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EDITORIAL

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER 2/2022

Dear RC01 members

We are now in full swing leading up to the ISA World Congress of Sociology in July 2023 in Melbourne, Australia. This event is held every four years by the International Sociological Association and is attended by sociologists from all around the world who meet, share their work, and exchange ideas. The Conference will be in person, with a minimal hybrid format. As RC01 Board, we are eager to see you all again to enjoy meaningful exchanges and meet up with old, and welcome new friends to our fraternity. This special newsletter is devoted mostly to this event in terms of panel proposals and invitations to submit abstracts.

Since many of you have not yet renewed your membership, we are only entitled to 14-panel sessions of a maximum of 4-5 papers, of which 12 are open to submissions. I, therefore, ask that you please renew your membership to the ISA and RC01 as a matter of urgency, so that we can be allocated more sessions in the programme and canvass other members to join. ISA Executive Committee has just decided to extend ISA membership for one year for those who paid for 2019-2022, to allow them to benefit from ISA member discount rate when registering for the 2023 World Congress.

To present a paper at the World Congress, members must be in good standing with both the ISA and RC01. Should you require some financial support to renew your membership, please email our Acting Executive Secretary Celso Castro celso.castro@fgv.br, whereafter the RC01 Board will consider the allocation of grants. Please encourage others to join RC01 and especially students, as the ISA has made available some funding for this (*See below*). In terms of the benefits of ISA/RC01 membership, please see the RC01 newsletter of November 2021 <https://www.isa-sociology.org/frontend/web/uploads/files/rc01newsletter-november-2021.pdf>.

Recently on the ISAGRAM there has been a call for papers for a special edition for the journal *Sociology and Space* on the War in Ukraine. This call speaks directly to our work as RC01 members, and I urge those of you thinking and writing about this 'war' to consider submitting an



abstract. The closing date for abstracts is 1 September 2022 and contact sip@idi.hr. See <https://www.isa-sociology.org/uploads/imgen/1309-cfp-sociology-and-space-special-issue-ukraine-2022.pdf?1656493361>. This could provide a unique opportunity to publish your work and to have this presented as a paper at the World Congress under this theme.

Then it is with regret to announce that our Vice-President of RC01, Prof Helena Carreiras, appointed Minister of Defence in Portugal from March 2022, asked to step down as vice president because her new role requires complete and exclusive commitment. The current mandate of the RC01 Board has been extended to July 2023 and in the forthcoming newsletters, we will be opening a call for the election for a new RC01 Board.

Lindy Heinecken
President RC01

UPCOMING ONLINE WEBINAR

Ethical issues of using killer robots and drones in warfare

The war in Ukraine has raised a host of questions on using drones in warfare. Similarly, there is a rising debate on the use of killer robots. On **30 August at 07:00 GMT**, we are hosting a Webinar on this topic. Images of killer robots are the stuff of science fiction – but also, increasingly, of scientific fact on the battlefield. Should we be worried, or is this a normal development in the technology of war? *In Should We Ban Killer Robots?* ethicist Deane-Peter Baker cuts through the confusion over whether lethal autonomous weapons – so-called killer robots – should be banned. Setting aside unhelpful analogies taken from science fiction, Baker looks instead to our understanding of mercenaries (the metaphorical ‘dogs of war’) and weaponized animals (the literal dogs of war) to better understand the ethical challenges raised by the employment of lethal autonomous weapons (the robot dogs of war). These ethical challenges include questions of trust and reliability, control and accountability, motivation and dignity. While each of these challenges is significant, Baker argues that they do not – even when considered together – justify a ban on this emerging class of weapon systems.

Our guest speaker, Dr Deane-Peter Baker, was appointed to UNSW Canberra in August 2012. His current area of focus is ethics and special operations, and he is a regular consultant to Australia’s Special Operations Command. Do his recent publications include *Should We Ban Killer Robots?* (Polity Press 2022), *Morality and Ethics at War: Bridging the Gaps Between the Soldier and the State* (Bloomsbury Academic 2020) and *Citizen Killings: Liberalism, State Policy and Moral Risk* (Bloomsbury Academic 2016).

A flyer and link to this event will be sent out shortly. Please diarize this date and circulate the announcement of this webinar to your respective networks.

ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY 2023

The most important announcement at this point is that the period of [abstract submission](#) has already begun, **July 1 – September 30, 2022, for the XX World Congress in Melbourne, Australia, June 25-July 1, 2023.** The general theme of the Congress is "Resurgent Authoritarianism: Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economics." Celso Castro is the RC01 Program Coordinator, and for the RC01 sessions, we invite papers to the following panels.

We invite you to submit sessions to the following panels.

Beyond the Greedy Institution

Submitter Email:

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Session Description:

Some time ago, I (Rene Moelker) had the idea of starting a project "beyond the greedy institution" because modern Armed Forces are more and more permeable and fluid. In a post-covid era, I would like to pursue the idea of "opening up Armed Forces". Soeters' inaugural lecture, some 30 years ago, mentions the metaphor of the Armed Forces being like an "impermeable". Now this metaphor is losing its sway over the organization. For military families this goes in a double sense, because families also are more and more fluid. Not fixed to one format and one format only. In war and conflict Armed Forces and families suffer casualties and greedy institutions still demand the ultimate sacrifice with tremendous human costs. In other conditions the work/life balance needs to be respected for a multitude of reasons (o.a. retention) These developments require new theoretical building blocks, new research, and researchers thinking out of the box using all the tools of serendipity they can apply.

COVID-19: Patterns in Domestic Military Operations

Submitter Email:

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Joint Session with RC39 Sociology of Disasters

Session Description:

In the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, militaries in several countries deployed to support civilian national authorities. This demand for military assistance comes on top of a quantitative and qualitative change in domestic military operations due to climate change, notably in containing wildfires and floods as well as increasing deployment in public order duties in some countries. This session provides country-specific observations, identifies comparative findings, and draws out broader implications around the deployment of the military in domestic roles, whether law enforcement or dealing with other state emergencies (commonly known as aid to civil authorities). Similarly, the Covid-19 pandemic has brought forth many challenges to both human and national security, as militaries are deployed in tasks not normally associated with their mandated roles and responsibilities. This session establishes how and in what roles the military was deployed, what challenges this posed in terms of capacity, as well as overall governance and multisectoral cooperation. The significance of this research stems from the unprecedented nature of the response by militaries to the pandemic. Never had armed forces been deployed domestically on a global level; rather, domestic military deployments usually occur following local or regional emergencies, often natural disasters or civil unrest. The session enables conclusions to be drawn regarding trends in the use of armed forces in a domestic situation and how this affects the structure of armed forces, national resilience, and emergency management across the globe.



Human Resource Challenges in the Military

Submitter Email:

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Session Description:

Managing human resources is a key aspect affecting the functioning and efficiency of the armed forces and involves an array of issues that affect the employment and well-being of military personnel and their families. This panel invites papers that deal with the many human resource challenges that armed forces face, including the management of diversity, gender integration, discontent within the ranks (including unionisation), and the challenges of reintegration into civilian society.

Islamic Violent Movements in Contemporary Africa

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Session Description:

Contemporary Africa is a battleground of radical Islamic Violent Movements, which aim to impose their version of Islamic interpretation in many countries in Africa from North East Africa (Egypt) to the West reaching Burkina Faso. In the Horn of Africa, the oldest and strongest movement is Al-Shabaab in Somalia which dates back to 2006 and now controls large part of Somalian territory. South East Africa - particularly the northern part of Mozambique - has been engulfed with radical Wahhabi group that became active in 2017, destabilizing the region internationally known as the Islamic State in Mozambique. The hot core in West Africa has been Boko Haram, a radical Islamic violent movement created in 2009 in Kanuri people's homeland in Northeast Nigeria, and gradually expanded to all territories where Kanuri people live; Cameroun, Chad and Niger. Other different groups in West Africa historically emanated from Boko Haram. The purpose of this session is to analyze a long history of Islamic movements from a historical sociological perspective, the root causes of contemporary violent Islamic movements, the economic situation of these areas in which poverty increases and lack of education prevails, the international influence of Mujahideen (founded in July 1979, from which Al-Qaeda emerged) and finally Islamic State in Syria and Iraq as ideological motivation to try to unite all Muslims under one Islamic State. In conclusion, we want to illustrate the economic, political, ideological, and international aspects of the direst problem that Africa faces in the twenty-first century.

Military Sociological Perspectives on the War in Ukraine

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Session Description:

The start of Russia's escalated war actions in Ukraine prompted an unprecedented challenge to military sociologists all over the world. The possibility of full-scale war in Europe was unexpected for decades and already had many different sociological and organizational implications for the armed forces of the democracies. On the other hand, the war continues in the context of global resurgent authoritarianism. While the West and its global allies rallied to denounce Russian aggression, other parts of the world (notably China and India) seem to be blaming the US. What are the appropriate sociological analogies to make sense of these developments? Are we headed for the use of Cold War war era concepts and theories, while new theoretical and methodological instruments for hybrid warfare analysis are still valid? What lessons are learned for the preparation of armed forces and societies for high-intensity conflicts? Abstracts are welcome to address these large questions.



Rethinking the Old, New, and Future Roles of Armed Forces

Submitter Email:

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Session Description:

In an age of hyper-connectivity, rapid technological evolution, hybrid and asymmetric wars, and rising domestic threats, how are armed forces thinking about their future roles and functions? Are we seeing any change in how are armed forces preparing to fund, structure, equip and train their forces to deal with an ever-widening diversity of threats? What implications does this hold for future force design and structure, and for personnel? What are the civil-military implications of these decisions, where many countries around the world are seeing an increase in both militarization and authoritarianism?

The Soldier-Scholar: Postsecondary Education of Future Military Officers

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Joint Session with RC04 Sociology of Education

Session Description:

This session covers variation and patterns, commonalities and differences, vectors of convergence and vectors of divergence in the education of junior military officers. It gives practitioners and academics a platform to compare the approaches chosen around the world to educate future military cadre and address the challenges raised by a new and increasingly complex security environment. In addition, the session identifies emerging trends that will be shaping military education in the coming decades. Specifically, this session compares pre-commissioning education of military officers across select allied and partner countries: its manifestation in individual states and collectively across allied states. The session posits a certain commonality in the education of future officers since the same skills are required across militaries to win on the complex modern battlefield: critical analysis, leadership ability, moral fortitude, etc. Still, distinct national differences emerge as to exactly what officership is, and that the geopolitical context in which officers are trained and will serve influences their education. The common security environment and the different national situations create an appealing dynamic where academies face (in most regards) the same security challenges but take different approaches to address them. This session investigates, analyze and understand the factors that drive the convergence and alignment of junior military education, and the divergence in approaches taken around the world.

Conscription in Europe

Submitter Email:

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Session Description:

A few countries, such as Finland, Estonia, Austria, Denmark, Switzerland and Norway, have retained conscription even after the Cold War, and countries such as Sweden and Lithuania have reintroduced conscription after several years of voluntary defense. One difference between compulsory military systems is that conscription does not look the same. Norway and Sweden have a gender-neutral duty that affects just a few young women and men of the current cohort, Finland obliged about 70% of all men, and women to apply voluntarily, etc. Therefore, when talking about countries with conscription, is rarely referred to as conscription as it was in the 70s and 80s when almost all males from 18 to 20 years were called in. In addition, conscription is once again seen as a guarantor for the supply of personnel to the armed forces. The critical recruiting problems in all-volunteer forces and the turnaround in the European security situation, from



international efforts to national defense, means that the topic of conscription has received a renewed focus in recent years. The purpose of the session is to describe the different conscription systems in Europe and compare how conscription is used to provide personnel for defense forces in European countries. In addition, the session aims to examine e.g. attitudes among conscripts, their attitude to conscription, and willingness to defend the country.

Regulars, Reservists, Defence Civilians, and Contractors – Total Defence Force Personnel Integration

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Session Description:

Defence workforces are complex, comprising regular force military members, reservists, defence civil servants, and contractors working for private military and security companies. These groups of personnel are employed towards the same overarching goals related to national and international security and are often highly integrated in the performance of their functions. At the same time, despite the often-high levels of partnership and integration, different personnel management systems are in place. These cultural differences affect their integration, the nature and quality of their collaboration, and ultimately affect personnel outcomes such as performance and retention, as well as organizational and operational effectiveness. Defence organizations around the world are increasingly recognizing the importance of optimizing *intergroup* integration, and many are adopting terminology to imply they form a cohesive whole [select examples include, the *Defence Team* (Canada), the *Whole Force Concept* (United Kingdom), *One Defence Team* (Sweden), *Total Defence Workforce* (New Zealand), *Total Force Concept* (United States), and the *Adaptable Force* (Netherlands)]. Since most research has traditionally focused on regular force military personnel, gaps in research on personnel in the other components – that is, research focused on reservists, defence civilians, and defence contractors, will be addressed in the context of this panel.

Retention in the Armed Forces

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Session Description:

Recruitment and retention of military personnel are facing myriad challenges, such as changing nature of employment in general, demographic changes related to increasing diversity and aging populations, and continued transition from compulsory military service to all-volunteer forces. Military personnel are a critical component of the effectiveness of the armed forces within which they serve. Although attrition of valued personnel is costly for most organizations, it is more costly in military organizations than in the general labour force due to the unique factors related to military service. In particular, many of the requirements of military service require skills and knowledge that can only be acquired through institutionalized military experience and cannot be acquired outside of a military context. Further, to this, armed forces do not generally make use of lateral entry options, but instead require that personnel be selected, trained, promoted, and retained from within the organization. As such, personnel retention of trained and valued personnel is a critical objective for the armed forces, one that is continually challenged in today's competitive and changing labour context. This session aims to examine key retention-related challenges facing today's modern militaries, as well as practices, strategies, programs, and policies for facilitating the retention of military members.



The Military and Politics in 21st Century

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Session Description:

The era of post-colonial nation-building in the previous century was characterized by the worldwide constitution of armed forces that took on active roles in domestic politics as the central element of their institutional mission and strategy. In many countries across the globe, this led to systematic political interventions of the military, ranging from co-governance with civilians and veto coup interventions or long-lasting authoritarian and often violent regimes. After the end of the Cold War, the advance of neoliberal globalization and the 'third wave' of democratization seemed to have put an end to this cycle of military-political ascendancy. However, after 9/11 ushered in a new critical juncture, democratic discontent, securitization of politics, and new forms of illiberal and authoritarian nationalism have been challenging the assumptions of liberal democracy. In this context, this panel proposes investigating how this has changed the relationship between the military and national politics.

Why Quality Matters? Researching the Military from Bottom to Top

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Session Description:

Military research in general and critical military research, in particular, tend to focus on macro viewpoint and examine the social, economic, and political processes and mechanisms, and the way they influence, construct and change the military and civil-military relationship. In recent years more and more researchers recognize the importance of micro research and focus on the agents' performance and their subjective experience and understanding of the military and its connection to society. The session aims to examine the part of individuals in constructing, maintaining, and even challenging perceptions, images, practices, and processes within the military. We invite scholars that use qualitative methods that highlight the contribution of micro perspective and examine the military from bottom to top, to participate in the session. Furthermore, the session wishes to emphasize the importance of critical military research. Focusing on the agent's viewpoint and performance reveals the probability of challenging military conceptions and images. Doing so discloses the fluidity and the potential change in the structure, mechanisms, and social conceptions through individuals' performance. By emphasizing the active part of agents in creating, maintaining, and challenging meaning and perceptions we will aim to underline the connection between micro and macro research and the importance of micro perspective analysis to military sociology.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

ISA Solidarity Fund grants for students and registration

As reflected below, we invite you to send us the names of students who could possibly qualify for this grant. If you can send the names of your candidates to us by the latest **1 November 2022**, to both the President and Secretary.



ISA membership grants for students

Each RC/WG/TG can allocate ISA membership grants for students as follows:

- up to 3 students from category A countries
- up to 5 students from category B and C countries

RC01 can consider waiving the membership fees for students, providing that they present a paper at the Conference.

Registration grants to ISA World Congress of Sociology

Similarly, there is an opportunity for you to apply for conference registration grants. Again, if these applications could reach us by 1 November in order to meet the ISA deadlines. Funds allocated to each RC/WG/TG for registration grants have been increased by 30%. ISA members in good standing, and active participants in the program, are eligible to apply for a registration grant.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY RC01 MEMBERS

Congratulations to some of our members' most recent publications. Please remember to send us your publications and any opinion pieces that you have published.

Books:

1. Szvircsev Tresch, Tibor; Wenger, Andreas; De Rosa, Stefano; Ferst, Thomas; Robert, Jacques; Rohr, Patric (2022). Sicherheit 2022 - *Aussen-, Sicherheits- und Verteidigungspolitische Meinungsbildung im Trend*. Militärakademie (MILAK) an der ETH Zürich und Center for Security Studies, ETH Zürich, Birmensdorf und Zürich. [Security: The Trend of Opinions on Foreign, Security, and Defense Policy – Center for Security Studies | ETH Zurich](#)

Chapters:

1. Altman, David and Jenne, Nicole. 2022. 'Uruguay: No Country for a Military?', in W. Thompson et al. (eds.) *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of the Military in Politics*, Oxford University Press, 2022.
2. Levy, Yagil. 2022. "Israel: A Politically Monitored Military in a Militarized Society," in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of the Military in Politics*, eds. William R. Thompson and Hicham Bou Nassif (New York: Oxford University Press).
3. Szvircsev Tresch, Tibor (2022). "Military Sociology in Switzerland". In: Steinbrecher, Markus; Biehl, Heiko; Elbe, Martin (Hrsg.) (2022). *Empirical Social Research in and on the Armed Forces. Comparative and National Perspectives*. Reihe Sozialwissenschaftliche Studien des Zentrums für Militärgeschichte und Sozialwissenschaften der Bundeswehr, Band-Nr. 24. Berliner Wissenschafts-Verlag, Berlin, 239-260.

Journal Articles:

1. Harig, Christoph, and Jenne, Nicole. 2022. Whose rules? Whose power? The Global South and the possibility to shape international peacekeeping norms through leadership appointments. *Review of International Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210522000262>
2. Levy, Yagil. 2022. The Legitimacy Crisis of the Conscription Model, *Strategic Assessment* 25 (1): 79-100. https://strategicassessment.inss.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Adkan25.1Eng_Levy.pdf



3. Musa, Sallek & Heinecken, Lindy. 2022. The effect of military (un) professionalism on civil military relations in security in Nigeria, *African Security Review*, 31 (2), 157-173.
[/doi/full/10.1080/10246029.2021.2014917](https://doi.org/10.1080/10246029.2021.2014917)

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We hope that you enjoyed reading this issue of RC 01's newsletter.