



**Sociology
of Education**

NEWSLETTER

Volume 17 / December 2025

Letter from the President

Dear RC04 Colleagues,

It is a pleasure to address you as President of the ISA Research Committee on Sociology of Education (RC04). RC04 continues to be a vital international forum for critical, comparative, and theoretically rich research on education as a key social institution shaping inequalities, identities, and futures worldwide.

Guided by our RC04 strategic priorities, the RC04 Board remains committed to strengthening global collaboration, supporting early-career scholars, amplifying voices from the Global South, and fostering inclusive and interdisciplinary dialogue across regions and traditions. These commitments are central to sustaining a Sociology of Education that is both intellectually rigorous and socially engaged.

As we look ahead, the ISA World Congress of Sociology in South Korea in July 2027 represents a major collective milestone. The new year 2026 will be a very important year for all of us to prepare for this special event which, as always, will be an important opportunity for RC04 to showcase innovative research, deepen international networks and advance critical debates on education in times of profound global transformation. I warmly encourage members to begin developing session ideas, collaborative panels, and initiatives aligned with RC04's strategic vision.

I thank all our members for their ongoing dedication and invite you all to remain actively engaged as we work together toward ISA 2027 and beyond.

I wish all of you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful 2026.

With warm regards,
Marios Vryonides
President, RC04 – Sociology of Education
International Sociological Association
31 December 2025

News from the Editor

Warm greetings to Members and the Board of RC04. I trust you are keeping well.

On behalf of the RC04 board, we look forward to the success of the next conference at the XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology, which will take place from July 04-10, 2027, in Gwangju, Korea. The ISA will release further information in the coming months. In the meantime, we can prepare for participation in the Congress.

Two midterm conferences were held in 2025. More detail is available on page 3.

A mid-term conference is scheduled for May 08-09, 2026 organized by the University of Tainan. Further detail is available on page 4.

Unfortunately, we did not receive many articles for the section on Global Exchange. We encourage members to submit information for the section on Global Exchange since the RC04 remains a critical forum of the ISA for the exchange and dissemination of research on education on a global level.

Welcome to new members and congratulations to those who have achieved.

We wish to welcome new members to the RC04 and look forward to your participation. Likewise, the RC04 commits to respond to your needs as well. There are at least 280 active members in the RC04, which is in the top 4, clearly illustrating the valuable role of the RC04 in the ISA.

On pages 4-5, the Newsletter's section on **Global Exchange** provides useful and relevant information on publications, recently published journal articles, research and other announcements. Members are encouraged to submit 100-150 word synopses of their on-going or planned research as a way of exchanging ideas and fostering collaboration for inclusion in the RC04 Newsletter. Members are also encouraged to make full use of this channel of communication and further enhance the activities of the RC04.

The RC04 statuses and board members can be found on page 6.

On behalf of the President and the Board, I wish to thank members of the RC04 for their involvement and active participation.

We look forward to your valuable contribution and support. We always wish you well over the festive season.

Shaheeda Essack
Secretary, RC04
31 December 2025

Future Conferences
XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology
Theme: Not yet available
Venue: Gwangju, Korea
Dates: July 4-10, 2027.

Further information will be disseminated when the programme is finalized. Detailed information can be found on the website at <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress>.

We look forward to the support of session organisers and chairs for contributing to the success of the RC04 program.

Feedback on Midterm Conferences Held in 2025

The following midterm conferences were held:

- ❖ International Conference and the 31st Taiwan Forum on Sociology of Education, May 02-03, 2025

Theme: Equity and Excellence: Theories and Practices in Sociology of Education

Country: Taiwan

Organizer: Taiwan Association of Sociology of Education, TASE <https://www.tase.url.tw/en>

- ❖ RC04 in Collaboration with the Higher Education and Sciences Studies Group of SASA on June 23-26, 2025

Theme: Colonial Legacies, Post-Colonial realities: South Africa, 30 Years later

Country: University of Mpumalanga, Mbombela Main Campus, South Africa

Organizer: South African Sociology Association and the University of Mpumalanga

Future Midterm Conferences Scheduled for 2026

The following midterm conference will be held:

- ❖ The 32nd Forum of Taiwan Association of Sociology of Education, the 2026 Midterm Conference of the RC04 Sociology of Education of the ISA, **May 08-09, 2026**

Theme: Sociology Perspectives of Education under Social Transformation: Rethinking Digitalization, Governance, and Equity

Country: Taiwan

Venue: National University of Tainan, Cheng-Cheng B401 International Conference Hall (No. 33, Section 2, Shulin Street, West Central District, Tainan City)

Registration Period: February 15 – April 10, 2026

Important Dates: Abstract Submission Deadline: January 16, 2026 (Friday)

Notification of Abstract Submission Review Results: February 13, 2026 (Friday)

Full Paper Submission Deadline: March 31, 2026 (Tuesday)

Organizer and Contact Information: Department of Education, National University of Tainan, Ms. Lin

Telephone: (06) 213-3111 ext. 612

E-mail: edu@gm2.nutn.edu.tw

Website: <https://sites.google.com/gm2.nutn.edu.tw/2026edu>.

Global Exchange

This is the seventeenth issue of the Newsletter column entitled Global Exchange. This initiative from the previous editor of the RC04 newsletter is very important because it is a forum to exchange current or pending research projects and seek suggestions, ideas for future directions, as well as possible collaboration with other RC04 members. The abstracts of approximately 100-150 words should be sent to the editor by e-mail for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter. In this regard, please consider submitting a description of your project to the editor for inclusion in future issues of the Newsletter. It is hoped that RC04 members will contact the researchers whose projects are listed below with suggestions, commentary, and even offers to collaborate or share reports and publications. Submissions to Global Exchange should be sent to Essack.S@dhet.gov.za.

This section also includes requests for participation in projects, submissions and other related issues.

The following information was received from members:

❖ **Received from Tien-Hui Chiang**

⊕ Zhang, R., Chiang, T.H., MacKenzie, A. and Thurston, A. (2025). Practicing the economic-cultural-capital association through education as rational capital in school choice. *International Journal of Educational Research*, 103 (2025) 102831. (SSCI) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijer.2025.102831>. Your personalized Share Link: <https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1lxLb38nswohSW>

This study aims to investigate the role of education in the economic-cultural-capital formula through the lens of school choice. Using a sample of 11,938 students randomly sampled from 350 schools in the PISA 2018 dataset, we applied Propensity Score Matching (PSM) and Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM) to analyze school choice strategies. Our findings reveal that respondents with high cultural capital and regular reading habits are inclined to make rational decisions to select less competitive schools, with the intention of optimizing their children's academic outcomes. In contrast, wealthy individuals lacking cultural capital tend to engage in the high-stakes gamble of choosing more competitive schools, often through purchasing homes in prestigious school districts — a strategy that significantly amplifies their children's risk of academic failure. This irrational approach appears to stem from these parents' limited educational attainment, which hinders their ability to recognize the actual value of cultural capital. These findings highlight the critical role of education as rational capital in mediating the conversion of economic capital to cultural capital and, consequently, governing school choice behaviours and educational outcomes.

Future Events

Future events to be noted and diarised

1. A mid-term conference will be held from May 08-09, 2026 at the University of Tainan.
2. The ISA World Congress of Sociology will be held in 2027 in Gwangju, Korea from July 04-10, 2027.
3. Further announcements to be made when information is available.

STATUSES AND BOARD MEMBERS

❖ **Established 1971**

❖ **Objectives**

The Research Committee 04 (RC04) is an active group with annual or bi-annual meetings on Sociology of Education topics. Regular meetings are held at the World Congress of Sociology (every four years) and at the RC's Midterm Conferences (in-between world congresses). In addition, meetings on special topics are held.

❖ **Board 2023-2027**

- President: **Marios Vryonides**, European University Cyprus, **Cyprus**, m.vryonides@euc.ac.cy
- Secretary: **Shaheeda Essack**, Department of Higher Education and Training, **South Africa**, Essack.S@dhet.gov.za
- Vice-President for Europe: **Karina Maldonado-Mariscal**, Technical University Dortmund, **Germany**, karina.maldonado@tu-dortmund.de
- Vice-President for Russia: **Svetlana Sharonova**, People's Friendship University, **Russia**; s_sharonova@mail.ru
- Vice-President for Asia: **Tien-Hui Chiang**, Zhengzhou University, **China**, thchiang2453666@gmail.com
- Vice-President for Africa: Duncan Hindle, **South Africa**, hindle@mweb.co.za
- Vice-President for Latin America: **Analía Inés Méo**, Consejo Nacional de Investigaciones Científicas y Técnicas, **Argentina**, analiameo@conicet.gov.ar
- Vice-President for North America: Anita Cecilia Hirsch Adler, **Mexico**, anaha007@yahoo.com.mx
- Vice-President for Oceania: **Joanna Sikora**, Australian National University, **Australia**, joanna.sikora@anu.edu.au
- **Past-President** **Anthony Gary Dworkin**, **University of Houston, USA**, gdworkin@central.uh.edu

❖ **Newsletter**

An informative newsletter is mailed to members twice a year. It contains conference abstracts, research summaries and exchange, members' news, conference news, country reports and the new feature, Global Exchange.

Editor: Shaheeda Essack, Essack.S@dhet.gov.za

❖ **Membership**

Membership Fees: \$30 for a 4-year period. Please contact the International Sociology Association for payments.

❖ **Website**

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc04-sociology-of-education>