

**Research Council Meeting – 7 January 2023
11.30-14.00 UTC - GMT**

This meeting was open to any delegate from the ISA RC/WG/TG. RC/WG/TG may send more than one delegate. The meeting was attended by 45 delegates of the RC, WG, and TG as well as by Sari Hanafi (ISA President), Izabela Barlinska (ISA Executive Secretary), Cecilia Delgado Molina (ISA Social media manager), Geoffrey Pleyers (Vice-President for Research & chair of the Research Council) and members of the EC Research Coordination Committee.

The meeting was chaired by Geoffrey Pleyers.

The minutes were redacted by Cecilia Delgado Molina & Geoffrey Pleyers.

Requires your attention

- World Congress Attendees Registration Grants deadline January 31, 2023. Communication for Registration Grant decisions to ISA Secretariat deadline February 15, 2023.
- If you did not communicate your Students Membership Grant (expired on December 15th, 2022) to the ISA Secretariat, do it ASAP.
- A volunteer commission to review practices and make recommendations for conducting good, transparent, and fair RC/WG/TG elections online or hybrid was integrated. If you want to be part of this commission, send an email to Geoffrey Pleyers before January 22nd, 2023.
- A call for volunteers in the training for newly elected RC/WG/TG officers in Melbourne. If interested in sharing your experience, send an email to Geoffrey Pleyers before March the 31st, 2023.
- Consider being part of the next Executive Committee. The Research Council should have eight elected members. The nomination process closes on January 31st, 2023.
- If you are interested in participating in the UN Special Reports with Olivier de Schutter, as stated in the meeting, sent an email to Geoffrey Pleyers.
- We are developing campaigns on some UN World Days to recommend papers and research topics, but also to disseminate RC's information. For example, on RC31 Sociology of Migration on December 18th, International Migrants Day. If any RC/TG/WG has any suggestion to engage with some international day or any special/historical data, please contact to Social Media Manager at isa-socialmedia@isa-sociology.org
- RC/TG/WG Social Media Manager's next meeting is scheduled for February 11.

Summary

2025 ISA Forum

- The 2025 ISA Forum will be held in-person/on-site.
- The Call for Bids is open, until March 1st, 2023. <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/call-for-bids/cfb-isa-forum>
- Please, have a proactive attitude to finding a venue for the 2025 Forum, especially in Africa, Europe, or Latin American countries.

2023 ISA World Congress

- Please consult regularly the [Guidelines for Program Coordinators and Session Organizers](#).
- January 30th is the deadline to apply for Registration Grants. (It includes Program Coordinator Registration Grants). Please diffuse the information to your RC/WG/TG members. Candidates for a registration grant have to be ISA members in good standing (and some may need time to organize the payment of their membership).
- Students Membership Grant deadline (expired on December 15th, 2022) may be flexible, but ASAP considering membership should be solved before Registration Grants.
- Several participants shared difficulties they face concerning visa application. Please encourage your RC/WG/TG member to an early Visa application, if needed. It is important to have the opportunity to intervene in case a systematic refusal of visas is detected. Remember that if they need a visa invitation letter there is a special email. Information & contact are available on the website & in the detailed minutes.
- The LOC confirmed rooms will be available for the 6 RCs who intend to organize a pre-conference.

RC/WG/TG Internal Elections

- Every RC/WG/TG has its own process and time for internal elections, as established in its statutes. Those statutes should be in accordance with ISA Statutes. All elections processes should seek open, fair, and transparent elections. President's mandate is up to 2 terms.
- Research VP suggests including an online communication manager on RC/WG/TG Board, starting after the XX ISA World Congress. Each committee can decide if this position should be elected or appointed but is recommended to recognize it as part of the Board.
- A volunteer commission to review practices and make recommendations for conducting good, transparent, and fair elections online or hybrid was integrated.

ISA Elections for the 2023-2027 Executive Committee

- If you consider being part of the next Executive Committee, the Nomination process closes on January 31st, 2023. The Research Council should have eight elected members.

New collaborations with the UN

- Geoffrey Pleyers & Olivier de Schutter presented an initiative to work with a UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights.

ISA social media

- It is not mandatory for RC/WG/TG to have any kind of social media. Each ISA RC/TG/WG should decide which communications channels to use (a website, a mailing list, and/or social media) and, if this is the case, which social media will use. Given our limited capacity, ISA will concentrate on three social media: Twitter, Facebook, and, since recently, Instagram.
- ISA is following, monitoring, and reporting to the Executive Committee (and this Research Council) the major changes in the business models of social networks. Also comments & observations on this and the use of alternative and non-commercial social media platforms -free software- were made.

Detailed Minutes

1. Meeting agenda & 2025 ISA Forum

- Welcome by Geoffrey Pleyers, Chair of the Research Council. Meeting agenda and process
- Report on the 2025 ISA Forum of Sociology consultation process and call for bids
 - Geoffrey Pleyers pointed out the consultation and decision-making process among the Executive Committee related to the in-person 2025 ISA Forum. He emphasizes that all the points raised by the Research Council were discussed by the Executive Committee.
 - ➔ VPR Letter 18: [Report on the consultation process about the 2025 ISA Forum](#)
 - He invited attendees to have a proactive attitude to finding a venue for the 2025 Forum, especially in Africa, Europe, or Latin American countries. Should be considered that the 2023 Congress will be in Australia and the 2027 Congress will be in South Korea. “We hope to have the Forum in another world region, not too far away for many ISA members”. Information was sent to the RC Mailing list and is also available online:
 - ➔ Call for bids to host the 2025 ISA Forum: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/call-for-bids/cfb-isa-forum>

2. Information and questions about the 2023 congress (grants, hybrid sessions...).

With Sari Hanafi, President of the ISA and of the XX World Congress of Sociology.

- Cristiana Constantopoulou (RC 14) asked for information about the **RC pre-conferences** in Melbourne. Geoffrey Pleyers replied that six RCs (RC02, RC14, RC24, RC47, RC48, RC52) have asked for a room for a one or two-day pre-conference. The LOC confirmed the rooms will be booked and will send more detail in February. (RC55 has booked a room at the Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne).
- If your RC wants to organize a pre-conference and doesn't ask for a room yet, send Geoffrey Pleyers and he will see if it is still possible.
- David Strecker (RC 35) asked about **ISA membership & congress registration grants**
 - Sari Hanafi reminds us that everything that arouse on the Research Council & National Association Council is submitted to the Executive Committee (ExCom) which takes decisions. ExCom debated & decides to create a solidarity fund from the ISA found for membership grants and to delegate the assignment to the RCs. There is no flat

reduction in Congress registration as the fee is the same that in Toronto 2018, among other factors.

- ISA memberships extension that would be extended by one year (from 2022 to 2023). Izabela Barlinksa specified that everyone whose membership was to be expired in December 2022, gone to a one-year extension. This does not include RC's membership. This was done automatically, if there are cases that have doubts, they can contact the ISA Secretariat.
 - Program Coordinator Registration Grants function as usual – Rules for ISA Registration Grants Allocation may be found at the Guidelines for Program Coordinators and Session Organizers, here: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/guidelines-for-program-coordinators-and-session-organizers-2023>
- Ulrike Schuerkens (RC 09) asks if there is a possibility to extend the Students Membership Grant deadline (expired on December 15th, 2022). ISA understands complications and is flexible but remember that these grants should be allocated to people that apply for Registrations Grants and this has deadlines on the system, please don't send it in the last 24 hours. Sari Hanafi reminds us that each RC can allocate 5 membership grants to students from B & C countries and 3 membership grants to students from A countries.
 - Geoffrey Pleyers summons to review the calendars and deadlines in preparation for the XX ISA World Congress. Remind that for the registration grant, the ISA membership is a pre-requisite, and this should be solved before the registration deadline.
 - Regarding students' membership grants, Afe Adogame (RC22) pointed out that it would be more inclusive to have 3 students' membership grants for A, B & C countries each one, and not 5 for B&C countries as actually set up.
 - Afe Adogame (RC22) also drew attention to the disadvantage of colleagues who are in the global south & countries that require a visa to attend the World Congress and the importance of ISA and LOC support to **visa applications**.
 - Sari Hanafi responded that they are very sensitive to the visa issue. The past experience at the Toronto congress was very difficult and ISA has addressed the issue extensively with the LOC. He encourages us to apply early for the visa, so the ISA and the LOC have time to intervene if necessary.
 - Lindy Heinecken (RC01) suggests to ask the LOC can **appoint a contact person for the visa process**. Sari Hanafi will take this request to the local organizing committee.
 - Izabela Barlinksa pointed out that at the moment if you need a visa invitation letter there is a special email: wcs2023@arinex.com.au
- You can find Visa requirements here: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder> & all the information is available at the website: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/visa-information-2023>

→ The latest newsletter by Sari (with plenty information about the Congress) is available at <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/executive-committee/executive-committee-2018-2022/presidential-corner-18/1fp-december-2022>

3. RC internal elections

Geoffrey Pleyers

- RC Internal Elections - A limit of two mandates for RC presidents
 - Lyndi Heynecken asks if Board Members can serve more than 2 terms.
 - David Dueñas (TG10) – Our TG had an election at the last Forum (2021). Should we have new elections? If not, is it possible to change some members of the Board or is it mandatory to have elections to do so? Izabela Barlinska clarifies that it is not mandatory to have elections at the ISA World Congress. “You don’t need to run elections. When you constituted as a Thematic Group you elected your Board, and this is for the next four years. Not every RC has elections at the same time, some RC’s have one year before or after the Congress. New groups follow their own four years cycle. Changes in Board are stated in your own statutes. Follow the procedure that you established”.
 - David Strecker (RC 35) pointed out that there is not in the statutes a mandatory restriction about max. 2 terms for RC/WG/TG President and questioned the legality of this regulation.
 - Geoffrey Pleyers reminds us that the 2 terms limits for RC presidents are mentioned in the statutes and will be implemented. Look at this webpage: Article I. Research Committees Statutory Rights and Obligations talks about RC Statutes: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/internal-organization/aims-and-requirements-for-research-committees/>
 - Sari Hanafi thanked the highlight about the procedure's legality and takes note to review it again with the ExCom. Regardless of that, he stressed that the up to 2 Presidents’ mandate is directly related to the many complaints that the Executive Committee received about the lack of renewal in the committees and the little openness to participation.
 - On chat, Breno Bergel (RC47): All of us in our cities and countries demand open and transparent elections. We also encourage greater diversity in politics. We don't want anyone to perpetuate themselves as president of a government. We must do the same within the ISA. Personally, I think it is not healthy to have the same person as president of an RC for twelve years”.
 - Allison Marie Loconto (ISA EC) shared on the chat that in RC40 “The outgoing president and secretary/treasurer are automatically members of the Executive Committee for the 4-year term following their elected term as president/secretary. This offers institutional knowledge for the new leadership and has worked very well to ensure continuity and new leadership each 4 years since the founding of our RC in the 1980s”.
 - Good practices for elections were discussed, among in-site, online, or hybrid RC’s elections format. Those include various suggestions, such as that ISA

provides a system, online elections, and hybrid elections formats and ways to promote participation. Geoffrey Pleyers calls for volunteers for a commission to review good practices and **Volunteers to form a commission to review practices and make recommendations for conducting good, transparent, and fair elections online and/or hybrid.** It is important to socialize the responsibilities and activities of the Board among members.

- The commission is integrated by Helma Lutz, Marcel Fournier, David Dueñas & Aaron Pittuck. Cecilia Delgado Molina will join them to provide her help and expertise in the online platforms.
- Izabela Barlinska makes a point of clarification: ISA Statutes stand that RC/WG/TG Statutes should follow the ISA Statutes and the ISA allows only one time for the President's mandate, two consecutive times for the Executive Committee and it is very restricted on that. The recommendation for the RC/WG/TG approved by the Research Council is actually more generous.

○ **Online communication manager**

- Geoffrey Pleyers invites all the RC/WG/TG are invited to open a position for an "online communication manager" (OCM) in their new board. This may be an elected position or a position held by a person appointed by the newly elected board.
- Online communication, including social media and a website, take increasing importance and require some specific competencies. It would be more efficient to separate these tasks from the secretary/treasurer who has to comply with other important tasks. The RC/WG/TG OCM will be invited to join the RC/WG/TG social media communication network coordinated by the ISA Social Media Manager and the VP for Research.
- Aaron Pitluck (RC02) endorses the idea of having an "Online communication manager" in every RC/WG/TG but doesn't see the advantage of making it an "elected position", as may need to have some technical abilities or knowledge. This statement was seconded on the chat by Debra Davidson and other attendees mention that the person should be appointed.
- On chat, Afe Adogame (RC22) commented that on RC22, they are already making a proposal to include a graduate student or junior sociologist into their Board. Such a person with the necessary skills could handle the website and social media concerns.
- On chat, Robert van Krieken (RC17) wrote: "For me, it's a matter of recognizing the work involved here, one way or another. It could be a distinct position on the Board, or simply a recognized part of another position (Newsletter Editor, Secretary, etc), or as some people are suggesting, someone appointed by, but not on the Board. However, I have to say that given how important the role is, it would seem appropriate for that person's contribution to be formally acknowledged via membership of the Board".

- Geoffrey Pleyers clarifies that the "Online communication manager" position is a suggestion that would be implemented at the XX ISA World Congress. If the position should be elected or pointed is up to each RC/WG/TG.
- Sandra Torres (RC11) raised a discussion about **RC/WG/TG structure**. In her experience, At the moment, the RCs are being run as 50+ mini organizations within the ISA umbrella. And this creates a very chaotic way of socializing members.
 - Geoffrey Pleyers recall that this is the first time he listened to a proposal in favor of more homogeneity among the RCs and stronger coordination of their rules by the ISA. Izabela Barlinksa also made some historical reviews about how RCs used to ask for autonomy and little or no ISA intervention.
 - On chat, Allison Marie Loconto (ISA EC) mentioned that “perhaps it would be very helpful to have this contact person from the EC to work with a group from the RCs to discuss this issue of RC statutes oversight further and to make proposals for harmonization, etc”. Geoffrey Pleyers reminds us that this is what Iroshi Ishida has done in the last 4 years during which he has brought efficient and insightful help to different RCs that requested it.
 - Aaron Pitluck (RC02) mentioned that he considers that “Each RC election should be run according to that RC's bylaws. And the ISA requires that those RC bylaws are publicized. For example, at RC02, we have our bylaws on the ISA website (and our own website). So, you can tell your members: please read our bylaws to see how we do elections”.
 - Eugenia Longo (RC30) shares on chat that “in RC30 we share practices at any event. I feel it's healthy to have a balance between some general rules and RC autonomy and practices reflecting RC’s culture and identity”.
- A call for volunteers for the training of newly elected RC/WG/TG officers in Melbourne. If interested in sharing your experience, send an email to Geoffrey Pleyers before March the 31st,2023.

4. ISA Elections for the 2023-2027 Executive Committee

- All Rules & information about the nomination and election process are available in the ISA website: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/election-of-the-isa-executive-committee>
- The election has been held during the World Congress by delegates from Research Council & National Associations. The day after, Research Council meet again to elect eight delegates for the Executive Committee. Then, they organize different commissions.
- The RC delegates will elect their representatives. This is the time to make the RC/WG/TG’s voices not only heard by the Executive Committee but part by the ExCom. The application by nominations process is open until January 31st, 2023.
- Geoffrey Pleyers reminds us that the Nominating Committee was elected one year ago, with 5 members, and thank them for their labor.
 - Research Council Nominating Committee: Stephanie CASSILDE, Belgium,; Isabel DA COSTA, France, RC10; Liana DAHER, Italy, RC48; Melanie HEATH, Canada, & Habibul KHONDKER, RC09. Alternate: Helma LUTZ, Germany, RC05

- Habibul Khondker (RC09) prompts that he is one of the Nominating Committee members and asks about their responsibilities before the election. Izabela Barlinska pointed out the Nominating Committee responsibilities, described in the statutes.

5. **Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)**, recently signed by the ISA.

Elina Oinas (ISA EC member) was not available for a report and information on this issue. Sari Hanafi states the importance of the declaration and the discussion on the Executive Committee in order to sign it. Breno Bringel (RC47) pointed out that we can also sign individually the DORA.

6. **New collaborations with the UN: Invitation to the RC/WG/TG to contribute to UN Special Reports**

Geoffrey Pleyers, with Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights → <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-poverty/olivier-de-schutter>

Together with Olivier de Schutter, we are working on a process allowing new collaborations for RC/WG/TG on UN thematic reports. The formula will be implemented and tested with a report on the role of unions and workers' alliances in the struggle against poverty, with a focus on contributions from the Global South.

If you are interested in participating in the UN Special Reports with Olivier de Schutter, send an email to Geoffrey Pleyers.

7. **ISA Social media.** Cecilia Delgado Molina, ISA Social Media Manager shares a short balance of activities & concerns about social media platforms.

- There was a first meeting with ISA RC/TG/WG social media managers & newsletter editors with the assistance of 29 colleagues, representing 20 ISA RC/TG/WG. Three RC/WG/TG presidents also took part in this meeting (RC13, RC29, and TG10) as well as Jan Fritz, a member of the ISA Executive Committee and Research Coordination Committee. The minute of this meeting was sent.
- RC/TG/WG are different in their way of working, their size, and their priorities. They also have different needs and expectations in social media. Our aim is not to homogenize the RCs' use of social media but to support them in their project and uses of social media and foster a space where they may share good practices.
- It is not mandatory for RC/WG/TG to have any kind of social media. Each ISA RC/TG/WG should decide which communications channels to use (a website, a mailing list, and/or social media) and, if this is the case, which social media will use.
- Given our limited capacity, ISA will concentrate on three social media: Twitter, Facebook, and, since recently, Instagram. It does not prevent RC/TG/WG from using other social media platforms, notably based on the preferences or styles of their members, or social media that are more relevant in the regions where many members are based.

- Cecilia starts to prepare an “Ideas & good practices compendium with ISA RC/TG/WG shared experience on social media use”, with the experiences shared at the meeting. Also, we ask the RC’s to share any experience, idea, or tool (software, App, webpage, etc.) that already helps you manage your social media or Newsletter, as well as Concerns & questions. But in the mid-time, many of these strategies and tools became obsolete because we are experiencing major changes in the business models of social networks. Some comments & observations on this and the use of alternative and non-commercial social media platforms -free software- were made.
- At this stage, the ISA cannot start to use Mastodon as a social media network, but as Geoffrey replied at the SMM meeting, RC/TG/WG that want to develop their presence on these platforms are welcome to do so. However, if a significant number of RC/WG/TG develop a solid presence on an alternative media platform, the ISA may join the platform too.
- This is changing the possibilities that we have; it also requires us to change some practices and to be vigilant to make informed decisions regarding the changes that will continue to happen. These changes do not make our communication on social networks irrelevant, but they do require adaptations. We will be updating this information to share with SMM before our next meeting scheduled for February 11.
- We have regular campaigns on ISA journals & on ISA accounts. We are also developing campaigns on some UN World Days to recommend papers and research topics, but also to disseminate RC’s information. For example, on RC31 Sociology of Migration on December 18th, International Migrants Day. If any RC/TG/WG has any suggestion to engage with some international day or any special/historical data, please contact Cecilia.

8. Closing

- In our next meeting, we will discuss Equity, Diversity & Inclusion in the RC/WG/TG and in the ISA and the meeting with the new editor of Global Dialogue, Breno Bringel.
- Finally, and responding to a chat comment, some points were made about the ISA position regarding Ukraine and Russian Federation. Sari Hanafi explained that the Executive Committee decided to suspend the Russian Federation until the end of the war. Individual Russian Sociologists remain very welcome to take an active part in ISA activities and meetings.
- For any comments or suggestions, don’t hesitate to send an e-mail to Geoffrey.Pleyers@uclouvain.be
- Please share your good practices and good ideas on the Research Council mailing-list isa-researchcouncil2021@listes.uclouvain.be