

Letter from the President

Greetings from ISA.

Letter from the President	1
Fourth ISA Forum: Next Deadlines	2
Sections of RC07 in the Fourth ISA Forum	3
News	4

I would like to express again my acknowledgement to those who have proposed sessions for the forthcoming Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology. RC07 will host 16 sessions, some of them in collaboration with other RCs.

To those who are able to come earlier to Porto Alegre, on 13th of July, the Departments of Sociology of the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul and of the Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos, the co-hosts of the Forum, will offered panels discussing mostly issues related to Latin America and Brazilian present juncture. As soon as the list of panels as well as of the preconference meetings were established, I will let you know.

See below information on the Forum's next deadlines, the list of RC07 the sessions, and news.

I am looking forward to meet you in Porto Alegre.

Newsletter: December 2019

Fourth ISA Forum: Next Deadlines

January 31, 2020 24:00 GMT

Applications for Registration Grants deadline: Program Coordinator receives applications for ISA grants submitted by the participants

February 15, 2020 24:00 GMT

Submission of proposed Registration Grants recipients: Program Coordinator sends a list of selected individuals and amounts recommended to the ISA Secretariat isa@isa-sociology.org for verification and approval.

March 19, 2020 24:00 GMT

Registration deadline for presenters: Registration must be paid by the deadline. Confex matches registrations with accepted presenters and will send out last reminder to register. Presenters who have failed to register will be automatically deleted from the program.

April 1 – 17, 2020 24:00 GMT

Session Organizer modifies sessions based on withdrawal of non-registered presenters.

Chairs and discussants are assigned from among the registered participants.

Program Coordinator completes sessions schedule according to the conference timetable.

In case the type of an individual's presentation is changed, or if a presentation is transferred to a different session, Confex will send notifications to authors with final session and presentation details after April 30.

May 5, 2020 24:00 GMT

Online program published

Sections of RC07 in the Fourth ISA Forum

Program Coordinator:

André Salata

(<http://www.pucrs.br/researchers/andre-ricardo-salata/>)

Email: andresalata@gmail.com

Professor Salata is based at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande do Sul (PUCRS), the University where the Fourth ISA Forum will take place.

Sessions:

Climate Crisis and Humanity's Future: Contesting Projects and Visions

Coastal Megacities in the 21st Century: Responding to Climate Change Impacts and Creating Alternative Futures

Contesting Digital Formations: Power, Values, and Visions

Digital Sociology: The Uses of ICTs in Social Life

Do We Have Future, or Just a Past?

Epistemes, Ethics, and Methods of Futures Research in an Era of Multipolar Turbulences

Futures of Social Protection in the Global South: Protective or Productivist Systems?

Industry 4.0 and Automation: Consequences and Possible Scenarios of Social Development

Non-Western Sociologies Face the Present and Future, Research and Dialogue on the Brics Countries.

Practising Hopeful Futures. in between 'Cruel Optimism' and New Utopias.

Presente y futuro de la sociología como ciencia y profesión en un mundo en cambio. Un diálogo global de experiencias entre ALAS e ISA

Self-Initiated Expatriates, Everyday Practices and Their Images of the Future

Social Movements, Contentious Politics, and the Imagination of Alternative Futures

Social Progress: Present Trends and Future Scenarios

Stratification and Inequalities: Changes and Continuities in the 21st Century

The Consequences of Violence: Its Impact on Political, Cultural, and Emotional Memory, Representation, and Trauma

News

1

Call for abstracts: Digitalisation of higher education: revolutionising education or the digitalisation of traditional solutions?

STS Conference Graz, Austria, Europe 2020, May 4–6.

Abstract deadline: January 20, 2020.

Gabor Kiraly and Zsuzsanna Gering are session organizers at 19th Annual STS Conference Graz 2020 "Critical Issues in Science, Technology and Society Studies" (<https://sts-conference.isds.tugraz.at/event/10/>). They would like to share the call of their session and encourage RC07 members to submit an abstract.

Their session (*Digitalisation of higher education: revolutionising education or the digitalisation of traditional solutions? – B2 track*) raises the questions what other purposes of education there are beyond knowledge transfer, and how different, alternative forms of socio-technical configurations can support these purposes.

In relation to these general questions, they would like to invite short presentations discussing the following issues:

- How does digitalisation affect the main issues of teaching and learning:
 - the content (the *what* question of education),
 - the location (the *where* question),
 - and the method (the *how* question of education)?
- How do digital solutions shape the role of the lecturer in higher education?
- Do we need to adapt the characteristics of brick-and-mortar higher education (mass education, fixed curricula, group-level interaction, limited availability, bureaucratic structures/relationships and relatively slow processes etc.) to the inherent features of digital society (personalisation, flexibility, speed, promptness, constant availability, interconnectedness, extended network of weak ties)?

The session will work with an atypical format consisting of short (8- to 10-minute) thought-provoking presentations followed by short (10- to 15-minute) small-group discussions on a predefined question. This shall mean that the presenters are asked to focus on their core message(s) while omitting aspects which are less relevant for initiating debate and shared thinking (such as a lengthy description of the theoretical or methodological background).

Further details:

Longer description of the session (B2): <https://sts-conference.isds.tugraz.at/event/10/page/160-b-digitalization-of-society>

Technical details for abstract submission: <https://sts-conference.isds.tugraz.at/event/11/abstracts/>

STS Conference Graz, Austria, Europe 2020, May 4–6.

Gábor Király and Zsuzsanna Géring (RC07 board member) were guest editors for Futures (Volume 111, August 2019) with a special section on 'Futures of Higher Education'

(<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/futures/vol/111/suppl/C>).

In their Editorial (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0016328719301260>) they identify certain global trends that create significant challenges to higher education, such as climate change, global migration flows, political tensions, depression epidemic, digitalisation and robotisation. Not only these trends, but the interplay between them, lead to pressing questions such as how we can prepare student for future challenges, and what role higher education should play in shaping future societies. Therefore, future discussion and systematic investigation is crucial to collectively elaborate alternative organisational forms for HE, as well as to create a diverse HE ecosystem. The papers of this special issue address these questions from different angles and at different levels.

The papers:

Elmar Schüll: Current trends and future challenges of the Austrian Universities of Applied Sciences (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0016328717304834>)

Kadri Aavik: Crafting neoliberal futures in the strategic plans of Estonian universities (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0016328717304329>)

Lars Geer Hammershøj: The perfect storm scenario for the university: Diagnosing converging tendencies in higher education (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717304317>)

Fátima Monteiro, Carlinda Leite, Cristina Rocha: Ethical education as a pillar of the future role of higher education: Analysing its presence in the curricula of engineering courses (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717304196>)

Andrea Toarniczky, Réka Matolay, Judit Gáspár: Responsive higher education through transformational practices – The case of a Hungarian business school (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717304330>)

Mduduzi Nkosinathi Gladwin Mtshali, Radhamany Sooryamoorthy: A research-inducing environment at a University of Technology in South Africa: Challenges and future prospects (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717304226>)

Mark Murphy, Cristina Costa: Digital scholarship, higher education and the future of the public intellectual (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0016328717304809>)