

RC20 Newsletter, December 2025

Dear RC20 members,

I hope you are well. It has been a dynamic and productive semester for RC20, with strong participation in the ISA community and a wide range of activities reflecting our shared interest in comparative sociology and related fields. This newsletter brings together highlights from recent sessions, initiatives, and contributions by our members across various events. I would like to thank all those who contributed their time, research, and energy to strengthening the visibility and impact of RC20.

Best regards to all.

Marita Carballo

President, RC20

PUBLICATIONS

Twenty-Five Years of *Comparative Sociology*

David L. Weakliem

The first issue of *Comparative Sociology* appeared in 2002, under the editorship of Masamichi Sasaki. To mark the 25th year of publication, I list some papers from the first few issues. They illustrate the wide range of topics and methods that continue to characterize the journal today.

Vol 1, no. 1

S. N. Eisenstadt, "The Civilizations of the Americas: The Crystallization of Distinct Modernities"

Mattei Dogan, "Strategies in Comparative Sociology"

Vol 1, no. 2

Erich Weede, "The Transition to Capitalism in China and Russia"

Dylan Riley and Rebecca Jean Emigh, "Post-Colonial Journeys: Historical Roots of Immigration and Integration"

Vol 1, no. 3-4 (Special issue on the World Values Survey and European Values Surveys)

Christian Welzel, Pippa Norris, and Ronald Inglehart, "Gender Equality and Democracy"

Mebs Kanji and Neil Nevitte "Authority Orientations and Political Support: A Cross-national Analysis of Satisfaction with Governments and Democracy"

Vol. 2, no. 1 (Special Issue on Diversity of Elite Configurations and Clusters of Power)

Jean-Pascal Daloz, "'Big Men' in Sub-Saharan Africa: How Elites Accumulate Positions and Resources"

Vol. 2, no. 2

Ming-Chang Tsai, "Pathways to Crisis: Structural Liability, Global Contingency, and State-Business Relationships in the East Asian Economic Turmoil"

Vol. 2, no. 3

Alain Touraine, "The Decline of the Social"

Vol. 2, no. 4

Cristina Corduneanu-Huci and Maryjane Osa, "Running Uphill: Political Opportunity in Non-democracies"

GENERAL INFORMATION

Call for Applications for the Second RC20 (Comparative Sociology) Best Paper Award

Fumiya ONAKA (RC20 Executive Secretary)

The RC20 board is pleased to announce the best paper award in comparative sociology. The award will honor an outstanding published work in comparative sociology by a member of RC20. The winner will be announced at the 2nd RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology & the 1st RC56 Regional Conference on Historical Sociology & the 5th RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia (Khon Kaen, Thailand, 24 – 28 August in 2026, Khon Kaen University) and will receive a prize of 300€. The award is open to all RC20 members. Papers may be empirical or theoretical and may use quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods.

Criteria

Submissions will be judged by an award committee, which will include RC20 board members excluding applicants. The winner will be chosen based on contribution to comparative sociology and effective writing and presentation.

Eligibility

All RC20 members are eligible to submit a paper for consideration, or to nominate papers written by other members of RC20. Submitted papers should be on a topic in comparative sociology, written in English, and published in a peer-reviewed journal or as a chapter in an edited book no earlier than 1 January 2023. Forthcoming articles will be considered (please include the acceptance letter with your submission). In order for the paper to be considered, at least one of the authors should be an RC20 member.

Submission

To submit a paper, please send an electronic copy to Fumiya ONAKA, RC20 Executive Secretary, at fonaka@fc.jwu.ac.jp.

Submissions will close on 31 December 2025.

Call for Papers (Deadline: 31 December 2025)- the 2nd RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology & the 1st RC56 Regional Conference on Historical Sociology & the 5th RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia

Fumiya ONAKA (RC20 Executive Secretary)

RC20 is pleased to invite you to submit papers to be considered for the 2nd RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology & the 1st RC56 Regional Conference on Historical Sociology & the 5th RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia. The conference will be held *online* from 24 to 28 August in 2026. The hosts are Khon Kaen University, Khon Kaen, Thailand and Japan Women's University, Tokyo, Japan.

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>

PUBLICATIONS AND PARTICIPATION OF MEMBERS IN ACADEMIC BOOKS, CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

Saroj Dhal, "Negotiating Development: Reflecting the Impact of Religious Tourism on Local and Global Scales in Ayodhya" as first author has been published in November 2025 in a Sage publication *Journal Society and Culture in South Asia*. (<https://doi.org/10.1177/23938617251393846>)

Marita Carballo, "Technological Changes and Socioeconomic Processes," Technology and Politics Seminar, National Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, October 2025. (<https://www.ancmvp.org.ar/contenido.asp?id=2795>)

Thomas Burr, *Societies Past and Present: A Social Science World History*, September 2025. (<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-91532-1>)

Special Issue of *Politics in Central Europe* (Vol. 21, No. 3), titled "*Political Trust, the Challenges Faced by Democracies, and Democratic Innovations*" was released by RC20 members participating in TRUEDEM research project (www.truedem.eu). The volume was guest edited by Meta Novak and Alenka Krašovec (University of Ljubljana), with editorial oversight by Jakub Charvát (Metropolitan University in Prague, Czechia), Editor-in-Chief. This Special Issue brings together seven peer-reviewed articles that address the evolving dynamics of political trust and institutional legitimacy in democratic systems, with particular attention to the interplay between citizen engagement and institutional reform. The contributions examine various aspects of democratic governance through comparative and case-based research grounded in empirical evidence from across Central, Eastern, and Southern Europe. The volume covers topics including political communication on social media, perceptions of democratic innovations among policymakers and civil society actors, the influence of psychological and generational factors on institutional trust, and the role of emerging technologies such as artificial

intelligence in shaping attitudes toward governance. Several articles also engage directly with questions of how participatory mechanisms and democratic innovations are conceptualised and applied in national contexts.

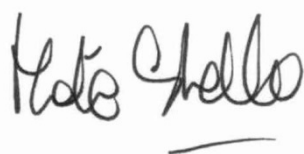
The 2025 Ronald F. Inglehart Honorary Lecture was successfully held on 16 December 2025. The lecture, part of the World Values Survey Association's annual program, was delivered by Dr. Elizabeth J. Zechmeister, Professor of Political Science at Vanderbilt University, USA. Her talk, "*Preserving Public Commitment to Democracy*," explored how universal norms and patterns of political behaviour can both undermine and strengthen public support for democratic institutions. Drawing on cross-national survey and experimental evidence, Dr. Zechmeister offered fresh insights into the challenges and opportunities for reinforcing democratic commitment in diverse contexts. A recording of the event is available at the WWSA YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/pdbQxjBQuMw>

The TRUEDEM Fall 2025 webinar series featured eight research presentations on the dynamics of political trust, democratic legitimacy, and institutional performance across Europe. On 8 October, the series opened with a presentation on *Institutional Trust and Media Use in Times of Cultural Backlash: A Cross-National Study in Nine European Countries*. Later that month, on 24 October, the webinar *(Not) One of Us: The Overrepresentation of Elites in Politics Erodes Political Trust* examined how elite representation gaps contribute to trust erosion. November continued with *Closeness to Citizens as a Source for Political Trust? A Comparison of Opinions on Local Parliaments and the European Parliament* (4 November), followed by *Political Elites and the Democratic Duty to Trust the People* (19 November), and *Tough Positions, Trustful Voters? How Mainstream Party Position-Taking on Immigration Shapes Political Trust and its Impact on Far-Right Voting* (28 November).

In December, *Democratic Backsliding and Support for Public Good Provision in the European Union* (3 December) explored how declining democratic standards affect public support for redistribution. On 12 December, a webinar on *EU Citizens' Perception of Energy Affordability and Social and Political Trust* looked at the intersection of economic conditions and institutional legitimacy. The series concluded on 17 December with *Measuring Citizen Trust in Regulatory Agencies: A Systematic Review and Ways Forward*. Recordings and presentation materials are available on the TRUEDEM website: <https://www.truedem.eu/events/webinars>. We thank all presenters and participants for their contributions and look forward to continuing the conversation in 2026.

I wish all of you every success in 2026 and best greetings.

Warm regards



Marita Carballo