

The Forum Way: an autopoiesis

[August 18, 2008]

To the Participants to the First World Forum of Sociology WG03 Programme To the ISA WG03 Regular Members

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

We have finished the preparations for the First World Forum of Sociology (Barcelona, 5-8 September, 2008), and we want to call your attention to the following:

1. The Forum way

The organization of our Programme for the Forum has embraced the ISA cultural heritage within the technological networking that moulds today the space of knowledge. By this newsletter, we focus on the temporal structure of this organization that we call **autopoiesis** according to the well known researches of Ilya Prigogine on the “order in fluctuation” which refers to the biological systems that are far from being in the state of equilibrium, and of Francisco Varela referring to the neural organization of the human mind.

Step by step, our organization has generated the sparkling result currently on line at <http://www.isa-sociology.org>. Very synthetically, we call this result “the Forum way” and we hope it would support our forthcoming activities: first of all, the definitive conclusion and submission of the Selected Papers from the WG03 Forum (in two volumes) to the American publisher, University Press of America (cf. the WG03 home page at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/wg03/htm>)

2. The Bodily Factor as the Compass of Technological Networking

From the Paleolithic *choppers* to the current “location technologies”, the autopoiesis is the mobile synchronizer in bodies of the “longitude” of the biological memories and the “latitude” of the technological acting. According to the Forum way, the WG03 programme suggests the bodily factor to be taken as the compass of the social mind in acting the technological networking.

3. Acting Bodies at the Forum

In spite of the success of our programme, there is an evident contradiction currently emerging from the WG03 organisation frame between the presence of the participants at the Forum and their “legitimation” within the WG03 that we document as follows:

Also amongst the registered ones at the Forum, less than the 10% of the participants to the programme are regular members of the ISA (cf. the ISA Secretariat WG03 Membership list updated July 23, 2008).

Moreover, less than the 10% of the ISA regular members are participating in the programme of the Forum..

With the aim of discussing this contradiction concerning the organization of our social time and, consequently, to planning very carefully our forthcoming activities, we organize an extraordinary **business meeting** to be held at the conclusion of our scheduled Sessions on **September 7, 6—8 p.m. at the Faculty of Philology, University of Barcelona, Gran Via de las Corts Catalanes , 5850 8007, Barcelona, Spain.**

We strongly recommend to participants of the Forum to formalize their membership in the ISA and in the WG03, above all if they contribute to the Selected Papers. We suggest besides to our Regular Members to play an active role within the planned research areas currently on line at the WG03 homepage.

Finally, we thank each of you for your precious contribution to the “Forum way” and the ISA Vice-President for Research, Arturo Rodriguez Moratò, for the enlightened work that is allowing us to participate as “acting bodies at the Forum”.

Best regards