

### Research Council Meeting & RC/WG/TG consultations December 18th 2021

**December 18th, from 12.30 UTC/GMT to 15.30 UTC/GMT.**

Zoom link: <https://inrae-fr.zoom.us/j/9195502791>

In 2021, the Research Council has established itself as an important body of the ISA. The Council expresses the voices of the RC/WG/TG in the ISA and has become a space to discuss and take part in decisions on central issues for our association. It also acts as an insightful space to share experience, ideas and opinions about the ISA and RC/WG/TG practices and a platform for RC/WG/TG to take initiatives.

Our December 18<sup>th</sup> meeting will be an opportunity to gather RC/WG/TG suggestions and perspectives on two issues that are at the core of the daily life of the ISA: the roles and missions of the ISA secretariat and the ISA social media strategy for the RC/WG/TG. A detailed agenda and schedule of our meeting is provided below. Please take some time to consult your RC/WG/TG board on these issues before our meeting.

#### 1. Open consultation on the ISA Secretariat and future General Secretary

After almost four decades at the service of the ISA, our General Secretary, Izabela Barlinska, will retire in 2023. On multiple occasions, RC/WG/TG delegates have underlined the quality of her work, her efficiency, her knowledge of the ISA and her experience. Her contribution to the ISA has been immense and her departure represents a major challenge for the ISA at every level.

A process of consultation has started to gather suggestions on the roles and missions of the ISA secretariat. The meeting of the Research Council will be the opportunity for the RC/WG/TG delegates to contribute to this open consultation.

It occurs at a time of major transformations in the world and challenges for the ISA. The pandemic and environmental concerns limit intercontinental travel. Social media and online meetings have transformed how we meet and work together. Onsite / Presential meetings remain important, but the pandemic has considerably complexified their organization. *What should be the main roles and missions of the ISA secretariat in this context? What kind of concrete help may they provide to the RC/WG/TG in their missions and projects? How should the general secretary and the secretariat staff members contribute to fulfilling the missions of the ISA?*

*Please take some time to gather your RC/WG/TG suggestions and proposals on these points before the Research Council meeting. The Research Council listserv may be used to share some proposals and set some bases for next Saturday meeting. [isa-researchcouncil2021@listes.uclouvain.be](mailto:isa-researchcouncil2021@listes.uclouvain.be)*

## 2. ISA new strategy for communication and social media

Communication and social media take increasing importance among the roles of the ISA secretariat. Together with the secretariat, we have prepared new proposals to consolidate and amplify the support provided to the RC/WG/TG online visibility and social media. This proposal will be developed in the “VPR letter #13”. Proposals and suggestions by the RC/WG/TG are very welcome on this important issue.

## 3. Research council initiatives & RC/WG/TG participation

A core mission of the Research Council is to provide spaces to share RC/WG/TG experience, ideas and opinions, and take common initiatives. **The Research Council task force on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) chaired by Debra Davidson (RC25)** provides a good example. It proposes to gather experience and good practices at the RC/WG/TG level may be collected and lead to concrete proposals for the RCs and the ISA to foster more active participation by sociologists from different backgrounds. A short balance of this experience will be presented and discussed at our Research Council meeting.

Two other initiatives will be presented on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

- Jan Fritz and Rodha Reddock will report on the **ISA presence and activities at the UN** and tell us about their initiatives and how RC/WG/TG may start new collaborations with UN bodies.
- In 2022, we will hold a **global webinar on “The pandemic and the world that will come out of it”**. One or two RC/WG/TG will be invited to present the contributions of the field in a better understanding of the way the pandemic has shaken our societies and of the world that is rising out of it. A selection of the papers presented at the seminar will be published in an edited volume.

## 4. The Research Council in the ISA

Following the Research Council requests, the minutes of the last two meetings of the ISA Executive Committee have been sent in attachment with this letter. By December 15<sup>th</sup>, you will also receive a short balance of the activities of each elected representative of the RCs in the Executive Committee and other ISA committees.

## 5. General information for participants

The agenda remains open to other issues to be discussed. These proposals should be made by an RC/WG.TG delegate after consulting its RC board. Proposals may be sent to me or shared on the Research Council mailing list.

As for previous meetings, each RC/WG/TG is invited to send one delegate to the meeting. A second delegate may attend the meeting without taking part in the votes. (No vote is planned for December 18<sup>th</sup>). If you have already taken part in a previous Research Council meeting and will act as a delegate of your RC/WG/TG on December 18<sup>th</sup>, there is no need to send an e-mail to confirm your participation. If you want to add a new delegate for your RC/WG/TG, please send their address to my personal address (no need to send an e-mail to the whole Research Council).

## 6. Meeting agenda and schedule

**December 18th, from 12.30 UCT/GMT to 15.30 UCT/GMT.**

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12:30 – 12:40: The RC/WG/TG in the ISA and the roles of the Research Council  
by Geoffrey Pleyers, ISA Vice-President for research.

12:40 – 13:10: The Research Council task force on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI), followed by an  
open discussion.  
by Debra Davidson (RC25)

13.10 – 13.25: Information about the ISA activities  
by Jan Fritz & Rhoda Reddock (ISA- Executive committee & Research Coordination Committee )

13.25-14.00: Open consultation on the tasks and roles of the ISA secretariat in the future

14.00 – 14.10: Break

14.10-14.40

ISA new social media strategy and offer to support RC/WG/TG online communication  
Proposal by the ISA secretariat & Geoffrey Pleyers

14:40-15.00: 2023 ISA Congress and its calendar,  
by Sari Hanafi, President of the ISA.

! have a look at the calendar for RC/WG/TG program coordinators <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/deadlines-2023>

- Questions about the ISA congress by the RC 17 (ESA congress) and RC35 (fees)

15.00-15.30: RC/WG/TG voices in the ISA

- Balance of the activities of the ISA EC members elected by the RCs (Research Coordination Committee)
- Possible questions about the ISA Executive committee meetings (the meeting minutes have been sent to the Research Council delegates)
- Information about the ISA global webinar on “Sociology in the world that comes out of the pandemic”
- The next Research Council meeting

Geoffrey Pleyers

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