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Dear colleagues of the RC26!

The exciting moment of the opening of the 5th ISA Forum for Sociology in Rabat is just around the corner. It is a great and important event for all of us. We are sharing our scholarly achievements, looking for new forms of collaboration, and discussing our plans. This is the academic life of sociology. Among other things, we strengthen our purely human ties and forms of academic solidarity and cooperation. It is no secret that the modern world is in a state of severe turbulence. It can be said that a new model of world community is being born before our eyes. And this is no journalistic exaggeration. In reality, we are at a turning point in historical epochs. That is my opinion. And this is where history raises the question: What is the task of sociology and sociologists today, in this particular epoch of history? How should we conduct and continue our research? Where should our search go? Finally, there is the question of the future of sociology as a social science and its demand (or lack of demand) by society. Should we stay in the academic ivory tower or go out into the field of public sociology? These are all difficult questions that we can ask in addition to and alongside the discussion of our purely professional interests and achievements.

The profile of our research committee is very interesting and stimulating. On the one hand, we rely on a fundamental sociological theory that provides us with a point of reference in our studies. Behind the diversity of social phenomena and processes, we see the manifestation of the major trends in the dynamics of modern society, the logic of the interactions of big social institutions. On the other hand, we all have a heightened sensitivity to everyday social life and the search for indicators in the world that surrounds us every day and every hour. This is the "sociological practice" as I understand it. The combination of the two is what makes the profession of sociologist so appealing. Or does it?

I hope to see and hear all of you who have crossed borders and distances to come to Rabat. See you soon!

Nikita POKROVSKY

RC26 President



Is the City Forever? Post-Agrarianism and Counter-Urbanization in Retrospective and Perspective (Sessions I & II)

Session Organizers:

Nikita Pokrovsky, Arsenii Buchatskii

Time and place at the Forum:

7 July 2025: **11:00 - 12:45 (I), 13:00 - 14:45 (II)**

Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE025** (both sessions)



Source: Iker Ozmen / Unsplash

This session focuses on the socio-cultural aspects of de-urbanization, i.e., the trend of urban residents migrating to smaller towns. It examines the prospects for this migration and reconstructs their socio-cultural "life world," value orientations, motivations, and internal conflicts. This migration is gaining momentum a significant problem in modern societies in Eastern and Western Europe, as well as North America, and partially compensates for the disproportional socio-spatial development and exodus of economic activity and inhabitants of rural and small towns. The socio-cultural aspect of de-urbanization migration is being developed as a priority for research presented in this session.

RC26 Open Session: Conflicts, Communities and Social Change in the Time of Anthropocene Technologies

Session Organizer: *Arsenii Buchatskii*

Time and place at the Forum:

8 July 2025: **09:00 - 10:45**, Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE031**



Source: Markus Spiske / Unsplash

The multi-thematic RC26 Open Session is aimed at examining a broad scope of today's social phenomena, which may be in focus of sociotechnics and sociological practice. During the session, the complex interconnection between social conflicts, communities and social changes and modern technologies will be discussed. The authors with interest in a wide range of appropriate research fields are welcomed.

The Historical Basis of the Idea of Future

Session Organizers:

Massimiliano Ruzzeddu, Jiri Subrt

Chair: *Manuela Boatca*

Time and place at the Forum:

8 July 2025: **13:00-14:45**

Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences, **SJES022 (host: RC26 Historical Sociology)**



Source: Andy Kelly / Unsplash

This panel focuses on the representations of the future, both at the societal and global levels. Representations of future entail human knowledge, ideas and expectations, prognostic and futurological conceptions, transformations reflected by social geography and demography, and disputes on environmental issues. Representations of future also depend on civilization, religion, economic and political

development, and changes in human settlements and lifestyles. The topic is pivotal in contemporary social life, for representations of the future can profoundly affect collective sentiments and social actions, especially political participations. The main assumption is that the current representations of the future are the outcome of long and complex historical processes: economic and cultural changes through the years can shape the deepest cultural assumptions of any cultural context, especially the ideas of time. For instance, late in 19th century, important scientific discoveries and technological inventions were the basis for a strong faith in the progress, while, in the 1970s, the Oil shock, the publication of the report ‘the Limits of Growth’ by the Club of Rome etc., disrupted any trust in the years to come. The panel welcomes paper that give a contribution in understanding the processes that shape the representation of the futures, or how at work in the world around us that are shaping the contours of what the world of the future will be built upon.

Artificial Intelligence: Sociological Approaches
Session Organizer:
 Massimiliano Ruzzeddu

Time and place at the Forum:
 9 July 2025: **11:00 - 12:45**, Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE025**



Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a valuable tool for improving work productivity, global health, food security, and social and environmental sustainability. At the same time, it also poses

risks, including job loss, privacy risks due to massive data collection, and lack of transparency. Social and cultural hurdles, such as inadequate preparation, perpetuation of inequalities, and lack of trust in algorithms, can delay or prevent effective AI services. This session emphasizes the importance of sociology in understanding AI-related social phenomena and underscores the need for AI governance to ensure the full deployment of its benefits and mitigate its criticalities. Contributions focusing on AI policy-making are welcome.

Local Community Challenges: Environmental Degradation, Labor Devaluation and Informalization. Can Social Economy Build Resilient Cultural Symbiotic Communities?
Session Organizer:
 Georgios Tsobanoglou

Time and place at the Forum:
 Wednesday, 9 July 2025: **13:00 - 14:45**, Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE025**



Public policies are grappling with local democratic participation challenges, with the nonprofit sector and local civil society organizations playing a significant role in local development. The crisis of representational democracy has led to local innovations, expressing the power of place and its people. Participative democracy is becoming mainstream in public discourses and empowerment issues are also in place. The focus is on relating participation to a socio-economic cooperative process, where local

community cohesion issues emerge as dominant forms influenced by globalization and new knowledge forms like info-technology. Territoriality becomes crucial as local labor experiments with new forms of organization, including bio sciences and labor mobility.

Power, Inequalities and Social Representations (Sessions I and II)

Session Organizer:

Valentina Raffa

Time and place at the Forum:

Session 1: Wednesday, 9 July 2025: **15:00 - 16:45 (I)**, Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE025**

Session 2: Friday, 11 July 2025: 15:00 - 16:45, Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE001**



The rise of illiberal democracies and tightening neo-liberal economic policies have intensified global social inequalities, eroded citizens' rights, and produced new forms of social exclusion and marginalization. These inequalities are reinforced and socialized through a culture that naturalizes marginalized subjectivities within a stereotyped gendered, cultural, ethnic, and nationalistic model. Experiences of marginalization and inequality are often shaped by intersectional dimensions such as gender, race, social class, sexuality, religion, and ableism, further accentuating power differentials. This session is aimed to analyze the places, devices, and mechanisms through which culture is constructed and socialized, legitimizing and contributing to socializing inequalities, discrimination, and social exclusion

of certain social groups, including women, LGBTQ communities, migrants, ethnic minorities, and people with disabilities.

Institutional Violence and Quality of Democracies

Session Organizer & Chair:

Rosalba Belmonte

Time and place at the Forum:

Thursday, 10 July 2025: **11:00 - 12:45**, Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), **FSE025**



Institutional violence is a set of practices that harms individuals and social groups, perpetuating structural oppression through discrimination, prejudices, and rights restrictions. It can be enacted by state actors through actions or omissions of public officials and judicial actors, as well as implementing norms or practices that do not reflect public interest. The rise of illiberal democracies has led to uncertainty over rights, negatively impacting the equal access to these rights by minorities, people with disabilities, women, and LGBTQIA+ people. This session explores the impact of institutional violence on these groups, its manifestations, and the relationship between state accountability and democracy quality.

Power Asymmetries and Asymmetric Justice. Gender, Ideologies and Democracy (Sessions I and II)

Session Organizer & Chair:

Flaminia Sacca,

Co-Chair:

Lorenzo Viviani

Time and place at the Forum:

Thursday, 10 July 2025: 13:00 - 14:45 (I), 15:00 - 16:45 (II), Faculty of Education Sciences (FSE), FSE025



Source: Mick Haupt / Unsplash

Current geopolitical developments have highlighted power and justice asymmetries, with public discourse becoming more polarized and injustice growing while the attention to it decreases. New variations of ideologies are emerging, affecting issues like justice, power, gender, and democracy. This session explores power asymmetries from both theoretical and empirical perspectives, focusing on themes such as power's meanings, distributions, democracy's changing and becoming, gender disparities and injustice, justice's asymmetric modalities, and ideologies justifying power and justice asymmetries. Papers are welcome from both theoretical and empirical perspectives.

CALLS AND PUBLICATIONS

Call for papers for the 4th GenS (Gender Studies) Conference

1st – 5th September 2025
MuT - Stintino (SS)
Italy

The call for the new GenS (Gender Studies) Conference is now open. Thirty years after the Beijing Conference, we will reflect on the progress made toward women's rights and the threats ahead. This is the 4th edition of the GenS. The conference is free and organized with the (free) sponsorship of Ais Politica, ISA RC26 and ESA RN32

New book by George Tsompanoglou
Social Economy in Greece



New Format

Faces of the RC26

Be one of the first to join!

We would like to make our newsletter a more lively opportunity for exchanging ideas and achievements! Therefore, we encourage you to take part in short interviews about your research directions and findings to be placed in further editions.

An appointment may be made via **a.buchatski@gmail.com**



Source: Lee Soo hyun / Unsplash

Missing this year's Forum?

The preparation for the **XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology 2027** (Gwangju, Korea) has already entered an active phase!

You can follow the updates on the ISA's website.



**XXI ISA WORLD CONGRESS
OF SOCIOLOGY 2027**
GWANGJU, KOREA

*Any scholarly material you find noticeable to share may be submitted throughout the year to **Arsenii Buchatskii** (acting Editor) via **a.buchatski@gmail.com** to be presented in the next editions of the Newsletter. We always value the active participation of the RC25 members in editing the Newsletters!*

We wish you a joyful and active Forum experience!