RESEARCH COUNCIL MINUTE MEETING

May 19th, 2023

Agenda

This was the last meeting of this period’s regular online Research Council meetings. These meetings started in February 2021 and have become an important part of ISA life.

- XX World Congress in Melbourne (Sari Hanafi, Dan Woodman & Geoffrey Pleyers)
- Social media strategy at the Congress and beyond (Cecilia Delgado-Molina)
- RC internal elections (Aaron Piltuck, RC02 & Geoffrey Pleyers)
- Meet the new ISA editors - Global Dialogue (Breno Bringel) & International Sociology Journal (Gabriel Kessler)
- First report on a charter proposal on “Equity, Diversity & Inclusion” (Alice Abreu, RC23)
- Inequalities among ISA members when attending international events (Maria Eugenia Longo, RC30)
- Early report on the 2025 ISA Forum of Sociology (Allison Loconto & Geoffrey Pleyers).

Need your attention

- As asked in the meeting, deadlines for uploading presentations are now at the ISA website [here](#). Visit the webpage for updates, including details for Chairs.
  - In-Person Oral Presenters must upload their presentation slides to the Congress system in the Speaker Center by 12 June 2023. It will not be possible to present from your own computer. If you miss the deadline or need to change your slides after 12 June, you must bring a new presentation copy to upload onsite in the Speaker Ready Room the day before your presentation session.
- Research Council has a list of meetings and important activities during the Congress. Please put them in your agenda; they are included on the following page.
- When reporting your RC election results, a simple form must be filled in with the number of candidate votes.
- We encourage the RC/WG/TG and every participant to use their own social media to share news and tweets tagging the ISA accounts with the hashtag #ISAWCS23.
- The ISA website provides plenty of practical information about the congress, including on transportation from the airport ([here](#)), and local information weather, electrical connections, and others ([here](#)). Please read it and diffuse it to your RC/WG/TG members.
Research Council Agenda for #ISAWCS23

- **Research Council Meeting** - **Sunday, 25 June, 10:30 - 12:30**, Research Council. Business Meeting, Crown - M12 (Level 1) - *The meeting schedule may be slightly extended, depending on our agenda*. Main points on our agenda: share elements of RC activities report and good practices; Balance of the Research Council, preparing the congress.

- **ISA Elections (Three Meetings)** - It is important to send delegates well-informed about how the ISA works. The RCs will elect their representatives for the next four years.
  - **ISA Candidates Election Speeches** - **Monday 26 June, 21:00 - 23:00**, MCEC - Plenary 1
  - **Assembly of Councils. Elections of the ISA president and the vice presidents.** **Wednesday, 28 June, 21:00 - 23:00**, MCEC - 104 (Level 1).
  - **Research Council. Elections (8 delegates elected by the Research Committees).** **Thursday, 29 June, 21:00 - 23:00**, MCEC - 216 (Level 2).

- **Training session for newly elected RC/WG/TG officers**, **Friday 30 June, 17:30 - 19:20**, MCEC - 104 (Level 1).
  - The current VP of research (Geoffrey Pleyers) is in charge of this meeting; he will ensure the new VP of Research is fully involved.
  - Participants will get the main information about the ISA, Research Council, and the RCs.
  - Meet the current and future Executive Secretary and the new Executive Committee at this meeting. It will also allow some experienced RC presidents and treasurers/secretaries to pass their experience to colleagues leading the RCs over the next four years.

- **Professional Development Sessions Proposed by the Research Council** - *For the first time in a World Congress, the Research Council organizes professional development sessions.*
  - Getting Active with the United Nations, Jan Fritz (RC 46), **Monday 26 June, 19.30**, MCEC, Plenary 1.
  - Principles Supporting Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the ISA, Debra Davidson (RC 24), **Wednesday, 28 June, 19:30**, MCEC - Plenary 2.
  - Managing Everyday Life as a Research-Focused Academic, Sandra Torres (RC 11), **Friday 30 June, 19.30**, MCEC, Plenary 1.
  - Practicing Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in ISA RC, WG & TG, Tyna Uys (RC 46) & Laurence Larochelle (RC14), **Friday 30 June, 19.30**, MCEC - Plenary 2.
XX World Congress of Sociology

Geoffrey Pleyers, Research vice president, opened the meeting and welcomed the participants. Sari Hanafi, Dan Woodman & Izabela Barlinska explained some details about the XX World Congress and answered the participants’ questions.

Main Points

1. More than 3000 onsite participants & 1000 online participants will participate in the congress.
2. A limited number of participants have moved to online participation in the past few weeks.
3. Ensuring support to get a visa has been a priority for the Research Council.
4. The LOC and the ISA secretariat have provided help in these matters, and the secretariat has only been informed of a very limited number of cases of visa refusals (less than 10!), some of which for people who did not seem to have the intention to attend the congress. ISA Secretariat is taking note of those who report visa issues. If your RC/WG/TG has these cases, please report them.
5. Dan Woodman points to some challenges of a hybrid experience for a congress on this scale. A volunteer will be available in each conference room to support the chairs, and the computers will be already set up, connected, and ready with all needed to run the session. Note that participants won’t be able to connect their devices to the room’s computers and projectors. Internet access will be provided for all devices.
6. Sari Hanafi thanks the program coordinators for setting up great sessions. He also thanks TASA Executive Secretary and ISA Executive Secretary for organizing the Congress. It is a good idea to have someone responsible onsite & online for supporting each other in running, chairing, and a hybrid session.
7. Geoffrey Pleyers remembered the importance of thinking about good ways to welcome the new participants in your RC with some socializing events. RC/WG/TG leaders play a crucial role in making the participants, particularly the newcomers to the ISA, feel part of the adventure and ensure that a congress is much more than giving a 15-minute talk.
8. RC panels: One of the chairs has to be in the room (not virtual).
9. Several RCs (notably RC06, RC31, RC35, and RC55) ask for access to the business meeting for non-registrants. ISA Secretariat pointed out that it is impossible to open access for one meeting only, as the Congress develops on a specific platform and not only in Zoom.

Social media strategy at Congress and beyond.

- Geoffrey Pleyers thanks Cecilia’s work to re-activate ISA social media with a much stronger collaboration with the RCs, and share the news that a new ISA SMM is about to be hired. She will be fully operational for the congress.
- As this will be a hybrid event, we must make it visible online. We encourage the RC/WG/TG and every participant to use their social media to share news and tweets, tagging the ISA accounts with the hashtag #ISAWCS23.
- Questions on transportation from the airport arise. The importance of reviewing the ISA web page, where there is updated information on transport [here](#) and other local general information such as weather, electrical connections, and others ([here](#)), was recalled.
Main Points

1. This commission was chaired by Aaron Pitluck (RC02) and composed by David Dueñas Cid (TG10), Marcel Fournier (RC08), Helma Lutz (RC05), and Cecilia Delgado-Molina (ISA secretariat, in support of the committee).

2. Aaron Pitluck (RC02) remembered the January Research Council meeting debate on RC/WG/TG internal elections and the desire to collect good practices and experience among RC/WG/TG. He explains the commission’s functioning (see the Report for detailed information) and the fact that they don’t find any surprises. He also pointed out the heterogeneity of different structures on RC/WG/TG.

3. The Commission believes there is no single optimal strategy for running internal elections. They recommend that RC/WG/TGs use the report to learn about others’ experiences.

4. The Commission also indicates that the request for software provided by ISA to organize online elections needs more time to be explored and implemented, and they recommend that the next Research Council explore the idea at an early stage.

5. Geoffrey thanks the members of this commission for the report and for showing how RCs could work together. He underlines two important recommendations by the commission: “that RC/WG/TGs that are implementing online voting for the first time should do so with careful planning, and with a long window for nominations and elections to ensure that there is sufficient time to resolve any technical difficulties that may arise,” and “that RC/WG/TG Boards revisit their bylaws or statutes and consider revising them to enable inclusive, transparent, and fair elections.”

6. Geoffrey reminds us that the ad hoc commission report should not be considered as an incentive to hold elections online. Many RCs maintain on-site elections, which is probably the best way to integrate newcomers and colleagues that we get to know at the Congress and to impulse a collective project for the RC. An on-site process allows you to get to know the person beyond the candidate and the scholar, as you will spend some days together at the congress before the elections and create a collective dynamic among the future RC/WG/TG officers.

General information about RC/WG/TG internal elections

- When reporting RC/WG/TG election results, a simple form must be filled in with the number of candidate votes. This form also remembers that:
  - RC/WG/TG president may not stand for more than two consecutive terms.
  - The invitation for the RC/WG/TG to elect or nominate an “online media coordinator” that will be in touch with the ISA social media manager, receive some training, and be included in the RC social media manager mailing list.
Main Points

David Strecker’s (RC35) point on the limitation to two mandates, as discussed in the meeting on January 8, 2023. Geoffrey Pleyers replies that the current rule about the limitations to two mandates as RC president has been adopted by representatives of the RC in the executive committees. The Research Council may contest this rule and is entitled to propose a new rule to the EC by a vote.

1. Geoffrey reminds some reasons to maintain this limitation: Coordinating a group of international scholars requires time, energy, and creative initiative. Eight years is a very long period to maintain the level of motivation and energy in such a project, which is why many RC are favorable to a limit to one single term. Extending it to 3 terms (12 years) increases the risk of building a group around one person rather than on a research field and with a collective dynamic. He asks every RC president and board member who is considering running for a third consecutive mandate to consider these four questions:
   a. What is the big and innovative project I could not develop in 8 years for which I need four extra years?
   b. Do I need to be president of this RC/WG/TG to develop this project? There are very few projects you can’t develop as a board member of an RC and for which you really need to be president.
   c. Is it the best solution for my RC for me to stand for 12 years as president?
   d. Should I contribute to the ISA in a different way?

2. The experience and knowledge acquired as president of an RC/WG/TG are very valuable for the ISA. It has been important to have former RC presidents on the ISA executive committee during this term. Several current presidents are candidates for the next Executive committee. Former RC presidents may contribute to the ISA in many other ways, including joining an ad-hoc Research Council commission, organizing panels, pre-conferences, or mid-term conferences for their RC, or supporting another ISA project.

3. Izabela Barlinksa, Executive Secretary, remembers Statutes and previous Executive Committee decisions on this matter. Bula Bhadra (RC53) & Markus Schulz (RC07) recalls the importance of open and transparent elections and democracy on the RC/WG & TG.

4. David Strecker, Pierre Guibentif, Markus Schulz, and Robert van Krieken continued discussing elections, limited terms as RC/WH/TG President, and statutes on the chat.
Main Points

New ISA Editors

1. As the new editor of **Global Dialogue (GD)**, Breno Bringel reflects on GD’s history and the need to consolidate and expand. He also shares some statistics on GD scope, addresses the challenges faced, and makes some proposals and an invitation for the RCs:
   a. To generate agreements with internationally relevant digital projects to republish some GD texts for wider audiences (example: Open Movements – RC47 with Open Democracy).
   b. To engage ISA RCs more consistently in GD, with a new section of thematic global debates coordinated by RCs. In each issue, RC/WG/TG can act as guest editor and coordinate this section with 5-6 short articles from different places in the world on its topic of expertise.
   c. They would open a call for proposals and make a timeline. But as of now, if there are any RCs interested, contact Breno Bringel directly.

2. Gabriel Kessler, as one of the new editors of the ISA journal **International Sociology** (with Juan Piovani), shares the importance of new collaborations with the RCs ..., and they present two initiatives to enhance the RC/WG/TG direct participation in the Journal.
   a. Monographs
   b. New Dossier Section

**Alice Abreu (RC23) presents the first “Equity, Diversity & Inclusion” (EDI) Task Force report.**

1. The EDI Task Force is coordinated by Debra Davidson, and its members are Alice Abreu, Christiana Constantopoulou, Melanie Heath, Hannah Holleman, Lara Maestripieri, Mario Mayong Aguja, Karim Murji, Ignacio Rubi, Rhoda Reddock, Tina Uys, and Lucie Vidovičová, who wish to recognize the work of the coordinator.

2. This is the first report and is open to discussion. Part of the EDI task force mission was to collect good practices that some RCs want to share so that others may build on these experiences. RC/TG/WG are the entrance door to the ISA for new members and are hence the key level to support EDI in the ISA. Hence, a professional development panel will be dedicated to practices for EDI in the RC/WG/TG during the World Congress.

3. Geoffrey Pleyers thanks and congratulates the task force for this very important work and for coming up with important proposals that need to be implemented in the ISA. He asks the RC/WG/TG to send their opinion on the charter proposals to the EDI task force coordinator. He mentions that RC/WG/TG have different practices and positions on some of the proposals, such as the requirement to consider diversity and inclusion when allocating an award.

4. Geoffrey points out that, while much remains to be done, the ISA has taken concrete steps towards better inclusion of sociologists from different backgrounds. In addition to two sessions dedicated to the EDI and run by this Research Council task force, the program committee has added a plenary session dedicated to Australian and New Zealand indigenous sociologists.
Main Points

1. Maria Eugenia Longo (RC30) asks for a moment in the agenda to reflect on inequalities among ISA members when attending international events and make some proposals on this matter. Some issues need to be addressed in decisions for the next venues:
   a. Visa: Getting a visa to Australia hasn’t been easy for all the participants. This should be a point to decide on other venues.
   b. Affordable housing during ISA events.
   c. Maria Eugenia asks for the possibility of returning the registration fees to those who were denied a visa. RC30 thinks we must return registration.
   d. The open debate on hybrid panels. They are costly, but it eases the participation from colleagues from the global south.
   e. The ISA may revise the list of A, B & C countries when temporary crises hit a country, as in Argentina.
   f. We also have to bear in mind that it is not easy for many colleagues in the north to pay for the congress and membership.

2. Geoffrey Pleyers remembered that
   a. A record number of grants / free registration have been allocated for this World Congress. More grants were available, but many RCs haven’t asked for the grants they were entitled.
   b. Affordable housing was made a major criterion in selecting the next congress and forum venues. 1,000 student rooms will be available for participants in the 2027 congress in South Korea.
   c. It should also be noted that the ISA membership is lower than most similar social sciences associations and even many national associations.
   d. An additional category for “precarious researchers” (e.g., post-doctoral researchers with no or small funding) may be created.

An early report on the 2025 ISA Forum of Sociology
Allison Loconto chairs the commission to select the venue of the next Forum, of which Elina Oinas and Jan Fritz are members. The three candidates that are considered are Colombia, Morocco, and Portugal. Consultations continue.