

The Sociology-Policy Interface: Applied and Clinical Sociology

Webinar Date: 30 May 2025 | Timing: 11:00 – 13:00 GMT

ISA members can attend the webinar by going to the ISA Membership Log In, clicking on Benefits and then Webinars for the May 30 Webinar; Non-ISA members can access the Webinar once it has been posted by the ISA

The 5th ISA Forum that will be held in July in Rabat, Morocco, on Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene will explore the crucial connections globally between clinical sociology, applied and public policy in different sectors of social development. The forum will include sessions about how both clinical and applied sociology contribute to policy development, implementation and evaluation.

This webinar will delve into practical applications through discussion led by experts in sociology and policy. The webinar will discuss topics such as human rights; mandatory retirement; program accreditation and individual certification in clinical and applied sociology; work on whistleblowing; homelessness; and environmental work with communities.

We will explore emerging areas in the fields of clinical and applied sociology where sociological expertise is increasingly vital and can improve policy formation and implementation processes. **This session involves scholar-practitioners from RC41 Sociology of Population; RC46 Clinical Sociology; and TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice.**

This webinar aims to empower sociologists, policymakers, researchers and practitioners to forge stronger collaborations. By showcasing examples and providing practical strategies, the session will foster a greater appreciation for the value of sociological knowledge in shaping public policy and driving positive change. It also will introduce those attending to the possibilities of applying for individual certification as a clinical or applied sociologist as well as provide information about having your program accredited.

Examples of Research and Intervention:

“Human Rights and Addressing Mandatory Retirement Policies and Practices”

Prof. Jan Marie Fritz, Professor, University of Cincinnati; Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Johannesburg; Visiting Professor, Uppsala Universitet and ISA Executive Committee Member



“Empowering Whistleblowers: Clinical Sociology and Social Justice in the Workplace”

Prof. Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa and ISA Executive Committee Member

“Climate Justice, Environment and Community Resilience”

Prof. Emma Porio, Professor of Sociology, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines

“Addressing Homelessness”

Prof. Yvonne Vissing, Professor, Salem State University, USA.

Certification and Accreditation

Individual Certification as a Clinical or Applied Sociologist (from the Association of Applied and Clinical Sociology)

Prof. Jan Marie Fritz; Professor, University of Cincinnati; Distinguished Visiting Professor, University of Johannesburg and currently Visiting Professor at Uppsala Universitet

International Accreditation for Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology (from CAPACS, the Commission for the Accreditation of Programs in Applied and Clinical Sociology)

Prof. Tina Uys; Professor, University of Johannesburg

About the Convener:



M. Thamilarasan, is a Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology, University of Madras, Chennai-600 005. He is a member of the International Sociological Association's (ISA), RC-32 and 41. Also, he has been serving as a Member of the ISA Research Council Webinar Working Group. He currently is serving as the Director of Chepauk Campus, a Member in the Senate, Academic Council, and the Chairperson of the Board of Studies in Sociology of University of Madras. He has served as



Convener of Research Committee -12 Sociology of Health, Ageing and Well-being of the Indian Sociological Society. He has been researching in several thrust areas of the Government of India; he has worked among tribes, peasants, marginalized and aged of Tamil Nadu over a period of 20 years. He has contributed to maternal and child health to strengthen specialized fields of sociology (e.g., Sociology of Health and Sociology of Development) and to support both central and state governments to have people-centered health policies. He has completed major research projects: (1) Maternal and Child Health Practices among Kurumbas of Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu - A Sociological Study funded by the University Grants Commission(UGC), New Delhi, in 2012 and (2) Maternal and Child Health Practices among Irulas of Nilgiri District of Tamil Nadu- A Sociological Study – funded by UGC, UPE-Phase-II, Part-II, New Delhi, in 2017. He has edited three books entitled i) *Providing Health Services to All-Problems and Prospects*, ii) *Poverty Alleviation and Rural Development* and iii) *Health care Practices in India*. He has authored two textbooks: (1) *Research Methodology for Social Sciences*, published by New Century Publications, New Delhi, in 2015, and (2) *Medical Sociology*, Published by Rawat Publication, Jaipur, in 2016.

About the Co-Convener:



Namita Gupta is the Chairperson of the Centre for Human Rights and Duties at Panjab University in India. She also is Chair of the International Sociological Association's TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice. She is the author and editor of 56 publications. Her recent books include *Human Rights Discourse on Dams, Displacement and Resettlement*; *Human Rights*; *Human Rights, Youth and Drugs*; and *Social Justice and Human Rights in India*. Her work has won many awards

including the State Award for Social Service, the Teacher's Excellence Award and the Women Achievers Award.



About the Speakers:



Jan Marie Fritz is a Professor in the School of Planning (and affiliated with the Department of Women's Gender and Sexuality Studies and the Department of Sociology) at the University of Cincinnati as well as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg. She currently is a Visiting Professor at Uppsala Universitet in the Department of Peace and Conflict Research and is a mediator for the city of Cincinnati's legal/prosecution division. She has been a Fulbright Scholar at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Human Rights and International Studies at the Danish Institute of Human Rights in Copenhagen, Denmark, a Fulbright-NSF researcher in Iceland and a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at the

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. She has received a number of awards including the DAAP College Award (University of Cincinnati) for Outstanding Research and Creative Work, the American Sociological Association's Distinguished Career Award for the Practice of Sociology, and the Ohio Mediation Association's Better World Award for a distinguished career in mediation. She is a past Vice-President of the International Sociological Association (ISA), the lead representative of the ISA to the United Nations and a member of the ISA Executive Committee. She also was appointed by the director of the US Environmental Protection Agency to be a member of two US EPA advisory councils. She has written or edited more than 130 publications, and she is the editor of Springer's Clinical Sociology book series. She is a past president of RC46 Clinical Sociology and a board member of both RC26 Sociotechnics-Sociological Practice and TG03 Human Rights and Global Justice.



Tina Uys, a Professor of Sociology at the University of Johannesburg, held the position of Head of Department for 15 years and is a certified Clinical Sociologist with the Association for Applied and Clinical Sociology. Recently appointed to the United Nations Independent System-Wide Evaluation Mechanism (UNISWEM) Global Panel of Advisors, she also served as a Fulbright Visiting Scholar at George Washington University and the University of Cincinnati in 2013. Prof Uys has



held numerous leadership positions in the sociological community, including Vice-President of the International Sociological Association, President of ISA's RC46 Clinical Sociology and RC42 Social Psychology divisions, and former President of the South African Sociological Association. Additionally, she serves on the Advisory Board of the Whistleblowing Canada Research Society and has authored or edited over 50 publications, with her most recent work, *Whistleblowing and the Sociological Imagination*, published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022. Professor Uys is rated as an Internationally Recognized Researcher (B3) by the South African National Research Foundation and specialises in the field of clinical sociology with a specific focus on advancing the sociological understanding of whistleblowing.



Emma Porio is a Professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, School of Social Sciences Ateneo de Manila University and a Science Research Fellow with the Manila Observatory. She was President of the International Sociological Association's Clinical Sociology Division (2019-2023) and of the Asia Pacific Sociological Association (2020-2023). She is editor of the *Journal of Sustainable Cities Frontier* and the Principal Editorial Adviser of the *Environment and Urbanization* (Asia Edition) and Review Editor of the *Journal of the Cities of the Global South*. Currently, she is Project Leader and Principal Investigator of the transdisciplinary action research project, Coastal Cities at Risk: Investing in Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Philippines (CCARPH). She co-directs the Master of Disaster Risk and Resilience (MDRR) at the Ateneo de Manila University. Finally, she is a member of the Climate Change Commission's (Phil) National Panel of Technical Experts.



Yvonne Vissing, PhD, is a clinical sociologist who is the founding director of the Center for Childhood & Youth Studies at Salem State University in Massachusetts USA where she is Professor of Healthcare Studies. Author of over 25 books, her specialties are in human rights and child/youth wellbeing. Vissing is the US Policy Chair for the Hope for Children UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Policy Center in Cyprus, on the Steering Committee of Human Rights Educators USA, on the Human Rights Council for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a member of the Universities Network for Children in Armed Conflict. She is the founder of a nonprofit, the Initiative for Civility in Everyday Life, which also sponsors The World As It Could Be program that advances education about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. She is a member of RC46 and a board member of TG03.