

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Research Committee on Social Psychology

RC42 NEWSLETTER

September 2009

Contents of newsletter

- 1 Objectives of RC42
- 2 Office bearers
- 3 Editorial
- 4 President's Remarks
- 5 Contributions
- 6 Announcements
- 7 Membership
- 8 Concluding remarks

1 Objectives of RC42

The key objectives of RC42, established in 1988, is to contribute to the development of theory and research in social psychology on an international level, uniting professional and scientific interests of members to work together on a local, regional, and international level.

2 Office bearers

The Board of RC42 elected for the term 2006 to 2010 is:

President

Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA

ridgeway@stanford.edu

Secretary-Treasurer

Robert Shelly, Ohio University, USA, shelly@ohio.edu

Board Members

Charles Bernard Kinghombe, Université de Kinshasa, Congo

Dahlia Moore, College of Management, Israel

Indrek Tart, Tallinn University, Estonia

Deepak Kumar Verma, India

Newsletter Editor

Charles Puttergill, University of Pretoria, South Africa

charles.puttergill@up.ac.za

Past President

Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

3 Editorial

I trust the congresses our members have attended this year were a rewarding experience. We would like you to diarise the XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 to 17 July 2010. First, this provides an opportunity again to meet as a Research Committee, to report on research, share ideas in person and engage in thought-provoking dialogue and exchanges. Second, crucially important for RC42, it is the event at which the new board is elected for a four year term.

A number of RC42 members met in June this year at the 39th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology in Yerevan, Armenia at a session of the on Social exclusion and social capital – a Southern perspective. Colleagues who attended affirm the value of engaging with peers from different countries and context.

For this issue I have received a contribution from Valeria Llobert (National University of San Martín, Argentina) written in Spanish engaging with the ideas Guillermina Jasso de los Santos (New York University, USA) shared in the previous edition of this newsletter on the richness of language and the challenge to convey nuances in expressions when translating. Valeria Lobert is a Professor at the National University of San Martín and a researcher at the National Council of Scientific Research, Argentina.

I trust that this dialogue will continue, and that the newsletter will be able to publish contributions in French as well in future editions. Contributions and comments written in English are also welcome.

The RC42 Board intends to publish one more newsletter during 2009 and one before the World Congress in 2010. Please send contributions for inclusion in these planned issues. These contributions enable us to take note of other members work and contribute towards engagement and a vibrant RC. The following time table applies:

Issue Date	Submissions
End of November/Beginning of December	September to mid November
End of April/Beginning of May 2010	January to mid-April 2010

Please send your contributions to charles.puttergill@up.ac.za

4 President's Remarks

Now that it is September, it is time to start planning in earnest attend the **World Congress in Gothenburg in July**. We have diverse and exciting set of sessions, including, for instance, one on the Social Psychological Impacts of the Worldwide Economic Crisis. So plan to submit a paper now. Here are some important deadlines to keep in mind.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is **November 15, 2009**.

Session organizers will inform you about whether your paper has been accepted by **December 15, 2009**.

ISA will make available approximately 600 Euros to be divided into travel grants for RC42 paper presenters from developing countries (category B or C). Accepted paper presenters from these countries should send an application for financial support to the RC42 Program Coordinator (ridgeway@stanford.edu) by **January 31, 2010**. For more information on ISA travel grant rules, see the ISA website.

ISA will verify selected applicants and amounts for travel grants and post this information **after March 1, 2010**.

Let me remind you again that at the time of the World Congress in July, we will **elect a new President, Secretary-Treasurer, and Board of RC42**. Please **send your nominations** for these offices to me at ridgeway@stanford.edu. Nothing is more important for RC42 than our election of new officers.

5 Contributions

In her contribution "Possible and pending discussions" Valeria Llobert (University of San Martín, Argentina) engages with the "Little thoughts" Guillermina Jasso de los Santos shared in the previous edition of this newsletter, available at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc42.htm>. Taking work of Daniel Lagache as a point of departure and exploring the struggle of Ignacio Martín-Baró to establish a Latin American psychology, Valeria contemplates the issue of unity and diversity within the social sciences and humanities.

¿Debates posibles, debates pendientes? Valeria Llobert

Un viejo libro de Daniel Lagache sistematizaba el debate relativo a las divergencias epistemológicas y las diferencias teóricas entre modos de comprender la(s) psicología(s). La unidad posible de tal diversidad en una ciencia y un método era puesta en discusión, al mismo tiempo que el cemento de tal unidad era también analizado.

Esa discusión, que presidía la formación inicial de los y las psicólogos algunas décadas atrás, tal vez no esté saldada. Cada vez más las distintas disciplinas sociales y humanas amplían sus horizontes para incorporar problemas “borderline”, que obligan a poner en tensión conceptos y abordajes. Al mismo tiempo, presenta a las y los practicantes nuevos problemas de identidad. Problemas de identidad que trascienden las fronteras exteriores, construyendo y reconstruyendo las fronteras interiores del campo disciplinar.

Quisiera, para poder acompañarme en estas ideas, retomar algunas reflexiones motivadas por la contribución precedente, “Pequeñitos Pensamientos”, de Guillermina Jasso de los Santos. Asimismo, aprovecho para agradecer a Charles Puttergill la invitación a compartir estas ideas en este espacio.

Las traducciones, siempre traidoras a la multiplicidad de significaciones con que un contexto de habla enriquece la lengua, a veces también resultan necesarias entre quienes parecemos hablar un mismo idioma disciplinar.

A veces también la dificultad de traducción, y el poder institucionalizado en la lengua, hacen de los intercambios académicos un escenario complejo y tendiente a unidireccional, por así decirlo. Norte y sur, inglés y castellano, conforman para el caso universos de producción y escenarios de debates que tienen que lidiar con obstáculos que también se encarnan en la lengua, para poder desarrollar un diálogo.

En el contexto británico de fines de la década de 1970 y principios de la de 1980, un grupo de entonces jóvenes psicólogos sociales se distanciaba cada vez más de la psicología social institucionalizada, hasta llegar a una ruptura que dio lugar, no obstante, a un contexto muy fecundo de debate y confrontación académica. Un aspecto no menor de estos debates tuvo que ver con el método científico. ¿Cómo reubicar la tensión entre crítica y método, tantos años después? Criticismo perezoso puede dar lugar a interesantes preguntas pero si no se siguen de laboriosidad metódica no logran sistematizarse en un discurso científico. Cientificismo purista puede dar lugar a investigaciones banales tanto teórica como políticamente. Ambas lenguas también se han distribuido en distintos puntos de nuestro mapa académico, y el diálogo necesario se ve obstaculizado.

En el contexto latinoamericano de la misma década de 1970, Ignacio Martín-Baró bregaba por una psicología latinoamericana con una meta en la liberación subjetiva y colectiva. Las formas de lidiar con la tensión estructura – acción, sistema – agente, poder conservador – poder transformador, estaban en el corazón de tales preocupaciones. Sus aportaciones sólo son recuperadas en contextos de debates políticos, pero no sistemáticamente en la formación. Años después, parece necesario revisar si nuestros idiomas han logrado ser superadores de tales dicotomías, o si concepciones tal vez reduccionistas aún habitan las formas de concebir objetos de investigación y métodos.

Mirar y reencontrar la lengua vernácula como extranjero es uno de los desafíos más interesantes para cualquier científico, y uno de los más difíciles de llevar adelante. Reexaminar los supuestos o, como quería Kuhn, la ciencia normal, es una acción casi delirante, en el pleno sentido del delirio, es perder el tesoro del lenguaje sin perderlo, y mirarlo cual escarabajo bajo la punta del alfiler.

¿ Es realmente necesaria una acción epistemológicamente tan radical? La respuesta, claro, es colectiva. Probablemente las pistas se encuentren en la capacidad de comprensión de nuestras disciplinas respecto de la magnitud y dinámica de los problemas sociales actuales. También, en la capacidad de diálogo que crean nuestros múltiples idiomas: ¿cuántos puentes podemos tender hacia otros campos?

Translating across disciplines and between paradigms as well as taking cognisance of particular language and cultural communities provide a daunting challenge to social scientists. The strains that potentially emerge in this process may produce a fertile fount for emerging ideas, in part by challenging what is taken for granted and by providing a new perspective.

6 Announcements

The XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, 11 to 17 July 2010



The theme of the World Congress “Sociology on the move” engages with a key concern of Sociological Inquiry, social change, as well as the quest of the discipline to remain relevant within changing contexts. The Programme Co-ordinator for sessions arranged by RC42, is its incumbent President, Cecilia Ridgeway. Eight sessions and a business meeting, where the Board for term 2010 to 2014 is elected, are scheduled for the World Congress. The deadline for submissions to session conveners is 15 November 2009. Below is a list of sessions and contact details:

1: Social psychological impacts of worldwide economic crisis

Jeylan T. Mortimer, University of Minnesota, USA, morti002@umn.edu

2: Globalization, social inequality and status characteristics

Deepak Kumar Verma, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Institute of Social Sciences, India, dkvmhow@rediffmail.com

3: Renegotiating citizenship and social capital

Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, tuys@uj.ac.za

4: Human motives and social cooperation

Clara Sabbagh, University of Haifa, Israel, csabbagh@construct.haifa.ac.il

5: Social sciences and natural sciences: together or apart?

Tadeusz Sozanski, Pedagogical University, Krakow, Poland, usozans@cyf-kr.edu.pl

6: Work, occupations, and the well-being of workers

Dahlia Moore, Rishon LeZion, Israel, dmoore@colman.ac.il

7: Status in groups, networks, and organizations

Robert Shelley, Ohio University, USA, and Ann Shelly, Ashland University, USA, shelly@ohio.edu

8: Open topics in social psychology

Organizer: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA, ridgeway@stanford.edu

More information on these sessions can be obtained from:

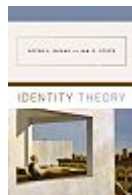
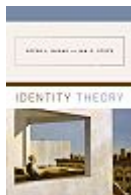
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc42.htm>

General information regarding registration, accommodation, visa requirements, grants and airline discounts can be obtained at:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/>

Publications

Peter J Burke and Jan E Stets have published *Identity theory*.



This book is available from Oxford University Press. It describes the origins of identity theory, the research it has generated as well as its subsequent development and future direction. The authors consider the relation between *identity theory* and related theories. Substantively, attention is paid to the operation of identities, linked to the multiple positions individuals hold in society as well as in organisations. The way in which identities are linked to both stability and change is also considered.

7 Membership

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

http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm

8 Concluding remarks

Suggestions on how this newsletter can be improved are welcome. Please send them to the editor. Your contributions ensure the success of this newsletter. Information on planned Conferences, new research initiatives and publications that may be of interest to members are 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.