

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## Research Committee on Social Psychology

### RC42 NEWSLETTER

March 2011

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#### 1 Objectives of RC42

RC42, established in 1988, has two key objectives:

(1) To contribute to the development of theory and research in social psychology on an international level. (2) To unite professional and scientific interests of members to work together on a local, regional, and international level.

#### 2 Board

The Board of RC42 elected for the term 2010 to 2014 is:

##### **President**

Guillermina Jasso, New York University, USA, [gj1@nyu.edu](mailto:gj1@nyu.edu)

##### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Alison Bianchi, Iowa University, USA, [alison-bianchi@uiowa.edu](mailto:alison-bianchi@uiowa.edu)

##### **Board Members**

Juha Klemelä (for Europe, Finland)

Francisco Antar Martinez Guzman (for Latin America, Mexico)

Dahlia Moore (for Middle East, Israel)

Deepak Verma (for Asia, India)

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Charles Puttergill, University of Pretoria, South Africa

[charles.puttergill@up.ac.za](mailto:charles.puttergill@up.ac.za)

##### **Past President**

Cecilia Ridgeway, USA

### 3 Editorial

This newsletter is the first issue under the stewardship of the current RC42 Board. We would like to thank both the past President Cecilia Ridgeway and past Secretary-Treasurer Robert Shelly for their enthusiasm and tireless dedication to RC42 during the 2006-2010 term.

In this issue we reflect on the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 to 17 July 2010. We further announce a number of conferences and congresses which provide an opportunity for members to engage with each other in a face-to-face context. New publications by members are highlighted as well.

We trust that the direct contact at the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology provided all participants with an opportunity to engage with others on their research, share ideas and reflect on trends in the field. Papers were read in thirteen sessions. Key theoretical and methodological concerns were raised and a broad range of substantive themes considered. These themes ranged from the impact of the world-wide economic crisis, social inequality, globalisation, identity, citizenship and social capital to status characteristics, networks, social influence, human motives and wellbeing, amongst other. It reconfirmed that social psychologists remain deeply concerned about key questions facing the societies they live in. A fourteenth session was reserved for the business meeting. A total of 78 papers were accepted. \*\* were eventually presented in these sessions at the Congress. Presenters and participants from six continents ensured that perspectives from different contexts were shared. The papers demonstrated the richness and variety in conceptual and empirical work within the field of social psychology.



Two RC42 Board Members at the Congress: Deepak Verma(l) & Guillermina Jasso(r)

The Second ISA Forum of Sociology, scheduled for 1 to 4 August 2012 in Buenos Aires provides an opportunity to RC42 members for such contact. The theme of this forum is Social Justice and Democratisation. It is indeed a topical theme in these interesting times with the “Jasmine Revolution”

sweeping across North Africa, into the middle-east and possibly elsewhere, raising a number of questions around the impact of social networks in a digital era as well as on how people relate to each other and organise.

Please send contributions for inclusion in the newsletter. It provides an opportunity to stay in touch and to get to know each other better. We would like the newsletter to contribute towards the next opportunity where a sizeable number of RC42 members meet, which is likely to be at the Second ISA Forum of Sociology. We would like to encourage contributions written in French and Spanish for forthcoming issues of this newsletter as well. The following timetable applies provisionally and is dependent on contributions sent in by members:

Issue Date	Submissions
End of May/Beginning of June	March to mid-May
End of August/Beginning of September	June to mid-August
End of November/Beginning of December	September to mid-November

Please send your contributions to [charles.puttergill@up.ac.za](mailto:charles.puttergill@up.ac.za)

#### **4 President's Remarks**

I want to begin by echoing Charles in expressing, on behalf of the membership, both our profound gratitude to Cecilia, Bob, and the Board for their leadership and also to all the membership for the exciting scholarly advances they discussed in Goteborg.

We can now look forward to the Second ISA Forum of Sociology in Buenos Aires in August 2012. In due course there will be calls for contributions, and we will look forward to more reports of deepening social psychological knowledge.

Finally, I want to take my little space in this column to consider the question of language and the fundamental part it plays in social interaction – and therefore the fundamental part it might play in sociology and social psychology. Notwithstanding the wonderful nonverbal interactions, most of the social life occurs in words. Words are carriers of culture. Words are agents of socialization. Words animate and transmit the stratification structure. Thus, some of us come into a world of gendered objects or *tu-vous* distinctions. Before we realize it, we have begun to treat people differently, calibrating carefully the social distance between them and us. And then life's milestones include the changes in *tu-vous* across the lifecourse, across social contexts, and as relationships are transformed.

It seems that a social psychology without attentiveness to language is a not very deep social psychology. It will do fine for describing interaction in groups without *tu-vous*, but it will falter in other groups. We are immensely fortunate in RC42 to have many languages represented in our membership. Thus, we look to colleagues born to *tu-vous* languages for new research directions. These may range from immediate questions – what rules do translators use when they render English-language books, movies, and

television programs into *tu-vous* languages? How limited and crippled is our understanding of materials translated from *tu-vous* languages to non/*tu-vous* languages? – To the powerfully challenging -- how do we build into social psychological theories attentiveness to the possibilities or constraints of language?

I look forward to your exciting and valuable contributions.

Guillermina Jasso  
President RC42

## 5 Contribution

D.K. Verma shares some of his experiences (and photos) of the XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden with us.

It was a wonderful experience for academic enrichment and a great opportunity to share on-going research, particularly among social psychologists. However, the compactness of World Sociology Congress in 2006 at Durban was missing here. For a week, all the streets of Gothenburg were full of Sociologists and justifying the theme of the Congress Sociology on the Move (because of wide spread venues of different RCs). Social Psychologists were also on the move! It would be appreciated if the next World Sociology Congress in 2014 brings moving sociologists together!



Social Psychologists on the move: Guillermina Jasso and Cecilia Ridgeway in the centre

I feel, we need to have a session on *Social Psychology Update* at the World Congress. It would be like, a four years review of innovative concepts, new methods and theoretical understanding.



At a RC42 session in Gothenburg

The purpose for making such a suggestion here is to open a blog/debate/ column in the newsletter so that RC42 members continuously enrich contents and a compilation could be made for discussion and critical review at the World Congress. – D.K. Verma

## 6 Announcements

### *The 40<sup>th</sup> IIS World Congress*

The 40<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology, scheduled for 16 to 19 February 2012 in Delhi, India, continues the institute's focus on human existence and societal institutions in the contemporary world. Its theme is "*After western hegemony: social science and its publics*".

The organisers have extended an invitation for applications to be a session convener and organise a regular session at the congress. Applications can be obtained from [www.iisoc.org/iis2012](http://www.iisoc.org/iis2012) The deadline for submitting a proposal to organise a regular session is 15 March 2011.

### *The 17<sup>th</sup> SASA Congress*

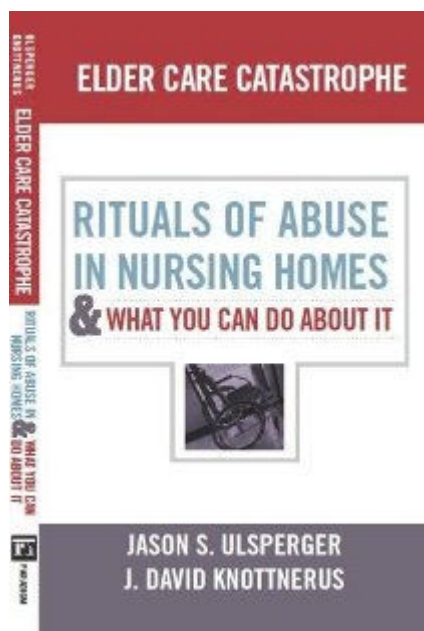
The South African Sociological Association's annual Congress will be hosted by the Department of Sociology at the University of Pretoria, from 10 to 13 July 2011. The theme is *Gender in question: rights, representation and substantive freedom*. Thematic and general sociological abstracts can be submitted at [www.sasaonline.org.za](http://www.sasaonline.org.za) and more information can be obtained at <http://www.up.ac.za/sociology-sasa2011>





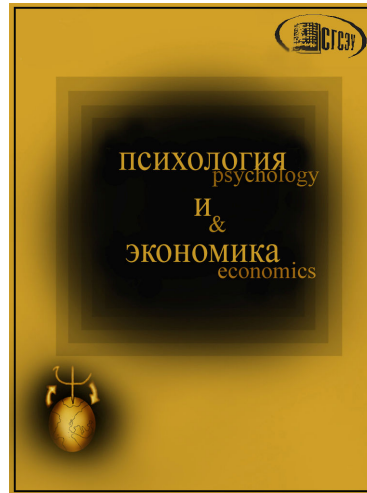
### Publications

David Knottnerus has published *Ritual as a missing link in Sociology: structural ritualization theory and research*. He has co-authored two other publications: *Elder care catastrophe: rituals of abuse in nursing homes* co-authored with Jason Ulsperger explores how organisational dynamics and everyday rituals unintentionally lead to neglect and abuse of the aged. Both these books are available from Paradigm Publishers, see [www.paradigmpublishers.com](http://www.paradigmpublishers.com) *American golf and the development of civility: rituals of etiquette in the world of golf*, co-authored with Monica Varner is published by Lambert Academic Publishing.



## *Journal*

*Psychology and Economics* is an interdisciplinary international Journal publishing issues in June and December annually. The editors seek a range of papers dealing with the intersections of these disciplines and social psychologists are well positioned to contribute to the Journal.



## **7 Membership**

Membership in good standing of the Research Committee determines the number of sessions allotted to it at the World Congress as well as the upcoming Forum. The ISA secretariat sends members a notice when their membership renewal is due. Please complete the form to join and/or renew ISA and RC42 membership available at:

[http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb\\_i/index.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm)

## **8 Concluding remarks**

Your contributions ensure the success of this newsletter. Information on planned Conferences, new research initiatives and publications that may be of interest to members is most welcome.

Los invito a enviar contribuciones para el Boletín RC 42. Apreciaré si es que me pueden informar sobre conferencias planeadas, nuevas iniciativas de investigación y publicaciones que puedan ser de interés para los miembros. El Comité de Investigación está muy interesado en fomentar el diálogo entre los miembros dentro del campo de la Psicología Social. Contribuciones escritas en español son bienvenidas.

Nous vous invitons à envoyer des contributions pour le bulletin du RC42. Je vous serais reconnaissant de m'informer de futures conférences, des nouvelles initiatives de recherches et des publications qui pourraient intéresser les membres. Le Comité de Recherche désire encourager le dialogue entre les membres dans le domaine de la Psychologie sociale. Les contributions en français seront les bienvenues.