



Historical
Sociology

RC56 Newsletter, May 2026

CALLS FOR PAPERS & CONFERENCES

XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology – Call for Sessions

4–10 July 2027 · Gwangju, South Korea

Preparations are underway for the XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology, themed “Global Sociology in Turbulent Times.” We invite all RC56 members to contribute to shaping our committee’s program by submitting session proposals.

Historical sociology has a vital part to play at this Congress, offering critical perspectives on the dynamics of power and long-term social transformations – themes that speak directly to our turbulent present. We encourage proposals that reflect the breadth of our RC’s interests, from comparative-historical and figural approaches to postcolonial and decolonial analyses.

Session proposals must be submitted through the ISA Confex platform. No additional sessions can be added after 25 June 2026.

Program coordinators for RC56 are Lucy Císař Brown and Paddy Dolan.

Key dates:

2 May – 25 June 2026: Call for Sessions open (submit via ISA Confex)

26 June – 22 July 2026: Program Coordinators review and finalize sessions

3 August – 14 October 2026: Call for Abstracts open

15 October – 10 November 2026: Abstract selection phase

11 – 30 November 2026: Abstract relocation period

|Session proposal deadline: 25 June 2026

Social Pathologies: Developmental and Processual Perspectives on Contemporary Malaises

2–5 December 2026 · University College Cork, Ireland

Papers are invited for this in-person conference, a joint endeavour between University College Cork, RC56, the Norbert Elias Foundation, and the Social Pathologies of Contemporary Civilization Research Network.

The conference will address the historical dynamics of social pathologies, broadly conceived — from plagues and social epidemics of chronic conditions, addiction, and mental health problems, to the discontents of civilisation such as melancholy, anxiety, and insatiability. Social pathology extends beyond health and well-being to encompass violence, colonisation, mass incarceration, injustice, exclusion, and systemic failures that produce social suffering. Papers on the symbolic and constructed dimensions of pathology — civilising offensives, normalisation projects, folk devils — are equally welcome, as are papers on health, flourishing, and wholeness.

All schools of historically-oriented sociology are welcome. We particularly encourage papers that combine an empirical focus, methodological sophistication, and theoretical analysis.

Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be submitted via the [submission form](#).

PhD Workshop: A workshop for PhD students will take place on 2 and 5 December. Workshop participants will also attend and present at the main conference. Applications via [this link](#).

Contact: information@socialpathologies2026.com · [Conference website](#) · [RC56 announcement](#)

Abstract deadline: 15 May 2026

RC20 & RC33 & RC56 Joint Regional Conference

24–28 August 2026 · Khon Kaen, Thailand & Tokyo, Japan

RC56, RC20 (Comparative Sociology), and RC33 (Social Science Methodology) are pleased to encourage registration for this joint regional conference: the 2nd RC20 Regional Conference on Comparative Sociology, the 1st RC56 Regional Conference on Historical Sociology, and the 5th RC33 Regional Conference on Social Science Methodology: Asia.

For more information and registration, please visit the [main website](#) or the [mirror site](#).

The timeline and process:

- Early Registration Deadline: 22 May 2026
- Registration Deadline: 14 August 2026
- Conference: 24–28 August 2026

The local organizing committee:

- Dusadee Ayuwat (Prof. Dr., Khon Kaen University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Keeratiporn Jutaviriya (Assist. Prof. Dr., Khon Kaen University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)
- Rukchanok Chumnanmak (Assist. Prof. Dr., Khon Kaen University, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences)

- Fumiya Onaka (Prof. Dr., Japan Women's University, Faculty of Integrated Arts and Social Sciences)

Contact: KKUJWUJC2026 [at] gmail.com

|Early registration: 22 May 2026 · Registration deadline: 14 August 2026

SUMMER SCHOOL

Terms and Turns of Empire: Interconnecting Concepts and Methods

7–12 September 2026 · Research Training Group 2571 “Empires”, University of Freiburg

The Research Training Group “Empires” at the University of Freiburg invites applications for this interdisciplinary summer school, which will offer an intensive methodological forum for critical engagement with the relationship between methods and concepts of “empire” across academic fields and historical periods.

Confirmed guests include **Peter Bang** (Copenhagen), **Julian Go** (Chicago), **Louis Nana** (Tübingen), and **Khadija von Zinnenburg Carroll** (Vienna).

The summer school is open to doctoral students working on empires from all periods and regions in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. It will accommodate a maximum of 20 participants and will be held in English. Accommodation at Studienhaus Wiesneck in the Black Forest is covered; travel costs will be reimbursed up to €200.

Applications (1-page motivation letter, 1-page research summary, CV) should be sent to kontakt@grk2571.uni-freiburg.de. More information: uni-freiburg.de/empires/summer-school-2026

|Application deadline: 31 May 2026

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Manuela Boatcă

Santos, Fabio & Manuela Boatcă. 2026. **Wege zur Kreolisierung der Migrationstheorie. Perspektiven aus der (post)kolonialen Karibik.** In *Gesellschaft der Migration: Zur sozialtheoretischen Revision einer kontroversen Wissenspraxis*, edited by Helge Schwiertz and Serhat Karakayalı, 125-154. transcript. [Open Access.](#)

Boatcă, Manuela. 2026. **“Global Sociology and Our Interconnected World.”** In Karim Murji, Sarah Neal, and John Solomos (eds.), *Introduction to Sociology*, 2nd revised edition, 37–54. London: Sage.

Boatcă, Manuela. 2025. **“Cittadinanza in vendita: mobilità sociale globale in un contesto (post) coloniale.”** *Sociologia Classica Contemporanea* 1 (2): 73–99.

Lucy Císař Brown

Císař Brown, Lucy. 2026. **Revisiting “The Civilizing Process”: Early Modern Witchcraft, Gender and Religion.** Norbert Elias Series. Cham: Springer.
link.springer.com

Dafna Hirsch

Hirsch, Dafna. 2026. **The Israeli Career of Hummus: Colonial Appropriation, Authenticity and Distinction.** Bloomington: Indiana University Press.

The book traces how hummus has turned from an Arab dish largely disregarded by Zionist settlers into a national symbol and culinary cult in Israel. Rather than treating culinary appropriation as an inevitable outcome of colonization, it examines how changing gastronomic, economic, and political forces intersected with material and cultural production in a multilayered and socially stratified colonial space. The book moves beyond the thesis of the cultural erasure of hummus’s Arab provenance, showing how the Arab identity of hummus functions as a semiotic resource—sometimes suppressed and at other times leveraged to lend authenticity to hummus, and thereby to its consumers. iupress.org

Sujata Patel

Patel, Sujata, and Maureen A. Eger (eds.). 2025. **Anti-Colonial Global Scholarship: Context, Perspectives and Debates.** Bristol: Bristol University Press. [Open Access](#)

Patel, Sujata, and Maureen A. Eger. 2025. “**Anti-Colonial Global Scholarship: An Introduction.**” In S. Patel and M. Eger (eds.), *Anti-Colonial Global Scholarship*, 1–19. Bristol: Bristol University Press.

Patel, Sujata. 2025. “**Anti-Colonial Social Theory as a Peripheral Gaze.**” In Patel and Eger (eds.), *Anti-Colonial Global Scholarship*, 21–57. Bristol: Bristol University Press.

Patel, Sujata. 2025. “**The Decoloniality Perspective and the Social Sciences: In Conversation with Leon Moosavi.**” *International Journal of Social Research Methodology* 28 (6): 675–688.

Patel, Sujata. 2025. “**Colonial Modernity.**” In Gert Verschraegen and Raf Vanderstraeten (eds.), *Encyclopaedia of Global Social Theory*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

Patel, Sujata. 2025. “**A.R. Desai’s Marxist Critique of Nationalism and the Indian Nation-State: Towards a Reframing of Sociology as Social Science.**” In Anaheed Al-Hardan and Julian Go (eds.), *Anticolonialism and Social Thought*, 234–252. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Patel, Sujata. 2025. “**Colonialism and the Framing of Social Theory: A Hundred Year History.**” In Dorothy Takiwaa et al. (eds.), *Perspectives on Decoloniality: Southern Epistemologies and Epistemologies of the South*, 113–131. Bristol: Channel View Publications.

Fabio Santos

Santos, Fabio & Manuela Boatcă. 2026. **Wege zur Kreolisierung der Migrationstheorie. Perspektiven aus der (post)kolonialen Karibik.** In Gesellschaft der Migration: *Zur sozialtheoretischen Revision einer kontroversen*

Wissenspraxis, edited by Helge Schwiertz and Serhat Karakayalı, 125-154. transcript. [Open Access](#).

Santos, Fabio. 2026. “Europe” in “Latin America”: Illegalized Mobilities, Deportable Bodies, and Contested Sovereignties in the French–Brazilian Borderland. In *The Borders of America: Migration, Control, and Resistance Across Latin America and the Caribbean*, edited by Soledad Álvarez Velasco, Nicholas De Genova, Gustavo Dias, and Eduardo Domenech, 301–328. Duke University Press. [Duke Press](#).

Santos, Fabio. 2025. **Decolonizing the migration archive: Haitian refugees at Fort Allen, Puerto Rico, 1981–82.** *Comparative Migration Studies* 13 (94): 1–21. (Awarded the Rinus Penninx Best Paper Award, IMISCOE). link.springer.com

Jiří Šubrt

Šubrt, Jiří. 2025. ***Sociology in an age of relativism and uncertainty***. Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

Jakub Szumski & Tomasz Zarycki

Szumski, Jakub and Zarycki, Tomasz (online first). “The First ‘Unmodern’ Nation: Germany and Poland’s Imperial Exclusion from Modernity.” *European Journal of Social Theory*. journals.sagepub.com

RC56 BOARD

Board 2023 - 2027

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