

International Sociological Association
RC 20
Comparative Sociology

December 2009 Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

I trust that most of you are about to take some well-deserved holidays after a very busy, and hopefully very fruitful, year. As usual, I would like to keep you informed about our RC activities. As you can easily guess, our agenda is presently dominated by the preparation of the next World Congress. All the session co-ordinators have been working hard and it is my pleasure to include our programme for Gothenburg in this newsletter (this is not necessarily the finalised version; however, it will give you a good idea of what is planned). As could be expected, I am pleased to report that the number of paper proposals received was much higher than for the previous (Durban) Congress.

Selecting the best proposals on the mere basis of abstracts is not always an easy task. Anyway, we have done our utmost to attract submissions of high quality. We shall have 6 sessions + 5 organised by the 'Figurational Sociology' Working Group. As you are aware, two years ago it was agreed that our RC would accommodate our colleagues' activities. I have to say that I did not find the Barcelona Forum experience very convincing last year, in so far as most of the Eliasian presenters withdrew at the last minute – which was not very good for the image of the RC. However, I have granted them 5 panels (instead of 3 as originally proposed) for Gothenburg. Still, we have had some disagreements as to how many papers could be presented in each session. The great majority of the members of the board share the view that we should have no more than 6 presentations per session and that the remainder should have the status of 'distributed' papers.

Does it really make sense to have somebody coming from the other side of the world and allocating her or him only a few minutes of presentation, and then to have a very short general discussion? As most of you I presume, I attend many congresses and conferences (at the world, continental and national levels). It appears that the success of such events is more and more measured essentially in terms of the overall number of participants. As I was able to see last summer at the occasion of the World Congress of another discipline, local organisers are eager to announce that their Congress witnessed the 'greatest participation ever'. However, this sometimes sounds a bit artificial, with so many panels organised at the same time hardly attracting any audience, or hundreds of students sponsored by the host country whose ministers are eager to transform the opening and closing ceremonies into political events (needless to say, I do not mean that this is what happens with I.S.A.).

In any case, as a consequence of our policy, quite a few papers in sessions 7 to 11 will be 'distributed' ones. What is at stake here is the process of selection (as much as we understand legitimate desires for visibility, many of us believe that a World Congress RC programme is not about accepting virtually all the proposals received). What is also at stake is ecumenism. Our RC has had a long tradition of openness vis-à-vis all schools of thought

and there is no reason to give anyone a disproportionate visibility. As the RC Chair, the programme coordinator, but also as a scholar resolutely attached to eclectic, non-dogmatic perspectives, I want to make sure that a relative balance endures between the various theoretical traditions that contribute to Comparative Sociology.

I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Jean-Pascal Daloz

Göteborg ISA World Congress - RC 20 programme

Session 1

Social Distinction: Comparative Perspectives

Chair: Jean-Pascal DALOZ (CNRS/University of Oxford, UK, and University of Oslo, Norway)

1. Jean-Pascal DALOZ (CNRS/University of Oxford, UK, and University of Oslo, Norway) *New Directions in the Study of Social Distinction: Symbolic Consistency vs. Synecdochic Strategies*
2. Jeremy SCHULZ (University of California, Berkeley, USA) *Cultures, Societies, and the Temporal Habitus: A Three-Country Study of Business Elites and their Orientations toward the Evening Hours*
3. Elisabeth SCHIMPFOSSEL (University of Manchester, UK) *Russia's New Social Upper Class: Between Flamboyance and Understatement*
4. Stefan BARGHEER (University of Chicago, USA and Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Germany) *Toward a Taxonomy of Taste: A Comparative Study of the Food Service Industry in Berlin*
5. Rosario RADAKOVICH (Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay) *South America's Cultural Distinction Ways: Uruguay from Opera to 'Cumbia'*

Session 2

Comparative Studies of Capital, Ownership and Gender

Chair: Anne KROGSTAD (University of Oslo, Norway)

Discussant: Fredrik ENGELSTAD (University of Oslo, Norway)

1. Anita GÖRANSSON (University of Gothenburg, Sweden) *Gendered Career Paths to Top Positions in Private Enterprises*
2. Mari TEIGEN (Institute for Social Research, Oslo, Norway) *Particular Patterns of Politics: National Debates on Corporate Board Quotas*
3. Vibeke HEIDENREICH (Institute for Social Research, Oslo, Norway) *Recruitment Processes and Effects on Gender Representation in the Boardroom*
4. Hirohisa TAKENOSHITA (Shizuoka University, Japan) *Family, Labor Market, and Dynamics of Self-Employment in Three Asian Countries. Gender Differentials in the Self-Employment Entry in Japan, Korea and Taiwan*
5. Andrea SCHÄFER (University of Bremen, Germany) & Ingrid TUCCI (DIW Berlin, Germany) *Women at the Top of the Ladder? A Cross-National Study of Underrepresentation of women in Managerial Positions in European countries.*

Session 3

Contextualization and Typologization in Comparative Methodology

Chair: Lars MJØSET (University of Oslo, Norway)

1. Peter P. MOLLINGA & Daphne GONDHALEKAR (ZEF Center for Development Research, Bonn, Germany) *Heuristics, Pragmatics and Critical Realism*
2. Håkon LARSEN (University of Oslo, Norway) *The Cultural Sociology of Public Debate: A Comparative Perspective*
3. Natalia MELGAR & Máximo ROSSI (Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay) *Context Effects on People's Attitudes. What can be learnt from cross-country surveys?*
4. Julia BRANNEN (Institute of Education, University of London, UK) and Ann NILSEN (University of Bergen, Norway) *Ideals and Practices in Case-Based Comparative Research: A European Study of the Transition to Parenthood*
5. Lars MJØSET (University of Oslo, Norway) *From a Month Before to a Month After April 9th, 1940. Reflections on context, strategy and responsibility with reference to a case of enormous national concern for the small norwegian nation-state*

Session 4

Comparing Societal Patterns of Interethnic Integration

Chair: Nikolaï GENOV (Free University Berlin, Germany)

1. Reza HASMATH (University of Toronto, Canada) *Ethnic Minority Disadvantages in China's Labour Market?*
2. Borut RONCEVIC (School of Advanced Social Studies, Slovenia) *Social Systems Approach to Managing Interethnic Relations*
3. Maksim RUDNEV (Russian Academy of Science) *The Value Dimension of Integration of the Russian-Speaking Populations in 5 Countries*
4. Nikolaï GENOV (Free University Berlin, Germany) *Patterns of Interethnic Integration in a Global City*
5. Renald SIMONYAN ((Russian Academy of Science) *Comparative Analysis of Ethnocultural Features of Russian and Baltic Ethnoses*
6. Tessa SAVVIDIS (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany) *Indigenous and Immigrant Minorities: Determinants of 'Successful' Integration*

Distributed paper:

7. Andrey V. REZAEV (St. Petersburg State University, Russia) & Nikolay ZAKHAROV (Uppsala University, Sweden) *Does the Theory of Race Matter for Understanding Migration Processes in Contemporary Russia?*

Session 5

Current Research in Comparative Sociology (Part I)

Chair: Frederick TURNER (University of Connecticut, USA)

1. Miguel BASAÑEZ (Tufts University, USA) *Measuring Economic Performance and Social Progress*
2. Angela Randolpho PAIVA (PUC-Rio, Brazil) *Educating Children in the Slums of Rio*
3. Lyle SCRUGGS (University of Connecticut, USA) *Economic Crisis and Environmental Concern: Europe and America in Comparative Perspective*
4. Stephan SVALFORS (Umeå University, Sweden) *Age, Class, and Attitudes Towards Government Responsibilities: Exploring The Mechanisms*
5. Matthew R. SANDERSON (Lehigh University, USA) *International Migration and Economic Development: A Cross-National Comparative Analysis, 1970-2005*

Session 6

Current Research in Comparative Sociology (Part II)

Chair: Jean-Pascal DALOZ, CNRS/University of Oxford, UK, and University of Oslo, Norway

1. Georg P. MUELLER (University of Fribourg, Switzerland) *Qualitative Comparative Analysis with Three-Valued Logic: A New Methodology and its Application to Social Conflict*
2. Annabelle ALLOUCH (Sciences Po Paris, France) *A Culture of Academic Elites? Knowledge and Pedagogic Practices in Outreach Schemes: The case of Elite Higher Education Institutions in France and England*
3. Tuuli-Marja KLEINER (FernUniversität Hagen, Germany) *Mechanisms of Mutual Transnational Perceptions: Why Societies Trust Each Other*
4. Fumiya ONAKA (Japan Women's University) *A Network Analysis of Local Cultures in Two Thai Villages*
5. T.B.A.

Figurational Sociology Working Group

Special Session on Plenary Theme: Violence and War

Session organizers: Robert van Krieken (University College Dublin, Ireland) and Stephen Vertigans (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

Chair: Stephen Mennell (University College Dublin)

1. *Civilization, Savagery and War*

Brett BOWDEN (Australian Defence Force Academy, Canberra, Australia)

2. *Towards a figurational understanding of the social and psychological dynamics of 'terrorism'*

Michael DUNNING (Brunel University, UK)

3. *The Development of the Images of Allies and Enemies among Habsburg Soldiers before, during and after the First World War*

Sabine A. HARING (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria)

4. *Civilization, violence, wars and control of emotion*

Carlos Da FONSECA BRANDÃO (São Paulo State University, Brazil)

5. *Survival Units, Violence, and Warfare in Europe*

Lars Bo KASPERSEN (Copenhagen Business School, Denmark)

6. *Freud and Elias – some reflections on violence*

Tatiana SAVOIA LANDINI (Universidade Federal de São Paulo, Brazil)

Distributed Papers

7. *The Ins and Outs of Terrorism: Processes of political violence*

Stephen Vertigans (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

8. *Affects and Sentiments as a By-Product of Mechanized Warfare on the Battlefields of the Great War 1914-1918: In Autobiographies by Officers and Soldiers of the Habsburg Army*

Helmut KUZMICS (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz, Austria)

Session 8: Multiple modernities, diverse identities I

Session organizers: Robert van KRIEKEN (University College Dublin, Ireland) and Stephen VERTIGANS (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

Chair: Stephen VERTIGANS (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

1. *Evolution of Culture and Cultures*

Johan GOUDSBLOM (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

2. *Culture and Civilization: Hofstede and Elias on Social Habitus*

Jonathan FLETCHER

3. *Seeing Wendtian Cultures of Anarchy as Figurations: Making Stories more sociological, more historical and more individualized*

Aurélie LACASSAGNE (Laurentian University, Canada)

4. *Civilization and Multiple Modernities in Latin America*

José Esteban CASTRO (Newcastle University, UK)

5. *Approaches to The Social Process of Hispanic-America centuries XVIII and XIX*

Diego Mauricio BARRAGAN DIAZ

6. *Process and Progress Sociology: the curious case of Goody, Elias and Naturvolk in Africa*

Katie LISTON (University of Ulster, UK)

Distributed Papers

7. *'Dissection of 'modernity': a comparative analysis of instances of 'anti-modernity'* Atsuko ICHIJO

8. *'Barbarity' and 'Civilization' according to public order agents who committed violations of the Human Rights in Argentina in the 70s*

Ilan LEW (EHESS, Paris)

9. *The sixth world extinction event and the civilising process*

Linda Williams (RMIT, Melbourne, Australia)

Session 9: Multiple modernities, diverse identities II

Session organizers: Robert van KRIEKEN (University College Dublin, Ireland) and Stephen VERTIGANS (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

Chair: Robert van KRIEKEN (University College Dublin, Ireland)

1. *Uneven social development and the oscillating scope of identification: Ireland's 'modernity' since the late 19th century*

Paddy DOLAN (Dublin Institute of Technology, Ireland)

2. *A land of a hundred thousand welcomes?*

Steve LOYAL (University College Dublin, Ireland)

3. *Reconfiguring local societies: established and outsiders facing migration process*

Angela PERULLI, Andrea VALZANIA (University of Florence, Italy)

4. *The national habitus in the 21st century: Transnational figurations, the formation of national culture, and the rationale of comparative research*

Giselende KUIPERS (University of Amsterdam/Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands)

5. *On moral decline*

Nico WILTERDINK (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

6. *Globality and Multiple Modernities*

Roland ROBERTSON (University of Aberdeen, UK)

Distributed Papers

7. *American Capitalism: sociological reasons why the rest of the world follows the American model in nearly everything, and sociological reasons why that is a very bad idea*

Stephen MENNELL (University College Dublin, Ireland)

8. *Figurational analysis of organized crime: the case of Italian mafia and Japanese yakuza*

Raúl SANCHEZ GARCIA

Session 10 Historical and Comparative Studies of Civilization I

Session organizers: Robert van KRIEKEN (University College Dublin, Ireland) and Stephen VERTIGANS (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

Chair: Stephen VERTIGANS (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen, UK)

1. *Sociology of Morality: towards an understanding of Violence in an era of Recognition*
Simone MAGALHÃES BRITO & Jorge VENTURA de MORAIS (UFPE/Federal University of Pernambuco-Brazil)

2. *Re-civilising Spain and Portugal: Social Codes of Behaviour and Emotions during Franco's (1939-1975) and Salazar's dictatorships (1926-1974)*

Fernando AMPUDIA de HARO (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal)

3. *Moral panics as civilising and decivilising processes? A comparative discussion*
Amanda ROHLOFF (Brunel University, UK)

4. *Nationalism in Sport and how sport civilizes international rivalry*

Dieter REICHER (Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz)

5. *The construction of violence in Zimbabwean politics c 2000-2008*

Elijah DORO (University of Zimbabwe)

6. *Ottoman court festivals as instruments of power*

Irem ÖZGÖREN Kınık

Distributed Papers

Ambivalence and sensibility: civilizing animal farming in Europe?

John LEVER (Cardiff University, UK)

8. *"Elias's manners" and "Thomasius's decorum"*

Barbara EVERS (Murdoch University, Australia)

9. *Civilisation, religion and sport*

Ruud STOKVIS (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

Session 11 Historical and Comparative Studies of Civilization II

Session organizers: Robert van KRIEKEN (University College Dublin) and Stephen VERTIGANS (Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen)

Chair: Robert van KRIEKEN (University College Dublin, Ireland)

1. *From heroes to 'people': fame in a long-lasting perspective*

Nathalie HEINICH (Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France)

2. *A Revenge of the Biological: The new administration of human remains*

Dominique MEMMI (CNRS, University of Paris VIII, France)

3. *'No sex under my own roof': comparing the USA and the Netherlands*

Cas WOUTERS (Utrecht University, Netherlands)

4. *Thinking in figurations: a knowledge sociological study about the next generation*

Stefanie ERNST (Hamburg University, Germany)

5. *Elias and Bourdieu*

Bowen PAULLE (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands)

6. *Analysis of the Figurational Change and the Balance of Power of Parents in the 20th Century*

Désirée WATERSTRADT (Pädagogische Hochschule Karlsruhe, Germany)

Distributed Papers

7. *Civilizing 'natural' childhoods - similarities and differences*

Normal GABRIEL (University of Plymouth, UK)

8. *From relational to transactional sociology?*

François DÉPELTEAU (Laurentian University, Canada)

9. *Changing power relations between two schools of psychotherapy; a study of trainee resistance*

Valerie OWN-PUGH (University of Leicester, UK)

10. *Elias, Bourdieu and The Practice of Sociology*

Jason HUGHES (Brunel University, UK)

Grant

I am happy to say that our application this year has been a successful one.

The Foundation Mattei Dogan Prize in Sociology

As you might remember, RC 20 had nominated Professor Jeffrey C. Alexander (from Yale University) for this 'Life achievement in Sociology' prize, to be awarded by the International Sociological Association at the occasion of the XVII World Congress. We are glad to see that this outstanding scholar will receive this important distinction in Gothenburg.

Miscellaneous announcements

Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program (CONSIRT), was established by the Departments of Sociology and Political Science of The Ohio State University and the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, and the Graduate School of Social Research at the Polish Academy of Sciences, with two offices: in Columbus, Ohio, USA, and Warsaw, Poland. The main objective of the CONSIRT Program is to stimulate and facilitate research, graduate training, and undergraduate education. The CONSIRT Program provides an opportunity for preparing and administering complex research projects with a cross-national perspective. It promotes experience in developing successful grant proposals at the national and international levels within the public and private domains. The research aspect of the program is designed around the production of publishable empirically-based work in first rate social science journals and high quality monographs. For more information and collaborative opportunities,

please see the website:
www.crossnationalstudies.org.

Kazimierz M. Slomczynski, Director of CONSIRT – Cross-National Studies:
Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program
Professor of Sociology and Political Science, The Ohio State University
and
Professor of Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

Recent Publications

Max Haller, Roger Jowell, Tom W. Smith, eds., *The International Social Survey Programme, 1984 -2009. Charting the Globe*, London/New York, Routledge 1999.
(The book contains about 20 contributions by reknown international social scientists on many topics).

Jean-Pascal Daloz. *The Sociology of Elite Distinction: From Theoretical to Comparative Perspectives*. Basingstoke & New York: Palgrave 2009.

[Next newsletter in June 2010](#)