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RC37

Sociology
of Arts

Newsletter
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Laia Falcón,
Editor



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Letter from the President

Dear members of ISA RC37 Sociology of the Arts,

The ongoing conflicts and significant clashes of values we are experiencing may represent a crucial opportunity for us, as social scientists, to contribute to the collective awareness of the change taking place on a global scale. That is why we invite you to participate in the global dialogue that the ISA is developing and to visit the website <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en> more often. You are invited to contribute your ideas, participate in discussions and, if you wish, give your support.

As a sociologist and sociologist of the arts, on the other hand, I believe that in the contemporary global context, art is a powerful means of social resistance, capable of highlighting issues related to rights and values under threat, but also capable of broadening horizons to forms of creativity that open up to beauty and hope.

As researchers and scholars, it is up to us to share these seeds in society, and so I wish us all a wonderful 2026 of fulfilling research and achievements.

With my very best wishes,

Ilaria Riccioni
President RC37 Sociology of the Arts, ISA
Free University of Bolzano-Bozen, Italy

We are RC37!

Dear Colleagues,

We are delighted to dedicate the December issue to introducing **Anna Lisa Tota, Omar Cerillo, Özden Turhan, Beata M. Kowalczyk and Zeynep Uğur**.



Anna Lisa Tota
Università Roma Tre



Anna Lisa Tota is a Full Professor of Sociology of Cultural and Communicative Processes at the Department of Philosophy, Communication, and Performing Arts at Roma Tre University. Since 2022, she has served as Vice Rector of the University with the responsibility for coordinating Third Mission activities. Since 30 May 2025, she has received the Rector's delegation for Gender Policies. Additionally, she is the Chair of the Board of Directors of the "Oscar, Bice, and Giulio Cesare Castello" Foundation at Roma Tre University.

In the realm of institutional management and public service, Dr. Tota is distinguished by her role as a high-level expert consultant for major national bodies. She has chaired expert selection committees for the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) and the Bank of Italy. Furthermore, her influence extends to the civic sphere as an external expert for the Roma Capitale Statute Commission, where she has been involved in high-profile international recognitions, including the granting of honorary citizenship to prominent figures such as Julian Assange and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Narges Mohammadi.

Internationally, she enjoys a solid reputation as a scholar and scientific evaluator. She serves on the Advisory Boards of the European Sociological Association (ESA) and regularly collaborates with international research agencies, including the National Science Centre of Poland and the Israel Science Foundation. Her research expertise is complemented by an extensive editorial career, serving on the scientific committees of leading global journals such as *Cultural Sociology* and the *European Journal of Cultural Studies*.

Beyond academia, Anna Lisa Tota is a prominent voice in contemporary public debate. Since 2023, she has been a regular contributor to the cultural sections of Italy's most prestigious newspapers, including *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Il Corriere della Sera*, and *Il Fatto Quotidiano*. This role as a public intellectual builds upon an elite academic foundation, which includes a PhD from the University of Trento (with a visiting scholarship at UC San Diego) and a Master's degree in data analysis from the University of Essex. Having begun her career as a pioneer in gender equality policies for the Italian government, she is today a leading figure in the sociology of culture and communication within the European academic landscape.

Her recent career is distinguished by her role as a high-level expert consultant and international evaluator:

- **Public Consultancy:** Served as a consultant for the Italian Medicines Agency (AIFA) and the Bank of Italy (2021–2023), chairing selection committees for communication experts.
- **Roma Capitale:** External expert for the Roma Capitale Statute Commission (2022–present), involved in granting honorary citizenship to prominent figures such as Patrick Zaki, Julian Assange, and Nobel Peace Prize winner Narges Mohammadi.
- **International Evaluation:** Grant proposal reviewer for the National Science Centre of Poland (2024), the Israel Science Foundation, and the University of Tampere (Finland).
- **European Networks:** Member of the Advisory Boards of the European Sociological Association (ESA) for both the Sociology of the Arts and Sociology of Culture research networks (since 2021).

Editorial Leadership and Public Presence:

- **National Press:** Contributor since 2023 to the cultural sections of Italy's most influential newspapers: *Il Sole 24 Ore*, *Il Fatto Quotidiano*, and *Il Corriere della Sera*.
- **Scientific Journals:** Member of the editorial boards of prestigious global journals including *Cultural Sociology* (SAGE), *European Journal of Cultural Studies*, and *Trauma and Memory*.

- Editorial Direction: Director of the "Communication and Performing Arts" series for Roma Tre Press and member of scientific committees for publications focused on political communication and organized crime.

Recent publications:

- 2025 *Riflessioni sulla guerra. La forza del diritto e il potere della memoria per educare alla pace*, in "Scuola democratica, Learning for Democracy" 1/2025, pp. 225-232.
- 2024 *Eco-Thoughts. Conversations with a Polluted Mind*. Routledge
- 2024 *Eco-Words. The Ecology of Conversation*. Routledge
- 2024 *La violenza delle mafie contro le donne: educazione alla cittadinanza e alla legalità nelle università*, in *Studi e ricerche sulla criminalità organizzata*, Cross vol. 10 n. 2, pp. 7-22.
- 2024 *La sociologia della musica: Interview for the journal www.sociologicamente.it*, September 1.
- 2022 *Arts as Agency. The Potential of the Arts in Educational Settings*, Anna Lisa Tota and Antonietta De Feo, in *Arting Education. Reinventing Citizens of the Future*, Special guest editors Anna Lisa Tota and Antonietta De Feo, Non-Traditional and Traditional, Inequalities in Italian Education, «Scuola Democratica», no. 2, May/August, pp. 225-238.
- 2022 *Arting Education. Reinventing Citizens of the Future*, Special guest editors Anna Lisa Tota and Antonietta De Feo, Non-Traditional and Traditional, Inequalities in Italian Education, «Scuola Democratica», no. 2, May/August.
- 2021 *Portraying slavery: Visual art and cultural trauma*, with Michaela Quadraro, in «Trauma and Memory», Volume 9, no. 1, pp. 16-25.



The interdisciplinary work of Omar Cerrillo Garnica bridges the gap between sociology, political science, and the arts. He is currently a full-time professor and researcher, serving as the Director of the School of Humanities at Tecnológico de Monterrey, Campus Cuernavaca.

Academic Foundation and Trajectory:

He holds a Ph.D. in Social and Political Sciences and a Master's degree in Sociology, both earned with honors from the *Universidad Iberoamericana* in Mexico City. His academic background is further complemented by a degree in Communication Sciences.⁺¹

Recognized for his rigorous contributions to the field of social sciences, he has been inducted as a Level 1 member of the National System of Researchers (*Sistema Nacional de Investigadores*, SNI) by the National Council of Humanities, Sciences, and Technologies (CONAHCYT) in Mexico.

Research Focus: The Intersection of Music, Politics, and Society:

Dr. Cerrillo's research is defined by a keen interest in the "sociopolitical function of art." He investigates how cultural expressions—specifically music—serve as vehicles for ideology, identity, and political power. His primary lines of investigation include:

- **Music and Violence:** A significant portion of his work analyzes the phenomenon of the *narcocorrido* and the "alterado" movement in Mexico. He explores how these genres function as discourse that can normalize violence or articulate alternative social orders.
- **Soft Power and Cultural Diplomacy:** He studies how nations and communities use rock music and other cultural assets as tools of soft power to influence public perception and international relations.
- **Digital Social Movements:** His recent work also encompasses the digital sphere, analyzing how hashtags and memes (e.g., #YoSoy132) act as catalysts for collective action and youth identity formation in the 21st century.
- **Urban Sociology of Rock:** He has conducted extensive "chronotopical" studies on how rock music communities have shaped the urban geography and social fabric of Mexico City from the 1960s to the present.

Global Engagement and Leadership:

Dr. Cerrillo is an active leader in the global sociological community. He currently serves on the board of two prestigious research committees within the International Sociological Association (ISA): RC14: Sociology of Communication, Knowledge, and Culture; RC37: Sociology of Arts.

Through these roles, he fosters international dialogue on how cultural practices influence knowledge societies and artistic appreciation globally.

Selected Publications and Editorial Work

Dr. Cerrillo's academic production is prolific and multilingual, with articles and chapters published in English, Spanish, Portuguese, and French.

Most notably, he recently co-coordinated the book:

Rock mexicano. Un rompecabezas en construcción (Alfaomega, 2023). A comprehensive text that historicizes and analyzes the evolution of rock music in Mexico as a sociocultural phenomenon.

His work has also appeared in prominent peer-reviewed journals such as *Sociológica*, *Enfoques*, *Paakat*, and *Pensamiento, Palabra y Obra*, covering topics ranging from "Rap against Rape" (hip-hop as a denunciation of gender violence) to the political discourse of regional Mexican music.

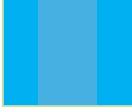
Social Impact and Consultancy:

Beyond the academy, Dr. Cerrillo is committed to applied sociology. He has worked as a strategic consultant for both public and private institutions, specializing in information analysis and strategic communication.

Crucially, he has led the design and implementation of social intervention programs that utilize sports and culture as tools for crime prevention. By applying his theoretical knowledge of art's social power, he works to diminish violence and rebuild the social fabric in vulnerable communities across Mexico.

The Artist Behind the Scholar!:

Complementing his theoretical work, Omar Cerrillo is a practicing artist. He is a musician and composer with the group Espyral. This duality allows him to approach the sociology of music not just as an observer, but as a creator. His group has released two studio albums, which are currently available on major digital streaming platforms, reflecting his deep personal engagement with the sonic arts he studies.



Özden Turhan Galatasaray University and Istanbul Bilgi University

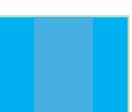


Özden Turhan –, holds BA degree from Galatasaray University in the Department of Sociology, and pursued MA degree in Cultural Studies at Istanbul Bilgi University. In MA thesis entitled “*During the Authority Crisis: Ottoman – Turkish Literature (1850 – 1900)*”, I scrutinized the question of National Allegory within the framework of the sociology of literature. My research interests include the sociology of literature, the sociology of cinema, the sociology of arts and the medical sociology, as well as themes such as ‘modernity and melancholy’ and ‘literature, art and politics in the 20th century.’

Currently, she regularly publishes articles on various subjects on blog, becomingvirginiawoolf.wordpress.com, and write reviews for the digital journal, *International Journal of Language & Literary Studies*.

As a main publication, we may underline:

Özden TURHAN, “L’usage social de la consommation de médicaments : une comparaison France-Turquie” in *Les Politiques à l’epreuve des sociologues*, dir. Yamina Meziani – Pierre Vendassi, Paris: Edition l’Harmattan, june 2013.



Beata M. Kowalczyk Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań



Beata M. Kowalczyk is a dynamic sociologist whose innovative research challenges our understanding of creativity, authenticity, and identity in the globalized art world. Dr. Kowalczyk serves as an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Sociology at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland.

Most recently (2024–2025), she was awarded the prestigious NAWA Bekker Research Fellowship, which took her to the School of Social and Political Science at the University of

Edinburgh. This international experience has further solidified her standing as a key voice in the sociology of culture.

Research Focus: Deconstructing the "Universal" in Art

Dr. Kowalczyk's work lies at the intersection of cultural sociology, the sociology of art, and Japanese studies. Her primary intellectual project involves deconstructing how "Western" high culture (specifically classical music) functions in non-Western contexts (specifically Japan).

She utilizes rigorous qualitative methods to investigate how concepts of "talent," "originality," and "authenticity" are not neutral, but are deeply embedded in racial and gendered power dynamics. Her research asks critical questions: How do non-European artists navigate a field where the "standard" is White and European? How is gender performed on stage?

Her key lines of inquiry include:

- Racialized Authenticity in Classical Music: Dr. Kowalczyk investigates the tension Japanese artists face when performing European classical music. Her work explores the "imposter syndrome" imposed by systemic structures, where artists feel they are merely "imitating the real thing." She analyzes how these musicians navigate the "irreconcilable senses of belonging" between their national identity and their artistic profession.
- The Performance of Difference: In her groundbreaking recent work, she theorizes how Asian artists are often compelled to "perform" their racial difference to find a niche in the global market, balancing between assimilation and exoticization.
- Hybrid Masculinities: Beyond race, Dr. Kowalczyk contributes significantly to Gender Studies. Her analysis of Japanese classical musicians reveals "hybrid hegemonic masculinities," showing how male artists negotiate their gender identity in a profession that demands specific forms of emotional expression and discipline.

Current Project: The Sociology of Literature:

Currently, Dr. Kowalczyk is expanding her scope beyond music. She is working on a major book project focused on creativity and originality in the arts, using the milieu of Japanese "pure literature" (Junbungaku) as a case study.

This upcoming monograph promises to shed light on the social construction of the "literary genius" in Japan and the institutional mechanisms that decide what counts as "original" in a highly traditional yet modern literary market.

Contribution to the Field:

Dr. Kowalczyk's contributions are widely recognized in high-impact journals. Her writing is essential reading for scholars interested in the globalization of culture, post-colonial approaches to art, and the intersectionality of race and gender in the creative industries.

She actively contributes to the discourse on inequalities in the arts, as evidenced by her inclusion in the pivotal volume *Voices for Change in the Classical Music Profession* (Oxford University Press).

Selected Recent Publications:

Kowalczyk, B.M. (2025). "Theorizing the performance of (racialized) difference: the case studies of Asian artists in classical music." *American Journal of Cultural Sociology*.

Kowalczyk, B. M. (2025). "'Improvising' Gender Through Artistic Profession: Hybrid (Hegemonic) Masculinities of Japanese Classical Musicians." *Men and Masculinities*, 28(4): 359-378.

Kowalczyk, B. M. (2023). "...in Japan, we are just imitating the 'real' thing...'. (Re)doing racialized authenticity in classical music." *Gender, Work & Organization*, 30(4): 1468-1483.

Kowalczyk, B. M. (2023). "Irreconcilable senses of belonging. Transnational Japanese artists in the quest for authenticity in the world of classical music." In Bull, A., et al. (eds.), *Voices for Change in the Classical Music Profession*. Oxford University Press.

Kowalczyk, B.M. (2022). "'Saron consāto', artistic identity and European classical music in Japan." In McCormick, L. (ed.), *The Cultural Sociology of Art and Music*. Palgrave Macmillan.



Zeynep Uğur holds a PhD in Political Studies from EHESS (CESPRA), where she defended a dissertation entitled "Transformation of Public Culture in Turkey since the 2000s: Theatre as a Site of the Emergence of New Political Imaginaries," under the supervision of Nilüfer Göle. Her doctoral research is based on an ethnographic investigation of Istanbul's independent theatre scene and conceptualizes theatre as a key site for the emergence of new political imaginaries, where cultural practices intersect with urban

space and modes of public agency. Through interviews, participant observation, and participatory action research, the study analyses how theatrical practices reconfigure public space amid tensions between secular-republican and Islamo-populist definitions of public culture. It foregrounds theatre's role as a space of sociopolitical experimentation and cultural pluralism.

She is currently an ATER (Temporary Teaching and Research Fellow) in the Cultural Mediation Department at Aix-Marseille University. Alongside her academic activities, she is also the co-founder and Cultural Policy Director of the international performing arts festival Istanbul Fringe.

Specialization and research interests:

Sociology of culture, sociology of arts, urban sociology, sociology of publics, theatre studies, performing arts, public space, Turkish studies, (inter)cultural mediation, non-Occidental modernities, public square movements

Publications:

"There is Something Rotten in the state of Turkey": Disenchanting Authoritarianism in Istanbul's Independent Theatres Through Shakespeare', in Yassaman Khajehi (ed.), *Shakespeare on the Middle Eastern Stage from Drama to Contemporary Politics*, Routledge [submitted in October 2025]

'Negotiating the Public Space: Entanglements Between Secularism and Populism in Turkey's Theatre Scene' in Turkey at 100: (Dis)continuities and (Dis)contents, I. David & K. Toktamis (ed.), Peter Lang. [Submitted in October 2024]

(Co-authored with Yassaman Khajehi), 'Turchia e Iran: sorvegliare e punire in nome dell'ideologia governativa', Hystrio, 2/2025, p.40.

'Du désappartenance à l'agir public: Un regard réflexif au théâtre contemporain en Turquie avec Ceren Ercan', Percées, Volume "Performing la politique", 2024, available from: <https://percees.uqam.ca/fr/article/entre-desappartenance-et-agir-public-un-regard-reflexif-sur-le-theatre-contemporain-en>

'Reappropriation of Public Space: Autonomous Space Making from Istanbul's Alternative Theatre Scene to the Gezi Movement', European Journal of Theatre and Performance, Issue 4, June 2022, pp.114-160.

'Public Sphere Under (Re)construction: The Case of AKM Building in Istanbul' in Nilüfer Göle (ed.), Public Space Democracy, Routledge, New York, 2022.

'Towards a New Type of Cosmopolitanism?: The Case of Istanbul Fringe Festival', Young Researchers Conference on Cultural Policy and Cultural Diplomacy, Istanbul, Hiper Kitap, pp. 272-292.

'From Staging to Enacting Politics: The Case of Alternative Theatres in Istanbul', RESHAPE: A Workbook to Reimagine the Art World, Dirk De Wit, Milica Ilić, Sofie Joye and Marijana Rimanić (eds.), available from: <https://reshape.network/article/from-staging-to-enacting-politics-the-case-of-alternative-theatres-in-istanbul>

'Queering the Public Sphere: LGBTI Movement in Gezi', Démocratie de la place publique: Les mouvements de maidan, Nilüfer Göle et Yves Cohen (dir.), publication en ligne sur Politika, TEPSIS, 2018, available from: <https://www.politika.io/fr/notice/queering-the-public-sphere-the-lgbti-movement-in-gezi>, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.26095/wprq-0c23>

Don't miss the date!

Dear Colleagues and members of RC 37 Sociology of the arts, please don't miss our following calls and meetings:

Calls for Publications

→ [Journal Special Issues \(Open Calls\)](#)
[Cultural Sociology \(Special Issue\)](#)

Theme: "Revisiting Janet Wolff: Affinities between Art History and Sociology." This is a high-impact call focused explicitly on bridging the gap between sociological and art-historical methods.

- **Submission Type:** Extended Abstracts (500 words).
- **Deadline for Abstracts:** September 16, 2025.
- **Full Paper Submission:** April 14, 2026.
- **Website:** [BSA Cultural Sociology CFP \(PDF\)](#)

→ **Journal of Law of the Arts and Entertainment (2025/2026)**

While legal-leaning, it welcomes sociological studies on culture, professional practice, and creativity.

- **Deadline:** January 30, 2026.
- **Topics:** Cultural governance, ethics, and sustainability in the arts.
- **Website:** [ELIA News - Journal Call](#)

Prices

→Attributed every two years, the **Hippolyte-Mireur Art Market Award** supports published scholarly and non-scholarly research, doctoral dissertations, master's thesis, any other work from institutions of higher education, articles and essays in the fields of art history and art market history and social sciences including law, technology, art finance and economics. Recognizing the important place taken by art, particularly contemporary art in society, the Award seeks to fill the knowledge gap on a market that keeps becoming global yet remains well understudied as such, and promote a better understanding of all aspects shaping its future development by rewarding works of high research standards that advance

knowledge resources for the art market community and beyond. The inaugural, 2026 edition of the Award will be given in Paris in October 2026 on behalf of Artprice, an award donor (and owner of the rights of the Mireur dictionary), to retribute: **a doctoral dissertation, a master's thesis or any written research work from an higher education institution of international repute for an amount of 8,000 €/\$ (works defended during the current or the past three academic years (i.e. between January 1st 2023 and April 30th 2026).**

Applications for the 2026 Award must be received no later than **May 15, 2026**. The jury's final decision will be announced in September 2026 after two blind readings of the selected works (no mention of the author's name) to guarantee unbiased review and due deliberation.

Application material: a version in English of each document listed below is required and should be sent to the documents@hippolytemireuraward.com

- A short letter of intention
- The candidate's résumé with a mailing address, email, education, and a list of his/her publications
- A digital (PDF) version of the dissertation or Masters thesis
- A copy of the report of the PhD dissertation defense or a recommendation letter from the director of the Master's in case of a graduate thesis
- A one-to-two page summary of the PhD or Masters thesis (Times 12, space 1,5) mentioning the candidate's name and details and the title and type of the work submitted (dissertation or Masters thesis).

Conferences and meetings

Award ceremony: the award will be given in October in Paris at a date and venue TBD.

→American Sociological Association (ASA) 2026 Annual Meeting

- **Status:** Open for submissions.
- **Deadline:** February 25, 2026 (9:00 PM EST).
- **Requirement:** Submit an extended abstract (3–5 pages) or full paper.
- **Website:** [ASA Call for Submissions](#)

→Art in Society - University of Zagreb (2026)

Part of the "The Arts in Society" Research Network, this conference explores the intersection of social sciences and the arts.

- **Status:** Open Call.
- **Dates:** July 1–4, 2026.
- **Deadline:** Typically rolling, but current CFP listed for late 2025/early 2026.
- **Website:** [Arts in Society Conference](#)

Recent publications

Articles

De la Fuente, E (2025) 'Social Theory as Emplacement: Encounters with Antipodean Sociology and Place Materialities'. *Thesis Eleven: Critical Theory and Historical Sociology*. Online First 24 December 2025: 1-27.

De la Fuente E (2025) 'Imaginative Sociology: Serendipitous Associations and Sideways Glances' *Dialogues in Sociology*, Online First 25 October 2025: 1-22. <https://doi.org/10.1177/29768667251387206>

Halley, Jeffrey A. Domination, Weirdness, and Art: On Michael Thompson's Twilight of the Self. *Logos* 2025: Vol. 24, No. 1-2.

Halley, Jeffrey A. , Timothy Perez. The Corrido, The Narco Corrido, and The Migra Corrido on the Mexican US Border: From Cultural Resistance to State Ideology. *Revista de Sociología*: Jul 2025. <https://doi.org/10.5354/0719-529X.2025.79538>.

Scott, M Szili, G and de la Fuente, E (2025) 'Re-Enchanting Sustainable Consumer Culture: Cultural Intermediaries, Charisma and Fashion' *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 25(1): 65-82. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14695405241310994>

Books

Corvo, P and Riccioni, I (2026) *Theatre and Quality of Life*. Springer

This book constitutes a series of reflections on the potential impact of theatre on everyday life and well-being, with reference to contemporary digital and global society. As a live event, performance holds qualities of a past society, where the idea of virtuality was far off, and indeed also contains some essential timeless qualities for human life and recognition of alterity. Theatre is a powerful and radical manifestation of the relationship between creativity and society. Through the theatrical experience, spectators form a collective body that resonates in unison, incorporating the emotional and affective dimensions of shared social values.

Part I Structures

- *Theatre as an Indicator for Social Participation and Well-being in Contemporary Western Societies*, Ilaria Riccioni
- *Arts and the Perceived Quality of Life in British Columbia*, Alex C. Michalos and P. Maurine Kahlke
- *The Theatre as a Liminal Genre: Interferences Between a Social Indicator and a Social Agent*, Arpad Szakolczai

Part II Practices

- *Social Implications in Amleto*, Paolo Corvo
- *Bodies, Voices, and Stories: Dramatherapy for Social and Psychological Change*, Alessandro Porrovecchio
- *Theatre, Violence, and Collective Memory*, Ulrike Loch
- *Setting the Stage: Unlocking Future Skills in the Performing Arts Sector*, Moreno Zago
- *Their Story, Our History: Some Conclusions After First Post-Lockdown Live Stage Performances: An Experience in Madrid and Sevilla: ON AIR, 2021*, Laia Falcón
- *Terceira and Its Carnival. Community, Theatre, and Quality of Life*, Marxiano Melotti

Part III Actors

- *A Theatre for the City: The Case of the Prose Seasons at the Donizetti Theatre in Bergamo*, Maria Grazia Panigada
- *Confession of a Director*, Carlo Roncaglia
- *Meeting Ourselves Improving Our Life Through Theatre*, Mario Bois

