In this Issue...

1. Notes from the Editorial Office......................................................................................1
2. Activities, mobilities, and promotions of members.........................................................2
3. New books and papers by members published during the period from July 2017 to Dec 2017........................................................................................................................................2
4. The special issue of Shenshu Social Well-being ...............................................................4
5. Call for papers for 12th Partial Order Workshop................................................................5
6. The INCASI (International Network for Comparative Analysis of Social Inequalities) will participate in XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology .........................................................6

1. Notes from the Editorial Office

Dear Members,

The World Congress of Sociology is approaching. At the summer this year, we are meeting at Toronto. During July15-21, 2018, RC55 will have 14 sessions for presenting research results, plus a session for our regular business meeting. The call for submission was closed, and we now are expecting to receive a final program from the ISA office very soon.

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Please remember to register for the conference before March 20, 2018. This is important for your abstract to be included in the final official program (link to https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/registration/call.cgi ). Also, I thank many of members to renew their members both for the ISA and for our RC55.

In this third issue of our newsletter, SIM, we report activities, publications, and calls for participation, etc., concerning our members. Particularly, Prof. Masayuki Kanai has a report for the post conference publication out of the 2017 mid-term conference in Academia Sinica, Taipei (April 21-22). The Senshu Social Well-being Review, published by Shenshu University in Japan, accepts three papers for its issue of December 2017. I believe this collaboration helps circulate research ideas and outcomes we provided for a greater community of readers. We will try to work with interested journals and academic presses to publish papers in a bundle for our future meetings.

On behalf of the RC55, I also wish all of you reading this newsletter a very pleasant, healthy and productive year of 2018!

Ming-Chang Tsai
President

2. Activities, mobilities, and promotions of members

- Several researchers of the INCASI network have participated in the ALAS Congress held in Montevideo, Uruguay, between December 3 and 8, 2017. Particularly Pedro López-Roldán and Sandra Fachelli participated in the panel "Social inequalities in a comparative perspective between Latin America and Europe. The research model of the INCASI network". They also presented the paper "Comparative analysis of intergenerational social mobility between Argentina and Spain", prepared together with Raúl Jorrat, in the Working Group 9 "Social Structure, Demographic Dynamics and Migrations".

3. New books and papers by members published during the period from July 2017 to Dec 2017
Oliver Nahkur (University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia) recently published:

S. A. Hamed Hosseini F. (The University of Newcastle, Australia) recently published:

Sandra Fachelli (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) recently published:


S. A. Hamed Hosseini F. (The University of Newcastle, Australia) recently published:

Pamela Abbott (University of Aberdeen, UK) recently published:
a). Book: The Arab Uprisings in Egypt, Jordan and Tunisia: Social, Political and Economic Transformations
Abstract:
The Arab Uprisings were unexpected events of rare intensity in Middle Eastern history – mass, popular and largely non-violent revolts which threatened and in some cases toppled apparently stable autocracies. This volume provides in-depth analyses of how people perceived the socio-economic and political transformations in three case studies epitomising different post-Uprising trajectories – Tunisia, Jordan and Egypt – and drawing on survey data to explore ordinary citizens’ perceptions of politics, security, the economy, gender, corruption, and trust. The findings suggest the causes of protest in 2010-2011 were not just political marginalisation and regime repression, but also denial of socio-economic rights and regimes failure to provide social justice. Data also shows these issues remain unresolved, and that populations have little confidence governments will deliver, leaving post-Uprisings regimes neither strong nor stable, but fierce and brittle. This analysis has direct implications both for policy and for scholarship on transformations, democratization, authoritarian resilience and ‘hybrid regimes’.

4. The special issue of Shenshu Social Well-being

The Senshu Social Well-being Review, an annual journal published by the Center for Social Well-being Studies at Senshu University, has brought out a special issue on 2017 ISA RC55 Mid-term Conference on its latest volume (No. 4, December 2017). The special issue publishes three papers out of the 29 presentations delivered at the conference which was held in Taipei on April 21-22, 2017. A review panel which was formed after the conference called all participants for submitting their papers to this special issue. The published papers are as follows.


Ruut Veenhoven, “Happiness Research: Past and Future”

The journal is available online at https://goo.gl/9kEiNX for free. You can also request a hard copy atmailto:swbpaper@isc.senshu-u.ac.jp.

Report by Masayuki Kanai

5. Call for papers for 12th Partial Order Workshop

12th Partial Order Workshop

International Workshop on Partial Orders in Applied Sciences

Towards an Understanding of Complex Phenomenon: Applying Partial Order Theory to Multi-Indicator Systems

University of Neuchâtel, 26-27 October 2018

Call for papers

The description of complex phenomena in different scientific fields (such as poverty, well-being, sustainable development, social progress, quality of life, social cohesion, vulnerability, environment risk assessment) by a set of indicators has become increasingly important. When a decision is to be based on this set of indicators then ranking is one of the possible applications. Although indicator systems are widely applied and statistically investigated, there are still many questions open, when partial order is to be applied:

- How could we find latent indicators?
- Can indicator systems be partitioned into a main part and parts considered as “fine tuning”? More generally: Can we define a hierarchy of indicator systems, when a certain complex phenomenon is to be studied?
Can we explore the indicators, for example can we state that one set of indicators implies another set of indicators?

- Sometimes indicators are built of real data, what then is the advantage of partial order and how could we find a set of implications?
- If indicators are measured ones, then how to deal with data uncertainties?
- How can we include the qualitative knowledge, which cannot be expressed by indicators-for example with respect to simple aggregation schemes: how to include weights within the framework of partial orders?

The conference activities will be in English. There is no fee for registration. We welcome work from all scholars and academics on any related to the topic of partial order theory, and/or its application to social indicators.

**Instructions for submission of abstracts:**

Interested applicants wishing to present original research should send their abstract to tugce.beycan@unine.ch. The abstract should be about 500 words and it should include the title of the paper, the name of the author(s), present address (including e-mail address), and the name of the institution to which the author is affiliated.

**Deadline for submitting abstracts:**

- Abstract submission: March 31, 2018
- Acceptance/rejection notification: April 20, 2018

**Scientific advisory board members:** Tugce Beycan (Université de Neuchâtel), Rainer Brüggemann (Leibniz-Institute of Freshwater Ecology and Inland Fisheries), Filomena Maggino (Università di Roma Sapienza), Christian Suter (Université de Neuchâtel).

**Contact:** For all conference issues contact tugce.beycan@unine.ch

6. **The INCASI (International Network for Comparative Analysis of Social Inequalities) will participate in XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology**

   At the INCASI Global Meeting held in Barcelona last March, it was decided to hold the 3rd Latin American and European Workshop jointly in Toronto, Canada in July 2018, with the purpose of generating synergies with the International Sociological Association (ISA) in order to present the research progress in the session of RC55 Indicators of Social Inequalities: Comparative Analysis Among Countries.
INCASI aims to create and consolidate a network of research and training between Europe and Latin America. To this end, is developed the project Global trends in social inequalities in Europe and Latin America and exploring innovative ways to reduce them through life, occupational and educational trajectories research to face uncertainty, from January 2016 to December 2019, and is funded with more than 2 million of euros by the Horizon 2020 program of the European Commission Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Research and Innovation Staff Exchange (RISE), Project Number: GA691004.

In the network 10 European and 10 Latin American universities are involved, with more than 140 researchers, coordinated by the Institute for Labor Studies (IET) and the Research Group on Education and Labor (GRET) of the Autonomous University of Barcelona. The coordinator, Principal Investigator, of the network is Pedro López-Roldán (IET) and the Task Manager is Sandra Fachelli (GRET).

Through the INCASI network, it is planned to establish the conceptual and methodological bases for, on the one hand, the development of a longer-term international comparative research program and, on the other hand, to design an international postgraduate study program that analyzes social inequalities in a comparative perspective. The Page Web of INCASI is: http://incasi.uab.cat/en