



# Human Rights and Global Justice

## Newsletter June 2026

### Contents

- XXI World Congress *pp. 2-3*
- From the President *pp. 4-5*
- Members Candid Corner *pp. 6-8*
- From the Editor's desk *pp. 9-10*
- TG03 Details *pp. 11*

# XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology

2027 ISA 세계사회학대회

Global Sociology  
in Turbulent Times  
격동하는 시대의 글로벌 사회학

Gwangju, Korea | July 4-10, 2027  
Chonnam National University

## XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology (4-10 July 2027)

The World Congress will moot the theme “*Global Sociology in Turbulent Times*”, and looks to assemble all social scientists together under a collective banner to probe sagacious solutions for restructuring strong bridges and reducing gaps on issues of region, religion, race, resource, gender & technology between countries of global North (at the Core); and countries of global South (at the periphery).

The vibrant and colourful Congress Logo is inspired from the Korean alphabet (Hangul) and the rich traditional cultural heritage of the host city, Gwangju. Its shapes, aim to reflect inclusivity and collective acceptance of diverse voices. A mix of hues of coral, pink, purple and green simultaneously depicts the traditional Korean aesthetics along with the evolving energy of a dynamic world order. The design indicates fluidity of dialogue and mobility of variety of diverse perspectives. *The XXI ISA World Congress* seeks to assemble a global community of academicians who will share space & perspectives towards responsibility and leadership of society & sociologists in theorizing these modern conflict ridden times.

Currently, Call for Sessions for all Working Groups, Thematic Groups and Research Committees is on up to 25<sup>th</sup> June 2026. (2<sup>nd</sup> May–25<sup>th</sup> June 2026).

## From the President

As Charles Dickens said, ‘It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness’. The above quote aptly reflects the uncertainty, insecurity and impromptu aggressions inflicted upon democracy, academic expression and humanity. While the previous year culminated into an acute political turmoil; this year sadly continues to contest similar onslaughts & embargos on freedoms once so assumingly taken for granted. Now more than ever, voices of social scientists across the globe, need to be unitedly heard. History is proof, that wars and armed conflict have neither yielded a victory or led to society’s progress. Geoffrey Pleyers, ISA President 2023-2027, in his address on the dialogue between India and global sociology, at the ISA Conference of the Council of National Associations in Pune as well as his opening session at the 5<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Sociological Association of Ukraine, discusses the Renewed Global Sociology emphasizing attributes of versatility, fortitude and prudent intervention reflected by sociologists during armed conflict situations, in preserving traditional knowledge & contemporary information exchange.

The world today confronts a catastrophic ‘*Problem of Plenty*’. Ironically, even with plenty problems plaguing the world, there are multiple confusing solutions to those problems; blended with a variety of equally ambiguous alternatives. To make matters worse, the collateral misinformation that arises alongside gives way to draconian digital divisive wars.

A.I. & technology in today's times come with a double edged sharpness making it vital for netizens to be sensitized to comprehend the difference between a curious trending group and loyal reliable blocs. When the line between accuracy, reliability and fickle-minded fame is blurred, there are bouts of constant attacks on academic freedom, disinformation, hate-speech, damage to ecology and growing insecurity at every minor dissent.

The XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology is scheduled to take place at Gwangju, South Korea, from 4 to 10 July 2027 and is being hosted by Chonnam National University. The theme, poster & guidelines are available on the ISA website. And I look forward to seeing abundant abstract submissions & vibrant participation from my TG03 family.



**Namita Gupta**

**President**

[namita4rights@gmail.com](mailto:namita4rights@gmail.com)

## Members Candid Corner

As per tradition, this June 2026 edition continues to bring to its TGO3 members the ‘Members Candid Corner’ our very own shared space for formal updates & informal insights by TG03 members on recent news, researches completed or proposed to be done. It seeks to be a medium for initiation of established as well as innovative societal themes to collaborate & blend.

- **GAROP, Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People**, London (GAROP) is an organisation that aims to voice rights of older individuals globally. ISA is a member of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (<https://rightsofolderpeople.org/>). We encourage ISA members to participate in the Global Alliance activities to encourage the development of a UN Convention for the Rights of Older Persons. *Ellen Graham*, Secretary, opened applications for volunteers at ISA to aid in the drafting of the United Nations Convention on the rights of older people. *Jan Fritz*, ISA EC Member and ISA Senior Representative to the UN in the same context, scheduled online training sessions use of Universal Periodic Review, which took place on the 2.12.2025 and 10.12.2025. GAROP, London seeks to inform, All TG03 members to urge their National Governments to support the convention for the rights of older persons. On 30th December, the UN General Assembly Fifth Committee approved the budget for the new Intergovernmental Working Group (IGWG) that will draft a UN convention in Geneva.

- In anticipation of the IGWG's organisational meeting which happened on 18-20th February, the GAROP Steering Group has prepared a detailed set of concrete proposals for the modalities of the negotiation process. **All members are encouraged to share these recommendations as part of on-going dialogue & advocacy with governments.**
- **Ken Chih-Yan Sun** of the Villanova University and Winner of Best Article Award, International Sociological Association's Migration Section along with Anju Paul (NYU Abu Dhabi), Kerilyn Schewel (UNC-Chapel Hill) in an online event in January discussed ***Yasmin Ortiga's new book, Stuck at Home***, and its contribution to migration studies and how to think about immobility and its implications for migrants and students of migration. To all interested scholars, Ortiga's book compares experiences of two groups of Filipino workers: nurses banned from leaving the country and cruise workers who returned home after COVID-19 shut down the cruise industry. She emphasizes the high stakes in telling the "right" story of immobility to a nation built around emigration—one that provides a compelling rationale for who deserves to move and who can be forced to stay.
- **Rebecca Jean Emigh**, Professor of Sociology at UCLA last year formed an online network **Global Critical Studies and Praxis (GCSP)**, a forum aiming to brainstorm each academic quarter, growth of critical studies. Hence, Global Critical Studies & Praxis, ASA Theory Section, and ASA GATS co-sponsored the talk "Turn to the Right in Academia", February 20, 2026, at 12:00 PM PST over Zoom.

Panellists, **Fatma Müge Goçek**, University of Michigan; **Gabriela López**, Stanford University; **Michela Musto**, Brown University; **Ranita Ray**, University of New Mexico; **Ellen Schrecker**, Yeshiva University; **Presider: Dylan Riley**, UC Berkeley, held a talk on timely discussion on the growing turn to the right in education from kindergarten to postgraduate studies:

- **Rebecca Jean Emigh**, with The ASA Theory Section and Global Critical Studies & Praxis sponsored moderated another talk "**Turn to the Right: Ideas, Ideologies, and Culture of the Right, Fascists, and Neo-Fascists**", that took place on May 22, 2026, at 12:00 PM PDT over Zoom. Panelists and Titles: **Alvaro Bianchi**, Universidade Estadual de Campinas; **André Kaysel**, Universidade Estadual de Campinas; **Cinzia Solari**, University of Massachusetts, Boston; **Kat Fuller**, University of Nevada, Las Vegas with **Discussant: Hulya Arik**, University of Toronto, Scarborough.

## From the Editor's Desk

Author and Human Rights Activist, Arundhati Roy, Booker Prize winner writes in her latest work 'my mother was my shelter and my storm'. This ideology can well be applied to our planet Earth. When not treated with respect it requires, whether rendering dignity to its reserves, the ecology, its inhabitants whether animals or/and human beings; Our Mother Earth, as Roy puts it, gives shelter and storm, sometimes in equal measure. When treated with disdain, the fury it can unleash is catastrophic. Across the globe, we have been witness to the systematically created scarcity, distress and unmitigated impunity which has been nonchalantly repeated the past year. Paradoxically, the horrors and empathy that people in war zones have suffered, has reduced humanity to help and harm, at times simultaneously. It is this twisted restructuring of the society which gets influenced by global social media, rapid information exchange and polarized political factions.

This massive knowledge domain then continues to be left at the mercy of Artificial Intelligence. A.I is undoubtedly the elephant in the room which stands to manipulate not just opinions, jobs and technology but also intimidate public forums, by creating free & freely accessible disinformation sources, malign democracies, create distrust, and tamper or breakdown institutional surveillance. The **XXI World Congress of Sociology** is perfectly worded and themed 'Global Sociology in Turbulent Times'. The world today unassumingly anticipates all human beings to possess squirrel-survival skills while human rights are exercised in a discretionary way, like in an open-minefield without a map. To 'tame technology and not be enslaved by it, is the current Alpha-Beta Generation call.

Hence, all research academia will aim to tackle global human rights concerns arising from climate change, pollution, poverty, financial inequities & trade and war. On that note, I look forward to the forthcoming **XXI World Congress of Sociology** in South Korea next year.

***Vital dates to note:*** (i) Call for Sessions (*2<sup>nd</sup> May–25<sup>th</sup> June 2026*); (ii) Call for Abstracts (*3<sup>rd</sup> August–14<sup>th</sup> October 2026*); and (iii) Selection notification (*4<sup>th</sup> December 2026*).

Grateful for inputs for all updates and requesting all members to continue the same with the details:

- (i) Name & Designation;
- (ii) Affiliate Institution;
- (iii) Title/Theme; and
- (iv) Perspectives/Human rights Issue/Opinion (about 250-400 words).



**Kanika Sharma**

**Editor**

[kanikasharma.panjabuniversity@gmail.com](mailto:kanikasharma.panjabuniversity@gmail.com)



## **TG03 Officers**

### **President**

Namita Gupta  
Panjab University, India [namita4rights@gmail.com](mailto:namita4rights@gmail.com)

### **Vice President**

Bhup Singh  
Maharishi Dayanand University, India.

### **Secretary/Treasurer**

Binoyjyoti Das  
Jawahar Lal Nehru University, India [binoyjyotidas@gmail.com](mailto:binoyjyotidas@gmail.com)

### **Newsletter Editor**

Kanika Sharma  
Panjab University, India [kanikasharma.panjabuniversity@gmail.com](mailto:kanikasharma.panjabuniversity@gmail.com)

### **Social Media Manager**

Joy Prakash Chowdhuri  
Institute of Social Sciences, New Delhi, India [drjoyprakash@gmail.com](mailto:drjoyprakash@gmail.com)

### **Visit the TG03 web site**

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/thematic-groups/tg03-human-rights-and-global-justice/>

MEMBERSHIP dues are USD 20 (USD 10 Discount) for a four-year period.

To join, visit the ISA web site: <https://members.isa-sociology.org/login>

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Kanika Sharma, [kanikasharma.panjabuniversity@gmail.com](mailto:kanikasharma.panjabuniversity@gmail.com)