

International Sociological Association
RC 20
Comparative Sociology

June 2008 Newsletter

**Composition of the board (following the January 2008 elections)
Reminder**

Chair:

Jean-Pascal Daloz (MFO/CNRS, University of Oxford, UK
& University of Oslo, Norway);

Vice-Presidents:

- Henry Teune (University of Pennsylvania, USA);
- Masamichi Sasaki (Chuo University, Japan);

Secretary & Treasurer:

- Anne Krogstad (University of Oslo, Norway);

Board Members

- Mattei Dogan (CNRS Paris, France);
- Fredrik Engelstad (University of Oslo, Norway);
- Robert van Krieken (University of Sydney, Australia);
- Michèle Lamont (Harvard University, USA);
- David Sciulli (Texas A&M University, USA);
- Frederick C. Turner (University of Connecticut, USA).

Obituary

Political Sociology Loses a Great Scholar: Fred Riggs

Fred Riggs, a great political sociologist, passed away on February 3, 2008 in Honolulu at the age of 90. He was born in China and studied at the University of Nanking where he observed and experienced first-hand the enormous differences between Western and Chinese societies. After having taught at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, he went to the University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Fred was a prodigious scholar, publishing works like: *Administration*

in Developing Countries (1964), *Thailand: The Modernization of a Bureaucratic Polity* (1966), *Prismatic Society* (1973), *Applied Prisms* (1978), and others. He co-authored with Giovanni Sartori and Henry Teune *The Tower of Babel* (1975). He chaired the IPSA Committee on Conceptual and Terminological Analyses (COCTA). His essays on Presidentialism versus Parliamentarianism, bureaucrats as a ruling class, or American exceptionalism could have only been written by this imaginative and innovative scholar, impregnated with a vast knowledge of comparative sociology. He will be remembered and we will keep learning from his outstanding works.

Mattei Dogan

Forthcoming RC publication:

Legitimacy and Delegitimation of Political Regimes

International Social Science Journal, n° 197, Fall 2008

(Special Issue, ed. by Mattei Dogan)

- 1. New Frameworks of Legitimacy: The Obsolescence of Classical Theories**
Mattei Dogan
- 2. Legitimacy and the Quality of Democracy**
Leonardo Morlino
- 3. Political Legitimacy and the Welfare State: Five Models**
Bo Rothstein
- 4. Is the European Union Legitimate? To what Extent?**
Max Haller
- 5. European Polity: Layers of Legitimacy**
Dionysia Tamvaki
- 6. Political Legitimacy in Latin America**
Timothy J. Power and Jennifer M. Cyr
- 7. How Political Representatives Earn Legitimacy: A Symbolic Approach**
Jean-Pascal Daloz
- 8. A Century Long Cycle of Legitimacy and Delegitimation in Argentina**

Frederick Turner and Marita Carballo

9. The Legitimacy Crisis in Italy: The Scandal Ridden First Republic Jean-Louis Briquet

Forthcoming events:

Our RC will organise the following sessions on the occasion of the First ISA Forum of Sociology (Barcelona, 5-8 September, 2008).

Session 1: Sociology of Elites

Chair: Jean-Pascal DALOZ (CNRS/MFO, Oxford University & University of Oslo).

- Jean-Pascal DALOZ (CNRS/MFO, Oxford University & University of Oslo). *Social Elites' (In)Conspicuousness: Theoretical reflections on ostentation and subduedness;*
- Heinrich BEST (University of Jena). *Dimensions and Determinants of Europeaness of Economic and Political Elites – First Results from a Comparative Study in 18 European Countries;*
- Verona CHRISTMAS-BEST (University of Jena). *After Recruitment: Career Stability and Career Satisfaction amongst German Female MPs – 2003-2007;*
- Anne KROGSTAD (University of Oslo) & Aagot STORVIK (Institute for Social Research, Oslo). *Political Images and Gender in France and Norway.*

Session 2: Current Research in Comparative Sociology

Chair Anne KROGSTAD (University of Oslo).

- Ruut VEENHOVEN (Erasmus University, Rotterdam). *Societal Evolution and Quality-of-Life: Comparisons across time and nations;*
- Nikolai GENOV (Free University Berlin). *Comparing Interethnic Integration in Five Countries;*
- Hanno SCHOLTZ (University of Zurich). *Comparing the Opportunities for Institutional Change: Geography, differentiation, and the chances for democracy in historical and recent perspective;*
- Chris ARMBRUSTER (European University Institute, Florence). *The impact of 1989 on Europe: structural integration but ideational divergence?*

Session 3: Figurational Sociology

Chair: Stephen MENNELL (University College, Dublin).

- Johan GOUDSBLOM (University of Amsterdam), *Toward a Developmental Theory of Violence: Combining Elias and Collins.*
- Fernando AMPUDIA DE HARO (Universidade Nova de Lisboa). *Discussing Decivilisation: some theoretical remarks;*
- Diego Mauricio BARRAGAN DIAZ (Universidad Militar Nueva Granada, Colombia) *The Notables Family and the Social Order, in Eighteenth- and Nineteenth-Century Colombia;*
- John LEVER (University of the West of England). *Regeneration, Partnerships and the Civilising Process;*
- Vera WEILER, (Universidad Nacional de Colombia). *Understanding Processual Thinking – on Elias’s Theory of Knowledge;*
- Andrew STEBBINS (Murdoch University, Perth). *Elias and China.*

A Symposium on ‘The Comparative Study of Social Distinction’ will be held at Oxford University (Maison Française, 2-10 Norham Road) on Friday 5 December, 2008 (Conveners: Jean-Pascal DALOZ MFO/Dpt of Politics and Tak Wing CHAN New College/Dpt of Sociology).

Jean-Pascal DALOZ
Chair RC 20
30 June 2008