



History of
Sociology



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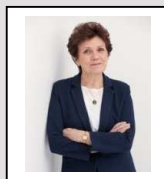
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2025

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Letter From the President of RC08

Dear fellow members and friends,

It is time for another newsletter to let you know what your committee has been doing for members over the past six months. Among the various management activities, three might be of interest to all members.

First, we applied for funds from the ISA to support a Media Research Assistant, and appointed Paula Biasotti, a doctoral student in Argentina, to assist our very busy Secretary, Diego, with communications tasks for our research group. With Paula's help, we have re-established the diffusion of activities from our X account: (<https://url.au.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/cNmSC5QPXJjpMRkOyCzfOukZKhM?domain=twitter.com>), and opened a LinkedIn account: (<https://url.au.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/ForbC6XQ4Lf0PMLxRc6h4u55t4o?domain=linkedin.com>) to promote our actions. We ask you to join us as followers of this account, and send any announcements, awards, publications, and exciting news for either X and LinkedIn (or both) on a daily basis. Information can be sent to: socialmediaRC08ISA@gmail.com

Secondly, the committee has announced the opening of the Junior Scholar Prize. The call for papers is included in this newsletter. We invite all members to encourage emerging scholars who are working in this field to become members of RC08 and submit a paper for the prize.

A third activity, which has been taken up some of our time and caused considerable consternation for the committee, concerns a letter to the Editor of this newsletter. The letter, from a long-serving member of RC08, Professor Christian Fleck, is about the decision of the ISA to suspend the membership of the Israeli Sociological Society in the light of the genocide in Gaza and the West Bank. The committee unanimously agreed that the letter should be published, as all members have a right to hold, and voice, their opinion; but most members of the committee found the letter disturbing and upsetting, and believe it to be an inaccurate characterisation of the ISA's decision. As President of RC08, I wrote to Christian and politely asked if he could revise the letter to correct its inaccuracies and misinformation. A revised letter was submitted, but this did not, in our view, correct the inaccuracies or the offensive characterisation of the ISA decision. We publish the revised letter in full, but following a statement from the board, distancing ourselves from Christian's opinion, and also a letter from the ISA President, Geoffrey Pleyers, giving us background and context to the ISA decision.

The suspension of the Israeli Sociological Society was a difficult decision for the ISA to make, and members have different views about whether the right call was made. Committee members are not all in agreement either. However, our committee and, indeed, all members of our sociological community are committed to seeking the truth and teaching and publishing verifiable information and knowledge. This is what we do. This is what we believe in, and passionately. This is what makes Christian's letter so disturbing for all of us. We hope that in publishing this, in conjunction with the background material, members will understand and hopefully discuss the matter in a rational and reasonable way. All members are welcome to send us letters about this matter for our next newsletter, but please, we ask that these are written carefully and with consideration of all the facts.

As I write this letter, I, like many Australians, are in mourning. A few days ago we had a terrible tragedy at Bondi beach, with two men killing and injuring many Jewish members of the community celebrating the first day of Hanukkah. It is so hard to believe these dreadful acts occurred in our country, and so difficult to describe and even think about how they make us feel. I do know however, that this terrible act is already having a much broader impact – not just for the Jewish community but the Muslim and Palestinian communities as well. The political finger-pointing and religious-based hatreds have all been fired up. As President of RC08, I wish to send my deepest sympathies to the Jewish community, no matter where they live, for their loss and suffering.

I wish this newsletter could have ended on a more joyful note, but it is not to be. I do wish you all, however, the very best of the season's greetings. However, you choose to spend your time over the coming weeks, I hope it brings you some happiness and perhaps rest after another busy year.

Warm regards
Fran

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News from the Editor

At RC08, we have navigated a year 2025 filled with developments and challenges. Together with the entire international sociological community, we have observed a series of events that demand our attention. As rarely before, the legitimacy of scientific knowledge and political discourse is being simultaneously challenged by an avalanche of flat- earthers, anti- vaxxers, conspiracy theorists, promoters of disinformation, and deniers of all kinds. Besides, many governments, such as the United States and also Argentina, are cutting funding to the scientific system, particularly affecting the social sciences. As sociologists, we know that behind all of this there are specific actors and interests that must be identified, analysed and faced. Sociology must act while maintaining the criteria that made it one of the leading scientific disciplines of the modern world: theoretical soundness, methodological rigor, and social commitment. If we aspire to a more pluralistic, diverse, and democratic society, the response to the global crisis is more and better sociology.

That is what we are working towards. During this year, our membership increased by 13%, from 109 to 123 members. The regional distribution is almost the same than the previous year, albeit Asia is increasing its participation through the last time. Percentages are the following: Europe (36%), Asia (21%) North America (19%), Latin America (16%), Africa (5%), Oceania (5%). Many new territories have joined us recently. Although there is still much to be done, since 66% of the members come from category A Countries, 24% from B and only 11% from category C. This compels us to continue working on finding strategies that will allow us to add more people, languages, and perspectives to the list.

Throughout our journey over the past twelve months, we made a stop in Rabat, where we had the opportunity to meet and reconnect at the global forum. There, we enjoyed engaging work and discussions. As you may already know, the event was not without controversy, as political debates and geopolitical tensions permeated our talks and analyses. As you could read in this edition of the Newsletter, the repercussions of the conflict have not ceased yet. Here we present the opinion of Christian Fleck, whose contribution to this volume caused quite a stir in the RC08 Steering Committee. I hope the outcome has served to clarify the situation and enrich the understanding of the arguments from different positions, which should not ultimately be irreconcilable. We then published a consensus statement from the Committee. Following this, we suggest the reading of an insightful article written by the ISA President. Finally, Fleck's letter is published. But that's not all; as always, the Newsletter includes news, contributions, and announcements from all our members. Thank you very much for your contributions, and congratulations on the vast and productive academic output.

Diego Ezequiel Pereyra

Secretary RC08

Statement from the RC08 Board

This note [from Christian Fleck, below], published in this newsletter, expresses the position of a specific colleague. Regardless of what our board members think about the suspension of the Israeli Sociological Society, we want any discussion on this topic to be based on facts, consistency, and respect, as our ISA president, Geoffrey Pleyers, says (see below). We hope that discussions on this sensitive issue will be based on a spirit of respect and understanding, avoiding polarization and inaccuracies in these challenging times.

The Board
17 December 2025

Letter from ISA President, Geoffrey Pleyers

Facts and Rigour at the Core of the Sociological Ethos

September 22, 2025

A shortened version of this article was published in German in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung on September 23, 2025 under the title "Zwei Logik".

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/executive-committee/presidential-corner-23/facts-and-rigour-at-the-core-of-the-sociological-ethos>

On September 4, 2025, the German newspaper Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung published an article entitled "Role reversal of activists and anti-academics", by Alexander Bogner and Caspar Hirschi. They denounce an "increasing politicisation of science" and present the "expulsion of the Israeli Sociological Society" by the International Sociological Association (ISA) as an example of the politicisation of research by "activist academics". They argue that too many social scientists pursue political or activist goals and call for greater rigour and objectivity in the social sciences.

I share Alexander Bogner and Caspar Hirschi's call for rigour in social sciences, notably when they write that "what matters is that researchers confront the political dimension of their work with the same organised scepticism they apply to all truth-claims." Scientific rigour, fact-checking and the rejection of false information are the foundations of sociology and science. They must be defended with even more energy in an era when fake news has become so powerful. This requires correcting some false statements and misrepresentations concerning the ISA decision.

Factual Corrections

1. The ISA Executive Committee decision

- Contrary to what the claim made in the article states, the Israeli Sociological Society (ISS) was not expelled but suspended from the ISA, which is, by definition, a temporary measure.
- At no point did the ISA prohibit or discourage Israeli colleagues from participating in its Forum of Sociology in Rabat. On the contrary, Israeli sociologists remain welcome at ISA meetings and activities, even after the suspension of their national association. In a letter sent on August 21st to ISA members and national associations, I made it clear: "Our priority has been to maintain a space for individual sociologists from all countries to participate fully in the ISA Forum and in other ISA and Research Committee activities. We do not reduce individuals to their nationality and are aware that many Israeli colleagues have mobilised against their government's inhumane policies. Israeli sociologists remain welcome in the ISA as individual members". To this date, I maintain regular contact with members of the ISS and with Israeli colleagues, whose perspectives I deeply value.
- Bogner and Hirsch complain that "the expulsion was decided solely by its executive board, without consulting national members". In fact, eight of the 21 Executive Committee members are delegates elected by national associations. The discussion on the suspension of the ISS began following formal requests from several national associations. The debate is ongoing: the ISA National Association Liaison Committee is currently examining the issue, and national associations will vote on whether to

maintain the suspension at the next meeting of the Council of National Associations that will take place in December.

2. The Moroccan local organisers

In a provocative passage, Bogner and Hirschi allege that “just days before the opening, the Moroccan organisers declared that participation in the Forum required ‘respect for Moroccan values’.” What they meant had been coordinated with Morocco’s BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement: all participants had to denounce the “systematic genocide” of Palestinians, and no one from the “Zionist entity was allowed”. “The ISA honoured these ‘Moroccan values’ by promptly expelling the Israeli Sociological Society (ISS).”

This passage mixes false claims, misinterpretations, and unverified assumptions.

- No Moroccan sociologist or local organiser was involved in the decision to suspend the ISS. The ISA Executive Committee made the decision in full independence.
- The Forum participants were not requested to take a stance on the massacres in Gaza by the Israeli Army.
- While the Moroccan section of the BDS movement campaigned against the participation of Israeli researchers, the Forum’s Local Organising Committee opposed the boycott of individual colleagues. As a result, the Moroccan BDS movement boycotted the Forum altogether.
- Equating “respect for Moroccan values” with mandatory denunciations of Israel shows a lack of knowledge of Moroccan politics. The Moroccan state normalised relations with Israel in 2020 and has since maintained open cooperation, including some military collaboration.

Science and Democracy

1. Avoiding the confusion of two logics

Bogner and Hirschi accuse the ISA Executive Committee of politicising science when it suspended the Israeli Sociological Society. They present the decision as the work of “activist academics” [who] openly align research with political causes” and make political demands “in the name of science”.

This critique rests on a false conflation. In any research or scholarly association, two logics coexist: the scientific and the political. Research, panels and publications are processes that must follow the scientific ethos with rigour, methods, and analysis and must be discussed on this basis, with scholarly openness.

Both the ISA decision to suspend or to maintain the ISS as a regular member and the ÖGS decision to withdraw from the ISA are not scientific decisions. All research institutions and associations take decisions that have a political dimension. Claiming that this was done “in the name of science” reflects a confusion between two different logics and corresponding ethos and contributes to fuelling attacks on science. As all decisions taken by the ISA, it should be ruled by a democratic ethos. To be legitimate, such political decisions must be grounded in an assessment of accurate facts, consistent with the statutes, rules and values of the association, and democratic deliberation and voting processes.

That is precisely what happened within the ISA. Following requests from National Associations and Research Committees, given the increasingly unbearable situation in Gaza, and faced with the precedent of suspending the Russian Society of Sociologists after the invasion of Ukraine, a majority of the Executive Committee members supported the suspension of the ISS, while acknowledging that suspending a national association is never a desirable decision and the need for continued debate and deliberation. The deliberation concerning the suspension of the ISS has been informed by the expertise of historians and social scientists, including Israeli scholars. The question of whether the ISA should suspend any national association at all is currently debated within the ISA Executive Committee.

Acknowledging that scholarly institutions inevitably operate in both spheres allows actors to hold higher standards in each and prevents confusion when evaluating decisions. While science and democracy refer to different ethics and must follow different rules and evaluations, they nevertheless share a crucial grounding: accurate facts, rigorous reasoning, and open and respectful debate.

2. A legitimate debate

In a context where over 200.000 Palestinians have been killed or injured by the Israeli Army in Gaza and 40 Israelis are still being held hostage, any decision on Israel and Gaza will trigger both support and opposition. Bogner and Hirschi rightly note that the ISA decision “provoked protests from, among others, the German and Austrian sociological associations”. An honest assessment would also have mentioned that several other national associations and several research committees expressed their support for the ISA’s decision, notably the French Sociological Association. Some Israeli colleagues expressed their legitimate opposition to the suspension; others welcomed it as a way to raise awareness of the unbearable abuses committed by the Israeli Army in Gaza and the growing international isolation of the Israeli government. Over 200 Israeli colleagues signed a statement denouncing crimes committed in Gaza and the West Bank, urging the international community to put pressure on the Israeli government, and calling for greater support for the Palestinians.

The objections expressed by the Austrian and German Sociological Associations are legitimate. They must be taken seriously, just like the stances adopted by some of the 68 other National Associations that are members of the ISA. Stances that dominate the public space in German-speaking countries may be minority perspective in other countries or world regions. The diversity of responses expressed in the debate on the ISA’s position is a sign of our vitality and not of our weakness.

The Austrian Sociological Association’s (ÖGS), that is currently presided over by Alexander Bogner, decided to withdraw from the ISA. This is an isolated move that I deeply regret. Its leadership did not contact the ISA before announcing the withdrawal, a missed opportunity that would have allowed us to clarify the process and correct factual errors. My regret is threefold. First, collaboration between the ISA and the ÖGS has long been productive and should not be overshadowed by disagreement on a single, albeit important, issue. Second, perspectives such as those expressed by Bogner and Hirschi are welcome in the ISA’s internal debates. I hope the ÖGS will reconsider its self-suspension and participate actively in the forthcoming deliberations of the Council of National Associations on the suspension of the ISS. Third, it is a paradox that the president of the ÖGS criticises the ISA Executive Committee for a lack of consultation while at the same time, the ÖGS took the decision to withdraw from the ISA without consulting its own members. This provides a worrisome example of considering different standards for oneself and for criticising others.

Conclusion: Correct facts and scientific rigour

The ISA’s decision to suspend the collective membership of the Israeli Sociological Society has indeed triggered a broad debate. Differing positions on such a sensitive topic are not only legitimate but also indispensable for a lively discussion in scholarly organisations. However, such arguments cannot be based on inaccurate facts.

Distorting facts to fit one’s arguments has become a widespread practice among a sector of political actors. We must resist the expansion of this logic in debates among sociologists. The distortion of facts to fit one’s argument is in direct opposition to the ethic of sociologist as scientists and of democratic citizens. As sociologists, our first duty is to maintain high standards of scientific rigour, fact-checking and the rejection of false information. This has become even more crucial in a time when populist leaders target social sciences and use fake news to build their narratives and gain support for their policies.

The same populist actors often combine the distortion of facts with the dismissal of dissenting positions as “activist” or “ideological”, while presenting one’s own as “common sense” or “self-evident”. Such rhetorical tactics undermine democratic debates. We must resist mimicking it in debates among sociologists. Advances in social science epistemology over the past decades have unveiled the mechanisms of domination behind the presentation of one’s own perspective as “objective” and “neutral” while dismissing different epistemological or analytical perspectives, or studies with different outcomes, as “activist” or “ideologically driven” rather than scientific, without even considering the methodology used in these studies.

To break with this polarisation trend, the debate on the stance to be adopted on Israel and Gaza should start by acknowledging valid arguments both for and against the suspension of the Israel Sociological Society, that differing stances are valid and welcome, and that the integrity of our decisions should rest on facts, consistency and respect.

Although science and democracy follow different ethics, rules and judgements, they have one crucial thing in common: decisions should be made based on facts, rigour in argumentation, and open and respectful debates on values. To defend the social sciences against attacks by populist actors, we must remember that scientific rigour, fact-checking and the rejection of false information are the pillars of the social sciences and the ethos we are committed to upholding.

Geoffrey Pleyers

President, International Sociological Association (ISA)

Letter to the Editor- by Christian Fleck

Dear Diego,

As former editor of the RCHS Newsletter, former Vice-President and former President I wish to express my deep consternation about the decision of ISA to exclude our Israeli colleagues and their association from this international professional association.

It is not only a severe breach of the "constitution" of ISA (by which term I mean not only the written rules but the mood of the founding fathers of ISA, anti-fascists and anti-racists as Louis Wirth, T.H. Marshall, René König), but as someone who studied the history of our discipline, I am ashamed to see that after the Nazi Reichsschrifttumskammer ISA is the second body which kicks Jewish sociologists out of its membership.

Everyone who had studied the history of sociology and the one of the refugee scholars -- including not only those from Nazi Germany and Austria, but also from Italy, France, Spain as well as from the former Soviet Union and other dictatorships -- should join me in condemning the historical uninformed present ruling clique of ISA. All who do not raise their voice against this injustice will be recognized by future historians of sociology as cowards vis-à-vis an ideology of prejudice, discrimination and lack of professional solidarity.

PS. After having written and sent this short note of discomfort to the Newsletter editor, I received an e-mail from the present president of RC08 asking me to re-write it because of alleged inaccuracies, offensiveness, untruthfulness and breach of academic standards. In particular president Collyer criticized my comparison between the Nazi Reichsschrifttumskammer and today's Executive Committee of ISA; secondly she made hairsplitting an argument about kicking out individuals (Jews in Nazi Germany) and banning a body which consists of individuals (Israeli Sociological Society).

Instead of rewriting my letter I take the opportunity to clarify the controversial points:

1. The argument, ISA's Executive did not kick out individual Jewish sociologists but suspend the membership of the Israeli Sociological Society contains two instances of hairsplitting: First, what is the difference between kicking out and suspending? Nothing, just the application of Orwellian newspeak by the ISA Executive Committee. Both ways the Israeli sociologists do not belong any longer to the international community of sociologists assembled in the ISA. The other hairsplitting is by making a difference between individual membership and collective membership. Logic for Dummies proves the shallowness of this arbitrary distinction: If 'collective J is suspended' and if 'x is member of the collective J', then follows that 'x is suspended'. Only for historical reasons ISA holds two ways of membership: individual and collective, i.e. national associations. By suspending the Israeli Sociological Society all their members lost their rights to raise their voice in ISA's Council of National Associations. This is meant when I use the expression Jews were kicked out by the ISA. Furthermore, individuals who belong on the one hand to the Israeli Sociological Society and to ISA via their individual membership are invited by this hairsplitting to decide whether they want hold their individual membership valid. I do not know how many Israeli sociologists uphold their individual membership. But frankly, who would continue wanting to belong to a body of people who kicked out the national body of professionals?

2. Whereas in the wider audiences, in political debates, the mass media and the social media in particular, analogies used extensively but seldom with the needed care, my comparison of Nazi Reichsschrifttumskammer and ISA's Executive Committee follows a strict methodology which has been elaborated and exemplified by Everett Ch. Hughes who avoided moralistic reasoning and looked for similarities. His most famous comparison is the one where he asked at the start of the paper 'what the following pair of professionals do have in common: Prostitutes and psychiatrists, janitors and priests?' (In a publication by and for sociologists there's no need to reproduce the answers here). 'What do have the Reichsschrifttumskammer and the Executive Committee of ISA in common?' is the question which deserves further elaboration. In the Nazi case only members of this professional association were able to publish their scholarly or artistic works in Germany; in the ISA case members of the sociological profession are "suspended" from being part of the worldwide community of sociologists and lack the opportunities to present their scholarly work to the wider audience, meet fellow sociologists, etc. only because they belong to the Israeli Sociological Society. In both cases Jews were the victims of exclusionary policies! Following Hughes we learn from the analogy the difference between organizations which assemble professionals because they are professionals and organizations which make a distinction between honourable and deplorable candidates. And in both cases Jews are the inacceptables.
3. In stark contrast, the statement by the Executive Committee offers only one sentence to justify its decision: "The Israel Sociological Society has not taken a clear position condemning the dramatic situation in Gaza", a situation labelled in the same statement as a "genocide". Neither is it a given that a professional body is obliged to take stances in political affairs nor exists a judgment by an appropriate body of independent judges that what the Israel Defence Forces has committed genocide. Professionals should respect what other professionals are doing, and avoid propaganda speech: "genocide" is a crime which has do been attributed by a court to a defendant.
4. Obviously, the decision by the Executive Committee is anti-Semitic because the members of the Israeli Sociological Society are overwhelmingly Jews.
5. The ruling of ISA's Executive Committee is anti-Semitic also because it picks the Israeli-Arab Conflict out of a large number of inter-ethnic violent conflicts worldwide, and this is making use of double standard, a constitutive element of anti-Semitic prejudice.
6. Finally, what's about the "rules if the community" which president Collyer addressed? She mentioned accurateness and truthfulness. I agree with her but when she expanded the scope of such norms to political questions, I disagree. Truth is less a norm for the field of politics, as many members of our discipline have argued in the past. And where is the truth in the statement of the Executive Committee? Nowhere, because it is a statement of power by people occupying positions of power in today's ISA. Only because they are members of any committee their utterances do not possess more truth value than any statement by anyone else raising their voices in this case.

Christian Fleck

Call for Contributions to the ISA RC08 Junior Scholar's Prize

The ISA RC08 History of Sociology is pleased to announce the Sixth Edition of the RC08 Junior Scholar's Prize.

The aim of the prize is to encourage research among junior scholars within the field of the History of Sociology. Papers eligible for consideration will focus on topics, case studies, debates and/ or perspectives linked to the interests and goals of this research group. These papers have ideally been discussed at an academic meeting within the last two years, including specially sessions arranged by the RC08 (either the online conferences held during 2024 or the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology held in Rabat, 2025). Papers that have already been published, or submitted for publication, are not eligible for consideration.

Authors should be active members of the RC08 and also in the early stages of their careers, i.e. they should be either PhD candidates or their PhD degrees should not be older than three years (the degree should have been awarded during 2023 or later).

The prize committee will consist of three jury members – Hedvig EKERWALD (Chair), Philipp ALTMANN and Stephane DUFOIX.

The winner of the prize (€500) will be announced by the jury to the Steering Committee and a decision publicly announced in the June Newsletter of 2026.

The awarded paper will be considered for publication in *Serendipities: The Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences*. The Jury may also recommend one or two runners up for the prize, and these papers may also be considered for publication in the same academic journal.

Submissions to the ISA RC08 Junior Scholar's Prize need to include:

- An anonymised version of the paper (maximum 8,000 words);
- A statement to confirm AI has been used responsibly, that is, only for searching information or improving language. Any abuse or misuse of these tools may result in the elimination of the paper from the competition;
- A short CV (maximum 2,000 words);
- A covering letter with a brief bio (max 300 words), contact information, title and abstract.

Submissions should be sent via email (with "RC08 Prize" in the subject line) to the RC08 secretary (depereyra@sociales.uba.ar) no later than February 15th, 2026. The Secretary will forward all submitted contributions to the jury members directly after the deadline. Please note: candidates must not enter into any discussion about the prize with jury members.

Information about the RC08 can be found at: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc08-history-of-sociology>

Information about *Serendipities: The Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences* can be found at: <https://tidsskrift.dk/Serendipities>





Serendipities is an independent, peer-reviewed, open-access journal published by the Royal Danish Library. The journal welcomes contributions from scholars worldwide working in the history of the social sciences and the sociology of knowledge. In addition to regular issues, *Serendipities* publishes guest-edited special issues on specific themes.

Previous special issues include:

- Inequalities in the Social Sciences (Vol. 8, 2023), edited by Pierre Benz, Johanna Gautier Morin, Elisa Klüger & Thierry Rossier
- Authoritarianism, Ambivalence, Ambiguity: The Life and Work of Else Frenkel-Brunswik (Vol. 7, 2022), edited by Andreas Kranebitter & Christoph Reinprecht

A forthcoming special issue for 2025 is:

- Governing (by) Expertise. The Politics of Social Scientific Knowledge Production, edited by Christian Bessy, Arthur Jatteau, Frédéric Lebaron, Vincent Gengnagel & Christian Schmidt-Wellenburg (Vol. 10, 2025)

The editors invite proposals for future special issues. Scholars interested in proposing a theme may contact the editors directly or submit a 1–2 page proposal.

Editors:

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More information: <https://tidsskrift.dk/Serendipities/about>

Session Report – ISA Forum Rabat 2025

RC08 History of Sociology Oral Session 119 - Marxist Social Theory and Ideology in the Context of Historical Experience. Tuesday, 8 July 2025/ 13:00 - 14:45; ASJE026 (Bloc 3, Annex of the Faculty of Legal, Economic, and Social Sciences). Session Organizer Mikhail Sinyutin (St Petersburg University, Russia).

The section brought together researchers of the Marxist tradition in the history of sociology. The purpose of the discussion was to discuss two fundamental components of Marxist methodology theory and ideology. Their combination and interrelationship not only distinguished Marxism, but also served as the most important discussed problem of the philosophical foundation of sociology. The dialectic of Marxist theory and ideology depended on specific historical circumstances. In this regard, it can be considered successful that the presented reports reflected not only different eras, but also different national and cultural contexts of solving the problem. Reports on the development of Marxism in the USA, Japan, the USSR, China, and Italy were presented. Despite the historical nature of the presentations of the speakers and listeners, who gathered about 20 people, they were interested in how much historical experience of Marxism's development of the problem of theory and ideology can be in demand today.

Jeff Goodwin from New York University (USA) made the first report on the topic “Why W. E. B. Du Bois Became a Marxist”. It was shown how Du Bois went from visiting the USSR in 1926 and declaring himself “a Bolshevik” to intensively studying Marxist classics in order to confidently call himself a “perfect Marxist” ten years later. Every step in theory was steeped in the practical concerns of the current political struggle. It was his involvement that led to his radicalization and subsequent break with the so-called Young Turks in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), under whose influence he had long followed the political path. Despite his strong misgivings at the time with the politics of the Communist Party in the United States Du Bois realized the practical importance of the theory and ideology of Marxism for the labour movement, especially in the context of racism and racial oppression. Du Bois recorded his ideological turn in his magnum opus “Black Reconstruction in America, 1860-1880”, published in 1935.

The second report was made by Sayana Mitupova from Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration (Russia) on the topic “Marxist Social Theory and Ideology in the Japanese Historical Context”. The report was based on a fundamental historical study of Japanese sociology with its unique intellectual landscape. Marxist social theory and ideology was considered as a field with a long history since the late 19th century and a complex connection with both the academic environment and the political movements of Japan. The role of the Japanese Communist Party in popularizing Marxist ideology among the citizens was rightly shown. The unique cultural tradition of Japan has shaped such principles of worldview, which required specific tools for the intellectual adaptation of Marxism. As a result, the influence of specific historical processes that engulfed Japanese society during the 20th century was also revealed, which definitely changed the fate of Marxism as an ideology influencing political processes.

The third was to present to the public collective work of two scholars from China, Jin Junkai (Shanxi University) and Tang Wenpei (Peking University) with the paper “From Internalism to Externalism: Unanticipated Consequences of Early Spread of Marxist Views on the History of Science”. Their research fundamentally based upon the rare materials from the Russian archives was devoted to the strategy of Soviet delegation at the Second International Congress on the History of Science and Technology in 1931 in London (UK). The strategy was designed to actively promote Marxism during the congress, both among the academic community, precisely Bernard, Needham, and Merton, and in the public sphere of Western society. The paper proves that soviet strategy based the Soviet Marxist had been triggering the transformation of the theoretical paradigm of the History of Science from internalism to externalism. This historical event was interpreted as an important step in the process of international ideological battle before World War II.

Due to various force majeure reasons, it was not possible at the last moment to publicly present the two remaining papers: “A Human Community with a Shared Future: The Reconstruction of "Community" in Chinese Political Discourse in the 21st Century” by Juan Pang and Lihua Wang from Shanxi University (China), and “Elitism and Marxism: Theoretical Intersections between the Italian School and Gramscian Analysis” by Daniele Cardella from University of Messina (Italy). As a result, the scholars present at the session had a lot of time to thoroughly discuss the three reports, which they did not hesitate to take advantage of. The fruitfulness of the work lies in the fact that colleagues decided to publish the materials of the session with the invitation of interested researchers in addition to the speakers. Work in this direction has begun and it is hoped that it will be possible to bring it to the final result in the form of a published volume on the theme of the session.

Mikhail Sinyutin (St Petersburg University, Russia).



We share a selection of photos kindly provided by **Mikhail**, taken during the RC08 gathering in Rabat.

These images capture moments of exchange and camaraderie among members during the ISA Forum.





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ISA FORUM OF
SOCIOLOGY

معرفة العدالة في الأنثروبوسين
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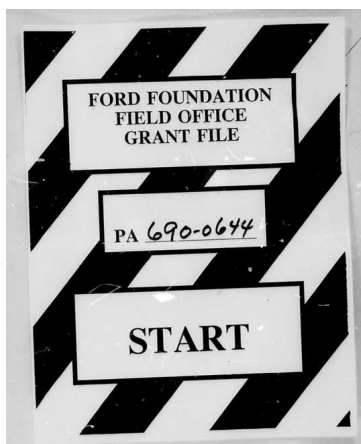




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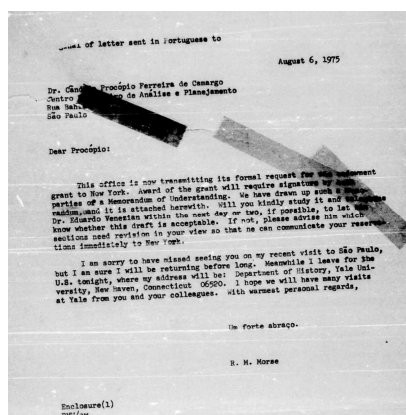
Research Report – Archive Visit (Rockefeller Archive Center, New York)

By Lidiane Soares Rodrigues (Universidade Federal do ABC)



Between September and October 2025, our colleague, Lidiane Soares Rodrigues (Brazil/ Universidade Federal do ABC), visited a Rockefeller Archive Center (RAC), in Sleepy Town (New York). She was funded by a stipend provided by the RAC itself. There, she found the most relevant documentary sources to characterize the presence of the Ford Foundation in Brazil, and, more broadly, its strategies to structure the capacity to influence Brazilian scientific elites, within the scope of the social sciences. Lidiane focused, particularly, on collecting documentation about French institutions funded by the Ford Foundation, between the years 1970-2000: the Department of Cebap, the Political Science Department of the Federal University of Minas Gerais (founded in 1966, in Minas Gerais), the University Research Institute of Rio de Janeiro (IUPERJ, founded in 1967, in Minas Gerais), the Brazilian Center for Planning (CEBRAP, founded in São Paulo), the Center for Contemporary Culture Studies (CEDEC, founded in 1976, in São Paulo) and the National Association of Graduate Studies in Social Sciences (ANPOCS, founded in 1978, in São Paulo). She published an initial report in the RAC repository:

https://rockarch.issuelab.org/?publisher=&wikitopic_categories=&keywords=&pubdate_start_year=1&pubdate_end_year=1&sort=&categories=&offset=0&pageSize=12.



Letter from Richard Morse (Ford Consultant) to Candido Procópio Ferreira de Camargo (founding father of IUPERJ)



ISA News: 2025 RC16 Junior Theorist Award

We are pleased to share the announcement of the 2025 Junior Theorist Award, granted by the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Sociological Theory (RC16).

This year's award goes to our RC colleague, Romulo Lelis (Brazilian Center of Analysis and Planning), for his outstanding article:

Lelis, Romulo (2025). "The great transformation: The Durkheimian sociology of religion from Émile Durkheim to Henri Hubert." *Anthropological Theory*, 25(1): 97–117.

Thanks to the support of SAGE, the article is now freely accessible in recognition of this achievement.

The award committee highlighted the paper as a "*truly pathbreaking contribution*," offering new insights into long-debated questions about the origins and development of Durkheim's sociology of religion. They emphasized its methodological rigor, close engagement with lesser-known texts, and its capacity to illuminate the intellectual collaborations that shaped classical theory.

Award Committee:

- Paul Joosse (University of Hong Kong)
- Ilaria Riccioni (Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy)
- Daniel Silver (University of Toronto, Canada)



Member's Publications

Books

Europeanized Social Science Changes in Hierarchies, Practices, and Institutions Edited by Kristoffer Kropp, Anton Grau Larsen & Rachel Fishberg

This forthcoming edited volume examines how Europeanization processes have reshaped social science as a field of knowledge and practice. Through historical, institutional, and comparative perspectives, the contributors analyse shifts in academic hierarchies, research funding landscapes, publication structures, and transnational collaborations. The volume provides an innovative account of how European integration has influenced the organization, priorities, and evaluation of contemporary social-scientific work.

Kropp, Kristoffer; Grau Larsen, Anton & Fishberg, Rachel (eds.) (forthcoming 2025). *Europeanized Social Science: Changes in Hierarchies, Practices, and Institutions*. Cham: Springer. ISBN: 978-3-031-93661-6.
<https://link.springer.com/book/9783031936616>

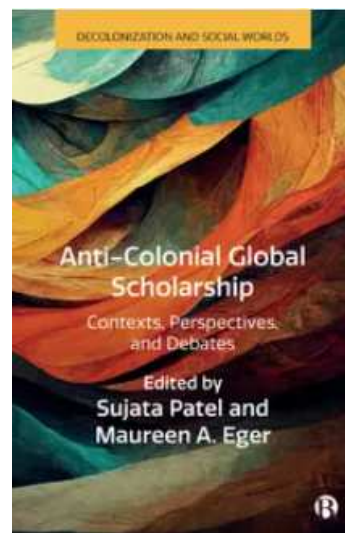


Anti-Colonial Global Scholarship. Context, Perspectives and Debates Edited by Sujata Patel & Maureen A. Eger

This volume offers a ground-breaking contribution to the emerging field of anti-colonial global scholarship. Bringing together leading voices from diverse world regions, the book examines how colonial legacies continue to shape the production, circulation and legitimization of social knowledge. Through theoretical interventions and empirical case studies, the contributors elaborate multiple epistemological and methodological perspectives that challenge Eurocentric frames and foreground the intellectual traditions, political struggles and situated histories of the Global South. The volume provides a critical mapping of contemporary debates around decoloniality, anti-colonial theory, and the global transformation of social sciences, making it an essential reference for scholars engaged in rethinking knowledge production beyond Western paradigms.

Patel, Sujata & Maureen A. Eger (eds.) (2025). *Anti-Colonial Global Scholarship. Context, Perspectives and Debates*. Bristol: Bristol University Press. ISBN: 9781529245547

<https://bristoluniversitypressdigital.com/edcollbook-oa/book/9781529245547/9781529245547.xml>

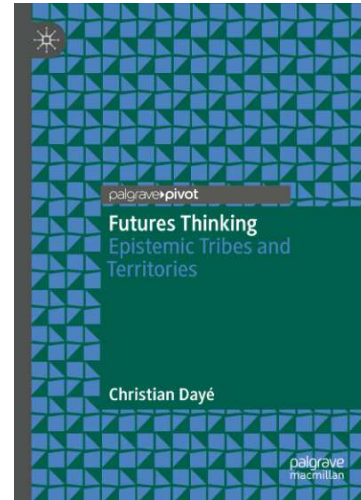


Futures Thinking: Epistemic Tribes and Territories

Christian Dayé

This book develops an innovative sociological perspective on futures thinking, exploring how different epistemic communities construct, contest, and territorialize the ways in which societies imagine their futures. Bringing together conceptual analysis and empirical cases, Christian Dayé examines the tensions between expert knowledge, public discourse, and cultural imaginaries, offering a fresh approach to understanding how visions of the future shape social dynamics.

Dayé, Christian (2025). *Futures Thinking: Epistemic Tribes and Territories*. Cham: Springer. ISBN: 978-3-031-91940-4 (print), 978-3-031-91941-1 (eBook).
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-91941-1>



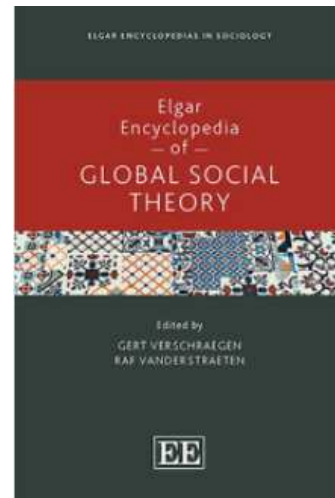
Elgar Encyclopedia of Global Social Theory

Edited by Raf Vanderstraeten & Gert Verschraegen

This encyclopedia brings together leading scholars to map the concepts, traditions, debates and perspectives that shape contemporary global social theory. Edited by Raf Vanderstraeten and Gert Verschraegen, the volume offers a comprehensive reference work for researchers and students interested in the global development of social theory.

Verschraegen, Gert & Raf Vanderstraeten (eds.) (2025). *Elgar Encyclopedia of Global Social Theory*. Edward Elgar Publishing. ISBN: 978-1-80392-211-9.

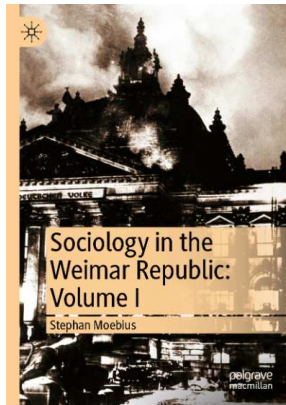
<https://www.e-elgar.com/shop/usd/elgar-encyclopedia-of-global-social-theory-9781803922119.html>



Sociology in the Weimar Republic. Volume I

Stephan Moebius

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This first volume offers a comprehensive historical reconstruction of sociology during the Weimar Republic, examining how the discipline developed amid political instability, cultural transformation, and intellectual pluralism. Stephan Moebius traces major debates, emerging methodological perspectives, and the institutional contexts that shaped early German sociology, providing a foundational account of its evolution in the interwar years.

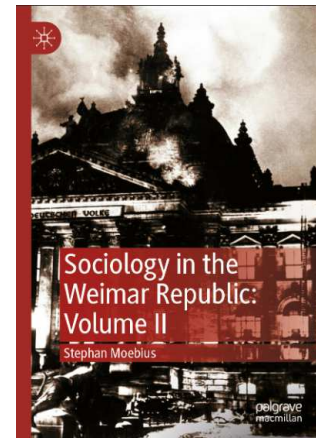
Moebius, Stephan (2025). *Sociology in the Weimar Republic. Volume I*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
<https://lnkd.in/dZeg4kbN>

Sociology in the Weimar Republic. Volume II

Stephan Moebius

The second volume extends the analysis of sociological thought in the Weimar period by focusing on lesser-known figures, thematic debates, and intellectual networks that shaped the field. Moebius highlights the diversity of sociological approaches and explores how ideas about modernity, culture, community, and scientific authority developed during a moment of profound transformation for German intellectual life.

Moebius, Stephan (2025). *Sociology in the Weimar Republic. Volume II*. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan.
<https://lnkd.in/dr75SeNr>



Soziologie der Zwischenkriegszeit. Ihre Hauptströmungen und zentralen Themen im deutschen Sprachraum

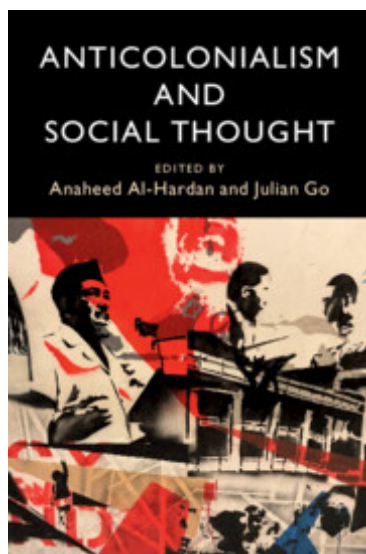
Edited by Stephan Moebius & Karl Acham



This edited volume brings together contributions that examine the main streams and central themes of sociology in the German-speaking world during the interwar period. Through detailed historical and theoretical analyses, the volume explores institutional developments, intellectual debates, and methodological innovations, offering an essential reference for understanding the evolution of sociological thought between World War I and World War II.

Moebius, Stephan & Karl Acham (eds.) (2025). *Soziologie der Zwischenkriegszeit. Ihre Hauptströmungen und zentralen Themen im deutschen Sprachraum*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag.

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-658-47747-9>



Not only did the anticolonial movements of the past two centuries help bring down the global order of colonial empires, they also produced novel, innovative and vital social thought. Anticolonialism has been largely ignored in conventional Europe-centered social thought and theory, but this book shows how our sociological imagination can be expanded by taking challenges to colonialism and imperialism seriously. Amidst their struggles to change the world, anticolonial actors offer devastating critiques of it, challenging the racism, economic exploitation, political exclusions and social inequalities central to imperialism and colonialism. Anticolonial thinkers and activists thereby seek to understand the world they are struggling against and, in the process, develop new concepts and theorize the world in new ways. Chapters by leading scholars help uncover this dissident tradition of social thought as the authors discuss an array of anticolonial thinkers, activists and movements from Palestine, India, South Africa, Brazil, Algeria and beyond.

Anticolonialism and social thought, organized by Anaheed Al-Hardan and Julian Go, Cambridge University Press, 2025.

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/anticolonialism-and-social-thought/CC14B42E60E24394B01BEE2CC39939D8>

Two members of the RC08 authored chapters, as follows.

Chapter 8: João Maia, “Anticolonial sociology in Latin America, 1950-1970”, pp. 186-208.

Chapter 10: Sujata Patel, “A.R. Desai’s Marxist critique of nationalism and the Indian nation-state. Towards a reframing of sociology as social science”, pp. 234–252.

Journals, Special Issues and Articles

New Issue of *Sociological Teaching* (TG09 – ISA)

We are pleased to announce the publication of the latest issue of *Sociological Teaching*, the official journal of ISA’s Thematic Group TG09: Sociological Teaching. The journal provides an international platform for scholarship on teaching practices, pedagogical innovation, curriculum design, and the role of sociology in higher education.

Sociological Teaching – Volume 3, Issue 1 (2025)

This issue features contributions that explore contemporary challenges and emerging directions in sociological pedagogy worldwide. Articles in the issue address themes such as teaching methodologies, reflexive practices, digital learning environments, and sociological engagement in diverse educational settings.

<https://sociologicalteaching.com/index.php/journal/issue/view/7>

More about TG09: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/thematic-groups/tg09-sociological-teaching>



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Please send future contributions to Social Media Assistant.

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