

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Research Committee on Social Psychology

RC42 NEWSLETTER

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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

Secretary-Treasurer

Alison Bianchi, Iowa University, USA, alison-bianchi@uiowa.edu

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Deepak Verma (for Asia, India)

Newsletter Editor

Charles Puttergill, University of Pretoria, South Africa

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Past President

Cecilia Ridgeway, USA

3 Editorial

In this issue we briefly introduce the programme for the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan, 13 to 19 July 2014. RC42 members had the opportunity to meet at the Second ISA Forum of Sociology, in Buenos Aires slightly more than a year ago, and in slightly less than a year we have the opportunity to do so again.

We know from past experience that the Congress provides an opportunity to engage with each other on our research, to exchange ideas and become reinvigorated by the range of issues addressed within social psychology as a field. This enables us to take stock of both the richness and variety in conceptual and empirical work within the field. Currently there is indeed a lot of work to be done by social scientists. As the broad theme of the Congress suggests, we live in an unequal world, which poses challenges to sociology, and social psychology as a field, to grapple with the consequences of the recent global economic crisis and political conflict in several regions, by addressing topics ranging from social inequality, identity, citizenship and social capital to status characteristics, networks, social influence, human motives and wellbeing.

The Programme coordinator has compiled fourteen sessions which engage with key issues in the world. In addition to these sessions there are two sessions in which the past and present presidents of the RC deliver keynote addresses and a business meeting to conduct the affairs of the RC. The themes of the sessions open for the submission of abstracts engage with key questions societies and human beings in their relations with each other, face. In line with ISA policy presentations can be in French and Spanish, as well.

There has been a long lapse between the last newsletter circulated by RC42 and this newsletter. I would like to apologise for this, as editor of the newsletter. Please send contributions for inclusion in the next newsletter. It provides an opportunity to stay in touch and to get to know each other better. We would like the next newsletter to contribute towards the Congress where RC42 members meet again. We would also like to encourage contributions written in French and Spanish for forthcoming issues of this newsletter.

Please send your contributions as well as any suggestions to charles.puttergill@up.ac.za

4 President's Remarks

The longer I study sociology, the more deeply I realize that the processes highlighted in social psychology lie at the heart of sociology, and, indeed, of all social and behavioral science. Status and identity, power and the sense of justice – these provide the mechanisms that fill sociology with ideas and insights about stratification, inequality, family, crime, social movements, and every corner of the human experience.

It is the social psychology drivers that illuminate the connections between demographic and background variables, between ascribed and achieved characteristics, between the natural and social lotteries, between the pre-existing subgroups of race and gender and the emergent subgroups of the fairly and unfairly treated. It is social psychology that promises to unify sociology, demonstrating how a few first principles can generate the elaborate and colorful diversity of personalities and cultures. And it is social psychology that will lead us to unlock new mysteries we can hardly imagine – about the unfolding of the gender and *tu-vous* properties of languages, whether the fate of women and men is intertwined with the gender of democracy and the gender of mathematics, whether marital happiness and the life chances of children are bound by symmetries and asymmetries in spousal *tutoiement*.

We are lucky indeed to work in this wonderful world of social psychology.

Guillermina Jasso
President RC42

5 Congress Programme

Dahlia Moore is Programme Coordinator for RC42 sessions planned for the XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology in Yokohama, Japan. We invite members to submit abstracts to these sessions online and are confident that these vibrant sessions in which our on-going research can be shared would contribute to deepening social psychological knowledge. The sessions in alphabetical order are:

Gender Roles

Gender roles in society are shared expectations and beliefs imposed on individuals on the basis of their gender. Gender roles include rights and duties relating to the behavior, which is defined as appropriate for men and women in society. Expectations and inequality regarding gender roles are reflected strongly in family life and work life, and they differ according to cultural-historical context. The session should include any or all of these aspects.

Inequality in a Global Community

Inequality exists in many fields including economics, education, and gender. Blurring of boundaries between countries has created the basis for a broad, integrated community. This has led, on one hand, to economic growth and rising standards of living in certain sectors and certain countries; but on the other hand, to an increase in economic and social gaps and unemployment in other sectors and countries. The session aims to debate whether globalization processes are the main forces behind expanding social and economic disparities in the world.

Leadership

Rapid changes seen in the 21st century, particularly in organizational life, require a new kind of leadership to fit them and contribute to organizational results. Emphasis in this session should deal with diverse aspects of leadership in changing societies and organizations.

Morality

Morality provides guidelines for all aspects of social life. The session will focus on diverse questions arising from the impact of changes taking place in the world on morality, such as: Is morality still a relative concept?

Power Relations

In a global vision, power relations exist among countries, populations, & organizations. Advantaged or privileged groups tend to treat weaker social groups (such as gender, class and ethnicity) in ways that lead to inequality and disempowerment. This session will aim to explore such relationships.

Relative Deprivation, Entitlement, and Perceptions of Fairness

The session will focus on new developments in each of these topics, in both laboratory and field studies. The analyses may include related issues as well.

Sexism, Racism and Ageism

Negative discriminatory practices still exist against gender, race and age groups in many life domains. Despite legislation, and although there is awareness of prejudice and discrimination, their expression deepen inequality in society. This session aims to examine their expression and prevalence in diverse societies and different settings.

Social Exchange and Trust

Because trust affects social relations and exchange among individuals and groups, it is interesting to examine these terms today in light of social changes occurring in the world, for example social networks and technology. This session will explore how innovations in technology, enables communication between countries, producing a new type of social exchange and trust among individuals and groups in different countries.

Social Identities

Multiple and/or complex identities characterizes life in a globalized world, bringing different modes of life and liquidity to social identities. Our social life depends on the ways we define ourselves and others. This session aims to examine the effects of social identities on our lives today in view of technological innovation, sense of belonging, social responsibility and so forth.

Social Interaction

Internet and communications revolution has brought with it many changes in the way people interact and communicate with each other. This session aims to explore these trends.

Social Justice

A little over a year ago, thousands of people from around the world gathered at various sites to demand social justice, and the unrest is still prevalent. Although each country has its distinct problems, relating to economic systems, social inequality and human rights, the desire for greater social justice seems global. This session aims to explore the diverse causes and expressions of social protest and its links to broader concepts of social justice.

Social Psychology and Culture

This session aims to address the diverse aspects of relationships between the terms. First, is multiculturalism as socially beneficial as most sociologists assumed? Recent socio-political events seem to cast some doubt on the possibility of attaining mutually beneficial and significant inter-cultural exchange. So and each culture has a different effect on personal goals and aspirations of members of that culture. Have the technological developments made intercultural communication easier and faster, or are cultural differences still prevalent and inhibiting social relations?

Well-Being and Life Satisfaction

There are many variables that affect well-being of people and their life satisfaction (such as, poor health, unemployment, divorce, religiosity, political rights and more). This session aims to examine the factors that influence wellbeing and life satisfaction in a global and changing society.

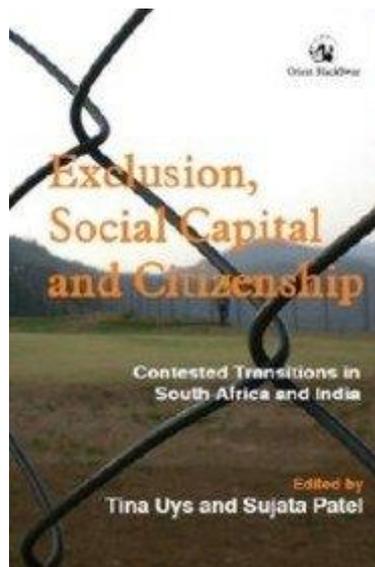
Work Values, Norms and Perceptions

Work values, norms and perceptions affect the way people and groups interact with each other within organizations, and might influence equality or inequality at work. This session aims to discuss the contribution of these aspects to organizational success and effectiveness, and display the importance of adjustment to the external environment which is constantly changing.

6 Announcements

Publications

Tina Uys & Sujata Patel edited a volume *Exclusion, social capital and citizenship: contested transitions in South Africa and India*, published by Orient BlackSwan in 2012.



The volume is structured into three sections. The first considers the contested meanings of social exclusions; the second addresses state, citizenship and rights and the third reflects on networks, social capital and politics. Drawing on experiences in the global South the volume provides a comparative perspective on how key issues addressing inequality and transformation are dealt with in two countries.

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

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.