



Sociology on Local-Global Relations

NEWSLETTER

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President's Letter

My Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from New Delhi (National Capital Region)

In the last six months, we have been busy with several academic tasks, particularly in organizing the sessions of WG01 for the V ISA Forum of Sociology held at Rabat (July 6-11, 2025). I am happy to inform you that we organized 17 sessions for the Forum, including a session for the Business Meeting on 8th July 2025. The total number of abstracts presented in these sessions was 76. For this, we appreciate the session organizers and authors for their contributions.

We have successfully conducted the Interim Conference of the Working Group in New Delhi recently in December 2025 with active participation of the WG01 members and Office bearers and ISA President, Prof. Geoffrey Pleyers, who inaugurated the conference.

So far, we have 87 active members in the group. We are making efforts to increase the membership of the WG up to more than 100 so that we can claim the status of a research committee in the near future. This is my appeal to all the active members to make serious efforts for the new regular and student membership among the colleagues and students, so that we can also get more sessions in the ISA conferences, as sessions are allotted on the basis of the strength of the membership.

Finally, I am thankful to Dr. Sarvesh Dutt Tripathi, of University School of Mass Communication, GGSIP University, New Delhi, India, for preparing and publishing the newsletter of the WG.

With best wishes and warm regards, and wishing all of you a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Virendra P. Singh'.

Virendra P. Singh

President WG01 (2023-2027)

Board 2023-2027

Virendra P. Singh, President



Prof. Virendra P. Singh is the Founder and Chairman of Global Research and Educational Foundation India (GREFI). He is an eminent sociologist of international repute. He worked as a faculty in Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC), New Delhi and National Institute of Rural Development (NIRD) Northeastern Regional Centre, Guwahati, India in the initial years of his career and has a vast experience in teaching and research at state and central universities at Bhopal, Silchar, and Allahabad. He has to his credit three books and several research papers in national and international research journals. Taught Sociology at Barkatullah University, Bhopal, Reader in Sociology, Assam University (Central), Silchar (1996-2005); Professor of Sociology at Assam University, Silchar (2005-2010). He established Centre for Globalization and Development Studies in June 2010 when he was appointed as Founder Head and Professor of Globalization and Development Studies by University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, India and served there over a decade. Prof. Singh actively participates in and organizes sessions within ISA research committees, including RCs-14, 52, and WG-01 and served as Board Member of ISA-RC 14 (2014-2018) and ISA-RC 52 (2014-2018). He served as member of Management Committee of Indian Sociological Society (ISS) (2011-2017) and national Convenor of ISS-RC 14 for several years since 2000.

Parvez A. Abbasi, Vice-President



Parvez A. Abbasi is a former Professor and Head of the Department of Sociology at VNSG University, Surat. He is currently Vice-Chairman of the Global Research and Educational Foundation India (GREFI). He holds a doctoral degree in Social Stratification among Muslims, focusing on the Gaddi Caste in Western Uttar Pradesh. He authored the book "Social Inequality among Indian Muslims" and has published numerous research articles in national and international journals. Prof. Abbasi actively participates in and organizes sessions within ISA research committees, including RCs-14, 52, and WG-01, and has chaired sessions since the Yokohama World Congress. He served as a board member for ISA RC14 Sociology of Communication, Knowledge, and Culture (2018-23) and is the convener of ISS RC08: Inequalities, Stratification, and Exclusion Studies. He has worked as a Research Officer on UNESCO and ICSSR projects related to Rural-Urban Inter-Relations of Muslims in the Meerut region. Prof. Abbasi is also associated with academic bodies at various Indian universities and has served as a Co-Editor of ISS Hindi Journal Samajshashtra Samiksha. Currently, he is a member of the advisory board for the journals *Emerging Trends in Development Research* and *Navrachna* (Hindi).

Dmitry Ivanov, Treasurer



Dmitry Ivanov (born 1967) is Professor of Sociology at St. Petersburg State University, Russia. His research interests include current sociological theory, new forms of inequality and new trends of social change – post-globalization and post-virtualization. He is the author of several books published in Russian including *Virtualization of Society* (2000) and *Glam-Capitalism* (2008). His recent international publications are ‘New Forms of Inequality and Structures of Glam-capitalism’ in *Social Evolution & History*. 2016. Vol. 15. No. 2; ‘New Configurations of Inequality and Glam-Capitalism Structures’ in *Global Inequalities in World-Systems Perspective: Theoretical Debates and Methodological Innovations*. Ed. by M. Boatca, A. Komlosy, H.-H. Nolte. Routledge, 2017; ‘Post-Globalization, Post-Virtualization, and New Inequalities’ in *Changing Democracies in an Unequal World*. Ed. by F. Saccà. Milano: Franco Angeli, 2020.

Sarvesh Dutt Tripathi, Communication Manager (Newsletter Editor)



Professor Sarvesh Dutt Tripathi is an assistant professor at Guru Govind Singh Indraprastha University, New Delhi, India. He had shifted to Media academics after serving in Print Media for more than a decade in different capacities. During his occupation as correspondent for newspapers, he covered tribal/rural issues, Naxalism, Environment, Development and Culture. He has presented his research works on several national and international academic seminars and conferences. From time to time, he also engaged by UNICEF to train journalists working in rural/tribal areas of the country, health workers and tribal adolescent in Child Rights. He has been teaching Print Journalism and Corporate Communication and supervising research works on Fake News, Influence of New Media on Families, Community Radio and Developing Media literacy models for visually impaired.

Marina Rodionova, Member of the Board



Professor Maria Rodionova is the Director of Centre for European Studies, Educational Services and Consulting and an Associate Professor and Deputy Head of Department Sociology and Political Science in Academic and International Work at Financial University, under the Government of Russian Federation. She has also worked as Associate Professor at Lomonosov Moscow State University. Maria has been a member of European Sociological Association (ESA), reflecting her commitment to the field of sociology. She has previously served as the Director of Organizational and Strategic Development at MosAuditService LLC, bringing her wealth of knowledge and experience to this role.

Nelly Vuyokazi Sharpley, Member of the Board



Dr. Nelly Sharpley serves as the Acting Director for Special Projects within the Office of the Vice-Chancellor at WSU. In this capacity, her primary focus is on addressing urgent issues, particularly the institution's strategy for combating gender-based violence and sexual abuse. Before her current role, Dr. Sharpley has held several key leadership and strategic positions at WSU, including Head of Social Sciences, where she oversaw 36 staff members and managed five academic programs. She has been an active member of the Senate and served a full term on the WSU council. Her

contributions were instrumental in shaping the approved WSU 2030 strategic goal, and she has also been a valuable member of the WSU commission for Community Engagement and internationalization. Dr. Sharpley's research expertise is evident in her involvement as a lead researcher in the ECSECC/HSRC/WSU COVID-19 and Funeral Protocols project for the Eastern Cape Government. Beyond national boundaries, she represented South Africa at the BRICS Seminar in Russia on population and economic development and played an active role in the BRICS university project. Additionally, she represented the country at the Belarus-Minsk Population and Development conference in November 2018.

Roman Smirnov, Member of the Board



Roman Smirnov received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Graz, Austria and is currently a research fellow at the Institute East European Studies, Free University Berlin. His primary research focuses on the influence of the Russian-Ukrainian war on the academic community in Russia and social and political consequences of modern Russian authoritarianism for academic freedom. His work also focuses on the social and professional mobility of scientists, social inequality, and comparative international analysis.

Preeti Tiwari, Member of the Board



Dr. Preeti TIWARI is Research Associate in Global Research and Educational Foundation India (GREFI). She attained her master's degree in English from University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, India, M.Phil. in Women Studies from Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha, Maharashtra, India. She did D. Phil. From Centre for Globalization and Development Studies, Institute of Interdisciplinary Studies (IIDS) University of Allahabad, Prayagraj, India on the topic "Globalization and Postmodernism: A Critical Analysis of Anthony Giddens" in 2021. She has actively participated in ISA conferences organized in India and abroad. She has published articles in journals of national and international repute. Recently, she contributed a chapter entitled "COVID-19 and Patterns of Local and Global Migration in India" in Georgios O. Tsobanoglou and Aikaterini T. Kokkinou (eds.) Sustainable Communities: Prospects and Challenges (2022), Nova Science Publishers.



Sessions organized by ISA-WG01

Session I: #21957 News Tendencies in the Global Work. Comparative Scales of Informality, Precarity, and Unemployment

Session II: # 21876 The Role of International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGOs) in Promoting Social Justice in the Global South

Session III: # 21806 Reshaping Global Sociology to Focus on the Global Majority

Session IV: #21738 Globalization, Democracies and the Rise of Authoritarianism in the Contemporary World

Session V: #21566 The Crisis of Modernity and Changing World Order

Session VI: #21391 The Image of the Future As a Factor of Actual Social and Political Relations in a Hybrid Reality

Session VII: #21390 Women Empowerment in a Globalizing World: Conceptual Issues and Empirical Reality

Session VIII: #21294 Heuristic Methods for Studying the “Good Society” Model As the Basis for Integration Processes of Society Consolidation.

Session IX: #21254 Social Contract: Evolution of Ideas and Practices

Session X: #21214 The Cultural Pragmatics of the Environment: From Local to Global Challenges, Ideas, Identities, Inquiries, and Problems in Everyday Performances and Practices Part 1

Session XI: #21021 Ethnographing Access to Rights in the Anthropocene

Session XII: #20775 Anthropocene and the Global-Local Relations

Session XIII: #20286 Post-Globalization and Neo-Traditionalist Solidarities Among BRICS Countries

Session XIV: #20175 Visual Art and the Mediation of Climate Change Issues Beyond Populism: The Aesthetic Calculation of Global-Local Publics

Session XV: #19924 Democratisation of Media Platforms in a Globalised World

Session XVI: #19941 Media, AI, and the Global South: Shaping New Narratives

Session XVII: #19406 The Politics of Masculinities in Neoliberal East Asian Nations

In all 76 papers were presented by the members of the working Group 01

International (Interim) Conference

on

Geopolitics, Media and Nation States: Local and Global Dynamics

New Delhi (December 2-6, 2025)

In collaboration with
Global Research and Educational Foundation India (GREFI)
and ISS-RC 14 Globalization and Society

Venue:
Institute of Social Sciences, 8, Nelson Mandela Road, C1, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi,
India

Geopolitics is a multidimensional concept. The fundamentals of geopolitics begin with the unique imperatives and constraints of nation-states. They involve looking at all the attributes that affect a country or a region and dissecting each piece to better understand its implications. The overall geopolitical picture of a country depends on the patterns of interaction and integration of elements like geography, politics, economics, military, technology, and culture. The term geopolitics refers to two types of conflicts: *external or international geopolitics* (generally diplomatic or armed conflicts between two or more states, usually concerning maritime or land borders) and state's *internal geopolitics* (a number of conflicts, civil wars, guerrillas, and political, ethnic and religious battles occurring within a state). Both external and internal conflicts have some common aspects that are closely related and are characterized by a high level of violence and media coverage. The global media coverage of these geopolitical conflicts is not as systematic as often thought. Sometimes, non-violent international crises and conflicts also occur as in the case of the Belgian crises (2011-12) or the break-up of Czechoslovakia in 1992 have wide media coverage at the global level at times. Even the deadly conflicts do not get wide media coverage. Thus, the relationship between violence, high media coverage, and geopolitics is not absolute. The local geopolitical conflicts usually 'make use of their network of influence, and generally non-violent demonstrations, or they restore to justice'. They clash during 'public debates, electoral campaigns or press campaigns and discrete negotiation',

The forces of globalization have created a global media system connecting every corner of the planet. The new communication technologies facilitated multiple digital platforms for communication. The innovations of smartphones/tablets/i-pad empowered the common man to interact at the local, regional, and global levels. Thus, media coverage of internal and external conflict is not restricted but is open and wide. The distinction between mainstream media (mainly national and international television, newspapers, websites, etc.) and social media (different social networking sites and applications and YouTube channels) is important in this context. While the mainstream media engages its audience through debates and repetition of programs at different time slots, social media focuses on an in-depth analysis of the events and issues. Thus, several parallel media narratives are created to influence the masses on both the internal and external issues that influence the social, economic, political, and cultural processes at local, regional, and global levels. The nation-states that lost their influence and power in the initial phase of globalization are trying to recapture it either through changes in their national and international policies or through external geopolitical conflicts involving their allies in wars and military interventions. The interim conference aimed to deliberate on these issues in detail. The subthemes of the conference are as follows: Geopolitics: concept, approaches and attributes; Geopolitics: External, internal, and local conflicts; Geopolitics and Urban Governance; Geopolitics and the Nation States; Globalization and the Power of Nation States; Globalization and media narratives; Geopolitics and the patterns of media coverage in social media; Democratization, Modernity, and Territorial Variations; Globalization, Geopolitical Conflicts, and Modern Nation States: Continuity and Transformation; Global Communication System and Geopolitics; Geopolitics and the changing world order; Geopolitical analysis of community structure and Electoral Behavior: Local dynamics; Crisis of Modernity and Changing World Order; Neo-Imperialism and the Nation States.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. Geoffrey Pleyers, President of ISA. He emphasizes the need to focus on global sociology in light of the changes occurring in contemporary societies, with a focus on understanding the developments unfolding at the local level. The Keynote address was delivered by Prof. Rajesh Misra, Former Secretary of the Indian Sociological Society (2013-2015). Four Technical Sessions were organized, in which 37 papers were presented. A Special Session on Globalization, Media, and Indian Languages was organized on the third day of the conference. The Fourth Brij Raj Chauhan Memorial Lecture was delivered by Prof. Rajesh Misra on the Second day of the conference.

ISA Working Group 01 Sociology on Local-Global Relations
Interim Conference on
Geopolitics, Media, and Nation States: Local and
Global Dynamics
New Delhi (December 2-6, 2025)



Venue:
Council for Social Development
(CSD)
53, Lodhi Gardens, Lodhi Estate
New Delhi-110003

in Collaboration with



Link to the Book of Abstract on the GREFI website:

https://www.grefiglobal.org/_files/ugd/cf23a6_d98ad82113044583b5be152a90016557.pdf

Photo Gallery















