

# INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

## Research Committee on Social Psychology

### RC42 NEWSLETTER

December 2009

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#### 1 Objectives of RC42

RC42, established in 1988, has two key objectives:

- (1) To contribute to the development of theory and research in social psychology on an international level.
- (2) To unite professional and scientific interests of members to work together on a local, regional, and international level.

#### 2 Office bearers

The Board of RC42 elected for the term 2006 to 2010 is:

##### **President**

Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA

[ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

##### **Secretary-Treasurer**

Robert Shelly, Ohio University, USA, [shelly@ohio.edu](mailto:shelly@ohio.edu)

##### **Board Members**

Charles Bernard Kinghombe, Université de Kinshasa, Congo

Dahlia Moore, College of Management, Israel

Indrek Tart, Tallinn University, Estonia

Deepak Kumar Verma, India

##### **Newsletter Editor**

Charles Puttergill, University of Pretoria, South Africa

[charles.puttergill@up.ac.za](mailto:charles.puttergill@up.ac.za)

##### **Past President**

Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

### 3 Editorial

This is the last newsletter of RC42 for 2009. We are looking forward to meet again as a research committee at the XVII World Congress of Sociology in Gothenburg, Sweden, 11 to 17 July 2010. We trust that this face-to-face meeting would provide an opportunity to engage in a rewarding dialogue as we share ideas on developments in the field and report on our own research. The Congress furthermore provides an opportunity to conduct the business of the research committee, in particular, to elect a new board for the 2010 to 2014 term.

We do not have any contributions written in French or Spanish in this issue of the newsletter, but would like to encourage such contributions for the next issue, due in May, shortly before the Congress. Contributions as well as suggestions on how we can improve on the newsletter are welcome, and can be directed to the editor. Such contributions enable us to take cognisance of each others work and interests.

The 2006 to 2010 RC42 Board intends to publish one more newsletter before the World Congress in 2010. Please send contributions for inclusion in the newsletter. The following time table applies:

| Issue Date                            | Submissions               |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| End of April/Beginning of May 2010    | January to mid-April 2010 |
| End of August/Beginning of September  | May to mid-August         |
| End of November/Beginning of December | September to mid November |

Please send your contributions to [charles.puttergill@up.ac.za](mailto:charles.puttergill@up.ac.za)

### 4 President's Remarks

The response of our membership to our call for papers for the upcoming World Congress in Gothenburg was impressive. Almost 80 papers have been accepted for inclusion in 13 different sessions. It should be a lively and exciting program. The full program will be available online on the ISA website in early April. As you will see there, RC42 sessions span the conference dates with the first session on Monday, July 12 and the last session on Friday, July 16. We will also have an all important business meeting, most likely on Friday, July 16. Look for details in future newsletters. In future newsletters, we will also send you full details of our program for Gothenburg. Plan now to attend! I look forward to seeing you there.

Now that we have our program set for the World Congress, we will soon turn our attention to the nomination and election of new officers for RC42. In the next months we will send out a formal call for nominations for the offices of President and Secretary-Treasurer and we may have some openings on the board as well. Now is the time to start thinking about who you would like as RC42's new officers. If you have someone in mind, contact

that person to be certain that they would be willing to stand for election. If they agree, send me his or her name ([ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)). For the first time ever, RC42 will attempt to have an election by email, possibly using a program like Survey Monkey. I think you will agree that this will be an improvement over our past practice of electing officers at the business meeting at the World Congress.

## 5 Contributions

Key social theorists such as Durkheim, Goffman and Collins have used the concept ritual as a tool of analysis to describe social events and processes. However ritual has received limited attention in contemporary theorising and analysis. In a publication due in 2010 David Knottnerus addresses these issues, in particular how the notion of ritual can be used to connect theory and research in Sociology. More information on this publication is provided in the announcements below.

## 6 Announcements

*The XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, 11 to 17 July 2010*

The rules for funding to the Congress are as follows. A distinction is made between travel/accommodation and registration grants. To qualify an applicant must play an active role in the Congress programme, and in the case of a travel/accommodation grant be from a developing country (category B/C). Applications are considered by the RC Board which is responsible for distributing funds allocated to it. An application should be received by the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2010. An individual qualifies for one grant only. Once the decision has been verified the ISA pays the individual directly.

The theme of the World Congress “Sociology on the move” reflects a key concern of Sociological Inquiry. The list of RC42 sessions and contact details of convenors are:

**1: Social psychological impacts of worldwide economic crisis**

Jeylan T. Mortimer, University of Minnesota, USA, [morti002@umn.edu](mailto:morti002@umn.edu)

**2: Globalization, social inequality and status characteristics (2 sessions)**

Deepak Kumar Verma, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar National Institute of Social Sciences, India, [dkvmhow@rediffmail.com](mailto:dkvmhow@rediffmail.com)

**3: Renegotiating citizenship and social capital**

Tina Uys, University of Johannesburg, South Africa, [tuys@uj.ac.za](mailto:tuys@uj.ac.za)

**4: Human motives and social cooperation**

Clara Sabbagh, University of Haifa, Israel, [csabbagh@construct.haifa.ac.il](mailto:csabbagh@construct.haifa.ac.il)

**5: Social sciences and natural sciences: together or apart?**

Tadeusz Sozanski, Pedagogical University, Krakow, Poland,  
[ussozans@cyf-kr.edu.pl](mailto:ussozans@cyf-kr.edu.pl)

**6: Work, occupations, and the well-being of workers**

Dahlia Moore, Rishon LeZion, Israel, [dmoore@colman.ac.il](mailto:dmoore@colman.ac.il)

**7: Status in groups, networks, and organizations**

Robert Shelley, Ohio University, USA, and Ann Shelly, Ashland University, USA, [shelly@ohio.edu](mailto:shelly@ohio.edu)

**8: Theoretical issues in social psychology**

Organizer: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA,  
[ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

**9: Identity and attitudes in groups**

Organizer: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA,  
[ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

**10: Group context and social influence**

Organizer: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA,  
[ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

**11: Networks, groups and individuals**

Organizer: Cecilia Ridgeway, Stanford University, USA,  
[ridgeway@stanford.edu](mailto:ridgeway@stanford.edu)

**12: Theoretical integration – theoretical contributions**

Organizers: Guillermina Jasso, New York University, USA; Ali Kazemi & Kjell Törnblom University of Skövde, Sweden, [gj1@nyu.edu](mailto:gj1@nyu.edu)  
[ali.kazemi@his.se](mailto:ali.kazemi@his.se) [Kjell.tornblom@his.se](mailto:Kjell.tornblom@his.se)

**13: Theoretical integration – methodological and empirical contributions**

Organizers: Guillermina Jasso, New York University, USA; Ali Kazemi & Kjell Törnblom University of Skövde, Sweden, [gj1@nyu.edu](mailto:gj1@nyu.edu)  
[ali.kazemi@his.se](mailto:ali.kazemi@his.se) [Kjell.tornblom@his.se](mailto:Kjell.tornblom@his.se)

More information on these sessions can be obtained from:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc42.htm>

General information regarding registration, accommodation, visa requirements, grants and airline discounts can be obtained at:

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/>

*Publications*

David Knottnerus publication *Ritual as a Missing Link within Sociology: Structural Ritualization Theory and Research* published by Paradigm, Boulder Colorado, is due for release in the winter of 2010.

This title addresses the fundamental question of “Why do people behave the way they do?” by employing a concept that has been seriously underutilized for studying human behavior, i.e., ritual. The approach presented here, structural ritualization theory, attempts to narrow this gap in our understanding of the social causes and consequences of our actions by focusing on the ritualized behaviors that define much of our daily lives. Taking a broad approach to science in sociology this perspective is grounded in a commitment to three goals: the development of theory, substantiating these concepts through empirical evidence, and the application of this knowledge to social problems, dehumanizing conditions in contemporary society, and enriching our personal lives.

This work represents the first attempt to comprehensively describe the theory, which since its inception about a decade ago has developed in several directions involving different lines of cumulative research. In addition to presenting many of its core concepts, several kinds of research are discussed, especially work focusing on how structural reproduction has occurred throughout the world, how rituals can be strategically used and power can influence rituals, and how the disruption of ritualized practices and the reconstitution of ritual subsequent to such events are of crucial importance for human beings. Weaving its way through the book Knottnerus discusses why ritual provides a missing link in sociology and helps us better explain the extreme complexity of human action and social reality.

If this book is ordered directly from the publisher a discount of 15% applies.

#### Editorships

The terms of the editors of *Current Sociology* and *International Sociology* expires respectively in June 2010 and August 2010.



Applications should be submitted to Devorah Kalekin-Fishman, ISA Vice-President for Publications by the end of March, 2010. You can contact her at [dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il](mailto:dkalekin@univ.haifa.ac.il) More information on requirements for editorship, as well as the associated obligations are available at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/>

In memorium

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Paul Hare who with Robert F Bales and Edgar F Bogatta edited a seminal collection titled *Small groups: studies in social interaction* first published in 1955 and updated repeatedly. He played a key role in establishing social psychology and the study of small groups within Sociology.

## **7 Membership**

Membership in good standing of the Research Committee determines the number of sessions allotted to it at the World Congress. The ISA secretariat sends members a notice when their membership renewal is due. Please complete the form to join and/or renew ISA and RC42 membership available at:

[http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb\\_i/index.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm)

## **8 Concluding remarks**

Your contributions ensure the success of this newsletter. Information on planned Conferences, new research initiatives and publications that may be of interest to members is most welcome.

Los invito a enviar contribuciones para el Boletín RC 42. Apreciaré si es que me pueden informar sobre conferencias planeadas, nuevas iniciativas de investigación y publicaciones que puedan ser de interés para los miembros. El Comité de Investigación está muy interesado en fomentar el diálogo entre los miembros dentro del campo de la Psicología Social. Contribuciones escritas en español son bienvenidas.

Nous vous invitons à envoyer des contributions pour le bulletin du RC42. Je vous serais reconnaissant de m'informer de futures conférences, des nouvelles initiatives de recherches et des publications qui pourraient intéresser les membres. Le Comité de Recherche désire encourager le dialogue entre les membres dans le domaine de la Psychologie sociale. Les contributions en français seront les bienvenues.