



The Body in the  
Social Sciences

## **NEWSLETTER, June, 2026**

Editor: Somdatta Mukherjee

[mukherjee.somdatta4@gmail.com](mailto:mukherjee.somdatta4@gmail.com)

# Board Committee

Dulce Filgueira de Almeida	President, ISA RC54
Mônica Mesquita	Vice-President, ISA RC54
Somdatta Mukherjee	Secretary, ISA RC54
Letícia R. T. Silva	Treasurer, ISA RC54
Craig Cook	Board Member, ISA RC54
Anabela Pereira	Board Member, ISA RC54
Victoria D'hers	Board Member, ISA RC54
Dietmar Wetzel	Board Member, ISA RC54

# Words from the President



Dear colleagues, researchers, students, and friends of RC54 – The Body in the Social Sciences,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to another edition of our RC54 Newsletter. Our international community continues to grow through dialogue, collaboration, and the strengthening of interdisciplinary perspectives dedicated to the study of bodies, embodiment, corporeality, emotions, movement, and social life.

In this edition, I would especially like to invite all members of our network and the broader academic community to participate in the RC54 MidTerm Conference: Embodiment and Transdisciplinarity Symposium, which will take place on 6–7 October 2026 at the Faculty of Physical Education, University of Brasília, in Brasília-DF, Brazil.

The symposium aims to promote scientific dissemination, interdisciplinary exchange, and methodological innovation in the field of embodiment and transdisciplinary studies. The event seeks to integrate academic debates with innovative co-creation formats, including idea pitches, co-working spaces, and Design Thinking methodologies, strengthening research networks, education, and social impact initiatives both locally and internationally.

This event represents an important opportunity to deepen reflections on the body in contemporary societies while fostering dialogues among sociology, education, physical education, anthropology, philosophy, arts, health, and other related fields. We hope the symposium will become a vibrant space for intellectual exchange, collaborative experimentation, and the creation of new international partnerships.

We are honored to welcome distinguished scholars and researchers from several countries, including:

Florent Pasquier – Université de Sorbonne, France

Adrian Scribano – University of Buenos Aires, Argentina / ISA RC54 Board / President WG08

Anabela Pereira – ISCTE & Universidade NOVA Lisboa, Portugal / ISA RC54 Board

Craig Cook – Queen Elizabeth School, India / ISA RC54 Board

Dietmar Wetzel – MSH Medical School, Hamburg, Germany / ISA RC54 Board

Dulce Maria Filgueira de Almeida Donnici – University of Brasília, Brazil / President of RC54

Erika Barreto Magalhães – DBKS Aargau, Switzerland

Flávia Ferreira – University of Brasília, Brazil / RC54 Member

Gertrudes Nunes de Melo – Federal Institute of Paraíba, Brazil

Monica Mesquita – Universidade NOVA Lisboa, Portugal / Vice-President of RC54

Somdatta Mukherjee – ICFAI Foundation for Higher Education, Hyderabad, India / RC54 Secretary

Thiago Camargo Iwamoto – State University of Goiás, Brazil

Victoria D’Hers – University of Buenos Aires, Argentina / ISA RC54 Board

The symposium program will include keynote lectures, thematic sessions, panels, co-working spaces, poster sessions, and idea pitches, gathering approximately 150 participants, including students, researchers, professors, and members of the broader community.

The event is organized by RC54 – The Body in the Social Sciences of the International Sociological Association together with the Graduate Program in Physical Education of the University of Brasília, with financial support from the Fundação de Apoio à Pesquisa do Distrito Federal (FAPDF).

We warmly invite you to join us in Brasília for what promises to be an inspiring and intellectually stimulating gathering. Your presence and participation will contribute significantly to the strengthening of our global network and to the advancement of body studies in contemporary social sciences.

We look forward to welcoming you to Brazil in October 2026.

With warm regards,

Dulce Filgueira de Almeida  
RC54 President (ISA)  
University of Brasília (UnB)



UnB



DEMOCRACIA  
TODOS OS DIAS



fapdf  
Fundação de Apoio à  
Pesquisa do Distrito Federal

# Thoughts to Share

---



Arthur Constantino Dutra da Silva

Claudia A. C. de Araujo Lorenzoni

## Street, Flesh, and Sound in the Body-that-Counts

Arthur Constantino Dutra da Silva

Claudia A. C. de Araujo Lorenzoni

Federal Institute of Espírito Santo (Ifes), Brazil

In the interior of Brazil, there is a popular manifestation that gives rise to a subversive festive body, both creator and creature, subject and object, at once. The manifestation to which we refer is the carnival celebration of the *Boi Pintadinho* in Muqui, Espírito Santo, a festivity rooted in the myth of the Ox that dies and is resurrected, a narrative that crossed the Atlantic, acquired distinctly Brazilian contours, and spread throughout the national territory.

Intrigued by the pedagogical dimensions of this vernacular manifestation and under the inspiration of the Ethnomathematics Programme, coined by Professor Ubiratan D'Ambrosio (2023), we directed our academic curiosity towards some of the festive practices that gravitate around this manifestation in order to observe how they might open creative avenues for dialogue within environmental mathematics education, a space we inhabit and from which we seek a polysemic understanding of mathematical praxis.

It was during our incursions onto the festive ground, immersed in the collective synergy generated by the rhythm of the drums that guide the procession, that a question leapt before us like a reveler carried away by the moment: what is this body that is simultaneously territory, rhythm, and history?

Drawing upon the Theory of Objectification (Radford, 2021), this body transforms and constitutes itself as a creature (subject) whilst simultaneously counting beats within the rhythm of the collective circle, making the musical measure a means of objectification through the flesh. By materializing the rhythmic patterns of the celebration, this body transmutes in a process of subjectivation through which the individual learns the techniques of the community and merges their own identity with the knowledge embodied in the festivity (Figure 1).

The rhythmic structure of the festive body organises tasks by distributing responsibility between the body schema, which operates through motor capacity, and the body image, which projects the subject's representation of themselves in the world (Gallagher, 2006). This bodily schema acts in an integrated and holistic manner, making the festive action itself possible. In a rhythmic and celebratory body, the body schema attends to the counting of rhythms, whilst the body image overflows and sustains the telling of the story through the expressiveness of performance. This distinction opens one possible pathway towards understanding the polysemy of the verb "to tell" within the percussionist's body, transforming the acts of counting beats and telling stories into a single bodily unit.

During the performance, the festive body merges with the instrument, making it part of itself. If we consider Patel's (2008) hypothesis regarding the sharing of syntactic integration resources, which suggests that the brain recruits similar neural networks to process the syntactic structures of both music and language, then affirming that the instrument, as an extension of the festive body, tells its story ceases to be merely poetic license and becomes grounded in a shared cognitive process. The language and syntax through which the community's history is narrated are produced through the instrument that has become an extension of the body.

Does this festive body therefore echo rhythms that narrate a story, performed by the rhythmist who, through this very process, establishes himself as a being-in-the-world?

From an Enactivist perspective (Varela, Thompson and Rosch, 1991), this symbiosis occurs only through embodied cognition in action and, in turn, exists only on the ground of the celebration, in the here and now. Nothing precedes this transcendence, thereby casting doubt upon notions of muscle memory or prior training; it emerges in and through the celebration itself (Figure 2). In this way, the body, through the polysemy of telling, creates a reality. This reality is amplified through the vibration of both instrument and body. As the primary site of existence, this body-territory (Haesbaert, 2020) establishes an existential boundary that extends through sound, a boundary that not even the massive walls of the historic buildings of the old town can contain (Figure 3).

Figure 1: Touching as a social activity and working together



Figure 2: Enaction of myth through action situated on the street



Figure 3: Courtship as a territorialization strategy



Source: Collection of the cultural group Boi Pintadinho Az de Ouro, 2026

Blessed body-that-tells, what is this part that becomes an instrument? Through what syntax? In which language should we converse? Are we ready for you?

It is this restlessness that keeps us awake at night; yet it is also what awakens us each morning to live as a body-that-wants-to-tell.

## References

D'Ambrosio, Ubiratan. (2023). *Ethnomathematics: link between traditions and modernity*. 6th Edition. Belo Horizonte, MG: Autentica Editora.

Gallagher, Shaun. (2006). *How the body shapes the mind*. Oxford, UK: Oxford Academic.

Haesbaert, Rogério. (2020). From the body-territory to the body-territory (of the Earth): decolonial contributions. *Geographia*, 22(48), 1-21.

Patel, Aniruddh D. (2008). *Music, language, and the brain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Radford, Luis. (2021). *The theory of objectification: a Vygotskian perspective on knowing and becoming in mathematics teaching and learning*. The Netherlands: Leiden: Brill.

Varela, Francisco J.; Thompson, Evan, & Rosch, Eleanor. (1991). *The embodied mind: cognitive science and human experience*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

# Publications & Activities of our members

---

## ● **Anabela DA CONCEIÇÃO PEREIRA**

CIES-IUL & GHTM, IHMT, UNL, Lisboa, Portugal

- Pennisi F, Lunetti C, Barbati C, Viviani L, D'Amelio AC, Pereira A, Correia T, Odone A and Signorelli C. (2026). "Interventions Addressing Vaccine Hesitancy in the WHO European Region and in North America (United States and Canada): A Systematic Review". Public Health Rev. 47:1609375. doi:10.3389/phrs2026.1609375
- Correia, T., Pereira, A., Zapata, T., Nandi, S., Novillo, D., Buchan, J., Kiani, S., Beja, A., Esteves, R., Morais, R., & Maia, M. R. (2026). "Role of digital solutions in improving retention of health and care workers in rural and remote areas: a scoping review". OSF. <https://doi.org/10.17605/OSF.IO/AN6MJ>
- "Governing AI in an Age of Global Challenges: a Sociotechnical Reflection of the Ethics of Sensitive Data", presented to Technology in the Face of Global Challenges, ESA RN24/SSTNET Midterm Conference, University of Porto, Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Porto, Portugal).

## ● **Salvador VIDAL-ORTIZ**

Department of Sociology and El Instituto: Institute of Latina/o, Caribbean, and Latin American Studies, University of Connecticut, United States.

- Khan, Cristina and Salvador Vidal-Ortiz. (Online First). "Playpen: Racialization, Embodiment, and Symbolic Boundary Maintenance among Erotic Dancers." Qualitative Sociology.

# Activities

- RC54 MidTerm Conference: Embodiment and Transdisciplinarity Symposium, on 6–7 October 2026, at the Faculty of Physical Education, University of Brasília, in Brasília-DF, Brazil.
- XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology is going to be held during July 4 – 10, 2027. You may find the details in the link given below:  
<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/gwangju-2027>
- RC54, ISA welcomes you for paper presentations, organising sessions in the World Congress. You may submit your abstract once the call is open for all. Please visit the link below:  
<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/gwangju-2027/xxi-isa-congress-guidelines>



**International Symposium**  
Seminário Internacional

**Embodiment and Transdisciplinarity: Transversal Perspectives on Bodies**

**Corporeidade e Transdisciplinaridade: Corpos em Perspectivas Transversais**

**6-7 OCT 2026**  
6-7 OUT 2026

**University of Brasília**  
Universidade de Brasília

**Português - Inglês**  
Simultaneous translation  
Tradução simultânea

**Keynote Speakers / Conferencistas**

- **Adrian Scribano**,  
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina, ISA
- **Anabela Pereira**,  
ISCTE/Universidade NOVA Lisboa,  
Portugal, RC 54/ISA
- **Craig Cook**,  
Queen Elizabeth School, India, RC 54/ISA
- **Dietmar Wetzel**,  
MSH Medical School, Switzerland, RC 54/ISA
- **Dulce Almeida Donnici**,  
Universidade de Brasília, RC 54/ISA
- **Flávia Ferreira**,  
Universidade de Brasília, RC 54/ISA
- **Florent Pasquier**,  
Université de Sorbonne, France
- **Monica Mesquita**,  
Universidade NOVA Lisboa , RC 54/ISA
- **Somdatta Mukherjee**,  
IFHE, Hyderabad, India, RC 54/ISA
- **Victoria D'Hers**,  
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina,  
RC 54/ISA

**DEADLINE: JUN 01 – JUL 30**  
Prazo: 01 de JUN – 30 de JUL

**For submissions of: Poster, Oral presentation, Screening room and Idea pitch**  
Para submissões de: Pôster, Comunicação oral, Sala de imagem e Pitch de idéias

Registrations/Inscrições: [www.necon.unb.br](http://www.necon.unb.br)



## Follow us

---

WEBSITE	<a href="https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc54-the-body-in-the-social-sciences/">https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc54-the-body-in-the-social-sciences/</a>
LINKEDIN	<a href="https://www.linkedin.com/company/rc54-the-body-in-the-social-sciences-international-sociological-association-research-committee">https://www.linkedin.com/company/rc54-the-body-in-the-social-sciences-international-sociological-association-research-committee</a>
BLUESKY	<a href="https://bsky.app/profile/rc54-isa.bsky.social">https://bsky.app/profile/rc54-isa.bsky.social</a>
INSTAGRAM	<a href="https://www.instagram.com/isa.rc54">https://www.instagram.com/isa.rc54</a>
FACEBOOK	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/186596218868733/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/186596218868733/</a>

## Editor's note

---

Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I present the latest issue of RC54, ISA newsletter. I extend a warm welcome to our new members.

As we look forward to our upcoming mid-term conference in Brazil, this edition reflects the diversity of perspectives, interdisciplinary engagements and critical dialogue that define our research committee's work in disseminating knowledge and culture flow.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who have shared their reflections, insights, and experiences through their contributions to this newsletter. We do not subject members' submissions to a formal peer-review process. While this enables contributors to communicate their ideas directly and freely, it also fosters a heightened sense of responsibility toward readers.

I believe that this balance of intellectual freedom and accountability nurtures a vibrant and engaged scholarly community. Such shared responsibility strengthens our collective commitment to the ongoing processes of knowledge construction, deconstruction, and reconstruction. It is through this continuous dialogue and exchange that we deepen our understanding and sustain the intellectual connectedness that lies at the heart of RC54.

I thank you all for your continuous support and engagement with this newsletter. Please do not hesitate to reach out at [mukherjee.somdatta4@gmail.com](mailto:mukherjee.somdatta4@gmail.com) with your contributions, feedback and encouragement as they enable us to grow and improve together. Your participation enriches our collective academic dialogue and strengthens RC54 as an inclusive and dynamic space for scholarly exchange, collaboration, and meaningful connections across regions and disciplines.

I look forward to another productive and inspiring period of collaboration, critical reflection, and shared learning within our RC54.

Enjoy reading.

Somdatta Mukherjee

June 11th, 2026

Hyderabad, India.