, and beauty. Rather, the task is embraced because mathematics is the tool par excellence for advancing knowledge. Two of the ways that mathematics shows its power for advancing knowledge pertain to sociological theory, that is, to the very foundations of sociology. First, mathematics is a power tool for deriving testable predictions, including novel predictions, from the foundational postulates in the discipline and the starting ideas in its subfields. Second, mathematics is a power tool for theoretical unification, helping the discipline to reach the goal of understanding more and more by less and less.

Jasso, Guillermina. 2017. "Inequality in the Distribution of a Good Is a Bad, and Inequality in the Distribution of a Bad Is a Good." *European Sociological Review* 33(4):604-614.

This article presents a theorem connecting the goodness or badness of a thing with the goodness or badness of inequality in the thing's distribution. The theorem, which applies to cardinally measurable things like income, debt, years in prison, disease risk, and risk of unemployment, states that if an observer regards the original thing as a good (bad), then that observer regards inequality in the thing's distribution as a bad (good). The proof uses three inequality measures and two fairness measures embedding observer framing of things as goods or bads. The theorem touches many themes in the sociological literature, not only goods and bads, inequality and stratification, the Weberian life chances, values, and attitudes toward inequality, but also, via its proof, fairness and moral development. Further, the theorem and its proof raise questions that provide new directions for theoretical and empirical research. For example, empirical tasks ahead include (1) learning more about inequality in bads (especially about their frequency distributions and inequality measures, to match the growing knowledge about differences across subgroups), and (2) studying both just rewards and justice evaluations, in both goods and bads, to assess the scope of justice concerns between earned and unearned things and between additive, transferable possessions and nonadditive, nontransferable characteristics.

Finally, this work contributes to the growing understanding of the connections between inequality, justice, and the vast behavioral and social outcomes which inequality and justice, separately or together, generate.

Lin, Ji-Ping 2017a, "Data Science as a Foundation towards Open Data and Open Science: The Case of Taiwan Indigenous Peoples' Open Research Data (TIPD)," in Proceedings of 2017 International Symposium on Grids & Clouds, PoS (Proceedings of Science). (Refereed)

Lin, Ji-Ping 2017b, "Human Relationship and Kinship Analytics from Big Data Based on Data Science: A Research on Ethnic Marriage and Identity Using Taiwan Indigenous Peoples as Example," in Stuetzer et al. (ed) Computational Social Science in the Age of Big Data. Concepts, Methodologies, Tools, and Applications. Herbert von Halem Verlag (Germany), Neue Schriften zur Online-Forschung of the German Society for Online Research.

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