

RC 36 NEWSLETTER

January 2025


Note from the Secretary

The International Sociological Association has decided to leave X (former Twitter). This is indeed an act of defence amid disinformation and manipulation based on algorithms and AI inputs, all entangled in these businesses' interests. As a research committee that revolves around social alienation, we look at the latest decisions made by major social media companies such as Meta and X with great attention.

An article by Dipa Ganguli, [“Taking a stand against social media disinformation”](#), on FE Week, is another example of educational institutions leaving the X platform while criticising British educational institutions. They have not realised their potential to shape critical thinking in youngsters. Besides, they struggle with governmental funding to counter fake news and infobesity, which would turn the digital world into a more efficient skill-learning environment.

It brings me to META's latest decision to shut down its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programmes. It is interesting to analyse the class-oriented social agenda and political path from a [2022 report on Diversity](#) to scaling back their diversity initiatives on account of the [“shifting legal and policy landscape.”](#) Other major US enterprises like [Ford, McDonald's, Walmart](#), and [Amazon have followed this decision](#). And, worse than that, the owner of WhatsApp, Facebook, and Instagram is cutting third-party fact-checking for their content.

Taking from ISA's latest decision, we at RC36 follow the same concern about “the rise in hate speech and changes in moderation policies”. We witness government policy -long shifts capable of altering not only society's current critical thinking capacities, but also triggering libel, slander, and other types of defamation, thus leading to physical collective distress and social exclusion. Actually, [social media has been directly linked to facilitating terrorism](#). And all in the hands of



big private corporations whose profiting efforts and social privileges from governmental bodies outweigh social cohesion and critical thinking. Indeed, a positive, equal and diverse transformation for a more sustainable future should last longer than a mandate. How many steps will we retrocede? In the meantime, all we can do is keep this subject on the agenda, fight as a consumer (in the market) and not as a citizen (in the state), and thus leave these platforms.

On the other hand, a critical question from my own critique arises: How are we going to reach the public if we become absent from these digital spaces?

This note's objective is to keep the topic alive. On that note, RC36 now has a Bluesky account.

New Social Media on Bluesky. Follow us!!



<https://bsky.app/profile/rc36-alienation.bsky.social>

New Youtube Channel! Check us out!

<https://www.youtube.com/@RC36Alienation>



INSTAGRAM: @alienationtheoryandresearch



RC36 General Meeting

Dear RC36 members, we invite you to our meeting on

[February 4 at 2pm GMT via Zoom](#)


Time: Feb 4, 2025 02:00 PM Greenwich Mean Time

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6164667854?pwd=vfGRcGo2BUVTW5ebG3dQL66Famrr94.1&omn=89920287767>

Meeting ID: 616 466 7854


Passcode: Alienate36

Our agenda is:

- RC36 Online International Symposium on Alienation
 - Rabat Sessions
 - Institutionalisation and strengthening
 - Management-related issues
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5th ISA Forum of Sociology - Rabat 2025

Some notes about our Rabat Sessions:

- Some proposed sessions did not receive abstracts. Hence we have reorganized the sessions in order to give continuity and more time for presenters and the emerging debates mediated by the sessions' chairs.
 - All related sessions are scheduled to follow one another, so "Alienation and Knowledge: The Anthropocene and Human Development 1" is followed by "Alienation and Knowledge: The Anthropocene and Human Development 2", and so on... including our panel on Higher Education Systems, which was split in two consecutive sessions. Hence, our sessions have become longer.
 - Some works needed to be replaced and rearranged to other sessions. It had to be done in order to keep consistency over the rule in which chairs can't present their own works.
 - Until March the Program Coordinator may reorganize the names of the session chairs. We will also subtract those works whose authors failed to register to the seminar.
 - The session coordinators have remained the same. We ask you to be present at our General Meeting to solve any questions, ask for changes and/or provide suggestions.
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Dear RC-36 members, find below the list of sessions we are having in the Forum.

Session #	Session Title	Organizers
20182	Sports, Bodies, and Emotions	Miriam Adelman
20184	Alienation and Futures Research	Dirk Michel-Schertges, Mariolina Graziosi
20185	Estudios De La Alienación: Teoría y Método	Humberto Fernandes
21114	Alienation and Knowledge: The Anthropocene and Human Development 1	Dirk Michel-Schertges
22093	Alienation and Knowledge: The Anthropocene and Human Development 2	David Embrick, Ekaterina Lytkina
21452	Digital Alienation: From Everyday Internet to Artificial Intelligence 1	Vessela Misheva, Sunjin Oh
21115	Digital Alienation: From Everyday Internet to Artificial Intelligence 2	Dirk Michel-Schertges
21308	Alienation, Racial Capitalism, and Palestine	David Embrick
21395	The Affective and Emotional Dimensions of Alienation: Modernity, Agents, Structures, and Processes 1	Emma Engdahl, Olga Simonova
20117	The Affective and Emotional Dimensions of Alienation: Modernity, Agents, Structures, and Processes 2	Olga Simonova
21408	The Affective and Emotional Dimensions of Alienation: Modernity, Agents, Structures, and Processes 3	Andrew Blasko
20569	The Affective and Emotional Dimensions of Alienation: Modernity, Agents, Structures, and Processes 4	Ramón Menéndez Domingo, Laura Mosteyrin
20181 ¹ PANEL	RC36 Invites: Current and Future Perspectives on the Anthropocene	Humberto Fernandes
20950 ² PANEL	Higher Education Systems between Quality Assurance, Rankings, and Alienation to the Labour Market. What out-of-Ranking Higher Education Systems Can Teach Us? 1	Silvia Pezzoli, Stefano Becucci
20559 PANEL	Higher Education Systems between Quality Assurance, Rankings, and Alienation to the Labour Market. What out-of-Ranking Higher Education Systems Can Teach Us? 2	Miriam Adelman
21994	RC36 Business Meeting	

¹ This session does not accept abstracts.

² This session does not accept abstracts.

REMEMBER!

- **REGISTRATION DEADLINE FOR PRESENTERS: 22 MARCH 2025 24:00 GMT**

Registration must be completed by the deadline. Confex matches registrations with accepted presenters and will send out the last reminder to register.


The Registration link for the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology is

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2025/registration/index.cgi>

- **FINAL MODIFICATIONS: 3 April – 18 April 2025 24:00 GMT**

Session Organizer modifies sessions based on the withdrawal of unregistered presenters. Chairs and discussants are assigned from among the registered participants.

The program Coordinator finalizes the session schedule according to the conference timetable. If an individual's presentation type changes or if a presentation is transferred to a different session, Confex will notify authors with the final session and presentation details after April 30.



Job Positions

- [Postdoctoral Associate in the Division of Social Science - Dr. John Wooders - New York University Abu Dhabi - until February 12](#)
 - [Assistant Professor, Associate Professor, Professor in Social Sciences and Languages - Spanish teaching - VELLORE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY - until January 29](#)
 - [Postdoc in Psychology / Communication Studies / Media Studies - MASARYK UNIVERSITY - until January 31](#)
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OUR TALKING ALIENATION PERMANENT SEMINAR REMAINS STRONG! CHECK OUT OUR SESSIONS FOR 2025.1!

- **Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges, and Navigating the Professoriate: Lived Experiences as Testimonios of Women Faculty of Color in Academia**

Gladys Leyva Penuelas

February 24 - U.S. West (California) 14:00 | U.S. East (Michigan; NY) 17:00 | Brasilia 19:00 | GMT: 22:00 | Agadir 22:00 | Copenhagen; Valletta 23:00 | Moscow 01:00 (Feb 25) | Delhi 03:30 (Feb 25) | Tokyo 07:00 (Feb 25)

- **Role of the International Labour Organization and Social Security for Unorganized Workers in India**
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Niharika S, Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, India

March 28 - U.S. West (California) 01:30 | U.S. East (Michigan; NY) 04:30 | Brasilia 05:30 | GMT: 08:30 | Agadir 08:30 | Copenhagen; Valletta 09:30 | Moscow 11:30 | Delhi 14:00 | Tokyo 17:30

- **From Buzzwords to Resilience: The Role of Local Ecological Knowledge (LEK) in Malta's Fisheries Management and Climate Adaptation**

Justin Attard, University of Malta

April 28 - U.S. West (California) 01:00 | U.S. East (Michigan; NY) 04:00 | Brasilia 05:00 | BST: 09:00 | Agadir 09:00 | Copenhagen; Valletta 10:00 | Moscow 11:00 | Delhi 13:30 | Tokyo 17:00

Research Committee RC36 Alienation Theory and Research

International Sociological Association

