

RC14 NEWSLETTER

August 2022



Letter from the President

Dear colleagues,

In less than a year, we will have the opportunity to meet again during the 20th ISA Congress which will be held in Melbourne (June 25th- July 1st, 2023) in *hybrid format* (some sessions will be held online) on the general theme “**Resurgent Authoritarianism: The Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies**”.

Several sessions are proposed in the frame of RC14 (<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2023/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium737.html>) and you are invited to submit your abstracts in one of them till **September 30th 2022**.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, many of our activities had to be organized online; one of them was the Porto Alegre Forum which was held online in early 2021 (instead of 2020). Some selected papers are to be published under the title “Media Narratives, Productions and Representations of Contemporary Mythologies” at Brill Editions (Studies in Critical Social Sciences Series). We trust that this publication will be ready till the end of 2022.

Another remarkable RC14 activity, was the organization (by our Newsletter Editor, Ms Larochelle) of the 2021-22 Webinars, which were scheduled after taking into account the time differences of the different countries of our members, which was a challenge too (going from 9 in the morning to 9 in the evening depending to the hour zone). It was a first attempt to be able to meet and exchange with professors from different countries (5 speakers were invited, from France, the Emirates and the United States). The program of the Webinars figures on RC14 Web. In addition (and in order to permit to people who were not able to participate to the webinars to perceive an idea of the themes that were discussed), we published a special issue (on Open Journal for Sociological Studies) based on the idea of the themes of RC14 webinars. You can find this special edition online: <https://centerprode.com/ojss/ojss0601/ojss-0601.html>.

As far as it concerns the idea of Webinars, although they were undoubtedly of big success (gathering each time 20 to 30 attendees which is a good number given the number of online manifestations worldwide and the time differences from one country to another) the idea of making less activities (for instance one or two conferences instead of five) would eventually lighten the already heavy program of many of our colleagues. The board will discuss this theme during the next meeting.

I hope that we will all manage (in a way or another) to participate and exchange during the forthcoming 20th ISA Congress, and I wish either “happy rest of summer holidays” for those who have summer vacations or good academic year for those having already taken on their activities.

Looking forward to exchange with you soon,

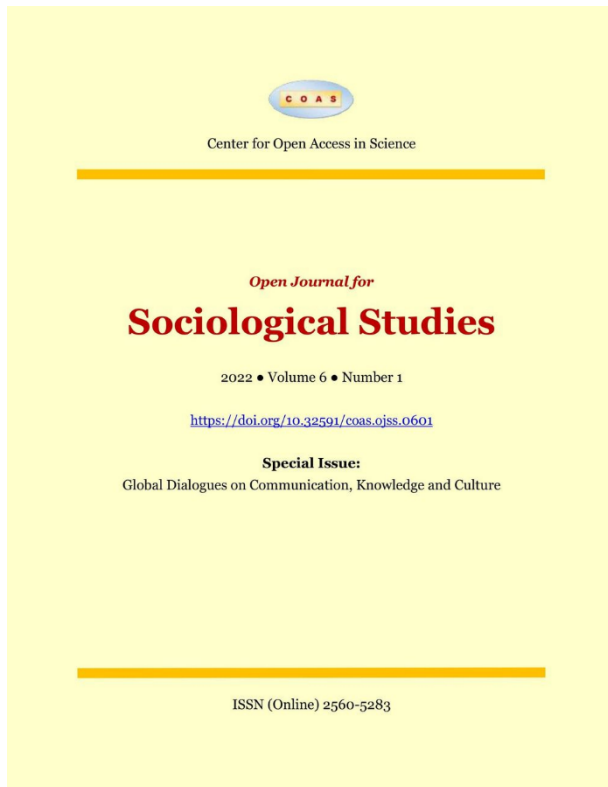
Christiana Constantopoulou,

Professor of Sociology,

RC14 President and Program Coordinator for the Melbourne RC14 sessions

RC14 Publication

The special issue entitled *Global Dialogues on Communication, Knowledge and Culture* has been published at the *Open Journal for Sociological Studies*!



This issue is coordinated by Christiana Constantopoulou (President of the RC14) and Dimitra Laurence Larochelle (Newsletter Editor of the RC14) and is inspired by the series of webinars organized by RC14 during the academic year 2021/2022.

For more information about this issue click [here](#)!

Sessions proposed by RC14 for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



RC14 proposes 13 sessions for the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology. You can find below the description for each session. Please keep in mind that the abstract submission deadline is **September 30th, 2022**.

Program Coordinator:

Christiana CONSTANTOPOULOU, Panteion University, Greece,
christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr

Sessions:

1) Creación De Espacios De Participación Y Libertad Informativa. Propuestas Desde La Comunicación Responsable Y La Sociología

Language: Spanish

Session Type: Poster

Esta sesión está orientada a trabajos e investigaciones con temáticas vinculadas a la Comunicación responsable, la participación social y la Sociología en un marco internacional. Entre los objetivos principales se encuentra analizar la falta de confianza y la crisis de representación de las organizaciones para delimitar un escenario común de actuación. En este espacio académico se contemplan y debaten nuevas alternativas y principales desafíos a través de la comunicación responsable y la Sociología aplicada, con especial atención a los públicos vulnerables. Asimismo, se pretende promover el diálogo y la libertad de expresión desde múltiples enfoques y dimensiones multidisciplinares: los principales retos que se plantean, el impacto que generan en un marco global y social, articulación de la opinión pública frente a las nuevas realidades, la regulación y las implicaciones desde las instituciones, tipos

de discursos desde los medios tradicionales, nuevos medios y redes sociales, así como las fake news en un contexto determinado por la vulnerabilidad sobrevenida

Session Organizer: **Leticia PORTO PEDROSA**, Universidad Rey Juan Carlos, Spain,
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2) Crisis Discourse, Propaganda Technologies and Information Warfare in the New War's Era: Challenges and Solutions

Language: English and French

Session Type: Oral

We have entered the era of world disorder, and it feels like not only in the terrorist attacks, not only in an enormous number of refugees, not only in the intensification of anti-liberal authoritarian movements and the rising of nationalism, but also, we are facing a new war that threatens to become a new world war (the Ukrainian-Russian war that broke out on 24 February 2022). Thus, actual political narrative encompasses all crucial components of crisis ideology: relativity of truth; truths and lies are defunct as antipodes, reality takes shape in fiction, fact-checking of breaking news is lacking as far as its necessary is arguable. New mechanisms of confrontation are using of principal components of information warfare that had been caught by traditional and digital media, new “soft power” as misinformation creating controlled personality.

This session seeks to contribute to understanding of strategic communication practices related to crisis narratives, propaganda technologies and information warfare as well as concerning armed conflicts. We seek participants focusing on what constitutes effective communication in situations of armed conflict, on ethical implications of communication campaigns and propaganda in times of war, and how we address the alarming issues related to the spread of misinformation and false information. We also hope to gain insight into both the specific area of crisis communication that is wartime communication and the major role played by communication in the manifestation of different types of power.

Session Organizer: **Oksana LYCHKOVSKA-NEBOT**, Odessa I.I. Mechnikov National University, Ukraine, oksanalychkovska@gmail.com

3) Digital Futures between Domination and Participation

Language: English, French and Spanish

Session Type: Oral

ISA Research Committees Futures Research (RC07), Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management (RC10), Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture (RC14), Sociology of Science and Technology (RC23), and the Thematic Group on Digital Sociology (TG10) are planning one or more Joint Sessions on “Digital Futures between Domination and Participation”.

Digital formations from the Internet and social media to artificial intelligence and robotics are reshaping the world. They offer joy, participation, and higher productivity, but they have also brought disruption, new modes of control, and new inequalities.

The new digital technologies have global reach but are not globally uniform. Diverse social actors cooperate, compete, or combat over the social shaping of digital futures. Outcomes vary according to differential access to resources, capacities, political-legal frameworks, and changing constellations of forces.

This session aims to compare digital formations in different domains, regimes, and regions. Papers are welcome that address questions such as: Who captures the benefits of productivity gains, who loses out, and on what factors does this depend on? How do working conditions and employment relations change? How are election campaigns and their outcomes influenced? Who contests the power of oligopolies? What ethics and regulatory approaches shape and control big data and artificial intelligence? How do nation-states impose cyberwalls or social credit systems? Who contests the dominant trends, and how? What values, strategies, and visions are in play? What tasks should be on the agenda for sociological research?

Session Organizers:

Isabel DA COSTA, CNRS, France, isabel.da-costa@ens-paris-saclay.fr

Markus S. SCHULZ, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Germany, markus@markus-s-schulz.net

4) Formation of Assertive Identities: New entanglements of Politics and Religion (studies occasioned by the Bahujan culture)

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

Bhim jagran is often organised on the special events of life of Lord Buddha, Saint Kabir, Guru Ravidas, Jyotiba Phule, Savitri Bai Phule, Dr. BR Ambedkar and Manaywar Kanshiram. In last decade, there has been a drastic transition among scheduled castes about their world view from submissive, subjugated and deprived identity to aggressive, aware and assertive identity. Bhim Jagrans have emerged as a new cultural phenomenon in the recent decade in the urban as well as the rural areas. Bhim Jagran provides a platform for their cultural expression, activities, dancing Singing and speeches. They invoke the socio-cultural memory of those people who are their real Gods and goddesses They are the agents of historical continuity of ideology of lord Buddha, Kabir, Ravidas, Phule, Ambedkar etc. to reconstruct a Bahujan identity which can be its own saviour and leader in future. They represent a perfect blend of life, literature and politics setting the ideological tone for political empowerment and coming up of the blue revolution. These Jagrans have united all the Bahujan castes. They not only narrate the oppression and exploitation of masses but also develop confidence among them to deconstruct the traditional way of life.

Session Organizer: **Bhup SINGH** guarbhupsingh@yahoo.com

5) Music and Society: Identities, Resistances and Politics through Musical Production

Language: English and Spanish

Session Type: Oral

Since the 20th Century, music has been both a commercial commodity but also a powerful medium for political views, such as discomfort against war, poverty and segregation by gender, race and sexual orientation, among others. Music works as in “The Pied Piper of Hamelin”: sometimes it takes out the rats, helping the powerful to enhance their power, a commodity that keeps status quo; or sometimes music enchants children, as a way to dissent against political power. As Jacques Attali expressed “all music, all organization of sounds is therefore an instrument to create or consolidate a community, a totality; it is a link between power and its subjects and, therefore, an attribute of power, whatever it may be”. With the appearance of digital streaming platforms in the 21st Century, music production and distribution have been democratized; so many musicians can reach new audiences, allowing more visibility, or audibility, for their political views. In recent years, we noticed many examples: Chilean

feminist movement can make a very popular street song-performance that was adopted by many feminist militants all around the world; rap singers in many countries are denouncing police brutality and race violence through their songs. There are many other examples where musical discourses are key factor for making visible many social and political processes. This regular session proposal aims to join research about social and political uses of music, in order to enrich and identify all research in sociology of music and its social and political uses.

Session Organizer: **Omar CERRILLO**, ITESM, Mexico, ocerrillo@tec.mx

6) New Communication Technologies and Changing Patterns of Social Stratification in Globalizing World

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

The communication revolution which we have witnessed in last few decades is closely related with the process of globalization. The new communication technology especially web technology is at the heart of globalization. The expansion of web based technology and information based services has impacted the existing patterns of social stratification in different parts of the world. The movement of people from one place to another has not only enabled their geographical mobility but also the process of social mobility. The new forms of connectivity, new opportunities of employment in global economic order have affected the class, status and power structure at various levels. The communication technologies are facilitating these changes in the stratification system. The emergence of new classes as a result of globalization has transformed the occupational structure of both the developing and developed societies. The smooth flow of information and developments in media technology helped the world in overcoming the recent Pandemic crisis. It suggests exploring the various dimensions of the intricate relationship between new communication technologies and the changes taking place the attributes and processes in stratification system of the developing and developed societies. The proposed session is aimed to explore and discuss the above mentioned issues in detail.

Session Organizers:

Parvez Ahmad ABBASI, Former Professor, Veer Narmad South Gujarat University, India, parvezabbasi@yahoo.co.in

Pankaj Kumar SINGH, Maharana Pratap Govt. PG College, Dept of Sociology 243633 Bilsa (Budaun) - India, India, pankajsociohdi@rediffmail.com

7) Reconstructing Knowledge: Digital Humanities and Visual Culture

Language: English, French and Spanish

Session Type: Oral

[Virtual Session] Western civilization has acquired autonomy in modern societies under ethics or moral precepts, and natural and rational phenomena—concepts under science and philosophy instead of myths or beliefs—have guided their knowledge toward technological development. Therefore, this session discusses the aesthetic, ethical, and political contexts involving Western and non-Western visual cultures. The focus is on their diversity and contemporary cultural practices, including social movements, visual manifestations, and artistic performances for analysis. Methodologically, an interdisciplinary approach in humanities and social sciences related to digital practices is addressed. The aim is to discuss digital humanities and paradigms involving the effects of new technologies associated with different cultures and interpretations. Moreover, digital developments are considered in their possibilities to explore new ways of analyzing and presenting data and engage with researchers through innovative co-creative practices that involve the whole structure of society in developing and producing knowledge. Furthermore, digital humanities refer to the scientific use of digital tools to digitize and analyze previously analog research artifacts in the humanities. Finally, this session aims to discuss and understand sociocultural differences and realities regarding the complexity of knowledge construction. Theoretical discussions or case studies concerning the communication and visual research challenges on interactive multimedia and visual culture are relevant for analyses aiming at (de)constructing Western knowledge toward the Global South and (re)constructing worldviews that are above ideologies and religions.

Session Organizer: **Christiane WAGNER**, University of São Paulo, Brazil, contact@christiane-wagner.online

8) Socio-Digital Challenges and Vulnerability of Organizations. Communicative Approaches

Language: English and Spanish

Session Type: Oral

Socio-digital challenges and vulnerability of organizations. Communicative approaches

The accelerated evolution of digital communication technologies poses many social challenges to organizations, whether public or private. The analysis from the communication offers paths that can contribute to the stability of the organizational activity. This session offers a space for discussion of

research where organizations, digital technologies and communication processes converge. Innovative perspectives of the sociological approach to these objects are welcome

Session Organizers:

Sergio Alberto LLANO ARISTIZÁBAL, Universidad del Norte, Colombia,

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Alejandro PISCITELLI, UNIVERSIDAD CATOLICA ARGENTINA, Argentina,

alejandropiscitelli@gmail.com

9) TV Series in the Era of Digitalization, Globalization and Resurgent Authoritarianism

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

During the last decades, several of the main features of TV series seem to have been put under question. The concurrence between Network and cable series from the 1990s onwards had led to a shortening of seasons, a blurring of the distinction between series and soap operas as well as an increase in the complexity of narrative structures. Later, the massive success of new streaming platforms such as Netflix or Amazon Prime, has led to new norms as far as the consumption of TV series is concerned (e.g., binge-watching). In addition, TV series have also become a global phenomenon. While American productions continue to dominate the international market, other geographical areas (e.g., Korea, Turkey, India, Latin America, etc.) are asserting themselves as providers of internationally popular serial fiction. Furthermore, the evolution of technologies and more precisely the advent of streaming allow the audiences to have very rapid access to series from other countries. As a consequence, global audiences are able to consume TV series conveying non-westernized narratives marked by alternative values and produced in various political contexts.

The aim of this session is to discuss the effects of digitalization, of globalization and of resurgent authoritarianisms on the different modes of production, of reception as well as on the representations of TV series.

Session Organizer:

Laurence LAROCHELLE, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle - Paris 3, France,

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10) The Expansion of Social Media and the Emergence of Global Communication System: Theoretical, Methodological and Empirical Concerns

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

The mass media communication was considered as one of the key features of modern society and it was argued that mass media are responsible for creating cultural patterns at the mass level (mass culture). Later on, mass media were considered essential for communicating the messages of modernity in developing societies. Therefore, sociologists and mass media theorists used to make a distinction between traditional communication system and modern communication system and also a transitional communication system. These assumptions of communication theorists have been challenged in recent past with the conceptualization of New Media theory. The expansion of social media has transformed the communication world. Web 2.0 technology has revolutionized the patterns of communication and posed a challenge to theories of modern period. The global integration of media facilitated the emergence of a global communication system. In the early phase, main stream media (print media, broadcasting and audio-visual media) and social media (social networking sites) were compartmentalized by the media theorists. But now, social media and main stream media are also integrating with each other in a very complicated manner. This has transformed the entire media scenario and the theories, methodologies and conceptual framework of modern age are not much helpful in analyzing the empirical situation. The proposed session is aimed to explore and discuss pertinent issues in the light of the above discussion.

Session Organizers:

Virendra P. SINGH, GLOBAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION INDIA (GREFI), India; Professor of Globalization and Development Studies, University of Allahabad, Prayagraj 211002, India, etdrvps@gmail.com

Sarvesh TRIPATHI, GGSIP University New Delhi, India, sarveshdt@gmail.com

11) The Political Communication of Russia-Ukraine War: Entanglements of Religions, Politics and Economies. La Communication Politique De La Guerre d'Ukraine : Pour Une Sociologie d'Un Emmêlement Politique, Économique Et Culturel.

Language: French and English

Session Type: Oral

La guerre d'Ukraine, montre que la désinformation demeure primordiale dans le cadre de la gestion politique. La notion de « fake news » apparaît révélatrice d'enjeux sociaux politiques, économiques, identitaires et journalistiques, dans l'ère des réseaux sociaux numériques ; il s'agit d'un phénomène complexe et l'analyse de son cadre communicationnel s'avère très importante. La guerre des « impressions » est à la une des médias dans le monde, en même temps que les diverses rumeurs diffusées (sur des questions du nucléaire ou du manque d'approvisionnements etc.).

Comment joue la communication politique (surtout dans le cadre de la couverture médiatique) de la guerre en Ukraine et du rôle des États divers ? De quelles façons ce registre discursif est-il mobilisé par les acteurs majeurs dans cette guerre ? À quelles populations (russe ? ukrainienne ? européenne ? occidentale ? ou internationale?) sont destinées les « nouvelles » ainsi que les fausses nouvelles / propagandes / rumeurs ? Quels sont les dispositifs sociotechniques mobilisés (drones, outils de réalité virtuelle, réseaux socio-numériques, etc.) tant par les médias que par les responsables politiques ? Dans quelle mesure la communication politique actuelle permet-elle aux citoyens et citoyennes ordinaires d'apporter un autre regard sur les pratiques des États dans ce conflit majeur?

Nous invitons les chercheurs à nous faire part de leurs analyses concernant les interrogations soulevées précédemment, tout en les invitant à se demander le rôle de la communication politique dans le cadre de cette guerre (la notion du conflit étant centrale pour l'analyse sociopolitique).

Session Organizer: **Christiana CONSTANTOPOULOU**, Panteion University, Greece,
christiana.constantopoulou@panteion.gr

12) The Presentation of Self: Fads and Fades of the Contemporary Social Link

Language: English

Session Type: Oral

The “social link” (which shows the essential reason of being together) is significant of the kind of society it expresses. Durkheim had analyzed religion as a very strong core of togetherness. Nowadays, religious fundamentalism coexists with secularism and several “democratic trends” which figure as

the expression of the contemporary global world. We also observe 1) the supremacy of economic governance leading to authoritarian politics and 2) the supremacy of digital expressions characterizing the contemporary sociality. Thus, the “social link” becomes more and more virtual (and so less solid and less lasting). Exposing instant images (via social media) becomes a central part of the contemporary meaning of “being together” and the narration of self-presentation becomes some kind of dominant myth defining the everyday life, in the middle of multiple secularities. Together with the “argued” religiosity or secularism, the political likes or dislikes, the “internet affinities” and the networks around common interests on cultural products, the social links seem to change.

The goal of this session is to try to investigate how this kind of virtual social link (becoming more and more dominant in everyday life) expresses the distancing from “political fields” (or at least the loose relation indicated by “comments” without effective impacts) and the progressive absence of social negotiation, serving as the myth of personal wellness where “ego” matters most. Case studies of the multiple facets and expressions of this contemporary reality on youth, artistic, professional and other groups are most welcome in order to explore what means “society” nowadays.

Session Organizer: **Christiana CONSTANTOPOULOU**, Panteion University, Greece,
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13) The Rise of the Far Right and Populist Movements in Europe

Language: English and French

Session Type: Oral

The far right and populist movements and political parties in Europe has been steadily rising in the twenty-first century. Especially in the last decade, we have witnessed election victories or significant increases in the share of votes by far right and populist parties in several European countries. In the French presidential elections of April 2022, the far-right and populist National Rally President Marine Le Pen got 41.5% of votes. In April 2022 Hungarian right wing populist Fidesz Party leader and Prime Minister Viktor Mihály Orbán, has won a fourth successive term with 53.7% votes. In March 2018, the Italian Five Star Movement formed a coalition government with the far-right League party. In Austria the far right Freedom Party (FPÖ) won 26% and the right wing populist ÖVP got 31% of the vote in the 2017 parliamentary elections and they formed a coalition government. In Germany the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) won 12.6% of the vote and entered the Bundestag for the first time in 2017. Also in 2017, the far-right Volya Movement entered the Bulgarian parliament for the first time. In Poland, the right-wing populist party Law and Justice (PiS) came to power in 2015. So

why are far-right parties on the rise? Have far-right parties become normal for European countries? Are far-right parties threat to democracy? The purpose of this session is to discuss the answers to these and similar questions by examining the situation of the rising far-right and populist political parties in Europe.

Session Organizer: **Murat AKTAS** muratmha@hotmail.com

Dimitra Laurence Larochelle, PhD

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Youth Representative at the United Nations for the ISA

RC14-ISA member of the board (Newsletter Editor).