



Sociology
of Migration

RC-31 Newsletter, Spring 2023

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From the president:

The news media in the UK and the USA suggest that the global economy is currently headed towards recession. When recessions hit, voters often lash out, seeking scapegoats to blame for their suffering. All too often, ideological figures (typically backed by various types of 'think tanks') respond by presenting immigrants in this frame.

So, it would be unsurprising if we see a sharp rise in xenophobic discourse in the coming months. (In many places, this increase will come on top of an already high level.) In some instances anti-immigrant ideas will likely come from ostensibly 'responsible' political actors claiming that they are only acting in the 'national interest'.

Most migration scholars know that in general immigrants do not undermine the economic well-being of non-immigrants. (That latter term has become a useful alternative to 'natives', a word that arguably has unwarranted implications of primacy.) All the same, the questions in play are more commonly addressed by economists. So, I will offer a brief reminder of some key points that might be useful in rebutting the sort of populist claims that typically get rolled out in pursuit of an anti-immigration agenda.

- Claim: immigrants take 'our' jobs and depress wages.
 - Rebuttal: as workers, immigrants are typically complementary rather than competitive with non-immigrants. They take jobs that non-immigrants reject, or jobs for which there are simply

insufficient numbers of non-immigrants. They can thus ‘unblock’ investment projects by alleviating labour-supply bottlenecks in specific job sectors, facilitating employment for workers in other job sectors. Where immigrant workers *are* competitive with non-immigrants, the downward effect on wages is generally very small; this effect could be addressed via tax & benefit policies (a more rational response than immigration restrictions per se).

- Claim: immigrants are a drain on public resources.
 - Rebuttal: especially by virtue of being younger (on average), immigrants provide a net fiscal benefit, supporting the viability of welfare systems (particularly in ageing societies). Immigrants tend to be more entrepreneurial and willing to take risks and are less likely to be unemployed long-term. Insofar as they do draw on public resources (e.g. school places), they are doing so in the context of making contributions (via taxes) to those resources as well.
- Claim: immigration inhibits productivity gains and long-term economic growth.
 - Rebuttal: key compositional factors tend to work in the other direction. Immigrants often have higher levels of educational attainment than non-immigrants (on average). Even where immigrants themselves have lower skill levels, their labour supply facilitates the advancement of non-immigrants into higher-skilled (& more productive) employment. In addition, immigration is often followed by increased exports directed towards the countries the immigrants come from.

These are of course very broad assertions. They might not apply in every instance/place. Still, they merit attention whenever we see ideological appeals to ‘common sense’ about the (allegedly negative) economic impact of immigration.

At an early stage in my own research career, I had a poor understanding of these issues. It just made sense to me that having a large pool of immigrant workers led to a degraded economic capacity (‘masses of cheap labour’ vs. ‘investment in increased productivity’). My PhD dissertation essentially took this idea for granted. It took me a long time to absorb and appreciate the relevant evidence produced by economists.

The strength of sociological research on these topics has more to do with demonstrating that it is much more ‘productive’ to refrain from demonising immigrants – to seek instead to foster belonging and inclusion. From a trip to Italy a few years ago, I recall seeing city public squares containing sizeable numbers of immigrants (from Africa, it would seem) who spent entire days doing very little. Charitable organizations provided food and shelter – but they could do little to address the waste of economic/productive capability. Even the IMF recognises that racism is expensive.

But economic research gives us a good basis for concluding that immigration itself is *not* ‘expensive’ (in the sense that it imposes costs on non-immigrants). On the contrary. In the context of an impending recession, attempts to exclude immigrants (prevention of arrival, and demonisation of those already present) would surely make things worse, not better.

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MEMBERS' NEW BOOKS

1. Zhou, Min and Hasan Mahmud (2003) *Beyond Economic Migration: Social, Historical, and Political in US Migration*, New York University Press
<https://nyupress.org/9781479818556/beyond-economic-migration/>

This edited book offers a critique of the economic model of immigration. Most understandings of migration to the US focus on two primary factors. Either there was trouble in the home country, such as political unrest or famine, that pushed people out, or there was a general yearning for “a better life” or “more opportunity,” often conceptualized as the American Dream.

Although many contemporary migrants in the United States have been driven by economic interests, the processes of immigration and integration are shaped also by the intersection of a range of noneconomic factors in both sending and receiving countries. The contributors to *Beyond Economic Migration* offer a nuanced look at a range of issues affecting motives to migrate and outcomes of integration, including US immigration policy and the visa system, labor market incorporation, employment precarity, identity and belonging, and transnationalism relating to female migrants, student migrants, and temporary foreign workers.

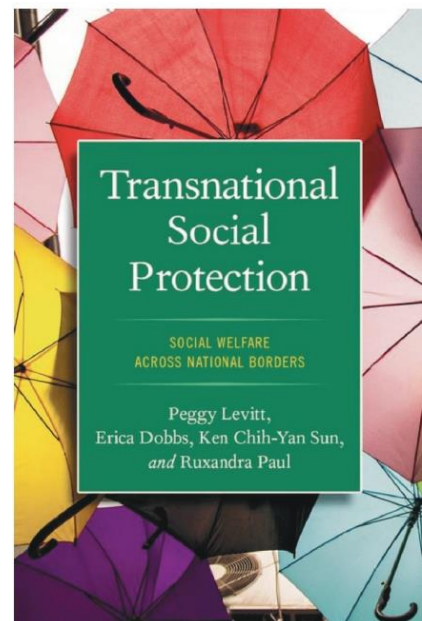


Beyond Economic Migration argues that, for the dream of fair and equitable migration to be realized, analyses of cross-border movements, resettlement, and integration must pay attention to how migrants' individual attributes interact with institutional mechanisms and social processes.

2. Levitt, Peggy, Erica Dobbs, Ken Chih-Yan Sun, and Ruxandra Paul. 2023. *Transnational Social Protection: Social Welfare Across Borders*. Oxford University Press.

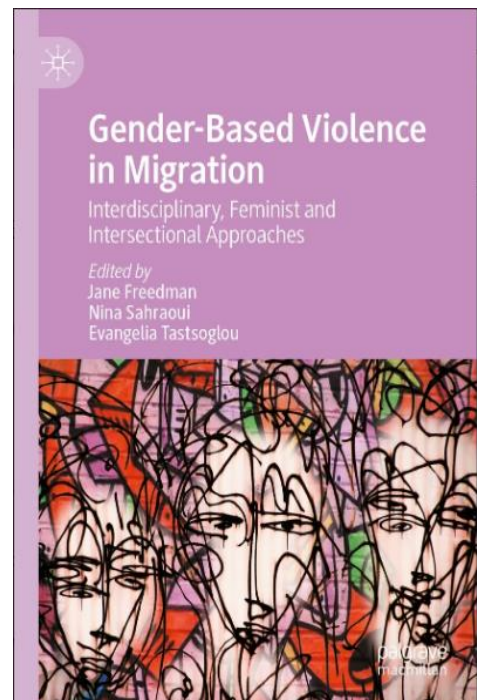
The idea that social rights are something we are eligible for based on where we live or where we are citizens is out-of-date. In *Transnational Social Protection*, Peggy Levitt, Erica Dobbs, Ken Chih-Yan Sun, and Ruxandra Paul consider what happens to social welfare when more and more people live, work, study, and retire outside their countries of citizenship and, therefore, are no longer entitled to state-sponsored health, education, and elder care.

The concept of resource environment to capture how migrants and their families piece together packages of protections from multiple sources in multiple settings, although their ability to do so varies unequally by race, class and citizenship status. This new transnational social protection regime complements, supplements, or, in some cases, substitutes for traditional national social welfare systems. It redistributes inequalities rather than ameliorating them because accessing transnational social protection for some happens at the expense of protection for others.



3. Freedman, Jane, Nina Sahraoui and Evangelia Tastsoglou (2022) *Gender-Based Violence in Migration: Interdisciplinary, Feminist and Intersectional Approaches*. Palgrave-Macmillan <https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-07929-0>

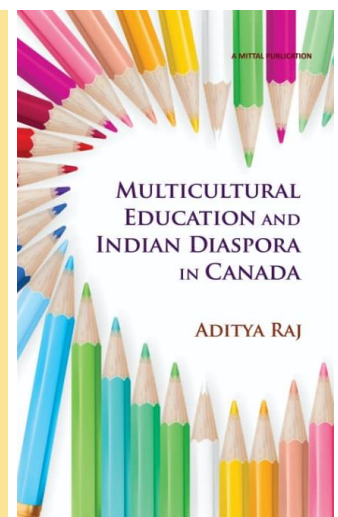
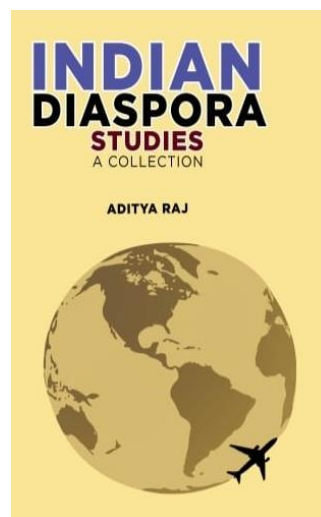
With contributions from a diverse array of international scholars, this edited volume offers a renewed understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) by examining its social and political dimensions in migration contexts. This book engages micro, meso, and macro levels of analysis by foregrounding a conceptualization of GBV that addresses both its interpersonal and structural causes. Chapters explore how GBV frameworks and migration management intersect, bringing to the forefront the specific inequalities these intersections produce for migrant women. Drawing upon several disciplines, the authors engage in co-writing a critical engagement which proposes an original understanding of how the concepts of intersectionality, vulnerability and precarity speak to each other from a feminist perspective. This volume will be of interest to scholars/researchers and policymakers in Gender Studies, Migration and Refugee Studies, Sociology, Political Science, Trauma Studies, Human Rights and Socio-Legal Studies.



4. Raj, Aditya (2023) *Indian Diaspora Studies: A Collection* New Delhi: Serials Publications http://serialspublications.in/books/index.php?route=product/product&filter_tag=&page=8&limit=75&product_id=3949

5. Raj, Aditya (2023) *Multicultural Education and Indian Diaspora in Canada*. New Delhi: Mittal Publications. <https://mittalbooks.com/products/multicultural-education-and-indian-diaspora-in-canda-by-aditya-raj>

Dr. Aditya Raj has recently published two books titled "Indian Diaspora Studies: A Collection" and "Multicultural Education and Indian Diaspora in Canada". The former book has selectively chosen articles of the author from his international publications to situate the growing strength of the Indian diaspora today. Dr. Raj is an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology, Patna and his later book situates the importance of multiculturalism amidst the growing force of the global Indian diaspora. It was long overdue and also draws from Dr. Aditya's academic research and teaching at McGill University. The Indian diaspora is growing in size and strength. The missing link in diaspora studies is still education although migration for education has been explored. This book examines how the Canadian multicultural education provides a unique milieu that may be useful for Indian diaspora. This work will especially benefit young scholars in migration and diaspora studies, educational studies, and those in international relations- both in India and in Canada.

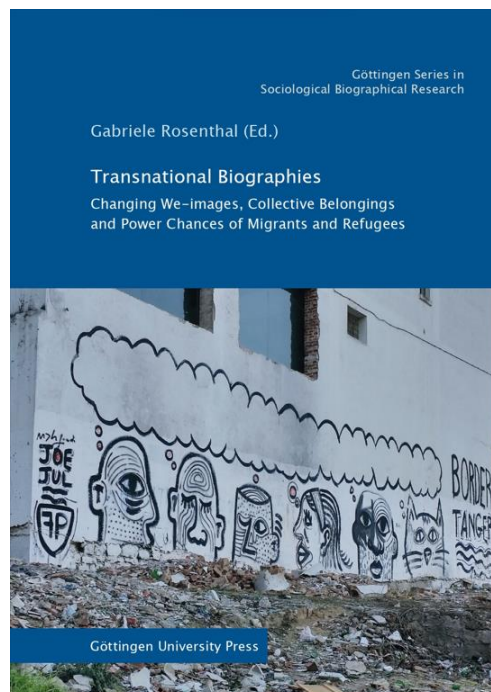


6. Rosenthal, Gabriele (2022) *Transnational Biographies. Changing We-images, Collective Belongings and Power Chances of Migrants and Refugees*. Göttingen: Göttingen University Press / Göttingen Series in Sociological Biographical Research; 9.

<https://www.univerlag.uni-goettingen.de/handle/3/isbn-978-3-86395-571-7>

This book is the result of research and fieldwork carried out between 2017 and 2022 in the context of three projects funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The two related projects “Biographies of migrants from Syria and West Africa in Brazil and in Germany” and “The social construction of border zones: A comparison of two geopolitical cases” involved research on migrants in different parts of the world. For another project, “Dynamic figurations of refugees, migrants, and longtime residents in Jordan since 1946”, field research was carried out in Greater Amman. We are deeply grateful to the many people who were willing to be interviewed and to give us insights into their lives and their personal histories. Without their support, our research and this book would not have been possible. Later on, some of them also worked for us as field assistants. We owe them a great debt of gratitude. For reasons of data protection, we cannot mention them, or any other interviewees, by name. All names, and certain personal data, of the people we interviewed, those who worked for us, and their relatives

and friends, have been changed in order to ensure that they cannot be identified. We would also like to express our gratitude to all those colleagues who, in addition to the authors, commented on and proofread the articles in this volume. First of all, our thanks go to Artur Bogner for supporting us with his regional and expert knowledge during all phases of the research, and for his critical comments on the various chapters. Our sincere thanks also go to Friederike von Ass, Isabella Enzler, Sarah Könecke, Miriam Schäfer, Vasiliki Vourvachaki and Markus Widmann for their valuable assistance with correcting and finalizing the manuscript. We are also very grateful to Ruth Schubert for her painstaking translations and for pointing out inconsistencies or inaccuracies in our use of the English language. Although each chapter of this volume appears under the name of the main author or authors, both the analysis and interpretation of empirical findings and the formulation of theoretical syntheses are the result of discussions by the teams of the respective research projects.



RECENT ARTICLES BY MEMBERS

Abdellatif, S., Trabelsi, S., & Bedidi, Z. O. (2022). From the Stands to the Arena of Social Movements: Post-2011 Football Terrace Chants in Tunisia. *Cosmopolitan Civil Societies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, 14(1), 63-82.

<https://search.informit.org/doi/10.3316/informit.514804695329126>

Ambrosetti, E., Bettin, G., Cela, E., & Paparusso, A. (2022). Subjective well-being and school outcomes among children of immigrants and natives in Italy. *Population, Space and Place*, e39.

Antje Missbach and Wayne Palmer. 2022. Facilitated but unauthorised return: the role of smugglers in return migration and clandestine border crossings between Malaysia and Indonesia. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/1369183X.2022.2156329

Auer, Daniel, Didier Ruedin, and Eva Van Belle. 2023. 'No Sign of Increased Ethnic Discrimination during a Crisis: Evidence from the Covid-19 Pandemic'. *Socio-Economic Review*, January. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ser/mwac069>.

Beyond Economics: the Family, Belonging and Remittances among the Bangladeshi Migrants in Los Angeles, *International Migration* (Open access link - <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/imig.12809>)

Care visits: obligations, opportunities and constraints for Vietnamese grandparent visitors in Australia, available at <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2115628>

Choi, S.Y.P. 2022. Global Multiple Migration: Class-Based Mobility Capital of Elite Chinese Gay Men. *Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00380385211073237>

E. Tastsoglou and S. Nourpanah, "Labor Transformations in the Academy under Covid-19 through the Lens of Intersectional Feminism. A Canadian Duoethnography," (2022) *Global Feminist Autoethnographies during Covid-19*, ed. by M. Heath, A. Darkwah, J. Beoku-Betts and B. Purkayastha, Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003223832>

Heidbrink, L., & Statz, M. (2021). Youth Circulations: Tracing the Real and Imagined Circulations of Global Youth. *Children and Youth as Subjects, Objects, Agents: Innovative Approaches to Research Across Space and Time*, 245-259. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-63632-6_15

Lacroix, Julie, Didier Ruedin, and Eva Zschirnt. 2022. 'Discrimination Driven by Variation in Local Conservatism: Evidence from a Nationwide Field Experiment'. *European Sociological Review Online First*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/esr/jcac051>.

Lifecourse Transitions: How ICTS Support Older Migrants' Adaptation to Transnational Lives, available at <https://www.cogitatiopress.com/socialinclusion/article/view/5735>

Mahmud, H. (2020). From individual motivations to social determinants: Towards a sociology of migrants' remittances. *International Social Science Journal*, 70(237-238), 175-188. <https://doi.org/10.1111/issj.12247>

Missbach, A., & Palmer, W. (2022). Facilitated but unauthorised return: the role of smugglers in return migration and clandestine border crossings between Malaysia and Indonesia. *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, 1-18. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369183X.2022.2156329>

Palmer, W., & Piper, N. (2022). Regulatory (Mal) integration: Its implications for migrant workers' ability to access employment rights in Indonesia. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*, 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15562948.2022.2142349>

Pérez-Soria, Judith (2022). "Racismo y vida cotidiana: experiencias de migrantes mexicanos en California", *Norteamérica*, revista académica del CISAN-UNAM, año 17, número 1, enero-junio de 2022. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22201/cisan.24487228e.2022.1.499>

Pérez-Soria, Judith y Cecilia Cadena Inostroza (2022). “Ciudadanía y movilidad humana: los derechos de las personas más allá de la pertenencia al Estado nación”, *Revista Mexicana de Ciencias Políticas y Sociales*, 246, pp. 183-204.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.22201/fcpys.2448492xe.2022.246.75100>

Piccoli, Lorenzo, Jelena Dzankic, Didier Ruedin, and Timothy Jacobs-Owen. 2022. ‘Restricting Human Movement during the COVID-19 Pandemic: New Research Avenues in the Study of Mobility, Migration, and Citizenship’. *International Migration Review*.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/01979183221118907>

Quasinowski, B et al. (2023). "Hearts in their hands – Physicians’ gestures embodying globalized shared professional knowledge around the world." *Sociology of Health & Illness*. online first:

<https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9566.13639>

Ruji Auethavornpipat and Wayne Palmer. 2022. Indonesia’s Promotion of UN Migrant Protection Norms in ASEAN. *Pacific Affairs*. 95(1): 75-92.

Sallie Yea, Christina Stringer and Wayne Palmer. 2023. Funnels of Unfreedom: Time-Spaces of Recruitment and (Im)Mobility in the Trajectories of Trafficked Migrant Workers. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*. 113(1): 291-306.

Walker, S. (2023) ‘The (unaccompanied) minor as mobility: the tactics of young African migrants in Italy to contest spatio-temporal control’, *Children’s Geographies*

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14733285.2023.2195045>

Walker, S. (2023). Weathering the Ill Wind: The Affective and Embodied Dimensions of Anti-Immigrant Political Discourses on Young African Men in Italy. *Antipode*, 55(1), 307-322.

<https://doi.org/10.1111/anti.12873>

Walker, S., & Gunaratnam, Y. (2021). Young, unauthorised and Black: African unaccompanied minors and becoming an adult in Italy. *Journal of Sociology*, 57(3), 690-706.

<https://doi.org/10.1177/1440783321993918>

Wayne Palmer and Carol Tan. 2022. I’m keeping my baby: Migrant domestic worker rights at the intersection of labour and immigration laws. *Trans: Trans-Regional and National Studies of Southeast Asia*. 10(2): 115-125.

Wayne Palmer and Nicola Piper. 2023. Regulatory (Mal)Integration: Its Implications for Migrant Workers’ Ability to Access Employment Rights in Indonesia. *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*. DOI: 10.1080/15562948.2022.2142349

Yea, S., Stringer, C., & Palmer, W. (2023). Funnels of unfreedom: Time-spaces of recruitment and (im) mobility in the trajectories of trafficked migrant fishers. *Annals of the American Association of Geographers*, 113(1), 291-306. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2022.2084016>



NOTEWORTHY AWARDS BY MEMBERS

The three literary awards of the Feathers and Social Anchors 2022 book fair were given to Vincent Meyer and Salvatore Stella, to Charline Olivier, and Laure Gombault. The Prize for Social Analysis was awarded to Vincent Meyer and Salvatore Stella for "Parentalité(s) et après?". The Story and Testimony Award was honoured to Charline Olivier for "La rencontre au cœur du métier d'assistant social" and the Social Novel Award given to Laure Gombault for "A drink with you".



OTHER ACTIVITIES

Dissertations:

Lisa Bonfert. Subjective Social Positions in Cross-Border Perspective. How do Perceptions of Social Position Evolve in the Context of Cross-Border Migration? Advisor: Thomas Faist, Bielefeld University.

Tobias Gehring. Discourses on refugees in Ugandan media. Homogenization and silencing in newspapers of Africa's primary refugee host country. Advisor: Thomas Faist, Bielefeld University.

Book Chapters:

"Adoption in the Maghreb: what about the "Tunisian exception"? won the " Social Analysis Award" in June 2022.

"L'adoption au Maghreb, Quid de l'exception tunisienne ?" in *Parentalité (s) et après?* Vincent Meyer et Salvatore Stella (Dir), Collection Empan, Editions ERES, September 2021. (In French)
<https://www.editions-eres.com/ouvrage/4787/parentalite-s-et-apres>

Requirements:

1. We're hiring a postdoc to research human migration and mobility. You have quantitative skills (p.ex. causal inference, survey experiments, big data, text-as-data), and you're hungry to develop your own research. Excellent French and English needed.

Un poste de Postdoctorant-e (100%, 24 mois). Deadline: 30 April 2023

Link:

http://www.unine.ch/files/live/sites/sfm/files/news/Annonce_Postdoc%20tournant%20MAPS%20SFM.pdf

2. The Department of Sociology at the University of Innsbruck is hiring an assistant professor in sociological research on migration from a national and international perspective: https://lfuonline.uibk.ac.at/public/karriereportal.details?asg_id_in=13340
This position might be interesting to some members of the RC 31 Sociology of Migration and we would be grateful for circulation among the section members.
The tenure track model enables a career from PostDoc to assistant professor to associate professor. For information on this career model please follow this link: <https://www.uibk.ac.at/forschung/qualifizierungsvereinbarung/index.html.en>
Attention: Applications are accepted until May 24, 2023.

Announcement:

Decentering knowledge in researching migration from the Global South

Date: Saturday 24 June, 2023

Time: 9:30 am to 4:30 pm (9:00 am - 12:30 pm: keynote speeches by three keynote speakers; 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm: lunch; 12:30 pm - 4:00 pm: HDR student and ECRs gathering and presentation/discussion about researching migration from the global south).

Venue: Mary Glowrey Building 420.2.80 (i.e., building 420, level 2, room 80) at 115 Victoria Road, Fitzroy, Victoria 3605

Keynote 1: Migration and (im)mobilities in the Global South (Speaker: Lan Anh Hoang, Associate Professor in Development Studies, Deputy Head of School (Teaching and Learning), School of Social and Political Sciences, Faculty of Arts, the university of Melbourne)

Keynote 2. Contesting the Uncontestable: Migration Research through Non-Western Concepts (Speaker: Xiaoying Qi, Associate Professor, School of Arts and the Research Centre for Social and Political Change, Australian Catholic University)

Keynote 3: Future research collaboration on Migration between the Global North and Global South: Lessons from the Past (Speaker: Professor S Irudaya Rajan, Chairperson, International Institute of Migration and Development (IIMAD))

Here is the link for registration to the event:

https://tasa.org.au/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=671860&module_id=551036&actr=4



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Visit the [RC-31 web site](#).

MEMBERSHIP dues are \$20 for a
four-year period: to join, visit the ISA
web site [here](#).

SUBMIT YOUR ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(Not only announcements – there is also
scope for longer pieces in the form of op-
eds, etc.)

Send submissions for the next issue to
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