

# XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



**Resurgent Authoritarianism:**  
*Sociology of New Entanglements of  
Religions, Politics, and Economies*

Melbourne, Australia | June 25-July 1, 2023  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre  
[www.isa-sociology.org](http://www.isa-sociology.org)



World Congress  
of Sociology



TASA  
The Australian  
Sociological Association



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## **Presidential Opening Session: *Liberalism, the Other and Religion***

President Sari HANAFLI, 25 June 2023 17:30-20:50 Melbourne, Australia, local time

In the age of authoritarianism and populism, many argue that the political liberal project is in danger. Is this related to its conceptualization or to its application? How would this project encompass more comprehensively social justice, social love, convivialism, solidarity and all forms of pluralism? Is secularism a mechanism to achieve the political liberal ideals or a value in itself? By distinguishing between the conception of justice and public reason vs the conceptions of a good life, how can Rawlsian political liberalism be more comprehensive in conceptualizing individual autonomy, freedom and equality? How public reason can (reasonably) accommodate different repertoires of moral arguments? And finally, beyond criticizing the social life and market and all forms of domination, should sociology construct a framework for society? Panelists are invited to reflect on these questions.

## **Closing Presidential Session: *Building a Just Post-COVID-19 World***

President Sari HANAFLI, 30 June 2023 14:00-15:20 Melbourne, Australia, local time

The surreal atmosphere of the COVID-19 pandemic has exposed fault lines in trust among human beings, among countries, between citizens and governments, and is pushing us to raise big questions about ourselves, our social relationships, and life more generally. But this unprecedented (and unfinished) COVID-19 crisis is not limited to public and environmental health or the economy. What we are witnessing is a moment of truth regarding the crisis of late modernity and its capitalist system on a broad, overarching scale. This crisis moment would be an occasion to actively engage in addressing the new reality and the rampant uncertainty. While this global crisis may have prompted fresh strategies to reinforce exploitation, dispossession, and neoliberal capitalism, and increased the reach of our greed and selfishness, it has also given us an opportunity to explore and provide new ways of understanding and reclaiming our social justice and humanity. Panelists are invited to reflect on how to build a just post-COVID-19 world.