

Dear colleagues,

On March 6th, 73 RC/WG/TG presidents or delegates representing 59 of the 67 RC/WG/TG attended the ISA Research Council meeting. This meeting was an opportunity to discuss several important issues for our organization and to gather suggestions and perspectives from the RC/WG/TG on the ISA Forum, on our next congress and on how to foster a more fruitful and transparent relationship between the ISA executive bodies and its RC/WG/TG. The issues raised in this first meeting were discussed in the ISA Research Coordination Committee and Executive Committee meeting in the following weeks.

The second part of this 2021 Research Council meeting will take place on Saturday, April 10th. The meeting will allow us to discuss some major issues for the ISA (the next congress, ISA finance, communication among the RCs and with the ISA...) and share good practices among RC/WG/TG and open new projects. Please find below the April 10th Research Council agenda.

In addition to its president, each RC, WG or TG may send an additional delegate to the Research Council meeting. If the president cannot attend the meeting, s/he may be replaced by another representative. If your RC/WG/TG plan to send a different delegate to this meeting, please register her/him by sending me an e-mail (Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be).

I would like to invite all the RC/WG/TG presidents to join the "isa-2021researchcouncil" mailing list, whether or not you will attend any of the Research Council meetings. Please send me an e-mail to join the list if you are not yet part of it.

In the attachment, you will find three documents that were presented at the ISA Executive Committee meeting. They will serve as preparatory documents for the Research Council meeting:

- A report on the 2021 ISA Forum
- My Report as ISA Vice-President for Research to the ISA Executive Committee
- Proposals for a future virtual ISA Forum

Finally, a short but important reminder: please take some time to reply to the survey and consult your RC/WG/TG on the important survey opened by the ISA about a possible postponement of the 2022 congress.

I look very much forward to seeing most of you again on Saturday.

Geoffrey Pleyers
ISA Vice-President for Research

**2021 Research Council Meeting
Second meeting - 10 April**

1. Meeting schedule and link

10 April 2021, 12h-17h GMT/UCT

8h-13h NYC; 9h Rio de Janeiro; 14h-19h Berlin; 17h30-22h30 New Delhi; 21h-1am Tokyo; 22h Melbourne

The link with the Zoom meeting platform will be communicated to the registered RC/WG/TG delegates. To register to the meeting and to the Research Council mailing-list, please send an e-mail to Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be (Two delegates per RC maximum).

For any change in the delegates of your RC/WG/TG for this meeting, please send an e-mail to my address rather than to all the mailing-list. I will add their addresses to the mailing-list and send them the meeting agenda and the preparatory documents.

2. Agenda

Please find below the new agenda for this meeting.

The agenda has been modified following the requests made during the first part of the Research Council Meeting (6 March 2021), requests sent by e-mail and an invitation by the ISA president to discuss the postponement of the 2022 ISA Congress.

We will discuss each of these points following three steps:

(1) introduction/short presentation; (2) open discussion; (3) suggestions to the ISA Research Coordination Council and Executive Committee.

A meeting of the ISA Executive Committee has been scheduled on April 18.

3. Postponement of the congress & and next Forum

Our first point will be a deliberation about the next ISA Congress. We will draw on the results of the consultation of the ISA members and have an open discussion gathering argument in favor of maintaining the congress in 2022 or postponing it in 2023. The next congress and forum should be considered together, as a virtual Congress in 2022 would probably be followed by an on-site Forum in Melbourne in 2024, as an on-site Forum in 2023 would probably be followed by a virtual Forum.

You will find in attachment a proposal for a virtual Forum that was prepared before the ISA proposed this consultation on the 2022 congress. If the ISA holds another virtual Forum, it will not be organized as “the online translation of an on-site Forum”, as the pandemic obliged us to do in 2021. We will mobilize new tools for a possible virtual forum in 2024 or 2025, livestream sessions for students and include more researchers from the global south.

4. Preparatory documents

1. 2020-2021 Report of the Vice-President for Research
2. Report on the 2021 ISA Forum of Sociology
3. Proposals for a virtual ISA Forum
4. Minutes of the RCC meeting (will be sent on April 7th)
5. ISA 2020 Finance report: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/uploads/imagen/977-isa-financial-statement-2020.pdf>

5. Time management for a participatory meeting

I will do my best to make it as participatory and open as possible but ask for your tolerance and comprehension. There will be time for open discussions on each of the topics on the agenda. However, we will all need to keep our interventions short and clear if we want to gather various opinions. It is particularly important for RC/WG/TG to coordinate their interventions in order to avoid that two delegates from the same RC/WG/TG intervene with different opinion in the same discussion.

6. Getting to know each other / Introducing ourselves

83 delegates from 62 RC/WG/TG took part in the first part of this Research Council meeting on March the 6th, together with most members of the ISA Research Coordination Committee and the ISA president Sari Hanafi.

A proper round of presentation would take at least a quarter of our meeting. Instead, I suggest using the **RC/WG/TG president directory** (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/frontend/web/uploads/files/directory-isa-rc-presidents%202018-2022-sept19.pdf>). It would be great if you could have a look at it before our meeting and please keep it at hand during the meeting.

RC/WG/TG delegates that are not in this repertoire are invited to add a short bio note in the Google Document at the link below. All the meeting participants are invited to have a look at it before and during our meeting.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ERFdkgT_H2Edkjt3S_xJMYDVVlglUuK3lieoPUTAd54/edit?usp=sharing

7. Mailing-lists

isa-researchcouncil2021@listes.uclouvain.be

A mailing list has been set up to ease communication among the participants to these two Research Council meeting. It includes the e-mail addresses of the registered RC/WG/TG delegates (82 so far), the ISA President Sari Hanafi, the ISA general secretary Izabela Barlinska, the head of the 2022 congress Local organizing committee Dan Woodman, the members of the ISA research coordination committee, and myself as ISA vice-president for research and coordinator of the Research Council.

This mailing-list is an efficient way of communicating among RC/WG/TG presidents and delegates. Please use it to share your suggestions and opinions.

2021 Research Council Agenda Second meeting – 10 April 2021

10 April 2021, 12h-17h GMT/UCT

8h-13h NYC; 9h Rio de Janeiro; 14h-19h Berlin; 17h30-22h30 New Delhi; 21h-1am Tokyo; 22h Melbourne

Link with the Zoom meeting platform:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89578112591?pwd=SnYrazV4QjREb3B5V0JkMkd0bURVUT09>

The schedule is based on UCT / time zone of London

12h-12h10: Introduction: The Research Council and its role in the ISA, Geoffrey Pleyers

12h10-13h: ISA Congress: Should it be reported to 2023?

Introduction by Sari Hanafi (ISA president) and Dan Woodman (Chair of the Local Organizing committee)
Open discussion

Documents to prepare this point:

- A consultation to all the members of the ISA was sent
- Document “Proposals for a virtual Forum” (in attachment)

13h-13h15: ISA Forums

- Report on the Forum (Document in attachment)
- Should the sessions recording remain available to registered participants only or they become open access. If so, when?
- The general discussion on the next Forum will be reported to a future meeting, when the next Congress and Forum will have been defined.

13h15-13h45: RCs in the ISA

Report and discussion on the ISA Research Coordination Council and Executive Committee meeting,
Geoffrey Pleyers

- Please have a look at the document: “2020-2021 Report of the Vice-President for Research”. This document include the result of the 2021 RCC and Research Council meetings
- RC/WG/TG representation and roles in the ISA
- Short report on the ISA and its structure.
The ISA institutional structure is explained on this page: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/internal-organization>
- Communication among the RCs and with the ISA

- Open discussion & Suggestions to the EC

13h45-14h30: Finance report:

Report on the ISA 2020 annual statement and on the early statement on the 2021 Forum

By Sawako Shiharase, ISA Vice-President for Finance

- The ISA 2020 Finance is available on this page: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/uploads/imgen/977-isa-financial-statement-2020.pdf>
- Open discussion & Suggestions to the EC

14h30-14h50: Break

II. Sharing experience among the RCs

14h50-15h: Communications among RCs and new projects

15h -15h30: ISA RCs at the UN

- History, achievements and new projects, Jan Fritz (RCC)
- Report on the ISA at the UN, Rodha Reddock (RCC)

15h30-16h: Diversity and inclusiveness in the RC/WG/TG

- Sharing experiences and good practices, Debra Davidson (RC05)
- ISA report on diversity, Allison Loconto (RCC)
- Open discussion

16h-16h30: ISA RC/WG/TG in their research field

- Introduction
- Opening new collaborations
- Collaborations with regional associations
- Proposal for a research webinar on global challenges

16h30-16h50: Support provided by the Research Coordination Committee:

- Membership, statutes, internal democracy
- RC/WG/TG website to be hosted at the FMSH/Paris

16h50-17h: Next Research Council meeting and new projects