Newsletter

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Inside This Issue

Letter from the President

Dear colleagues,

This newsletter issue includes new information about the upcoming ISA world congress. Around 90 proposals have been accepted, and the schedule is already done for the 14 sessions organised by RC03. About half of the proposals prefer an online presentation during the congress. We should organise the format of the sessions according to the final congress registration after March 22 as regards this issue. We will inform you about this and other information about the congress as soon as possible.

The newsletter also includes brief information about the next ISA Forum to be held in 2025.

Finally, we would like to remind you to send proposals to be included as Community Profiles in the following Newsletters to share your research, in a brief informative way, with other RC03 members and other researchers on community studies. Information about your publications, research projects, PhD Dissertations or other research activities is also welcomed as an essential piece of information about our activities as RC03 members.

Clemente J. Navarro, RC03 President (on behalf of the RC03 Steering Committee)

Announcements

I. XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

Remember that the deadline to register for the congress is **March 22, 2023**.

II. 2025 ISA Forum

The Forum will be held in person/on-site. The call for bids is open until March 1st, 2023.
https://www.isasociology.org/en/conferences/call-for-bids/cfb-isa-forum

III. Improving RCs communications and activities dissemination

In Research Council meetings, the position of an online communication manager on the RC/WG/TG Board is suggested. This position could be elected or appointed according to RCs preferences about this issue and their Statute, but it is recommended to recognise it as part of the Board.

Contacts

New Website: RC03 has a new, revamped website. You can find it at: https://www.upo.es/cspl/rc03-isa/isa/

Please send future announcements to Matt Patterson: matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca

Community Profile

Observing and Analyzing Community Change

Urban Labs: Knowledge Hubs to Co-Produce Knowledge about Community Policies and Change

By Clemente J. Navarro, EUrPol Research Team, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain (https://www.upo.es/cspl/eurpol/)

From a policy point of view, community and urban issues are conceived as complex problems because they cross different policy issues and sectors. Therefore, the integrated policy strategy across sectors combining their conceptions about problems and policy tools to solve them, as well as the institutional and non-institutional actors that are usually involved in their sectoral policy communities and networks, are conceived as an adequate approach to cope with the community and urban problems. This is a central topic in the raining meta-policy frame about local development promoted, for instance, by the United Nations through its *New Urban Agenda* or the urban dimension of the European Union cohesion policy. Besides, another central aspect of this new meta-policy frame for local development and community change involves providing policy evidence on the design, implementation and results of the integrated strategy in community policies and initiatives.

In this respect, the so-called *Urban Labs* appear as a potential tool to provide new analytical insights and policy evidence about initiatives aimed at coping with the complexity of community problems. These Labs support the collective work between involved or concerned actors with community issues and policies from different sectors. Therefore, Urban Labs mean the participation of institutional and noninstitutional actors (public administration, civic associations, business actors, research centres…) to study policies and their effects on communities.

An example is the **URBAN DUSI Lab** promoted by the **Jean Monnet Chair in European Urban Policies (EUrPol)** and the **Andalusian Federation of Muni-cipalities and Provinces (FAMP)** in Spain to study the Integrated Urban Initiatives promoted by the EU Cohesion Policy. Since 2020 this Lab has developed a collaborative process to foster mutual learning among researchers and staff in charge of specific initiatives implemented in different municipalities under the support of this European Union policy.

The Urban Lab tries to combine the 'academic knowledge' provided by the comparative research about the design, implementation, and impact evaluation of EU-integrated strategies with the 'world of practice', the knowledge of staff in charge of these initiatives at the local level. The main idea is to co-produce analytical knowledge and practical tools to improve the design, implementation and impact of policies aimed to promote community change at different geographical scales and different types of socio-spatial contexts (for instance, rural communities, urban neighbourhoods, or functional urban areas, …). Therefore, researchers have not developed an external consultancy work to design and evaluate initiatives promoted by municipalities. During workshops – held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic – researchers and staff have co-produced ideas and instruments to analyse and improve the design, implementation and impacts of urban policies that apply the policy integration strategy.

In each workshop, ideas and instruments have been presented and discussed; and then applied and validated in each specific project. The EUrPol team has delivered and proposed some ideas, tools, and examples based on comparative research projects that have been discussed and improved to define some analytical ideas and tools. Then, these ideas and tools were applied to each project by their respective staff with the help of the EUrPol research team. They were then discussed, validated and improved together, summing up 'academic' and 'practical' knowledge.
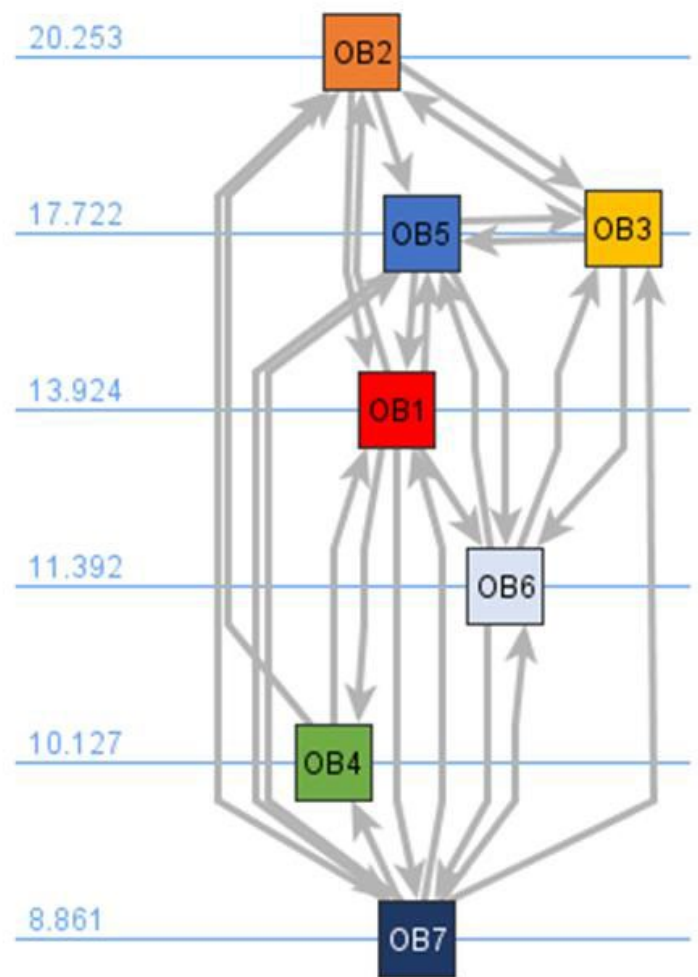
The ideas and instruments discussed represent some of the aspects integrated into the comparative urban policy portfolio analysis (CUPPA) developed by the Centre for Sociology and Local Policies-The Urban Governance Lab (Pablo de Olavide University). This perspective is developed in line with the analytical proposal of urban policies as multi-level policy mixes applied to analyse the added value of integrated urban strategies promoted by the EU within the framework of EUrPol, as an example of this type of territorial policies promoted by supra-municipal agencies and applied at the local level. However, they can also be used by agents involved in designing, implementing, and evaluating specific local strategies or those responsible for the policies in which they are developed.

One of the leading Urban DUSI Lab goals has been to improve analytical ideas and tools regarding the int-egrated strategy in local policies. Therefore, this integrated strategy has been thought of not as a rhetorical instrument to show some alignment as regards proposals made by international organisations, but as a research issue of knowing whether it is actually applied and what its difficulties, advantages, and results may be. In considers questions such as, is this project a proposal for sustainable, local development? Also, in addition to including a plurality of objectives, actions, and stakeholders, is the integrated strategy being applied from design to evaluation? Does this strategy produce the expected effects? Does it create added value in local policies and citizens' quality of life?

The Urban DUSI Lab has worked on tools to study the quality of integrated strategies design, the analysis of implementation networks or theory-driven evaluation to try to avoid the common attribution gap in impact evaluation. The ideas and instruments discussed can be applied at the corresponding points of the public policy cycle (policy planning, implementation and evaluation), as well as planning tools from the very beginning of the project (as pointed out by the staff of the participant projects during the workshops held). The quality of the policy design can be analysed after planning is complete,

Figure 1. An example of an implementation network: Relations between project objectives and their centrality in the project implementation network.

either by municipal technicians or by an external agent, or the proposed instrument can be used at the same time the project is being planned to monitor the planning itself and its outcome. Implementation net-works can be used to see if the project is being developed as intended and planned, to see the potential consequences of something not being done as intended, and also to ascertain the complexity of the strategy de-signed and how it is genuinely integrated or the extent to which it should be, both as a whole and for processes or objectives. Some of the evaluative models reviewed in workshops can be used to analyse impacts at the end of implementation and to examine the possible effects of what is being planned to choose between different options.

ISA XX World Congress of Sociology

The RC03 has organised 14 sessions in the World Congress of Sociology. Around a total of 90 presentations (an average of 6 for each session), although some sessions have concreted more proposals (for instance, Community Influences in Lifestyles and Health, Comunidades Resilientes or Uses and Misuses of Arts and Culture in Community and Urban Development). The final number of presentations will be known after the registration deadline on March 22th.

The format of sessions will be decided after final registration in March 2023. Nevertheless, the schedule for sessions is already done, as you can see in the following link:
https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2023/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium726.html

Organisers recommend asking for the Visa and communicating any difficulty about this issue as soon as possible. More information about Visa in the following link:
https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2023/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium726.html

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Schedule of RC03 Sessions

Monday, June 26:

15:30-17:20 Nuevas Políticas Urbanas En Iberoamérica. Avances Hacia La Nueva Agenda Urbana

17:30-19:20 Collaborative Research I: Critical Reflections on Research Ethics and Methodological Practices

Tuesday, June 27:

10:30-12:20 Marine Justice, Ocean Studies, and Coastal Communities

17:30-19:20 Uses and Misuses of Arts and Culture in Community and Urban Development

Wednesday, June 28:

10:30-12:20 Community Mobilization in Urban and Rural Context

17:30-19:20 Local Welfare Regimes: A Comparative Analysis

Thursday, June 29:

10:30-12:20 Traditional Water Cultures and the Modern Life

15:30-17:20 Theories of Practice: New Perspectives in Urban Theory and Research

17:30-19:20 Uses and Misuses of Arts and Culture in Community and Urban Development II

Friday, June 30:

8:30-10:20 Inclusive Education, Knowledge Co-Production, Social Justice and Human Rights

10:30-12:20 Community Influences on Lifestyles and Health

15:30-17:20 Can Place-Based Policies Enhance Community Life and Democracy: On Neighbourhood Governance, Participation and Institutional Trust.

17:30-19:20 (Re)Turning to Urban (new) Normality

Saturday, July 1:

8:30-10:20 Cultural Institutions and Community

10:30-12:20 Comunidades Resilientes: Capacidades Colectivas De Resistencia y Transformación Ante Las Nuevas Adversidades

12:30-14:20 Comunidades Resilientes: Capacidades Colectivas De Resistencia y Transformación Ante Las Nuevas Adversidades II