



# RC-32

# eNEWSLETTER

*Special Issue December, 2025 : RC-32 at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat*

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# Message Of Co-Presidents of RC-32



***Solange Simões and Marlise Matos***

The contributions of RC-32 “Women, Gender and Society” to the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat were remarkable and crucial, especially in these times of resurgent right-wing politics and the heightened focus on attacks on women and gender.

For the first time, ISA RC32 held a Pre-conference at an ISA Forum. The objective was to take the opportunity of ISA taking place in the MENA region for the first time in order to highlight Moroccan women’s and feminist movements. Consistent with this goal, the pre-

conference was organized by RC-32 members in close collaboration with Moroccan sociology faculty and students. We were all so pleased that the pre-conference was very successful in bringing together in meaningful engaging interactions and dialogues RC-32 members from all over the world with our Moroccan colleagues and students.

The pre-conference began with a welcome by ISA Vice-President and Forum President, Allison Loconto. The morning session was dedicated to a tribute to Moroccan feminist Fatima Mernissi, and featured speakers Fatima Sadiqi and Moha Ennaji, who highlighted Mernissi’s work and its relevance for Moroccan, MENA women’s movements and transnational feminisms. It concluded with a discussion led by sociologist Soaud Eddouada, who provided an overview of Moroccan women’s movements. In the afternoon session, a very meaningful and engaging exchange among participants took place through a small group discussion titled "Conversations across borders: globalizing the local and localizing the global." This conversation among participants was preceded and informed by contributions from sociologists Valentine Moghadam (discussing Transnational Feminist Networks) and Manisha Desai (discussing Transnational and trans-local feminisms).

The importance of this pre-conference was such that we would like to suggest that it becomes an initiative to be integrated and repeated at future ISA congresses and forums.

During the ISA Forum in Rabat, RC-32 delivered a very strong program with the active collaboration of RC32 members from around the world: 35 sessions were held, covering critical and diverse content for our field, scholarship and activism.

Among these sessions, we would like to highlight the RC-32 Presidential Session “Women, War and Security: MENA and Global Perspectives”, which included the participation of Valentine M. Moghadam (Northeastern University, USA), Fatima Sadiqi (University of Fez, Morocco), and Yakin Erturk (Middle East Technical University, Turkey), along with Co-President Solange Simões (Eastern Michigan University/USA).

Another focal point was that we held, for the first time, an Integrative Session, called by the Forum Scientific Committee and titled “Gender, Race, Class and the Manthropocene: Justice for whom?” RC-32 led the integrative session (with Co-President Marlise Matos/Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, participating), in collaboration with Jo Lindsay (Monash University, Australia) from RC-24 Environment and Society, and Kalpana Kannabiran (Council for Social Development, India) from RC-05: Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity.

Our Business Meeting had significant participation from RC32 members (see the minutes in this Newsletter).

At the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, there was also a moment of celebration organized by the Co-Presidents Elect Manisha Desai and Hara Bastas. The dinner – and Moroccan music and dance party that followed - took place at the beautiful Riad Al Bari . It was a lot of fun and such a great way to celebrate everything that RC-32 members achieved at the ISA Forum in Rabat!

At the time of the Rabat Forum, RC32 reached an unprecedented 530 members from all continents and countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, and the United States.

We conclude a year of hard work and great achievements for our RC-32. We would like to congratulate and thank the RC-32 Board Officers and Regional Representatives, our Moroccan colleagues and students, and all RC-32 members who organised sessions, presented papers, and attended our sessions at the pre-conference and the Forum.

We wish everyone a very meaningful 2026 filled with exciting new engagements and accomplishments.

***Solange Simões and Marlise Matos***



# From the Editor



**Arvinder A. Ansari**  
**(E-newsletter Editor)**

This Special December 2025 issue of the RC-32 Newsletter, Women, Gender, and Society, is conceived as a collective record of scholarly engagement, dialogue, and institutional reflection following the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology held in Rabat, Morocco. Bringing together diverse voices from across regions, the issue reflects RC-32's continuing commitment to feminist, intersectional, and globally engaged sociological inquiry.

Rather than offering a comprehensive report of the Forum, this issue foregrounds reflective accounts of participation, intellectual exchange, and emerging conversations within and around RC-32. Contributors include senior and early-career scholars, Regional Representatives, and members who engaged with the Forum in different capacities, offering insights that are experiential, analytical, and forward-looking. Alongside these reflections, the issue also includes the Minutes of the RC-32 Business Meeting, regional updates, selected announcements, and information on forthcoming initiatives. Together, these sections provide both an intellectual snapshot and an institutional record of RC-32's activities during a significant moment in its history.

I would like to sincerely thank the RC-32 Co-Presidents, Board members, Regional Representatives, contributors, and our Moroccan colleagues and students for their collaboration and generosity. I hope this issue serves not only as a record of engagement, but also as an invitation to continued dialogue, solidarity, and feminist sociological imagination.

*Members are also warmly invited to share ideas for possible thematic directions or contributions for forthcoming issues of the RC-32 Newsletter, which will be discussed in consultation with the RC-32 CO-presidents and Board Members.*



# Reflection on the 5<sup>th</sup> International Sociological Forum in Rabat, Morocco: An Overview

We begin the reflections section with a contribution from Prof. Valentine M. Moghadam, a longstanding RC-32 member, whose engagement with the RC-32 Pre-Conference and Presidential Sessions at the Rabat Forum offers both scholarly insight and a deeply reflective sociological perspective.

## **Featured Reflection: Reflections from Rabat: Valentine M. Moghadam**

I have been a longstanding member of RC-32 (Women, Gender, and Society), and I was honoured when the Co-Presidents invited me to deliver a lecture at the RC-32 Pre-Conference held on 5 July 2025. The Pre-Conference brought together scholars engaged with feminist movements and transnational activism, including Moroccan colleagues such as Professors Fatima Sadiqi and Moha Ennaji, as well as Professor Manisha Desai. I was particularly keen to engage with discussions on the legacy of Fatima Mernissi.

Although travel disruptions prevented me from attending the Pre-Conference in person, my prepared lecture was shared during the session. The ISA Forum itself brought together nearly 5,000 sociologists from across the world and, despite the logistical challenges of a large multi-venue campus, the generosity and support of Moroccan hosts and student volunteers greatly enhanced the experience for international participants.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of July, I had the pleasure of delivering a talk at the RC-32 Presidential Session, which focused on the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Also presenting were my friends and colleagues Professor Fatima Sadiqi and Professor Yakin Erturk. My presentation, “Women, Peace, and Security in the Middle East: An Agenda of Empty Promises?”, was adapted and updated from an October 2023 article I had published in the *Journal of Peace and War Studies*, in which I raised questions about both the efficacy of UNSCR 1325 in general and its application to the conflicts and violence in the Middle East region.

I also made two other presentations, one at a session on revolution and the other on the political economy of violence. I have yet to understand how I was able to undertake four presentations, when the max is two. *Revisiting Revolutions: Debates and Trajectories* convened on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July and had five presenters. From our individual vantage points, we all addressed questions related to conceptualization and measurement (what counts as a revolution, even as new datasets have been launched), the composition of revolutionary actors (why are women missing in non-feminist accounts?), and identification of waves of scholarship.

Were all the questions resolved? Of course, they were not. Indeed, RC-32 might consider joining the debate to suggest a future session on what revolutions mean for women, in terms of participation, rights, and roles in post-revolutionary governance, including any influence they might have on foreign policy as well as in domestic matters.

The broader question of what exactly is a revolution, and how to distinguish it from a social movement or protest action or “maximalist campaign” will continue to ensure lively scholarly debate.

### **Contentious Politics**

As members know, the Israeli war on Gaza had already generated statements from the ISA, and another one in June following the Israeli and US assaults on Iran. Those statements deploring the violence are found on the ISA website (e.g., <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/isa-human-rights-committee/isa-solidarity-statement-with-the-palestinian-people> ). The ISA also barred the Israeli Sociological Association from attending, because of the latter’s lack of “a clear position condemning the dramatic situation in Gaza.” It is worth noting that the ISA’s statements of solidarity on Gaza and on Iran, and its condemnations of Israeli violence, echoed previous solidarity statements on Ukraine and on the incarceration of Russian sociologist Boris Kagarlitsky. The ISA also had cancelled an Executive Board meeting that had been scheduled to take place in Russia.

In between my multiple sessions during the Forum, I had planned to attend two sessions organized by sociologists from Iran. When I later inquired about the empty halls and the absence of the Iranian sociologists, I learned that the Moroccan government had refused the Iranians entry visas. Morocco is a signatory to the 2020 U.S.-brokered Abraham Accords, which aim to normalize relations between Arab states and Israel. The Accords, however, are highly unpopular with the Moroccan public (as with publics throughout the region), and their unpopularity only increased after the onset of the Netanyahu regime’s relentless assault on Gaza. (For survey data, see Arab Barometer <https://www.arabbarometer.org/2025/01/14619/>.)

The MENA region is a rather divided one, with limited intra-regional trade and investment, and rivalries across the authoritarian republics and absolutist monarchies that characterize the region’s politics. For example, Algeria and Morocco have long locked horns over Western Sahara, a former Spanish colony now claimed by Morocco, whereas Algeria has long supported the Sahrawi people’s liberation organization, Polisario. The “cold war” between the two states only intensified after Morocco’s signing of the Abraham Accords. Just one Algerian sociologist had registered for the July 2025 Forum in Rabat. Previously, Algeria objected to the 2011 NATO bombing of Libya (as did Iran), while other Arab League members approved it. Moreover, many Arab states – along with Israel – are annoyed by the Qatar-funded media outlet *Al-Jazeera*.

It is worth noting that the Israeli Sociological Association finally issued a statement, posted on Facebook on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025. “Signed by just over 200 sociologists and anthropologists”, the statement refers to the “heartbreaking” reports and images from Gaza and deplors the actions of the Israeli military and government. It notes that “Sociology and Anthropology are humanistic disciplines” [and many members] “study the way societies deny the injustices committed in our names.” To me, this echoes the famous slogan of Jewish Voice for Peace, whose activists have held rallies and marches across the U.S. against Israel’s war wearing t-shirts that read “Not in My Name.” The Israeli sociologists’ statement ends with several astute recommendations and the hope that Israeli society “will take moral responsibility and work for a shared and just future.” (Thanks to Prof. Christopher Chase-Dunn for sharing the posting.)

## **Celebrating (and mourning) Michael Burawoy**

Moving away from organizational, regional, and global contentious politics, a highlight of the ISA Forum was the special session at which tributes were paid to the late British sociologist Professor Michael Burawoy from UC Berkeley, who tragically was killed by a speeding SUV while crossing a street in Oakland. (I deliberately mention SUV as I have been long opposed to the proliferation of such 5,000-pound vehicles that almost guarantee death upon any collision. On America's "killer cars", see *The Economist*, 7 Sept. 2024.) A former president of the ISA who had made visits to almost all the regional associations, Burawoy also had served as ASA president. He was a beloved and highly regarded scholar whose work on the labor process under monopoly capitalism, economic transitions in Eastern Europe, and his theses on "professional, policy, public, and critical sociology" came to impress, and inspire, many. The tributes to the late Burawoy were deeply moving while also informative and revealing of the impact that he had had on colleagues and students. Organized by Karen Shire, Heidi Gottfried, and Michele Ford, the session opened with reminiscences offered by Ruth Milkman, Nazanin Shahrokni, and Marcel Paret, as well as by present and past ISA presidents Geoffrey Pleyers and Sari Hanafi, respectively. This was followed by comments from members of the large audience, starting with Sylvia Walby. I must admit to shedding a few tears as one of Burawoy's former students spoke with considerable emotion toward the end of the session. Michael Burawoy's ashes are now at Highgate cemetery in London, which houses Karl Marx's grave and several notable Marxist scholars, including the historian Eric Hobsbawm.

Despite the mishaps at the start of the ISA Forum, the experience was a memorable one, thanks to the organizers of the brilliant sessions, the ISA's courage in issuing important and necessary political statements, the unforgettable session on Michael Burawoy, and the Moroccan students who helped us navigate the dispersed venues, always with a smile.

## **Reflection on RC32, ISA Forum Rabat. Juliet Wattson Australia**

Although I have attended many ISA conferences over the years, starting with Gothenburg in 2010, this was my first time as a session organiser. Titled 'Gender and Homelessness: Hidden and Emerging Dynamics', the aim of this session was to interrogate the structural, social, political, and cultural dimensions of homelessness through a gendered and intersectional lens. Chaired by Dr Barbara Barbosa Neves from the University of Sydney (Australia), the session brought together sociologists who challenged fixed and gender-neutral understandings of homelessness through presentations highlighting alternative and often hidden experiences. Molly Turrell from Sheffield Hallam University (UK) presented her doctoral research undertaken in the UK and Australia on homelessness and reproductive justice. Molly's presentation offered a fascinating insight into how women experiencing homelessness negotiate and experience sexual and reproductive health decision-making in an environment of extreme structural disadvantage. Following this, Dr Dina Taha from the Doha Institute of Graduate Studies (Qatar) and Dr Alisha Ticku from York University (Canada) presented on an evaluation of Nisa Homes, the first and largest network of transitional shelters for Muslim women escaping intimate partner violence. It was inspiring to hear about how this innovative service recognises and responds to the unique needs of Muslim women, who may otherwise come up against racism and Islamophobia when seeking support from the mainstream shelter system.

Finally, I presented on research that I have been a part of in Australia that examines pregnancy and homelessness. The focus of this presentation was on becoming a mother without a home and how this process is mediated by ‘good’ mothering discourses and severe deprivation. Together, all presentations shared a desire to centre gender and other structural oppressions in homelessness research and offered compelling examples of what is missed when narrow and gender-blind representations are dominant.

## **Reflections on Participation in the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat**

*Prof. Ajailiu Niumai*

*Asia Representative, RC-32*

My participation in the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology (6–11 July 2025), held at Mohammed V University, Rabat, was both intellectually enriching and professionally affirming. Engagement with RC-32 (Women, Gender and Society) provided a vibrant platform to examine how feminist sociology is being re-imagined across diverse regional, epistemic, and decolonial contexts.

Across RC-32 sessions, discussions foregrounded the intersections of gender with race, caste, class, ethnicity, religion, migration, and colonial histories. These debates resonated strongly with my own research on indigenous women, social exclusion, and gendered marginalisation in South Asia.

I presented two papers during the Forum. On 8 July 2025, in a joint RC-29/RC-34 session, my paper “Intersectionality and Human Trafficked Survivors in India” examined how intersecting structures of tribe, gender, class, and ethnicity shape rehabilitation experiences, prompting rich discussion on survivor-centred and ethical research frameworks. On 11 July 2025, under RC-32, I presented “Cultural Constraints of Naga Women in Political Representation,” which explored the paradox of women’s informal authority alongside their exclusion from formal political institutions. Comparative reflections from Africa and Latin America further enriched this dialogue.

In addition, I chaired a thematic session on Human Rights and Social Justice (TG-03), facilitating cross-regional exchanges on gender-based violence, inequality, and state power. Overall, the Forum reaffirmed the importance of sociology grounded in lived realities and ethical engagement, while strengthening transnational feminist networks and enhancing the visibility of South Asian and indigenous feminist scholarship within global sociological debates.

## **RC-32 at the ISA Forum, Rabat: Reflections from Canada & USA**

At the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, the RC-32 Regional Representatives for Canada and the USA actively contributed to the Forum’s intellectual vibrancy by organising a strong set of sessions addressing core feminist and gender concerns.

These sessions focused on LGBTQ+ intimate and family relationships, *LGBTQ+ work lives, constructing LGBTQ+ identities, pathways to women’s political representation, and gender (in)equality in political representation. Together, they examined how gendered inequalities are produced, negotiated, and contested across institutional, cultural, and political contexts.*

The sessions were marked by thoughtful presentations and lively discussions, bringing together scholars from different regions and methodological traditions. Collectively, they reflected RC-32's continued commitment to advancing intersectional, inclusive, and socially engaged feminist scholarship within global sociology.

## **Reflections from the ISA Forum, Rabat: RC-32 Engagements and Feminist Dialogues**

*Arvinder A. Ansari*

My engagement with the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat began with the RC-32 Pre-Conference held on 5 July 2025, which was both intellectually rich and deeply grounding. Organised in close collaboration with Moroccan sociologists and students, the Pre-Conference created a meaningful space to centre local feminist histories and dialogues within a global sociological gathering. Discussions on Fatima Mernissi's legacy, Moroccan women's movements, and transnational feminisms foregrounded the importance of place-based knowledge and intergenerational exchange in feminist sociology.

A particularly memorable moment during the Pre-Conference was the lunchtime music session offered by Moroccan scholars and artists. The soulful performance was not only a cultural treat but also a powerful reminder of music as voice and agency—a medium through which feminist ideas, emotions, and collective memories are communicated and shared. In this setting, music became a mode of sociological expression, enabling connection across languages and regions, and reinforcing how cultural forms can carry and sustain feminist thought and solidarity.

Building on the reflections and conversations initiated at the Pre-Conference, the Forum itself unfolded as an intense and generative space of scholarly exchange. A particularly meaningful engagement during the Forum was my participation as a speaker in the Plenary Session, "How Can We Live Together on a Limited Planet? Sociology, Social Movements, and Social Change." The plenary brought together sociologists working across regions and traditions, including ISA President Geoffrey Pleyers, alongside Camilo Tamayo Gomez, Kaja Gadowska, Patrick Bond, and Edna Castro. The discussion foregrounded urgent questions around ecological limits, social justice, collective action, and the role of sociology in addressing intertwined crises of inequality, climate change, and democratic erosion. Contributing to this plenary was both a responsibility and an opportunity to situate feminist and Global South perspectives within a broader sociological conversation on shared futures.

I was closely engaged with RC-32 across multiple sessions, including paper presentations, session convening, and panel discussions. My contributions focused on themes of intersectionality, gendered violence, political representation, development futures, and peace and conflict, drawing particularly on empirical work from South Asia and comparative Global South contexts. These sessions enabled rich exchanges on how gender, power, and inequality are shaped by histories of marginalisation, conflict, and social transformation.

Chairing and contributing to thematic sessions further reinforced the importance of cross-regional and interdisciplinary conversations, particularly on human rights, social justice, and sustainable futures. Overall, the Rabat Forum reaffirmed RC-32's role as a dynamic intellectual space where feminist sociology remains critically engaged with both scholarly inquiry and pressing global realities.

## Gender, Feminism, and Publishing

At the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, RC-32 representatives *Caroline Newton*, *Izabela Korbiel*, *Rahat Shah*, and *Jeff Hearn* organised a well-received session titled “*Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Gender, Feminism and Publishing Today*” (Session 518). The session critically examined contemporary challenges in feminist knowledge production, academic publishing, and activist scholarship.

The papers addressed key tensions shaping feminist research and dissemination. *Esther Oliver* (University of Barcelona, Spain) explored the role of scientific evidence in countering hoaxes and misinformation surrounding the social impact of gender research. *Jasmin Goldhausen* (University of Bayreuth, Germany) reflected on the possibilities and constraints of academic activist work within universities, focusing on efforts to decolonise knowledge production from within institutional settings. *Marianna Fotaki* (University of Warwick Business School, UK), with colleagues, examined alternatives to capitalist publishing models, highlighting the importance of building networks of solidarity within and beyond academic communities.

Chaired by *Caroline Newton*, the session generated engaged discussion on epistemic justice, institutional power, and collective strategies for sustaining feminist scholarship in an increasingly constrained academic environment.



# RC-32 Pre-Conference in Pictures



*Participants from Morocco and all continents*



*Pre-conference break: Moroccan music and food*



*Solange Simões and Moroccan speakers: Soaud Eddouada, Fatima Sadiqi and Moha Ennaji*



*RC-32 Co-Presidents : Solange Simões and Marlise Matos*



*Conversations across borders: globalizing the local and localizing the global*



*ISA Vice-President and Forum President, Allison Loconto addressing the pre-conference participants*



*Global Conversations From Local contexts to Global Frameworks*



*RC32 Board members Marlise Matos, Solange Simões, Manisha Desai and Arvinder Ansari*

# Minutes of the Business Meeting RC-32 (Women, Gender and Society)

Date: 7 July 2025

Venue: 5th ISA Forum of Sociology,  
Rabat, Morocco

Mode: In-person

Chair: Co-Presidents, RC-32

## 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Co-Presidents welcomed members and shared with appreciation that it was the first time that the RC32 had organized a pre-conference at an ISA Forum or Congress to promote a dialogue about feminist scholarship and activism with local sociology faculty and students. It was acknowledged that this achievement was realised despite financial constraints, as the grant received from ISA was limited. The Co-Presidents then briefly outlined ongoing efforts to strengthen RC-32's global engagement and participation. Emphasis was placed on widening regional inclusion, expanding membership, and encouraging greater involvement of members through regionally representative invited sessions at ISA Forums.

## 2. Strategic Priorities and Key Issues Raised

Members discussed several interrelated issues concerning RC-32's sustainability and future activities:

- **Financial Sustainability:** Rising costs associated with receptions, travel support, and scholarly activities were noted, particularly in relation to future ISA Forums.
- **Membership Fees:** It was observed that RC-32 membership fees have not been revised for approximately 10–15 years and remain among the lowest across ISA Research Committees.
- **Equity Considerations:** Members highlighted gendered income disparities, uneven institutional support, and regional variations in accessing academic resources.
- **Global North–South Complexity:** Concerns were raised regarding rigid regional classifications, with suggestions for a more flexible or sliding-scale approach to fee structures.
- **Future Conferences:** It was noted that the upcoming Congress (Gwangju, South Korea) or future forums are expected to involve substantially higher costs than Rabat.
- **Support for Young and Early-Career Scholars:** The importance of strengthening RC-32's commitment to young scholars was emphasized. Recommendations were made to institute a 'Best Paper Award' for early-career researchers, organize essay competitions to encourage scholarly engagement as well as explore possibilities for financial support, including registration and partial travel assistance, particularly for scholars from resource-constrained contexts. Members agreed that encouraging young scholars is central to RC-32's long-term vitality and inclusivity and broadly supported these suggestions.

### **3. Presentation of the Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer presented an overview of RC-32's financial position and expenditures:

- Major expenditures include the RC-32 reception; it costed approximately USD \$1,817.00 (USD) Reception costs at Rabat were lower than usual due to favorable local arrangements and are unlikely to be replicated at future venues.
- Activities at the Rabat Forum (including the pre-conference and registration support) were made possible through special ISA grants, not membership fees. The total grant amount to support the pre-conference forum was 1,960 (Euro).
- Travel support at Rabat was limited; RC-32 funded travel for one invited resource person for the pre-conference, while other speakers covered their own travel. Travel expenditures for guest speaker Dr. Yakin Ertürk was \$1,500 (USD).
- Travel support for Co-President Marlese Matos (who is also from the Global South) was \$1,000 (USD).
- Current available balance stands at approximately \$5,276.44 (USD).

It was recalled that greater flexibility in providing travel grants at earlier forums (e.g., Melbourne 2023) was made possible due to savings during the COVID-19 pandemic when the Brazil Congress was held virtually.

### **4. Exploratory Discussion on Membership Fee Revision**

The Board introduced an exploratory discussion on whether RC-32 membership fees should be revised to enhance financial capacity.

- The discussion was explicitly exploratory; no vote was scheduled at this meeting.
- Any proposal would be placed before the full membership at a later stage.
- Current membership fees were restated \$ 24(USD) for A-country members \$12(USD) for B and C-country members.
- Illustrative scenarios were shared for discussion purposes only (e.g.\$ 40 (USD) for A-country members and \$20 (USD) for B and C-country members), with an estimated additional revenue of approximately \$ 7,000 (USD) assuming full renewal.

Members reiterated the need to balance resource generation with equity considerations, especially given gendered pay gaps and diverse institutional contexts.

### **5. E-Newsletter Editor's Report**

The Editor shared observations regarding contributions to the RC-32 E-Newsletter:

- Regional Reports: Regional Representatives are requested to focus on collective regional activities, initiatives, collaborations, and shared scholarly engagements.
- Individual Activities: While individual academic participation is valued, members are kindly requested not to submit routine CV-based items for newsletter inclusion.
- Future Directions: The possibility of including a limited number of short, invited thematic or reflective contributions aligned with RC-32's intellectual priorities is being explored.

## 6. Role of Regional Representatives

The Co-Presidents encouraged Regional Representatives to:

- Expand RC-32 membership within their regions.
- Organise regionally representative invited sessions in their regions to increase the global Visibility of RC-32.
- Submit regional reports highlighting sociological developments and challenges.
- Prepare consolidated regional reports highlighting the activities and engagements of RC-32 members, with an emphasis on collective regional initiatives.

These measures were noted as part of RC-32's broader strategy to enhance visibility and participation at ISA Forums and Congresses.

## 7. Concluding Remarks

The meeting concluded with appreciation for members' contributions and reaffirmation of RC-32's commitment to inclusivity, sustainability, and scholarly engagement.

Further Action Points:

- Board to continue deliberations on membership fee revision.
- Possibility of awards and support mechanisms for young scholars to be explored further.
- Any proposed changes to be placed before the full membership through online consultation.



# Regional Reports and Updates

## Australia

Regional Representative:  
Juliet Watson

### **Regional Update**

The Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association (AWGSA) continues to sponsor and support a range of academic events and initiatives promoting feminist scholarship and dialogue across Australia and beyond.

### **Academic Events and Workshops**

Two major AWGSA-sponsored events were held during the year and were highly successful. The first, "Navigating Professional Change: Building Resilience and Realising Opportunities," was hosted by Diane Mather in Brisbane and brought together participants from academia, industry, government, and the not-for-profit sector.

The second was a two-day online Matrescence Symposium, organised by Belinda Eslick, Fabiane Ramos, and Laura Roberts. Focusing on the period of becoming a mother, the symposium attracted 36 researchers from around the world. Dr Andrea O'Reilly, from the School of Gender, Sexuality and Women's Studies at York University (Canada), whose work on mothering and maternal theory has been instrumental in the formal recognition of Motherhood Studies as an academic discipline, was a notable participant.

### **Public Engagement and Knowledge Sharing**

AWGSA is currently hosting an online blog series showcasing members' work. Themes to date include feminisms, feminist justice, and feminisms and decolonisation, providing an accessible platform for sharing feminist research and reflections.

### **Upcoming Activities**

Monash University in Melbourne will host the Australian Gender Economics Workshop in February 2026. Now in its ninth year, the workshop serves as a key platform for presenting research on gender-related economic issues and for fostering dialogue between academics and policy practitioners.

## **South Asia**

Regional Representative:  
Ajailiu Niumai

### **Regional Overview**

The South Asia region continued to demonstrate strong intellectual engagement with feminist sociology, gender studies, and research on marginalisation throughout 2025. Scholars from across the region contributed actively to regional and global debates on gender inequality, intersectionality, labour, ecology, political representation, and social justice through collaborative publications, editorial leadership, and participation in international sociological forums.

### **Key Publications and Scholarly Contributions**

A major scholarly contribution from the region was the publication of a Special Issue on “Social Exclusion and Gender Inequality”, guest edited by Ajailiu Niumai, in the Journal of Social and Economic Development (JSED), a SCOPUS-indexed journal published by Springer Nature (Volume 27, Issue 1, August 2025). The Special Issue brings together interdisciplinary perspectives examining intersecting dimensions of caste, class, race, ethnicity, gender, labour, and political exclusion in South Asian, African, and comparative contexts.

Another significant regional milestone was the publication of the edited volume *Hundred Years of Sociology in India: Evolving Issues, Emerging Trends* (Springer Nature, 2025), edited by Abha Chauhan, Ajailiu Niumai, and Tattwamasi Paltasingh. The volume brings together selected papers from the All India Sociological Conference held in 2022 at the University of Science and Technology, Meghalaya, and offers critical reflections on the historical trajectories, contemporary debates, and future directions of sociology in India, with particular attention to gender, social stratification, and marginality.

### **Research Themes and International Engagement**

Gender-focused research from the region has continued to expand into areas such as violence against women, LGBTQ+ issues, ecology, sustainable development, and Indigenous women’s lived experiences, with publications appearing in reputed journals. South Asian scholars also participated actively in the 5th ISA World Forum of Sociology (6–11 July 2025, Rabat, Morocco), with strong engagement in RC-32 (Women, Gender and Society) and allied Research Committees.

Presentations at the Forum addressed themes including intersectionality, women’s political representation in Indigenous contexts, structural constraints on gender equality, and LGBTQ+ issues in the region. Participation in the RC-32 Business Meeting further reflected South Asia’s commitment to strengthening global feminist networks and collaborative sociological scholarship.

## **Canada & USA**

Regional Representative:  
Daniel Kennedy Amoah

### **Sessions Organised at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat (6–11 July 2025)**

The North America regional chapter (Canada and USA) representatives successfully organized the following sessions at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Morocco:

- *Naming the Human and Social Justice through Decolonizing Feminism*
- *Decolonial Feminist Challenges to an Unruly World: Canadian Contributions*
- *Pathways to Women's Political Representation*
- *Gender (In)equality in Political Representation*
- *Constructing LGBTQ+ Identities*
- *LGBTQ+ Work Lives*
- *LGBTQ+ Intimate and Family Relationships*

The presentations were insightful and thought-provoking. It was encouraging to see research presentations on diverse women's and gender issues that have the potential to promote gender equality and bring lasting change.

### **Calls and Announcements**

#### *Call for Abstracts – 2026 Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) Conference*

There is a call for abstracts for the 2026 Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) Conference, themed "*Harbours of Hope: Sociology in a Divided World.*"

The conference will be held in two formats:

- Virtual sessions: 2–4 June 2026
- In-person sessions: 10–13 June 2026

The in-person conference will take place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in partnership with Dalhousie University's Department of Sociology and Social Anthropology. Further details, including submission guidelines and deadlines, are available through the CSA conference website.

### **Collaborations and Networks**

#### **Urban Informality Research Network**

Motivated by a shared interest in advancing interdisciplinary scholarship on urban informality, an Urban Informality Research Network has been formed. This initiative emerged from discussions and networking sessions during the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat.

The network aims to bring together academics and researchers working on urban informality and work across diverse contexts, including gender-related dimensions. It offers a platform for shared learning, theoretical and methodological exchange, and collaborative research that can inform teaching, policy, and advocacy.

RC-32 members interested in joining this research network are invited to contact:

✉ Daniel Kennedy Amoah – [dkamoah@mun.ca](mailto:dkamoah@mun.ca)

### **Europe**

Regional Representatives:

Caroline Newton (Netherlands)

Izabela Korbiel (Austria)

Rahat Shah (Germany)

Jeff Hearn (Finland / Sweden / UK)

### **RC-32 Sessions at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, Rabat**

The European Regional Representatives organised an RC-32 session at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology titled “Two Steps Forward, One Step Back: Gender, Feminism and Publishing Today” (Session 518). The session critically examined contemporary challenges in feminist knowledge production, academic publishing, and activist scholarship.

The following papers were presented:

- *Debunking Hoaxes with Scientific Evidence of Social Impact on Gender Research*  
– Esther Oliver, University of Barcelona, Spain
- *Decolonizing Universities from Within? Challenges and Chances of Academic Activist Work*  
– Jasmin Goldhausen, University of Bayreuth, Germany
- *Beyond Capitalist Publishers: Building Networks of Solidarity in/As Academic Communities*  
– Marianna Fotaki, University of Warwick Business School, UK (with colleagues)

The session was chaired by Caroline Newton and generated engaged discussion on epistemic justice, feminist solidarities, and alternative publishing practices.

### **Academic Engagements and Public Sociology**

European RC-32 representatives were also actively engaged in broader academic and public sociology initiatives. Izabela Korbiel delivered a keynote lecture titled “Missing Data Doesn’t Lie: On the Gender Gap in Europe” at the mid-term conference of the Women’s and Gender Studies Research Network of the European Sociological Association, held in Barcelona in November 2025.

Questions of digital and online violence against women and girls were further foregrounded through European institutional and scholarly interventions. In this context, Jeff Hearn delivered a keynote address on emerging forms of digital gender-sexual violations as part of an international webinar organised during the 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence, contributing to cross-regional dialogue on technology, safety, and gender justice.

### **Feminist Knowledge Networks and Institutional Initiatives**

European representatives also reported active participation in international feminist knowledge networks. The 11th Conference of RINGS (The International Association of Institutions of Advanced Gender Studies) was held at Utrecht University, The Netherlands, alongside the Association's 12th General Assembly, bringing together scholars from over 75 member institutions across continents to reflect on feminist knowledges and minoritarian politics in contemporary times.

<https://ringsgender.org/>

In addition, *Feminism and Organization*, a new journal launched by Bristol University Press, invites submissions for its inaugural volume. The journal is committed to advancing critical feminist scholarship, activism, and praxis on work, organizations, and social justice.

<https://bristoluniversitypress.co.uk/journals/feminism-and-organization/call-for-papers>

### **Note**

*Further details on recent publications, book series, and special journal issues emerging from European RC-32 networks are listed in the **Publications and Announcements** section of this Newsletter.*

### **Regional Update: Turkey and Latin America: Contributions from Ece Esmer and Manuela Ji Mendoza Horvitz**

*This section brings together regional updates shared by members from Turkey and Latin America.*

### **Call for Contributions: Alevi Encyclopedia (Gender Focus)**

The Regional Representative for Turkey draws attention to an important call for contributions from the newly established Alevi Encyclopedia, a digital initiative dedicated to preserving and documenting Alevi history and culture.

While Alevism has received scholarly attention, there remains a significant gap in research on the lived experiences of Alevi women, the sociological analysis of gender roles, and the intersection of gender and belief within Alevi communities. RC-32 members are particularly well placed to address this gap by contributing entries that foreground gender as a central analytical lens.

Areas where feminist and sociological expertise is especially needed include:

- Documenting the lives of historical and contemporary Alevi women often absent from dominant narratives
- Analysing the impact of migration, urbanisation, and modernity on Alevi gender relations
- Critical re-evaluations of the “place of women” in Alevi philosophy in relation to everyday practice

Submissions are accepted in English, Turkish, or German, and all entries are peer-reviewed.

#### **Submission deadlines:**

- Spring: 15 March 2026 (for April 2026 publication)
- Summer: 15 June 2026 (for July 2026 publication)

<https://www.aleviansiklopedisi.com/en/>

#### **Research and Policy-Relevant Scholarship**

Recent feminist scholarship from Turkey continues to highlight the gap between legal rights and lived realities. A notable example is a study published in Women’s Studies International Forum examining reproductive governance and barriers to abortion access in Türkiye. The research documents how abortion, although legally permitted, has become increasingly inaccessible due to institutional refusals, misinformation, and structural barriers, offering an important sociological lens on reproductive justice and structural violence.

#### **Books, Edited Volumes, and Open-Access Resources**

The region also reports the publication of significant monographs and edited volumes addressing gender, memory, patriarchy, queer struggles, and democratic backsliding in Turkey. These works collectively highlight how women and LGBTQ+ communities have emerged as political agents challenging patriarchal, heteronormative, and authoritarian boundaries.

*Further details, including publication links, book covers, and open-access resources, are listed in the Publications and Announcements section of this Newsletter.*

## Research Projects and Networks

An important ongoing project highlighted in this report is “The Turkish Republic and Women in the STEM Fields,” funded by the TÜBİTAK 1001 programme and led by Assoc. Prof. Berna Zengin Arslan (Özyeğin University). The project examines the changing participation and lived experiences of women in science and technology over the past three decades, combining quantitative data with qualitative life histories.

The research team is open to expanding its collaborative network and welcomes engagement with RC-32 members interested in joint comparative or interdisciplinary research.

<https://womeninstem.ozuweb.com/en/about-us/>

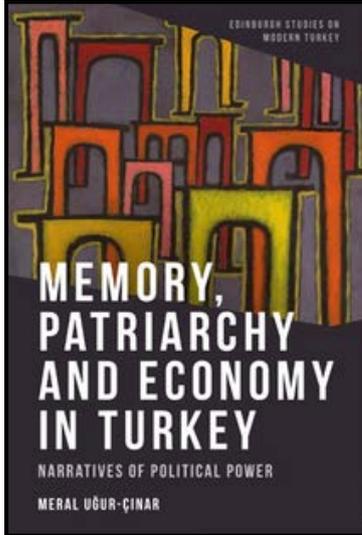
### **Note**

*Detailed information on books, journal articles, edited volumes, policy reports, theses, conferences, and audiovisual materials referenced in this regional update is included in the Publications and Announcements section of the Newsletter.*

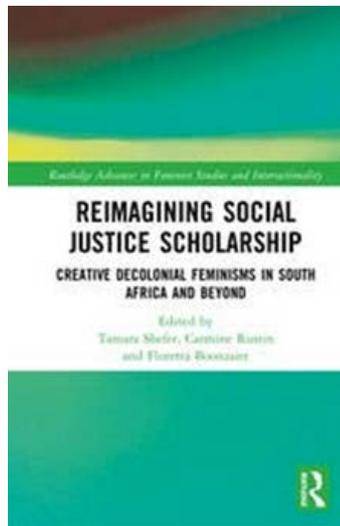


# Publications and Announcements

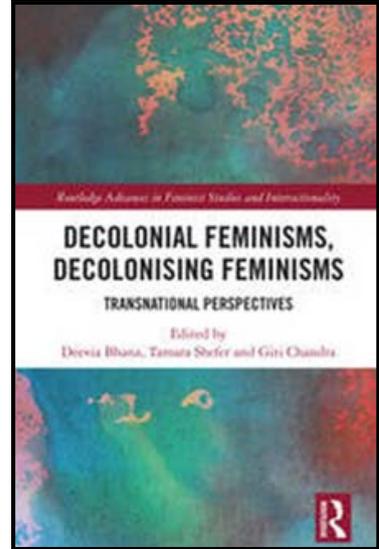
Newly Released Books by the members of RC-32.( Cover images are reproduced as received from members.)



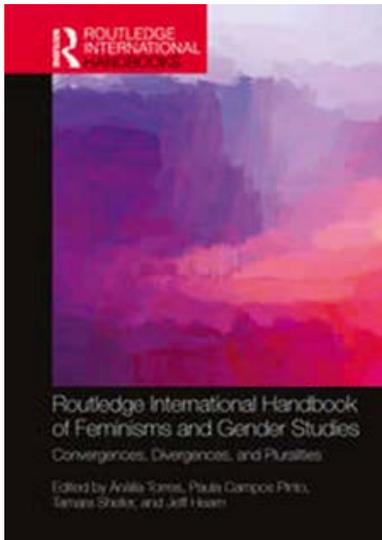
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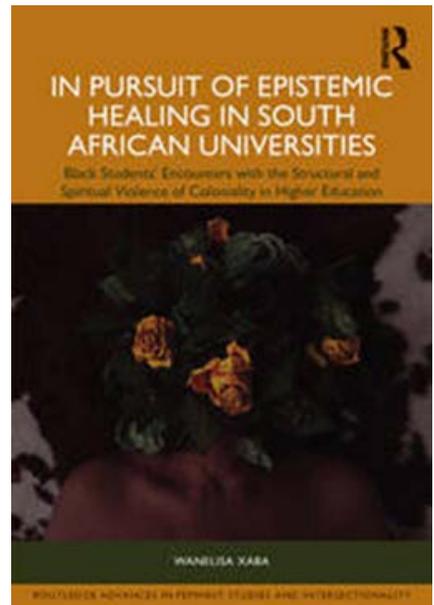
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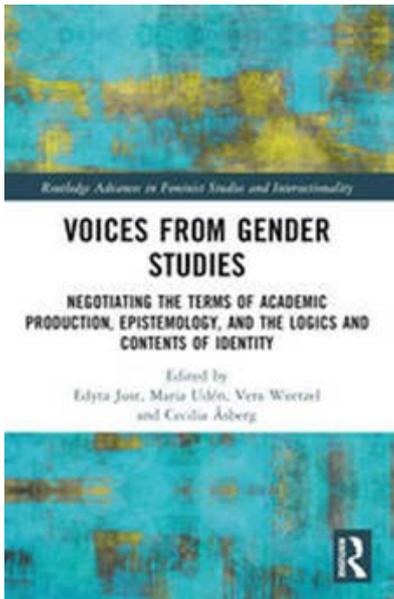
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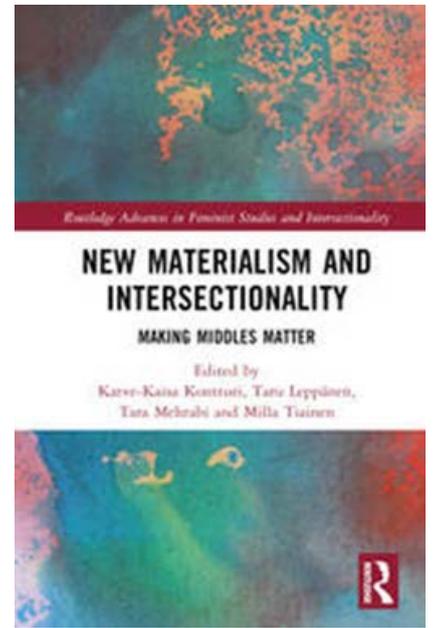
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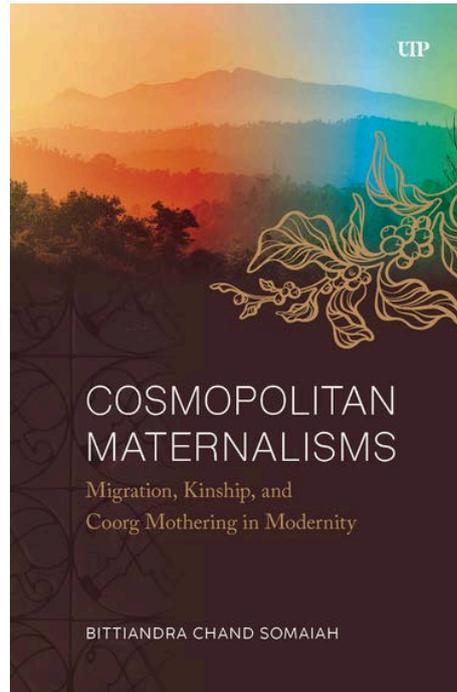
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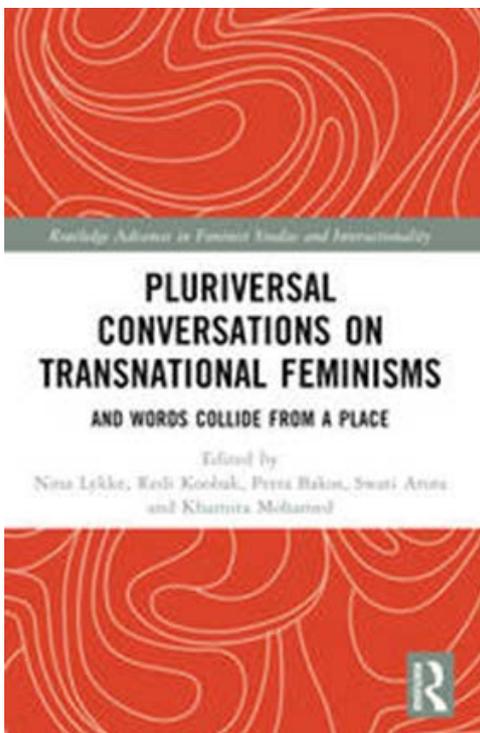
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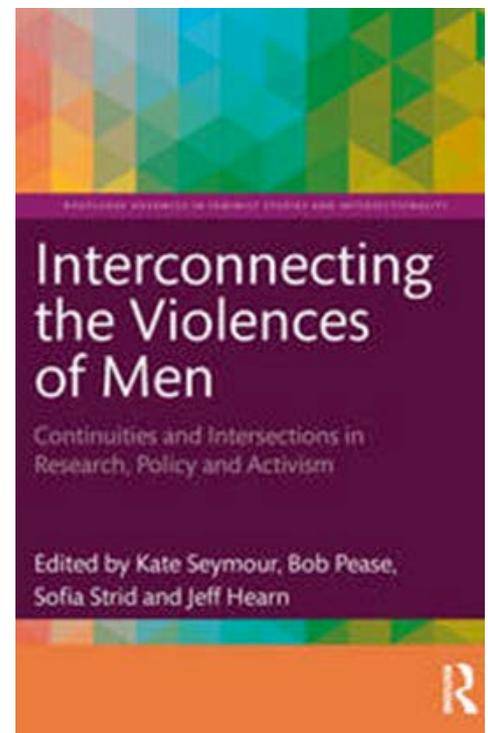
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## Journal Launches and Special Issues

- *Feminism and Organization* (Bristol University Press, launching 2026)

An international journal advancing feminist scholarship on work, organizations, and social justice.

- *Special Two Issue:*

“Men, Masculinities, and the Planet at the End of the (M)Anthropocene”

**Edited by Kadri Aavik, Jeff Hearn, Martin Hultman, and Tamara Shefer**

(NORMA,) Part 1, Vol. 20(4), 2025, and Part 2 Vol 21(1), 2026.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rnor20/20/4>

## Selected Journal Articles

*(Highly selective; policy- and theory-relevant contributions)*

- **O’Neil, M. L., Göğüş, E. M., & Değirmenci, S. (2026).**

“The state gives me the right not to do it”: Reproductive governance, structural violence and barriers to abortion care in Türkiye.

Women’s Studies International Forum, 114.

- **Rodríguez-Covarrubias, N., & Álvarez-Figueroa, F. (2025).**

*Digital platforms for (female) domestic workers in Chile.*

*Gender, Work & Organization*, 32(2).

- **Restrepo Quintero, K. et al. (2025).**

*The story of a pioneer of the accounting academy in Chile.*

*Gender, Work & Organization*, 32.

- **Sibrian, N. et al. (2024).**

*Exposure to hate speech among migrant communities in Chile.*

*Revista Latina de Comunicación Social*, 82.

## Research Projects and Networks

- **Women in STEM in the Turkish Republic**

TÜBİTAK 1001-funded project led by Assoc. Prof. Berna Zengin Arslan (Özyeğin University).

A mixed-method study mapping women’s participation and lived experiences in STEM over three decades.

- **Urban Informality Research Network**

Emerging interdisciplinary network formed during the ISA Forum, Rabat.

## Research Reports, Manuals, and Open Resources

- ***Combating Cyber Violence against Women and Girls***

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

- ***Buenas prácticas de corresponsabilidad institucional***

Centro de Estudios Nuble (2025)

- ***Fundación Cigesar. Cuidar sin permiso, decidir sin culpa. Hacia una práctica en Salud m´as humana justa y consciente.***

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mblbH2TxFSAmrcQyN7vOZbp5ixvf0SwU/view?usp=drivesdk>

- **<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A63SD5Ec0c>**

## Conferences, Seminars, and Book Events

- ***Seminar:*** Políticas de equidad e inclusión en la academia (April 2025)
- ***Congreso Latinoamericano de Estudios Feministas del Sur*** (Uruguay)
- ***Book presentation:*** *How to Suppress the Careers of Female Social Scientists*  
(*Red Feminista de las Ciencias Sociales*)

## Calls and Academic Opportunities

- ***Tenure-Track Faculty Position***

*Department of Innovative Japanese Studies, Tohoku University (Japan)*

*Deadline: 31 January*

- ***Call for Abstracts – 2026 Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) Conference***

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# Moments That Stay With US;RC-32 in Pictures at ISA forums at Rabat

## Presidential Session



Yakin Erturk, Solange Simões, Marlise Matos, Valentine Moghadam, and Fatima Sadiqi

## Business Meeting



## RC32 Reception Dinner



# With Gratitude Towards New Beginnings

This Special December 2025 issue of the RC-32 Newsletter reflects the collective intellectual labour, commitment, and generosity of RC-32 members across regions. I extend my sincere appreciation to the RC-32 Co-Presidents, Board members, Regional Representatives, and contributors for sharing their reflections, reports, and scholarly work, and for sustaining RC-32 as a vibrant space for feminist and gender-focused sociological inquiry.

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RC-32 thrives through the active engagement of its members. I warmly invite contributions for forthcoming issues of the Newsletter, including regional updates, reflections, publications, announcements, and calls aligned with the Committee's thematic and intellectual priorities. Submissions and suggestions may be shared with the Editorial Office at the address listed in this issue.

As we close the year and look ahead to 2026, I extend warm New Year wishes to all RC-32 members across regions. In a world marked by uncertainty and profound social change, feminist sociology remains vital in imagining more just, inclusive, and caring futures. I look forward to our continued conversations, collaborations, and shared commitments within RC-32 in the year ahead.

***With best wishes for a peaceful, healthy, and hopeful New Year 2026***

