

RC28 2026 Spring Meeting Seville 20-22 May 2026 Closing Session

By Geoffrey Pleyers, President of the ISA

Dear colleagues,

As the RC28 Spring Meeting 2026 on “Addressing Social Inequalities in the Global North and South” comes to an end, I would like to warmly congratulate all of you for this conference. Over the past three days, more than 450 colleagues from all regions of the world have contributed to one of the largest and most stimulating conferences organised by an ISA Research Committee in recent years.

I regret I could not join you in person, as I was attending the conference of the College of Sociologists of Peru, in Lambayeque.

As President of the International Sociological Association, I would like to warmly thank and congratulate the President of RC28, Professor Hiroshi Ishida, with whom I had the pleasure to work for 5 years in the ISA Executive Committee. His intellectual leadership and dedication have been essential to the vitality and international influence of RC28, that continues to stand out as one of the ISA’s most active, dynamic, and intellectually influential Research Committees.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to the local organisers and host of this conference, Professor Sandra Fachelli, who has devoted her energy and dedication to making this conference possible, with the help and support of Professor Pedro López-Roldán, as well as colleagues and staff members involved in the organisation of this event. The success of such a conference reflects not only the quality of its academic program, but also the generosity, professionalism, and collective commitment of its organizers.

The rise of inequalities across the world is connected to every aspect and dimension of the polycrisis we witness, the crisis of democracy and the rise of authoritarianism, the destruction of the environment and global warming, and the control of media that shapes politics and the perception of the world of an increasing part of the world population. The programme of the conference reflects these transformations with breadth and depth. You have discussed issues ranging

from labour markets, education, migration, refugee integration, gender inequalities, health inequalities, to climate change, AI and technological change, social mobility, and the reproduction of privilege and poverty across generations. This diversity of topics is a powerful reminder of the importance of sociology as a global, plural, comparative, and empirically grounded discipline.

At a time marked by growing geopolitical tensions, democratic crises, authoritarian tendencies, wars, and ecological challenges, international academic dialogue is more necessary than ever. Conferences such as this one are essential not only for advancing research, but also for strengthening international solidarity and building a truly global sociology.

I have no doubt that, beyond the rich academic discussions, this conference has also created new collaborations, friendships, and intellectual projects that will continue long after these days in Seville.

Thank you once again to the RC28 leadership, the local organisers, and every participant for your contribution to this outstanding conference. I wish you all a safe journey home and look forward to meeting you at the World Congress of Sociology that will take place in Gwangju, South Korea, in July 2027.

Geoffrey Pleyers
President of the International Sociological Association

Recordings of the RC28 conference plenary sessions are available online:

20/05/2026: https://tv.upo.es/media/t/0_32uwjbcr

21/05/2026: https://tv.upo.es/media/t/0_dktu3pwv

22/05/2026: https://tv.upo.es/media/t/0_vwykqdbl

