

# RC55

NEWSLETTER

## Social Indicator Matters

International Sociological Association (ISA)

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### 1. Comparing Welfare regimes typologies in Latin America: a rule of three?

#### **Comparing Welfare regimes typologies in Latin America: a rule of three?**

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Sociology of international comparison of social policies have been deeply influenced by the works of Gosta Esping Andersen (1990;1999) and his typology of welfare regimes. Without going into a deep revision on his work, my focus is on the methodology which includes both

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## The Research Committee 55-Social Indicators of International Sociological Association

the research of historical and institutional backgrounds of each country, as well as considering a few social indicators which support the grouping exercise. In Latin American productions, there has been many articles and research which tried to emulate this methodology, with the starting point, that the original typology of Gosta Esping Andersen cannot be applied to Latin-American reality.

Whether Latin America or any other region, any exercise on building these typologies must consider empirical data, but in the form of national averages which may hide internal regional disparities (Dogan, 2004). Additionally, Dogan (2004) and other authors (Cough, 2004; Barrantes, 2011) point out differences in quality between the measurements of more developed countries compared to other emerging or less developed countries. In this sense, comparisons within the same region of Latin America will be privileged in this essay. It would be organized throughout three observations.

The first observation is that the typologies proposed by authors like Filgueira (1998;2007), Martínez Franzoni (2008) and others tend to be hierarchical, in the sense that at they ordered from the most efficient or desirable to the most exclusive. Somehow, they all take it from Esping Andersen original work (see Blofield et al, 2008). Cough (2004) analyzes the application of welfare regime models combining indicators on spending and results in terms of indicators of health, education and poverty gaps. His selection of countries includes a wide range in all regions; when it comes to developing countries, he proposes two grouping categories: more effective informal and less effective informal security regimes, placing some Latin American countries in them. Filgueira and others, from a different starting point, also consider that Latin American welfare regimes are, somehow, incomplete or less developed.

The second observation has to do with the techniques employed and how they are used to support their typologies. Initial works such as those from Mesa Lago (1978) and Filgueira(1998) tend to describe the basic principles on each typology and then, to show that some social indicators tend to show similar values, considering that as an outcome of those orientations. Later, Martínez Franzoni (2008) and Barba Solano (2021), who had originally followed the same path, relied on cluster analysis. Hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) and k-means cluster analysis (KCA) are the most used techniques to point out similarities and differences in the clusters. Using ECLAC database of social indicators, Molina Derteano (2019) used a k-means cluster analysis in order to a) identify three clusters of Latin American countries to see if they matched with Filgueira's original typology and b) to identify which are the social indicators which have the greatest discriminatory potential. Cluster analysis

offers a better empirical and analytical support.

The following table shows a comparison among the different authors, considering that most of them show a three-level hierarchy organizational structure except for Cough and Martínez Franzoni. The former focus on informality, so I do not place his typology for developing world in the highest category; the latter proposed a four-category model, so I placed familiarist models in the lowest level.

Table 1. Comparison of welfare regimes from a hierarchy order.

Hierarchical order	Author				
	Filgueira	Barba Solano <sup>1</sup>	Martínez Franzoni	Cough	Molina Derteano
Highest	Universal stratified regimes	Universalist social cohesion	State-Protectionist	-	Tendency to universalism
Medium	Dual Regime	Liberal social cohesion	Productivist-informal	More effective informal security regimes	In transition
Lowest	Exclusive regimes	Conservative social cohesion of familiarism and social segmentation	Familiarist and Highly Familiarist	Less effective informal security regimes	Exclusive regimes

Source: Own elaborations in base to Cough (2004); Filgueira (1998); Martínez Franzoni (2008) Barba Solano (2007;2014); Molina Derteano (2019).

When it comes to the countries to be considered in each of this classification, there are some coincidences and discrepancies, based on the availability and source of information, the moment of publication and some other factors. Inside the highest forms of welfare regimes: Argentina, Chile and Uruguay are always present. Countries like Mexico, Brazil and Costa

<sup>1</sup> Barba Solano (2021) follows the same typology than Filgueira; however, I tried to highlight his work in terms of referring to the concept of social cohesion, which is complementary to it.

Rica are sometimes included. Within lowest forms of welfare regimes, most countries of Central America are pointed out; sometimes Ecuador, Bolivia and even Costa Rica may fall into this classification. Now, there are more discrepancies in the middle grouping, mainly because this 'grey area' is relatively more sensitive to the moment of measurement than the others. In response to that, my own exercise tried to see the evolution in a period to try to tackle down this feature. This is the third observation.

To sum up, these three observations intend to open the debate towards the international comparison in Latin America considering a hierarchical order supported by the use of cluster analysis techniques. Cluster analysis offers a strong support for grouping countries and subject them to a criterion from the most developed to the less developed or efficient regime. It should also be noted that in the works of Molina Derteano (2019); Barba Solano (2021), Martinez Franzoni (2021) some of the grouping showed similar results to those more intuitive works of Filgueira. Still, the question remains whether using a typology of three groups is the most efficient way following any statistical test or is it a continuation of a theoretical perspective which could be traced back to Filgueira, or even, to Esping Andersen himself.

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## **2. Report on the RC55 Pre-Conference to the World Congress of Sociology, 2023**

### **The Impact of the 2020-2022 Pandemic on World Society**

Report on the RC55 Pre-Conference to the World Congress of Sociology, University of Melbourne, June 23-24, 2023

Jenny Chesters (University of Melbourne) and Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel)

The RC55 pre-conference, *The Impact of the 2020-2022 Pandemic on World Society*, for the ISA World Congress in Melbourne 2023, was hosted by the Melbourne Graduate School of

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Education [MGSE]. The conference organising committee was Jenny Chesters (University of Melbourne, Australia), Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland) and Sandra Fachelli (Pablo de Olavide University, Spain). The program started with a welcome reception at the MGSE on 22 June 2023 and ended with the conference dinner at a local restaurant on 24 June 2023.

The main sponsor of this pre-conference has been the *World Society Foundation (WSF)* based in Zurich, Switzerland. The Foundation, which has been established in 1982 by the Swiss sociologist Peter Heintz with the aim to encourage and support scientific research on global structures and transformations, covered travel and accommodation costs of participants. The pandemic with its profound economic, political and social impacts all over the world has been one of the most important global events triggering new dynamics at all levels of world society.

The conference was officially opened by Prof. Jim Watterston, Dean of the MGSE on 23 June. The opening address was followed by the Conference keynote, "Managing Crisis After Financialisation: Reflecting on 'novel' responses to Covid-19 and the 2008 Financial Crisis," presented by A/Professor, Ben Spies-Butcher from Macquarie University in Sydney. Comparing the Covid-19 crisis with the Global Financial Crisis of 2008 Spies-Butcher argued that financial liberalisation and austerity have inspired novel policy responses, which incorporate financial logics into social policy and focus on managing liquidity and asset valuations. Exploring the use of cash payments, asset withdrawals and regulation of credit and insurance during the pandemic Spies-Bucher's keynote showed how financial logics are increasingly shaping policy thinking.

The program then proceeded with eight sessions, each of which was dedicated to a particular theme: The Pandemic, Crisis Management and Policies, and their Impact (part 1); The Pandemic and its Impact on Subjective Well-Being and Life Satisfaction; The Pandemic, Mental Health, and Social Cohesion; The Pandemic, Crisis Management and Policies, and their Impact (part 2); Impact of the Pandemic on Children and Youth; The Impact of the Pandemic on Vulnerable and Marginalized Groups; The Pandemic and Social Inequalities: Class, Race, Ethnicity, and Gender; and The Pandemic, Health, Shift Work, and Addiction.

The presenters included highly regarded professors, scholars from outside the academy (international organisation, government institutions, private research institutions, foundations and civil society institutions), postdoctoral researchers, and PhD students representing countries from both the Global North (58%) and the Global South (42%), and from the different regions of world society. In total, 36 researchers from 22 different countries

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participated at the conference, including Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Estonia, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Italy, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Poland, United Kingdom, Timor Leste, Italy, Switzerland, and the United States. This considerable diversity of participants is also visible with respect to academic rank: 47% of participants were faculty members, i.e. assistant, associate or full professor, 31% were lecturers, research fellows or postdocs, 8% were doctoral students, 14% came from non-academic institutions. The gender distribution was quite balanced: 55% of participants were males and 45% were females.

Each of the researchers was selected to present at the conference after a rigorous selection process. The Organising Committee read 51 abstracts and invited the authors of 40 abstracts to submit their full paper, from which 25 were selected for presentation at the conference. One author from each of the invited papers was guaranteed a travel grant (financed by the World Society Foundation) to cover the cost of travelling to Melbourne. There was no conference fee and the meals and accommodation were provided for the presenters.

The conference was very successful with 23 papers presented across two full days. Four of the presenters were unable to travel to Melbourne due to health concerns but were able to join the conference via Zoom. The two hybrid sessions [combining in-person and Zoom presentations] worked well and allowed presenters who were unable to travel to Melbourne to participate.

The pre-conference organisers are now working towards two major publications: an open access edited volume to be published by Springer; and a printed volume published by the WSF book series *World Society Studies* publisher Lit. Apart from the 23 papers presented at the pre-conference, authors of selected papers presented in the RC55 sessions of the ISA World Congress have been invited to contribute to the edited volumes. Each volume will include chapters clustered around the two main themes: well-being and economics/politics. Fifteen authors have been invited to contribute their paper as a chapter in the Springer book, *Well-being during the Pandemic in the Global North and Global South*. Fourteen authors have been invited to contribute as a chapter in the Lit book, *COVID-19 Pandemic: Economics, Politics, Civil Society and Government*.

### **3. Minutes of the Business Meeting of RC55 Social Indicators**

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## Minutes of the Business Meeting of RC55 on Social Indicators ISA World Congress, Melbourne, June 29, 2023, 19:30-20:50

**Participants:** (in person and online): Dolgion Aldar, David Bartram, Marc Callens, Jenny Chesters, Enrico di Bella, Hans Dietrich, Sandra Fachelli, Leon Freude, Titik Harsanti, Chungse Jung, Pedro Lopez-Roldan, Oliver Nahkur, Heinz-Herbert Noll, Regina Skibe, Joonmo Son, Christian Suter.

**Minutes:** Dolgion Aldar (Secretary), Christian Suter (President)

### Agenda:

1. Welcome and opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda	Christian Suter	19:30
2. Activities Report from the president, the secretary, and newsletter editor	Christian Suter	
a. Finances / Current balance	Dolgion Aldar	19:30 – 19:35
b. Newsletter	Ming-Chang Tsai	19:35 – 19:40
c. Conferences and Publications	Christian Suter Jenny Chesters Enrico di Bella Sandra Fachelli	19:40 – 19:50
3. Revision of RC55 Statutes: discussion and voting	Christian Suter Dolgion Aldar	19:50 – 20:20
4. Organization of elections of next board: Nominations Committee	Christian Suter Ming-Chang Tsai	20:20 – 20:25
5. RC55 (and ISA) media & communication strategy	Dolgion Aldar	20:25 – 20:35
6. Membership	Dolgion Aldar	20:35 – 20:40
7. Discussion of future activities	Christian Suter	20:40 – 20:50
8. Closing of meeting	Christian Suter	20:50

### 1. Welcome and opening of the meeting and approval of the agenda

Agenda is approved.

### 2. Activities Reports from the president, the secretary, and newsletter editor

For details see also the ppt presentation (attached).

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**Finances:** Financial situation of RC55 is quite positive: the current balance is 2195 USD. Thanks to the ISA activities grant (EUR 980) used for the 2021 mid-term conference (Florence) there have been no expenses during the past 5 years.

**RC55 Newsletter:** Two different types of newsletters: a) RC55 – more like a bulletin; b) Google Group email list shall be used as announcement platform with more regular emails, notably for job announcements, conferences/abstract submission deadlines etc. (like RC28 announcements which are distributed every 2 weeks)

**Conferences:** RC55 was very active in organizing mid-term conferences: During the past 5 years four mid-term conferences have been organized (Valencia (2019), IV ISA Online Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre (2021), Florence (2021), Melbourne (2023)). The pre-conference model of the 2023 RC55-WSF pre-conference in Melbourne has been very successful. This model should be applied also in the next mid-term conferences (notably in the next ISA Forum).

**Publications:** The following publications (based on contributions to RC55 mid-term conferences) could be realized during the past 5 years and/or are planned:

- Special issue in *Social Indicators Research*, Vol 154, issue 3, April 2021: „Comparative Perspectives on Social Indicators“ (editor: Sandra Fachelli)
- Special Issue in *Sustainability*, Vol 14, 2022: „Indicators of Social Sustainability and Wellbeing“ (editor: Enrico di Bella)
- Forthcoming book publication: *The Global Politics of Census Taking*. Routledge 2023 (editors: Walter Bartl, Alberto Veira-Ramos, Christian Suter)
- Planned book publications: publications including papers presented at the Melbourne RC55 pre-conference 2023 on “The Impact of the 2020-2022 Pandemic on World Society” (editors: Jenny Chesters, Sandra Fachelli, Christian Suter)

### 3. Revision of RC55 Statutes: Discussion and Voting

Discussion: Two additional modifications are suggested:

- Article one (Purpose): The second sentence is of art. 1 reads as follows: “The primary purpose of RC55 is to advance research and scholarly communication and to incentivize international scholars’ and students’ networking and exchange in the field of social indicators in broad sense.
- Article two (Activities): In the second sentence “Forums” will be removed. The sentence reads as follows: “The Research Committee is supposed to hold 1-2 mid-term conferences between World Congresses.”

**Vote on the revised Statutes:** The revised Statutes (including the two suggested additional modification) are accepted unanimously.

### 4. Organization of elections of next executive board: Nominations Committee

The elections of the next RC55 executive board will be organized according the revised Statutes. In particular, this includes the following points:

- The elections will be carried out electronically. If necessary an online voting application shall be purchased by the secretary (there are suggestions from the ISA secretariat).
- Limitation of terms of officers:

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- the President may not be re-elected (but becomes Past President and member of the next executive board)
- the Vice-President and the Secretary/Treasurer may serve up to three consecutive terms in office
- all other members of the board may serve up to five consecutive terms in office
- Constitution of a nominations committee: The nominations committee of the elections (appointed by the president) includes Ming-Chang Tsai (chair), Christian Suter, Enrico di Bella and Masayuki Kanai.
- Schedule of the elections:
  - July 15, 2023: constitution/appointment of the nominations committee
  - July 31, 2023: information of all members on the electoral procedure (by nominations committee and the Secretary)
  - September 15, 2023: the ballot will be sent by the Secretary to all regular and affiliated members in good standing
  - November 15, 2023 : election day

### 5. RC55 (and ISA) media & communication strategy

See the ppt presentation (attached).

### 6. Membership

RC55 has currently 69 members in good standing. There are 24 new members and 281 expired memberships. In particular, there is a large number of expired members who are still members of ISA. Our RC (and in particular the Secretary) should more actively care about members whose membership is expiring (and inform these persons on their expiring membership). The following suggestions are made:

- Systematic membership tracking: the Secretary should look into the list on a quarterly or semi-annually basis
- RC55 members who have to renew their ISA membership (and who in general receive an email of the ISA secretariat regarding the ISA membership renewal) shall be contacted by the RC55 Secretary asking them to renew their RC55 membership.
- Persons that presented their paper at the ISA-Melbourne World Congress in one of the RC55 sessions (and who are not a member of RC55) shall be contacted and asked to become a RC55 member. Jenny Chesters will prepare a list with the emails of all presenters, including co-authors.
- All persons that presented at the Melbourne RC55 pre-conference and who are not member of RC55 shall be contacted and asked to become a member of RC55.
- Former RC55 members who are still members of ISA shall be contacted and asked to renew their RC55 membership.
- It seems that some longstanding former RC55 members are no longer active members in good standing since they have become a ISA life member (life membership is possible for members who are 70 years old). RC55 loses these members since there is no RC55 life membership. RC55 members who become ISA life members shall automatically become a RC55 life member.

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*Vote on RC55 life membership/life membership fee:* The following suggestion has been accepted unanimously: RC55 members who become ISA life members shall automatically become a RC55 life member. The membership fee for RC55 life members shall be USD 15.

### 7. Discussion of future activities

- Elections of next RC55 Executive board: see point 4 above
- V ISA Forum of Sociology 2025 (taking place most probably in Morocco/Marrakech):
  - o Joonmo Son accepted to be the Program Coordinator for the V ISA Forum of Sociology.
  - o A RC55 pre-conference shall be organized (according the model of the Melbourne pre-conference). The president (Christian Suter) will take care of this. He knows a research group in Marrakech (at the local University) working on well-being and quality of life in Morocco. He will check if they are interested in a co-organizing a pre-conference.
- Next mid-term conferences: Discussion of possible topics and venues and collaborations (including national sociological societies)
- Publications: Conference Volume of the 2023 pre-conference (Jenny, Sandra, Christian): Springer is interested in publishing a volume.
- Organizing webinars: for instance for young scholars
- Communications

### 8. Closing of meeting

The business meeting is closed on 20:50.

PPT Attachments

## The Research Committee 55-Social Indicators of International Sociological Association





19:30-20:50, 29 June 2023  
Melbourne  
Presentation prepared by Dolgoin Aldar (Secretary) and Christian Suter (President)

### 2. Report from the President, Secretary and the Newsletter Editor

Dolgoin Aldar, Ming-Chang Tsai  
Christian Suter, Jenny Chester  
Enrico di Bella, Sandra Fachelli

### Newsletter

Biannual publication of RC55 Newsletter Social Indicators Matter  
Editor: Ming-Chang Tsai  
The newsletter has been published regularly twice a year: summer and winter  
Since last business meeting: # 9 (2020-2) to # 13 (2022-2)  
Contribution of a short essay is welcome.

**Need active participation and submission from members!**

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/tracker-of-activities/RC55-newsletter-december-2022.pdf>

### RC55 – WSF pre-conference 23-24 June 2023



- Program coordinators/organizers: Christian Suter, Jenny Chester and Sandra Fachelli
- The Impact of the 2020-2022 Pandemic on World Society
- Sponsored by the World Society Foundation – travel grants for participants
- 35 participants including: 23 presenters, keynote speaker, chairs, discussants
- Impact in: Nigeria, Poland, US, Philippines, Israel, Mongolia, UK, Mexico, China, Belgium, Italy, Indonesia, Middle East, Bangladesh, Spain

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### Finance



Affiliation fees from ISA members: 15 USD; non-members: 15 USD

Current balance: **2195 USD**

Most activities so far have been financed by other grants

### Conferences

**July 3-6, 2019: Mid-term conference**

- Comparative Perspectives on Social Indicators
- Valencia, Spain (as working group 43 within the context of the 53th Spanish Congress of Sociology)
- ISA members 20; non-ISA members 50
- Coordinator: Sandra Fachelli

**February 23-28, 2023**

- IV ISA Online Forum of Sociology (including 4 joint sessions), a business meeting, and a common session
- The Politics of the Population Census: Key Indicators for Sustainable Development (together with RC02, RC09, RC11 and RC14)
- Porto Alegre
- Coordinator: Christian Suter

**22-24 April 2021: Mid-term conference**

- Indicators of Social Sustainability and Wellbeing
- Fiesole Florence, Italy
- Coordinator: Enrico di Bella

### Publications

- Special issue in *Social Indicators Research*, Vol 154, issue 3, April 2021: „Comparative Perspectives on Social Indicators“ (editor: Sandra Fachelli)
- Special Issue in *Sustainability*, Vol 14, 2022: „Indicators of Social Sustainability and Wellbeing“ (editor: Enrico di Bella)
- Forthcoming book publication: *The Global Politics of Census Taking*, Routledge 2023 (editors: Walter Bartl, Alberto Veira-Ramos, Christian Suter)

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<p>3. Revision of the RC55 Statutes: Discussion and Voting</p> <p>Christian Suter and Dolgoun Aldar</p>	<p>RC 55 Statutes Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revision of current Statutes requested by ISA when we asked for financial support in 2021 (e.g. for our mid-term conferences, Euro 986), particularly regarding terms of officers, and elections.</li> <li>Need to update the Statutes to reflect the recent changes (possibilities for hybrid and electronic participation, voting etc.)</li> <li>Structure of revised Statutes according to the ISA template: 8 articles</li> <li>Discussion of the revised Statutes by the RC55 Executive Board during 2022</li> <li>Information of RC55 members in January 2023 (with the revised Statutes in the December 2022 Newsletter).</li> </ul>
<p>Statutes RC 55 Social Indicators</p> <p>The Research Committee 55 on Social Indicators (Research RC55), Research Working Group 6 was established in 2016 in accordance with Article 4 of the ISA Statutes (RC55 Statutes) based on the Statutes of the previous Working Group 6 that was adopted in July 2010.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE ONE: PURPOSES</b></p> <p>RC55 is a Research Committee within the International Sociological Association, and fully subscribes to the Statutes and the aims of the Association. The primary purpose of RC55 is to promote research and scholarly communication in the field of social indicators as a broad base.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE TWO: ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p>Scientific activities of the Research Committee are held within World Conferences of the International Sociological Association, and at other times. The Research Committee is approved to hold 2-3 working conferences within World Congresses/Events. The Research Committee may also participate in other activities related to social indicators research and other aspects of indicators. The secretary of the Research Committee - Social Indicators (RC55) will be president at least biennially.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>There are two categories of members: 1. Regular members are individuals in good standing according to ISA standards. 2. Affiliated members are individuals who participate in the RC55 activities but are not regular ISA members. Only members in good standing may be invited to attend and vote at the Research Committee. The Secretary of the Research Committee - Social Indicators (RC55) may participate in other activities related to social indicators research and other aspects of indicators. The secretary of the Research Committee - Social Indicators (RC55) will be president at least biennially.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE FOUR: OFFICERS</b></p> <p>The Research Committee will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter editor, plus 3 other members to serve on an Executive Board. The immediate Past President is an ex-officio member of the Executive Board. All these officers serve a 4-year term. The President of the Research Committee may not be re-elected and the immediate Past President, the Vice President and the Secretary/Treasurer may be re-elected and can serve up to three consecutive terms of office. All other members of the Board may be re-elected and can serve up to five consecutive terms of office.</p> <p>The President shall be a delegate to the Research Council and other relevant ISA bodies, and designate an alternate in their absence. President and Executive Board are jointly responsible for coordinating the program of the Research Committee at ISA Congresses.</p> <p>The Secretary/Treasurer shall report to the RC's financial affairs to members at least at every World Congress.</p> <p><small>Adopted at RC55 meeting on the weekend of the Business Meeting of the ISA World Congress, Melbourne June 29, 2023.</small></p>
<p><b>ARTICLE FIVE: ELECTIONS</b></p> <p>All officers are elected for a 4-year period, in the year of the World Congress.</p> <p>The President will appoint a Nominations Committee to recommend candidates for various positions. All active regular and affiliated members of the Research Committee may submit nominations (including self-nominations) to the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee shall submit its regular candidate proposals to the relevant procedure at least 6 weeks before the election day. Nominated candidates shall be regular members of RC55. They shall provide a brief narrative statement for the Nominations Committee and indicate their preparedness to accept the respective position in the Board in case they are elected and to receive a regular conference in good standing of the ISA and of the RC for the duration of their mandate.</p> <p>The Secretary shall prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates along with the respective positions on the Executive Board. In case of several nominations for the same position, the nominated candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. Pairs of candidates may also be nominated for the positions of the Board in Executive Board President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, etc. The ballot shall be sent to all regular and affiliated members in good standing of RC55 by email at least eight weeks before the election day. Regular and affiliated members in good standing shall cast their ballot electronically (by an online voting system) or by mail to the designated election officers. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes (not necessarily more than half) shall be elected. An election shall be valid if more than one third of the membership votes.</p> <p>In case that vacancies in the Executive Board arise between elections, the President in consultation with the remaining board members will fill the positions until the end of the term. In case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the members of the Executive Board shall elect an interim President until the end of the uncompleted term, should it be necessary to fill the office. A President who is not carrying out his/her representative responsibility may be replaced by the Vice President for the unexpired term of office.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE SIX: BUSINESS MEETING</b></p> <p>A Business Meeting Assembly is held at least every four years, periodically at the ISA World Congress. Announcement of the Business Meeting will be made to the members at least one month in advance, together with a tentative agenda of business. The meeting is chaired by the President or by the Vice President. Decisions in a Business Meeting Assembly are taken by simple majority. The dates of the Assembly are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To evaluate and approve the four-year report.</li> <li>To discharge the outgoing Board of its responsibilities, including the financial statement.</li> <li>To discuss and carry motions on any other point that may arise.</li> </ul> <p>A written petition of twenty members to the President within six months after a Business Meeting can initiate a recall or an indirect election; failure to do so constitutes an irrevocable mandate presented at the Business Meeting. The Executive Board, by majority, can also initiate a recall ballot or an indirect election; failure to do so constitutes an irrevocable mandate.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE SEVEN: RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS</b></p> <p>Relations with other organizations may be established by the President of the Research Committee in consultation with the Executive Board as is deemed useful, or necessary in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Research Committee.</p> <p><b>ARTICLE EIGHT: CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES</b></p> <p>Proposals for the revision of these Statutes may be submitted to the membership upon written petition of twenty members to the President, or a resolution of the Executive Board. Revision requires a participation in the vote of at least 50 percent of all RC55 members in good standing and an approval of at least two-thirds (66.6 percent) of the votes cast in an electronic ballot (by an online voting system) or by email or as a person ballot.</p>
<p>4. Organization of elections of next board: Nominations Committee</p> <p>Christian Suter Ming-Chang Tsai</p>	<p>Organization of elections of next board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominations Committee: Ming-Chang Tsai (chair), Christian Suter, Enrico di Bella, Masuyuki Kanai</li> <li>Schedule (according revised Statutes):             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>July 15, 2023: constitution/appointment of the nominations committee</li> <li>July 31, 2023: information of all members on the electoral procedure (by nominations committee, secretary)</li> <li>September 15, 2023: the ballot will be sent by the Secretary to all regular and affiliated members in good standing</li> <li><b>November 15, 2023: election day</b></li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## The Research Committee 55-Social Indicators of International Sociological Association



### 5. Membership

Doljion Aldar

#### Membership status – as of June 2023 (2022-2023)

ACTIVE – 69

NEW – 24

EXPIRED – 281

RC55 has currently one affiliated associate member who does not belong to the ISA.  
Geographical distribution: Romania

#### Countries – active members – as of June 2023

##### # of active members by region

Region	# of members
Africa	1
Asia	18
Australia and Pacific	4
Europe	28
Latin America and Caribbean	8
North America	9

##### Active members by country income group, n=68

Income Group	# of members	% of members
High income	53	77.9
Upper middle income	7	10.3
Lower middle and low income	8	11.8

#### Challenges and future strategies

- No automatic emails and renewals – manual work needed
- How to reach members from countries in B and C categories?
- How to retain members?
- Young and junior researchers

- ✓ Increase communication
- ✓ Understand the needs of the members
- ✓ Support among members – mentorship

### 6. Communications of RC55

Doljion Aldar

#### RC55 Communications Strategy: Objectives

- Promote Members' Research:** Share the latest findings from the field of social indicators, helping to disseminate this knowledge to a wide audience.
- Increase Collaboration:** Foster greater collaboration between members, encouraging the sharing of data, research methods, and findings.
- Recruit New Members:** Attract new members to RC55, particularly younger researchers who are just starting their careers.
- Influence Policy:** By sharing research findings with policymakers, RC55 can influence social and economic policies at local, national, and international levels.
- Improve Public Understanding:** Raise public awareness and understanding of social indicators and their importance.

#### Audience Segmentation

**Academic Researchers:** This is likely the primary audience, as they are the ones conducting the research and can directly apply the findings.

**Policy Makers:** These are important secondary audiences who can use the research to guide policy decisions.

**Students:** They calculate and undergraduates studying sociology could benefit from RC55's work and may be potential members.

**Professional Sociologists:** These professionals, working outside of academia, could also benefit from the research, and may contribute unique perspectives and research opportunities.

**General Public:** This is a broader audience that may be interested in how social indicators affect their lives.

**Partner Organizations:** Other research institutions, universities, or NGOs that may partner with RC55 or could be interested in its research.

#### Content

- Call for Papers and events information
- Use the newsletters info
- Educational content – what is 'Social Indicators'?
- Share members' works and papers
- Members spotlights
- Live from events/ conferences

## The Research Committee 55-Social Indicators of International Sociological Association



### Channels

- Google group: rc55.socialindicators@gmail.com
- Email list: Excel file
- Newsletter: Social Indicators Matter
- Short introduction document: What is RC55?
- Any other suggestions?

**External communication**  
External communication is minimal. Need to expand channels: LinkedIn, Facebook, or academic networks like ResearchGate or Academia.edu, webinars

**Potential actions:**

- VIDEO CONTENT
- SOCIAL MEDIA
- WEBINARS

### Twitter

Created November 2022



### ISA social media



- Connect with ISA overall social media

### Next steps

- New Board should consider having a Social media manager** – to be fully in charge of RC55 communications strategy, implementation and monitoring
  - Can assign several contributors
- Video Content**
- Simple communications plan**
- Share newsletter content on RC55 Twitter

## 7. Future activities

Christian Suter

- Publications:** Conference Volume on 2023 pre-conference (Jenny, Sandra, Christian)
- V ISA Forum of Sociology 2025 (Morocco):** program coordinator?
- Next Mid-term conferences:** topics and venues??
- Webinars** (for instance for young scholars)
- Elections**
- Communications**

## **4. Revision of the Statutes RC 55 Social Indicators**

### **Statutes RC 55 Social Indicators: Revised Version, June 2023**

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The Research Committee 55 on Social Indicators (hereafter RC55), formerly Working Group 6, was established in 2008 in accordance with Article 4 of the ISA Statutes. RC55 Statutes, based on the statutes of the previous Working Group 6, were first adopted in July 2010. Subsequent amendments were approved at the RC55 business meeting at the ISA World Congress 2023, Melbourne, June 29, 2023.

#### **ARTICLE ONE: PURPOSES**

RC55 is a Research Committee within the International Sociological Association, and fully subscribes to the principles and the spirit of the Association. The primary purpose of RC55 is to advance research and scholarly communication and to incentivize international scholars' and students' networking and exchange in the field of social indicators in broad sense.

#### **ARTICLE TWO: ACTIVITIES**

Scientific meetings of the Research Committee are held during World Congresses of the International Sociological Association, and at other times. The Research Committee is supposed to hold 1-2 mid-term conferences between World Congresses. The Research Committee may also participate in other activities related to social indicators research and other modes of exchange. The newsletter of the Research Committee – Social Indicator Matters (SIM) – is to be published at least biannually.

#### **ARTICLE THREE: MEMBERSHIP**

There are two categories of members: 1. Regular members are individuals in good standing according to ISA standards, 2. Affiliated members are individuals, who participate in the RC's activities but are not formal ISA members. Only members in good standing may be voting members and only members in good standing of the International Sociological Association may be officials of the Research Committee. Membership fees are set at business meetings held during ISA Congresses. Fees are payable to the ISA-Secretariat or to the RC55 Secretary.



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## ARTICLE FOUR: OFFICERS

The Research Committee will elect a President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer and Newsletter editor, plus 5 other members to serve on an Executive Board. The immediate Past President is ex-officio member of the Executive Board. All these officers serve a 4-year term. The President of the Research Committee may not be re-elected and will become Past President. The Vice-President and the Secretary/Treasurer may be re-elected and can serve up to three consecutive terms of office. All other members of the Board may be re-elected and can serve up to five consecutive terms of office.

The President shall be a delegate to the Research Council and other relevant official ISA bodies, and designate an alternate to these bodies. President and Executive Board are jointly responsible for coordinating the program of the Research Committee at ISA Congresses.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall report the RC's financial affairs to members at least at every World Congress.

## ARTICLE FIVE: ELECTIONS

All officers are elected for a 4-year period, in the year of the World Congress.

The President will appoint a Nominations Committee to recommend candidates for various positions. All other regular and affiliated members of the Research Committee may submit nominations (including self-nominations) to the Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee shall inform all regular and affiliated members on the electoral procedure at least fifteen weeks before the election day. Nominated candidates shall be regular members of RC55. They shall provide a brief curriculum vitae to the Nominations Committee and confirm their preparedness to accept the respective position on the Board in case they are elected and to remain a regular member in good standing of the ISA and of the RC for the duration of their mandate.

The Secretary shall prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates along with the respective positions on the Executive Board. In case of several nominations for the same position, the nominated candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. Pairs of candidates may also be nominated for the positions on the Board to function as Co-President, Co-Secretary/Treasurers, etc. The ballot shall be sent to all regular and affiliated members in

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good standing of RC55 by email at least eight weeks before the election day. Regular and affiliated members in good standing shall send their ballot electronically (by an online voting system or by email to the designated electoral officers). The candidate receiving the highest number of votes cast will be deemed elected to each office. An election shall be valid if more than one third of the membership votes.

In case that vacancies in the Executive Board arise between elections, the President in consultation with the remaining board members will fill the positions until the end of the term. In case of a vacancy in the office of the President, the members of the Executive Board shall select an interim President until the end of the uncompleted term, should it be necessary to fill the office. A President who is not carrying out her/his presidential responsibilities may be replaced by the Vice President for the remaining term of office.

**ARTICLE SIX: BUSINESS MEETING**

A Business Meeting Assembly is held at least every four years, preferably at the ISA World Congress. Announcement of the Business Meeting will be made to the members at least one month in advance, together with a tentative agenda of business. The meeting is chaired by the President or by the Vice-President. Decisions in a Business Meeting Assembly are taken by simple majority. The duties of the Assembly are:

- To evaluate and approve the four-year-report.
- To discharge the outgoing Board of its responsibilities, including the financial statement.
- To discuss and carry motions on any other point that may arise.

A written petition of twenty members to the President within six months after a Business Meeting can institute a mail or an online/electronic ballot to the membership on any issue presented at the Business Meeting. The Executive Board, by majority, can also institute a mail ballot or an online/electronic ballot to the membership at any time.

**ARTICLE SEVEN: RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Relations with other organizations may be established by the President of the Research Committee in consent with the Executive Board as is deemed useful, or necessary in accordance with the aims and objectives of the Research Committee.

## ARTICLE EIGHT: CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES

Proposals for the revision of these Statutes may be submitted to the membership upon written petition of twenty members to the President, or a resolution of the Executive Board. Revision requires a participation in the vote of at least 50 percent of all RC55 members in good standing and an approval of at least two-thirds (66.6 percent) of the votes cast in an electronic ballot (by an online voting system or by email) or an in-person ballot.

### 5. Two calls for papers

#### 1. **Call for Papers: Indicators, methods and models for measuring the effects of digital disruption**

**Social Indicators Research – special issue**

Submission deadline: 31 December 2023

Edited by Reyes González-Relaño, Francisca Ruiz-Rodríguez, Enrico Ivaldi, Paolo Parra Saiani & Enrico Di Bella

We live in a period of radical changes engendered by digitalization, which is giving rise to a social revolution based on connectivity and the massive use of information and communication technologies (ICTs). As a consequence, new challenges emerge, with the potential to generate great economic and social value. However, the breathtaking speed with which ICTs and other technologies are adopted makes it difficult to accurately evaluate the effects and impacts of this digital disruption. Even more so now, as the crisis provoked by COVID-19 has prompted increasingly widespread digitalization and innovation. We are witnessing radical changes in people's lives, in the way they work, produce, relate to governments and administrations, access essential services and interact socially. The aim of the special issue is to make tools, methods and proposals available to researchers and public officials to help them assess the impact of the information society and digitalization on citizens, business, the economy, governments and territories at different spatial scales, in the context of the new economic, social and ecological model of sustainable development. The Special Issue welcomes articles that focus on analysing, explaining and discussing the effects of digital disruption, and in particular on how the information society and the general use of ICTs impact on the social, cultural, economic and ecological spheres. Please visit <https://link.springer.com/collections/bhagdcachi> for more detailed information.

## 2. Call for Papers: Mutual Perceptions in the Asia-Pacific

As globalization deepens, people across the Asia-Pacific have increased their contacts, communication and engagement with one another. This “within-Asia” interaction appears to categorically differ from their experiences of encounters and exchanges with the western societies. Reciprocal assistance relationships, mutual networking and collateral understanding can be built among individuals or associations. Indeed, increased mobility of people, capitals and cultures across borders in Asia necessarily impact how one sees, perceives, and trusts “cultural others”, including immigrants, refugees, investing foreigners etc. Moreover, responses by way of new institutional arrangements initiated by governments or civil organizations can be new intriguing questions. On the other hand, there is a concern that the contexts and conditions favorable for beneficial interactions in this region may be yet to emerge. Close contacts probably lead to the opposite of what people originally expected to gain. Variation and heterogeneity in processes and outcomes from seeing and interacting among people across Asia thus is a primary concern for social science researchers. Theoretical reframing and empirical investigation both are most welcome. Exemplary issues include but are not limited to the following:

- How are South Koreans changing in their view of Japanese people, society or the state over time?
- On what basis are Asian people looking at China when its economic growth momentum seems to starting to wear off? How do they evaluate the level of democratization in China over time?
- How social contacts with marriage migrants from Southeast Asian societies foster a favorable attitude in certain societies while not so in others?
- How India is perceived as a distinctive culture or a rising regional power, from a perspective of intercultural contacts or from a geopolitical viewpoint?
- Does transactions on borders of Thailand, Vietnam or Indonesia generates cooperation or conflicts for communities and people doing business in these vicinities?
- How Australians and New Zealanders respond to increased immigration from different origins at Asia?
- Other relevant issues

**Organizers:** David Goodman (University of Sydney, Australia) and Ming-Chang Tsai (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)

### Important Dates and Venue

Workshop dates: April 2 and 3, 2024

Venue: Research Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

Abstract submission (one page): October 15, 2023 (email to: [mtsai304@gate.sinica.edu.tw](mailto:mtsai304@gate.sinica.edu.tw))

Full paper due: March 25, 2024

**Publication Plan:** there is a plan to submit papers of this workshop in a bundle for a special issue targeting *The Pacific Review*, or similar focused academic journals.

## 6. New books and papers authored by members

- Hans Dietrich (Institute for Employment Research (IAB), Nuremberg, Germany.) recently published:
  - a). Henseke, Golo, Ingrid Schoon, Christoph Schimmele, Rubab Arim, Hans Dietrich, Murray Aisling, Emer Smyth & Véronique Dupéré (2022): Youth life satisfaction during the COVID-19 pandemic in a cross-national comparison. In: *Economic and Social Reports / Statistics Canada*, Jg. 2, H. 11, S. 1-7.
  - b). Patzina, Alexander, Malte Sandner, Silke Anger, Sarah Bernhard & Hans Dietrich (2023): The COVID-19 pandemic, well-being, and transitions to post-secondary education. In: *Review of Economics of the Household*, Jg. 21, H. 2, S. 461-483. DOI:10.1007/s11150-022-09623-9
  
- Enrico di Bella (Università degli Studi di Genova, Italia) recently published:
  - a). Enrico di Bella, Sandra Fachelli, Pedro López Roldan, Christian Suter. 2023. *Measuring gender equality. A multidisciplinary perspective for a regional analysis in some EU countries.*  
Within the extensive literature of Gender Studies, this is the first book to explicitly address the issue of measuring gender equality. In the first part of the book, starting with an introduction to the basic concepts of gender equality, equity and equal opportunities, the reader is led along a path that first introduces him/her to the concept of measuring social phenomena, then to the methods of constructing indicators, and concludes with a review of the main indicators that have been proposed at the international level to measure gender equality. The second part concretizes what was presented at the theoretical level in the first part with the main results of a Jean Monnet project financed by the European Union

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to highlight the importance of a regional analysis of gender equality in four main study areas: Italy, Spain, France and Germany. The results make it clear that it is necessary to move from the purely national perspective hitherto used in gender equality analyses to a regional one because differences can be highly pronounced even within the same country. This is a self-contained volume requiring limited statistical expertise for the reader and is aimed at social researchers and policymakers who wish to address gender equality from a quantitative perspective.

The editors' decision to publish the volume open access is an important achievement for the entire scientific community by allowing free access to all chapters.

- Yuvisthi Naidoo (University of New South Wales, Australia) recently published:
  - a). Saunders P; Naidoo Y; Wong M, 2022, 'Comparing the Monetary and Living Standards Approaches to Poverty Using the Australian Experience', *Social Indicators Research*, vol. 162, pp. 1365 - 1385, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s11205-022-02888-8>
  - b). Saunders P; Naidoo Y; Wong M, 2022, 'Are recent trends in poverty and deprivation in Australia consistent with trickle-down effects?', *Economic and Labour Relations Review*, vol. 3, issue. 3, pp. 566-585, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1177/10353046221112715>
  - c). Saunders P; Naidoo Y; Wong M, 2022, 'The crumbling pillar: Assessing the impact of housing costs on recent trends in poverty and deprivation in Australia', *International Journal of Social Welfare*, vol. 31, issue. 4, pp. 421 - 433, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1111/ijsw.12549>
  - d). Bedford M; Bradbury B; Naidoo Y, 2023, *Budget Standards for Low Paid Families*, Fair Work Commission, Melbourne, <http://www.fwc.gov.au/documents/wage-reviews/2022-23/budget-standards-for-low-paid-families-2023-03-03.pdf>
  - e). Naidoo Y; valentine K; Adamson E, 2022, *Australian Experiences of Poverty: Risk Precarity and Uncertainty during COVID-19*, Australian Council of Social Service and UNSW, Sydney, <https://povertyandinequality.acoss.org.au/australian-experiences-of-poverty/>