



RC20 Newsletter, August 2025

Dear RC20 members,

I hope you are well. You will find in this newsletter that there were many activities at ISA this semester, most importantly the last Forum in Rabat past July with several RC20 panels. Also, other publications and useful general information, such as the online conference to be held in 2026.

Best regards to all.

Marita Carballo

President, RC20

Conference in Rabat in July 2025

RC20 at the Fifth ISA Forum of Sociology organized the following paper sessions

- Global Perspectives on Democracy and Political Trust: Comparative Analyses in Turbulent Times
- Democracies Under Pressure: Resilience and Adaptation in the Face of Crises
- Religiosity in the World: Trends, Diversity, and Social Impact
- Political Behavior, Participation, and Culture: Building Social Capital
- Comparative and Historical Sociology of Women's Careers: In the Midst of Great Changes (Joint with RC56-Historical Sociology and RC32-Women, Gender, and Society)
- Comparative Sociology: Research and Methods
- Quality of Life and Wellbeing: Multidimensional Perspectives and Policy Implications
- News Tendencies in the Global Work. Comparative Scales of Informality, Precarity and Unemployment (Joint with WGO1-Sociology of Local-Global Relations and RC30-Sociology of Work)
- Digital Dynamics: Exploring the Impact of Internet Technologies, AI, and Social Media Platforms on Society
- Current Research in Comparative Sociology
- Studying Our Own Uprisings: Positionalities, Methods and Baggage of History (Joint with RC48-Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change and RC18-Political Sociology)

- Insights from World Values Survey and European Values Study: Trends, Comparisons, and Implications (I)
- Insights from World Values Survey and European Values Study: Trends, Comparisons, and Implications (II)
- VET Around the World. Comparing Vocational Education and Training Systems and Outcomes Globally
- Cultural Diversity and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities for Societies (I)
- Cultural Diversity and Migration: Challenges and Opportunities for Societies (II)
- Boundaries in Process-Oriented Social Research (Joint with RC56-Historical Sociology and RC33-Logic and Methodology in Sociology)

As the titles show, the sessions covered a wide range of topics. For reasons of space, the titles of individual papers are not listed here, but they can be found at the Forum website

(<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2025/meetingapp.cgi/Symposium/799>).

We thank the organizers, presiders, and authors for a stimulating and informative meeting.

David Weakliem

RC20 Business Meeting at ISA Rabat 2025

The RC20 Business Meeting was held at AJSE032 of Muhammad V University, Rabat, Morocco, on July 8, 2025, chaired by David Weakliem, RC20 vice president. (1) It was reported that there were 66 presentations in 18 sessions (joint 4, regular 13, business 1), coordinated by Kseniya Kizilova, RC20 vice president. (2) Preparations for the RC20, RC33, and RC56 Joint Online Regional Conferences in 2026 were conducted as planned, coordinated by Fumiya Onaka, RC20 executive secretary, and several Thai researchers. (3) Discussions were held regarding the XXI World Congress of Sociology set to be held in Kwangju, South Korea in 2027. Fumiya Onaka was thus proposed to play the role of program coordinator for the Congress. (4) The Second RC20 (Comparative Sociology) Best Paper Award would be awarded at the RC20, RC33, and RC56 Joint Online Conference, and the schedules for call for application would be circulated in the future. (5) It was reported that the number of RC20 members had increased and now exceeds 100. (6) The RC20 finance was reported to be in good standing. (7) There were no objections to revisions of the Aims and Requirements Document proposed by the Research Council.

Fumiya Onaka

I would like to specially thank our Vice-President David Weakliem and our Executive Secretary Fumiya Onaka for their active personal participation at the Conference in Rabat. I would also like to thank Vice-President Kseniya Kizilova for coordinating the activities.

Marita Carballo

Publications

Recent Papers on Populism and Authoritarianism in *Comparative Sociology*

Populism and authoritarianism are important issues in the contemporary world, and *Comparative Sociology* has published a number of articles on these topics. Some of these are listed below, along with short abstracts.

Frane Adam and Matevž Tomšič “The Future of Populism in a Comparative European and Global Context” (2019)

This article deals with the recent rise of populist tendencies and their meaning in contemporary democracies within the EU, including Eastern Europe. It stresses the importance of two interrelated and interconnected processes that provide a fertile ground for the emergence of different types of populism – crisis of parliamentary multi-party democracy and pressures of supranational integration and globalisation. Populism has the ambition to address both, to solve the political crisis and defend national sovereignty against globalism by personifying politics as a way of concentrating power. This means a tendency toward a (semi)-authoritarian (but still competitive) regime and state-led capitalism.

Efe Peker and Emily Laxer “Populism and Religion: Toward a Global Comparative Agenda” (2021)

This article proposes analytical tools for global comparisons of the populism-religion relationship. First, drawing on the ideational, performative, and strategic approaches to populism, the authors articulate how populists deploy religion in each category. Second, the authors employ this tridimensional conception to operationalize the “covert” and “overt” modes of religious populism identified in the literature. Third, the authors exemplify these ideal types via two pairs of case studies: France and Québec (covert), and India and Turkey (overt).

Ralph Schroeder “The Populist Revolt against the West: Alternative Paths within a Globalizing Modernity?” (2021)

The question this article tries to answer is: to what extent can the recent rise of populism outside of the West be attributed to anti-Western sentiment? Interest in populism has focused on Western democracies, with far less attention devoted to

regimes in non-Western parts of the world. This article takes three major cases – India, China, and Turkey. The article examines the recent intensification of populism in the three cases but also shows how populism fits into the longer comparative-historical trajectories of a revolt against Western domination. The conclusion puts populism in a wider perspective: how do these non-Western assertions of populism shed light on debates about alternative paths within modernity and on the nature of populism in Western democracies?

Geélison Ferreira da Silva, Robert Bonifácio da Silva, Mateus Rennó Santos, and Rafael Soares Duarte de Moura “Democracy and Crime in Latin America: What Do We Know about the Relationship from an Attitudinal Perspective?” (2024)

Do firm stances against crime, up to a level at which they disregard human rights, overflow the sphere of crime control and associate with a preference against democracy. Although no significant effects were found on democracy as the best form of government, victimization increases the likelihood of wanting a firearm, favoring the death penalty, and supporting coups, while it reduces the satisfaction with democracy and trust in institutions. Therefore, the results confirm that crime not only favors public support for harsh measures to control it but also weakens democracy and its institutions.

Abu Bakarr Bah and Sirojuddin Arif “Digitalized Electoral Democracy, Subversive Politics, and Islam: Indonesia in Comparative Perspective” (2024)

Increasingly democracy is becoming digitalized through the use of information technologies in the conduct of elections and political campaigns. At the same time, politics is becoming more contentious, and even subversive, as democracy fuses with divisive social issues and identity politics. Muslim-majority countries face major challenges in making democracy work due to subversive politics and the political and ideological conflicts between different Muslim groups. The authors argue that Indonesia stands as an in-between case in the continuum of subversive politics. They show this by explaining how democracy failed in some Muslim countries, became threatened in consolidated democracies, and survives in Indonesia. The combination of institutional quality and relative independence of religious organizations in politics has been crucial for the way Indonesia deals with subversive politics.

Suchismita Das and Satanik Pal “The Popularity of Donald Trump in India—Explained” (2025)

This article examines the curious popularity of Donald Trump in India by investigating pivotal events of Indian socio-political history and the embedded yet imperceptible tenets of Indian culture. The article reveals the processes that have nurtured affinity for populist leadership in India since the country’s independence. The analysis reveals a dialectical relationship between the demand for strong leadership and how it apparently guarantees individual freedom in India. Indians have previously displayed affinity for populist leaders both in their country and abroad – this article demonstrates how these ambivalences have come to exist

among Hindu nationalists wherein they support Indian and foreign populists simultaneously.

David Weakliem

General information

Participation of Members in other academic conferences

Marita Carballo and Christian Haerpfer together with Kseniya Kizilova participated at the WAPOR conference in St. Louis, Missouri last May. Christian chaired panels on: “Polls and Their Role in the Modern Era” and “Pre-Election Polls Around the World”. Marita made a presentation on “The future of Democracy in Latin America: Popular Support and the New Generations”.

Marita Carballo participated in the WIN conference in Helsinki in June, presenting on “Strategies for Capturing Complex Social Dynamics: Findings in Proximity. Three Cases on Social Dynamics”

RC20 & RC33 & RC56 Joint Online Regional Conference in 2026

RC20 (Comparative Sociology), RC33 (Logic and Methodology in Sociology), and RC56 (Historical Sociology) joint only-online regional conference, which has already been announced, are progressing as planned.

Before the deadline for the call for session proposals on August 1, 2025, 12 session proposals were submitted. After evaluation and selection, the call for papers will open on September 28, 2025.

For more information and submission, please visit the main website: (<https://www.comparative-sociology.online/JC2026.htm>) or the mirror site (please use this if the main website cannot be accessed): (<https://mcn-www.jwu.ac.jp/~fonaka/JC2026.htm>).

We look forward to your submission!

The local organizing committee:

Dusadee Ayuwat (Prof. Dr. Khon Kaen University)

Keeratiporn Jutaviriya (Assist. Prof. Dr. Khon Kaen University)

Rukchanok Chumnannmak (Assist. Prof. Dr. Khon Kaen University)

Fumiya Onaka (Prof. Dr., Japan Women's University)

Co-hosts:

Issara Kanjug (Assoc. Prof. Dr., Khon Kaen University, Faculty of Education)

Kitapatr Dhabhalabutr (Assoc. Prof. Dr., Khon Kaen University, Faculty of Architecture)

Thank you for being part of the RC20 community. We will keep sharing progress with you.

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marita Carballo", with a horizontal line underneath.

Marita Carballo