

International Sociological Association  
Thematic Group on Human Rights and Global Justice (TG03)

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# Newsletter

TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice

December 2012

## Editor

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## From the President

### *Momentum Building*

#### *Thank you*

We begin this newsletter with an expression of gratitude.

Our Thematic Group owes a big thank you to members who planned, organized, and chaired sessions held during the ISA Second Forum. The Second Forum was held in Buenos Aires from August 1 through 4. As Professor Ed Sieh discusses in this newsletter, TG03 sponsored several sessions, all of which were well attended and well received.

TG03 is deeply indebted to Professor Sieh for all of his hard work before the Second Forum, which spanned nearly a year, and then the hard work he undertook during the conference. Except for TG03 session running concurrently, Professor Sieh attended all TG03 sessions. Even for sessions running concurrently, Professor Sieh went back and forth to the concurrent sessions to ensure presenters had everything they needed. (I want to note that Professor Sieh faced an extra challenge for this conference: his luggage did not arrive until near the end of the conference). Professor Sieh's hard work and commitment ensured TG03's participation in the Second Forum was outstanding.

I wish to thank other TG03 members who organized and chaired sessions, particularly Maria de Lourdes Beldi Alcantara, Kristy Kelly, Claudia Tazreiter, Sylvanna Falcon and Jens Zinn. I expect I am overlooking others who made significant contributions, for which I apologize, but for which I am very grateful.

In sum, the Second Forum was a tremendous meeting, and TG03 made important contributions, all of which arose from the hard work and participation of TG03 members. Congratulations to all!

Over the last year, TG03 has taken significant steps forward in its organization and long-term planning. Thanks are especially due to TG03 officers, Secretary/Treasurer Manisha Desai ([manisha.desai@uconn.edu](mailto:manisha.desai@uconn.edu)), NGO Liaison Alice Nah ([alicenah@gmail.com](mailto:alicenah@gmail.com)), and especially this newsletter's editor, Eunna Lee-Gong ([eunna.leegong@gmail.com](mailto:eunna.leegong@gmail.com)).

#### *Accomplishments*

In less than a year, we have set and already reached important goals to TG03's future. In addition to our group's significant presence at the Second Forum, TG03—

1. Set up its own listserv. For information about the listserv, please contact Brian Gran ([Brian.Gran@Case.Edu](mailto:Brian.Gran@Case.Edu));
2. Published its own newsletter; and,
3. Established its own Statutes.

### *Looking forward*

As part of the Second Forum, TG03 held a business meeting in which members voted on the group's Statutes, as well as discussed ideas for the group's future. An overarching goal on which we agreed is to reach out to sociologists and others globally. As described before, we believe it is crucial that TG03 continue to strive for a truly international and diverse membership. To pursue this goal, ISA will concentrate on these steps over the coming year:

1. Prepare for the 2014 Congress;
2. Promote research and teaching on Global Justice and Human Rights;
3. Through TG03's website, on which Professor Sieh and his team at Lasell College are working, promote discussion of
  - (a) Ideas on global justice and human rights;
  - (b) Develop a working paper series; and,
  - (c) Share syllabi on global justice and human rights
4. Investigate possibilities of publishing a special issue on global justice and human rights through an online journal, such as *Global Dialogue*, ISA's electronic magazine; and,
5. Work on becoming a Research Committee.

### *We need your help!*

As TG03 moves forward, we need your help!

If you are interested in becoming more involved in TG03, please let us know. Here are specific items on which we will focus our attention over the coming months:

1. 2014 Congress, July 13-19, 2014 in Yokohama, Japan;
2. Develop the TG03 Working Paper Series;
3. Collect and distribute syllabi of courses on global justice and human rights; and,
4. Work on a possible special issue.

More to come!

### *Stay in touch!*

This newsletter and TG03's website are key means by which we want to communicate with all TG03 members and other folks interested in human rights and global justice. Please let us know what are the best means to reach you. We are committed to trying different formats, including Skype meetings and webinars.

What works best for you? What can we learn from you? Let us know; we want to build on our momentum.

Brian K. Gran  
President  
Brian.Gran@Case.Edu

## Summary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ISA Forum of Sociology

Report by Edward Sieh, TG03 Program Coordinator  
Photos by Manisha Desai



The 2nd ISA Forum of Sociology Social Justice and Democratization was held August 1-4, 2012 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The “Human Rights and Global Justice” Thematic Group, TG03 Program Coordinator was Edward Sieh. Various sessions were very capably organized by Claudia Tazreiter, Kristy Kelly, Jens Zinn, Maria de Lourdes Beldi Alcantara, Sylvanna Falcon, Brian Gran, Manisha Desai and Edward Sieh. The session organizers put together a series of sessions that addressed Human Rights and the Well-Being of Noncitizens; Transnational Feminism; Localizing Global Justice: The politics of Education Training and Development Part I and II as well as a series of roundtables that addressed the following themes: Human Rights as Politics, Social Justice, Human Rights Abuses, Theory of Dignity, Brazil and Argentina, and various National Issues. There were additional sessions on Human Rights and the problems of Indigenous Youth; Social and Community conditions that Nurture and Sustain Human Rights, and finally, Human Rights Practices in Argentina. Of interest was the Joint Risk, Human Rights and Global Justice session which combined the work of the TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice with the work of TG04, Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty. More than 50 different presentations were delivered at the various sessions. Congratulations to everyone who participated.



For some supporters of Human Rights visiting Buenos Aires also afforded an opportunity to visit various sights in Buenos Aires which were of key relevance to human rights. Of particular note was a three hour tour of the Naval Mechanics School in Buenos Aires which provided first-hand information about the events that occurred during the period when the military junta ruled the country in the 1970s. The legacy of this period in Argentina's history was reinforced by the fact that one of the members of the tour was an adult who as child had been kidnapped from her mother and raised by a military family. The Argentine government just recently has begun criminal trials of key participants in the forced disappearances.

## Call for Papers

### Call for Papers 1

**Wars for rights/Wars against rights? Globalization and crisis of democracy, Università degli Studi Suor Orsola Benincasa Minori, Salerno, Italy, March 25-27, 2013**

**Abstracts: December 20, 2012**

**Key words: Democracy, Global Crisis, Human Rights, Social Rights, Resistances**

After the collapse of the USSR, the old bipolar system was replaced by a growing interdependence of economic and political factors, which are generally managed through a global governance as a tool to correct economic imbalances, to solve local conflicts and protect human rights. In the last decades Western Democracies engaged in several wars with historically peripheral countries changing the power balance on a worldwide scale. These armed interventions were presented to the public opinion as humanitarian actions to promote security

and democracy and to protect human rights. At the same time, this process has been followed by a global transformation of the traditional relationships between State and Market, Civil Society and Political Society, Citizenship and Nationality.

Furthermore, the dismantling of Welfare State systems, the radical change of labor relations and security policies on migration led to progressive deprivation of social guarantees and rights. All these dynamics were exacerbated by the current global crisis.

In such a context, new popular resistances developed in the last years, starting a strong cycle of struggles claiming access to elementary democratic rights. Therefore, we propose to discuss and investigate the relations between the transformation of democracy, inside and outside the West, and human and social rights.

### **Paper submission and discussion relative to the following issues:**

#### **1) New Global Wars**

From armed intervention in Kosovo in 1999, Afghanistan and Irak invasions, until to recent intervention in Libya, Western countries' wars found their reasons in the safeguard of human rights and democracy in the name of local populations. But, western ideology of humanitarian intervention and of wars for rights disguised a general strategy to pursue vital interests of western elites imposing neoliberal economic policies on a worldwide scale.

**2) Transformation of labor relationships and global crisis** The enforcement of neoliberal economic policies on a local and global scale brought to a progressive erosion of social rights and a radical change of cities. The reshaping of the labor market and welfare system, the privatization of entire industrial sectors and huge diffusion of informal economy worsened the global living conditions. Moreover, these dynamics generated a vast displacement of the population managed through repressive security policies. The current economic and financial crisis has dramatically accelerated this process .

#### **3) Popular Resistances**

In this context of substantial global changes, new strategies of resistance developed on an international scale. From arab revolts in the last years to the ecological and street struggles to defend the land, the new social protests claim elementary social and democratic rights such as the right to work, to health, to education and to manage public resources.

Workshops languages: English, French, Italian, Spanish

We encourage researchers, doctoral candidates, etc., to send us preferably in English (French, Spanish and Italian are accepted as well):

- personal data
- biographical sketch including institutional affiliation
- paper titles (max. 20 words)
- paper abstracts (max. 300 words)

The deadline for proposals submission is December 20, 2012. Email your proposals with your complete contact information to:

mdebiase@ulb.ac.be

g.d.c.@inwind.it

giovanni\_dellacerra@hotmail.it

We will give priority to empirical researches.

The selection of the Scientific Committee will be taken in early January 2013.

Registration fee: 100,00 euros for researchers and doctoral candidates with university or institutions covering and 50,00 euros for other participants. The payment method will be set after the confirmation. For other informations please contact the Organizational Committee:

[giovanni\\_dellacerra@hotmail.it](mailto:giovanni_dellacerra@hotmail.it)

[stef\\_ferr@libero.it](mailto:stef_ferr@libero.it)

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## Call for Papers 2

### **Race, Migration, Citizenship: Postcolonial and Decolonial Perspectives, British Sociological Association (Theory Study Group), Birmingham, UK, July 4-5, 2013**

Against the backdrop of decolonisation, a global economic boom was accompanied by tightened border controls, ever more punitive asylum regimes and limited access to citizenship. Immigration from former colonies to former metropolises has been limited in the postcolonial period as racialised discourses have set the West in opposition to an alien 'rest'. Now, in this 'age of austerity', the strength of the old powers is weakening as other parts of the world, the so called 'BRICs', grow in strength. Yet the old racial hierarchies appear stubbornly resonant within Europe and the white settler colonies and other hierarchies, for example around caste, are increasingly coming to the fore in other countries. Foregrounding postcolonial and decolonial perspectives, this conference will provide a forum in which to discuss the context for emerging patterns of exclusion, for asking what the conditions for political equality might be, and for posing the question "what has 'race' got to do with migration and citizenship?" among many others.

Abstracts of no more than 200 words are welcomed from across the social sciences and humanities on the following themes:

1. Race, Racism, and Prejudice
2. Racial and Colonial Institutional Orders
3. Modernity/Coloniality and Global (In)justice
4. Asylum after Empire
5. Cosmopolitan Citizens and Multicultural Societies: The New Crisis of Europe
6. Europe and Africa. Citizenship and the Legacies of Colonialism
7. Diaspora, Colonialism & Postcolonialism

Send your abstracts to [rrmc2013@live.co.uk](mailto:rrmc2013@live.co.uk)

**Deadline for abstracts: 10th January 2013**

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## Call for Paper 3

### Justice, Taxation and Social Policy: an interdisciplinary conference, 22-24 August 2013, Salzburg, Austria

#### Keynot speakers:

Isabela Mares (Columbia University)

Erich Kirchler (University of Vienna)

Paula Casal (Universitat Pompeu Fabra)

Hillel Steiner (University of Manchester, tbc)

#### Background

The financial crisis and the high indebtedness of states puts pressure on tax systems as well as on considerations of social justice because of new levels of social inequality and because of the erosion of the welfare state and the creation of new vulnerabilities. The crisis has intensified a dynamics causing a growing gap between wealth and poverty and the austerity measures affect the most vulnerable groups. i.e. those who depend on the welfare system. Issues of intergenerational justice are affected because of the danger of a 'lost generation'. There is a real risk for young people without access to the job market to be left out of social security systems including the risk of old age poverty.

Against this background we want to reconsider the relation and connection of justice, taxation, and social policy. Social policy is mainly financed through taxation, and most theories of justice support social policy. Also, different forms of taxation such as income, wealth or inheritance taxes, and the whole tax system are subjects of ethical reasoning and they should be just. Should social justice be the main guide for the analysis, development and implementation of social policy and taxation? And, what shall and can follow from this claim?

#### Key themes and questions

- \* the relationship between justice, taxation and social policy
- \* justification of taxation in general and of different forms of taxation as progressive taxation, taxation of income and wealth or inheritance taxation
- \* taxation, liberty and rights
- \* justice within specific policy areas such as health care, ageing, family or poverty alleviation
- \* social justice and the need of social policy
- \* social policy and the transformation of the welfare state
- \* redistribution and distributive justice
- \* ideal theory and non-ideal politics
- \* global justice and national tax policy

#### Call for abstracts and panel proposals

We invite conceptual, theoretical and empirical based contributions from all disciplinary backgrounds on these topics. Please prepare a 300-500 words abstract suitable for a 20 minutes presentation. We are especially interested in papers that aim to combine normative reasoning and empirical knowledge. We also particularly welcome proposals of themed panels of 3 papers.

#### Deadlines and contact

Please send your abstract or panel proposal until 15 January 2013 to [cepr@sbg.ac.at](mailto:cepr@sbg.ac.at) Notifications of acceptance will be sent by 15 February. Full papers (between 5.000 and 6.000 words) are due

before 15 July 2013 and will be circulated in advance. For further details or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. The organizers will prepare a peer-reviewed publication based on the conference with a renowned publisher.

### **Conference Fee**

The conference fee is 100 Euros. It covers the participation and access to all talks, the conference folder, coffee breaks, two lunches, the reception, the conference dinner and an optional guided city tour.

### **Organization and venue**

The conference is organized and hosted by the Center for Ethics and Poverty Research (University of Salzburg). Please visit the conference homepage:

[www.uni-salzburg.at/zea//taxethicsconf2013](http://www.uni-salzburg.at/zea//taxethicsconf2013)

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof Clemens Sedmak (King's College London and University of Salzburg)

Prof Andreas Koch (University of Salzburg, Department for Social Geography)

Prof Otto Neumaier (University of Salzburg, Department for Philosophy)

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## **Member's Publications and Announcements**

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### **Publication**

Patricia Hynes, Michele Lamb, Damien Short & Matthew Waites (2012) Foreword, *The International Journal of Human Rights Special Issue: New Directions in the Sociology of Human Rights* 16:8, 1123-1126

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### **Announcement**

**From the British Sociological Association's Sociology of Rights Study Group**

**“Study group website goes live at the launch event for the *Sociology of Human Rights* special issue of *Sociology*”**

The **BSA's Sociology of Rights study group** held a successful launch event for the *The Sociology of Human Rights* special issue of the journal *Sociology* (Vol. 46, no.5, October 2012). During the event the Study group's brand new website also went live. The event was hosted by the School of Advanced Study, University of London, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2012.

*The Sociology of Human Rights* special issue of *Sociology* was initiated in February 2010 when the conveners of the study group submitted a successful bid to edit the annual special issue. Following the call for submissions, the conveners were greatly encouraged by the large number of submissions received. Indeed, the journal noted that the special issue received more submissions than any previously: 83 submissions! The study group noted this as a demonstration of the extent of interest in developing the sociology of human rights field.

In the foreword to the special issue, the guest editors - Dr. Patricia Hynes, Dr. Michele Lamb, Dr. Damien Short and Dr. Matthew Waites – argue:

*'If sociology is to be revitalised to address power, inequalities and resistance in the contemporary global context, then the development of the sociology of human rights is an urgent necessity'.*

The special issue is centrally concerned with raising questions and engaging debates about how to conceptualise, imagine, represent and theorise human rights, and practices which contravene human rights. It problematises and addresses the relationship between normative and sociological perspectives on human rights. Accordingly many of the contributors to special issue do not proceed from a straightforward normative celebration of human rights as defined in global declarations and international law. Rather the special issue includes articles that both affirm and question human rights ideals.

Key contributors include: Kate Nash; Dorothea Hilhorst, Bram Jansen; Anthony Woodiwiss, Chetan Bhatt, Darren O'Byrne, James Kennedy, Lilian Riga, Claire Moon, Priscilla Claeys, Noel Whiteside, Alice Mah, Virginia Morrow, Kirrily Pells, Rob Clucas, Katayoun Baghai. Further review articles and book reviews are provided by Nando Sigona, Michael Freeman, Martin Shaw, Lydia Morris and Phillippa Robertson-Rieck. Articles can be accessed via the Sage website: <http://soc.sagepub.com/content/46/5.toc>

The event also saw the launch of the study group's wiki-website, which can be accessed at: <http://sociologyofrights.pbworks.com/w/page/26600622/Homepage>

The website is designed to provide an online presence for the study group and to advance the sociology of rights field more generally. The website hosts various pages which detail developments within the field, including: research and publications; events and activities; and further opportunities. Alongside these, the website also charts the critical contributions made by the diverse membership of study group. Currently the study group has over 180 members who are located across all regions of the world. Membership ranges from early career researchers to established scholars, as well as researchers and activists working across various organisations and institutes. Members work on a broad spectrum of human rights and rights related issues.

The study group welcomes new members! For those who want to know more or join the group, please email Dr. Hannah Miller/ Helle Abelvik-Lawson, at: [sociologyofrights@yahoo.com](mailto:sociologyofrights@yahoo.com). The group can also be followed on Twitter, @socofrights.

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## TG03 Details

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Visit the TG03 web site:  
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/tg03.htm>

MEMBERSHIP dues are USD 20 (USD 10 Discount) for a four-year period: to join, visit the ISA web site:  
<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>

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### Submit Your Announcements

Please send me news about your publications, job opportunities, forthcoming conferences, and other events you would like to share, Eunna Lee-Gong: [eunna.leegong@gmail.com](mailto:eunna.leegong@gmail.com)