



Sociology  
of Population

# RC41 NEWSLETTER 2020\_1

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Article submissions are limited to 1,000 words, will be reviewed by the RC41 officers for possible publication, and may be edited for clarity or space.

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## EDITORIAL

Dear friends and members of RC41,

As you probably know, the Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology has been transferred to a digital format. Due to some paper withdrawals there are one to three slots available in most sessions of RC41. So please, consider the **second call for abstracts**, which will still be **open until November 12, 2020, 24:00 GMT**:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/porto-alegre-2021/call-for-abstracts-2021>

Direct links to the calls of individual RC41-sessions are listed on page 2 of the newsletter.

Please pay also attention to the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC) Inaugural Conference, **November 10-11, 2020**, which will be accessible online. The question as to what holds current societies together or causes them to drift apart is the subject of research, media debates, and political struggles for interpretation alike. As an association of eleven universities and research institutes, the Research Institute Social Cohesion (RISC), which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF), will study in the coming years the current challenges of social cohesion from an interdisciplinary perspective. Reinhold Sackmann, a member of RC41, coordinates the research activities of of RISC at its branch in Halle, Germany.

Furthermore, recently I interviewed the French sociologist Emmanuel Didier on the topic of quantification as a tool of government. You can read the interview here: <https://conventions.hypotheses.org/11917>.

All the best for your health and warm regards,

Walter Bartl

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING CONFERENCES

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RESEARCH INSTITUTE SOCIAL COHESION (RISC) INAUGURAL CONFERENCE, 10-11 NOVEMBER 2020, ONLINE.

Due to the current pandemic conditions, the event will take place online. The speakers will be connected via video. The livestream will be available via the [YouTube channel of the Leipzig University](#).

Highlights of the program include (hours in CET):

2.00 pm - 2.40 pm Cas Mudde (University of Georgia, Athens): The Far Right Challenge to Social Cohesion

2.40 pm - 3.20 pm Barbara Perry (Ontario Tech University, Oshawa): The Broader Harms of Hate: Risks to Social Solidarity

3.50 pm - 4.30 pm Jutta Almendinger (Berlin Social Science Center): In Risc of Mistrust. An empirical landscape

4.30 pm - 5.10 pm Michèle Lamont (Harvard University, Cambridge): Inclusion and narratives of hope after the American dream

5.10 pm - 5.50 pm Arlie R. Hochschild (University of California, Berkeley): Talking Across the Political Divide

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CHALLENGES OF THE 21ST CENTURY: DEMOCRACY, ENVIRONMENT, INEQUALITIES, INTERSECTIONALITY. FOURTH ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY, FEBRUARY 23 - 27, 2021, ONLINE.

Overview of the sessions hosted by RC 41. Please click on the titles below to read the calls for abstracts.

[Bourdieu, the Three Forms of Capital, and Mortality](#)

[Data Revolution in Research on Lgbt Population](#)

[Demographic Consequences of Changes in the Welfare State](#)

[Family Demography and Inequality](#)

[Migration and Health](#)

[Mortality at Older Ages](#)

[Population Censuses: Preconditions and Alternatives](#)

[Population and Economic Inequality: Challenges of the 21st Century.](#)

[Population and Migration: Locating Global Trends and Patterns](#)

[Race and Racial Relations in a Global Perspective](#)

[Varieties of Population Indicators: Their Construction and Use in Politics](#)

[COVID-19: What have we learned?](#)

**Submission deadline: November 12, 2020, 24:00 GMT.**

Abstract submission: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/cfp.cgi>

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15TH ESA CONFERENCE IN BARCELONA / SPAIN, 31 AUGUST - 03 SEPTEMBER 2021.

The Call for Papers for the ESA 2021 conference is planned to be issued by the end of the year 2020.

<https://www.europeansociology.org/about-esa-2021-barcelona/programme>

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EUROPEAN POPULATION CONFERENCE 2022

The next European Population Conference will take place in 2022 and is co-organized by EAPS, the University of Groningen (UoG) and the Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI) from 29 June - 2 July 2022! <https://www.eaps.nl/epc/european-population-conference-2022>

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS

**Bartl, Walter; Papilloud, Christian (2020): Measuring “equivalent living conditions”? The use of indicators in German federal spatial planning. In: *Statistical Journal of the IAOS* 36 (4), S. 375–399.**

<https://doi.org/10.3233/SJI-200647>

It is commonly claimed that the use of numbers and indicators in society is on the rise. Yet, it is still unclear why numbers are used in some social fields but not in others. This paper investigates the specific use of indicators in the policy field of federal spatial planning in Germany. While the use of indicators is very common in this area, the guiding idea of equivalent living conditions has not been operationalized with an agreed on set of indicators nor do particular policy instruments targeting ‘unequivalent’ living conditions exist. Why is this the case? Drawing on literature about the use of scientific knowledge in politics as well as on social studies of quantification processes, we argue that regular monitoring of regional disparities has increased the political salience of the idea of equivalent living conditions. At the same time, a more systematic formalization of this idea has been hampered, firstly, by the entangled competencies of German federalism and secondly, by the ambiguous idea of equivalent living conditions which has faced competition by the more narrowly defined concept of regional economic development and the related GDP indicator.

**Bhagat, Ram B.; R.S., Reshmi; Sahoo, Harihar; Roy, Archana K.; Govil, Dipti (2020): The COVID-19, Migration and Livelihood in India: Challenges and Policy Issues. In: *Migration Letters* 17 (5), S. 705–718. DOI: 10.33182/ml.v17i5.1048.**

The worldwide spread of COVID-19 first reported from Wuhan in China is attributed to migration and mobility of people. In this article, we present how our understanding of migration and livelihood could be helpful in designing a mitigating strategy of the economic and social impact of COVID-19 in India. We conclude that there are many challenges migrants face during the spread of COVID-19 resulting from nation-wide lockdown. Many internal migrants faced problems such as lack of food, basic amenities, lack of health care, economic stress, lack of transportation facilities to return to their native places and lack of psychological support. On the other hand, COVID-19 has also brought into sharp focus the emigrants from India and the major migration corridors India shares with the world as well. There is huge uncertainty about how long this crisis will last. This article further provides some immediate measures and long term strategies to be adopted by the government such as improving public distribution system, strengthening the public health system, integration of migrants with development, decentralisation as a strategy to provide health services, and providing support to return migrants to reintegrate them, and also strengthen the database on migration and migrant households.

**Brun, Solène; Simon, Patrick (2020): Dossier: Inégalités ethno-raciales et coronavirus. In: *De facto* (19). <https://hal.archives-ouvertes.fr/hal-02887934>.**

Alors que la pandémie qui frappe désormais le monde entier connaissait une progression spectaculaire, de nombreux-ses commentateurs-trices politiques et médiatiques ont souligné que la maladie de Covid-19 serait le « grand égalisateur », comme l’a affirmé le gouverneur de l’État de New York, le 31 mars dernier. Le caractère universel de la maladie a cependant été rapidement démenti. Non seulement les personnes vulnérables, en particulier les plus de 70 ans, sont massivement sur-représentées parmi les cas graves, mais les inégalités sociales se traduisent également par des écarts de morbidité et de mortalité. Riches et pauvres ne sont pas égaux-ales face à la maladie : la classe et le genre ont un rôle déterminant dans l’exposition au virus, l’état de santé des personnes et l’accès aux soins. Qu’en est-il alors des inégalités ethno-raciales, tant au sujet des représentations de la maladie et de sa diffusion que des conditions objectives d’exposition et de santé que connaissent les minorités ? Dès le début de la pandémie, on a observé des instances de racialisation du virus (du « péril jaune » du *Courrier Picard* au « virus chinois » de Donald Trump), qui rappellent la manière dont les

corps racialisés ont été, historiquement, représentés comme des corps pathogènes. Aux États-Unis et au Royaume-Uni, les minorités ethno-raciales sont largement surreprésentées parmi les personnes touchées par la Covid-19 et ses formes les plus graves. En France, des parallèles ont été établis entre les situations de ces deux pays et celle de la Seine-Saint-Denis, qui présente le taux de surmortalité le plus élevé d'Île-de-France.

**Jasso, Guillermina. 2020. "Factorial Survey." In Paul Anthony Atkinson, Sara Delamont, and Richard Williams (eds.), Sage Encyclopedia of Research Methods. London, UK: Sage Publications. <http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526421036888176>**

The factorial survey—pioneered by Peter H. Rossi and developed with associates and subsequently by new generations of scholars around the world—is a tool for exploring and analyzing people’s ideas about a wide range of sociobehavioral phenomena, including ideas about the way the world works and the way the world ought to work, as well as obligations, trust, and recommendations, among others. To illustrate, people form ideas about the causes of healthiness and happiness, the just compensation for workers and the just returns to their characteristics, and the desirability as immigrants of visa applicants with differing characteristics and from different origin countries. These ideas are conceptualized as input–outcome relations and formalized by equations. The goal is to uncover these equations-inside-the-head, producing estimates with the best possible statistical properties and assessing the extent of agreements and disagreements across individuals and subgroups. This entry provides an introduction to the factorial survey, beginning with its prehistory in comments on Rossi’s dissertation by his adviser Paul F. Lazarsfeld about presenting to respondents vignettes describing fictitious families with varying characteristics and continuing with Rossi’s key insights about combining the experimental control of factorial experiments with the richness of social surveys to construct many and diverse fictitious persons and thus heighten the resemblance between real and experimental worlds and enable sharp estimation of people’s ideas. The entry next introduces basic methods for factorial survey data collection and data analysis and finally considers current challenges, especially those posed by variation across individuals, languages, and countries.

**Jasso, Guillermina. 2020. "Is and Ought: From Ideas to Theory to Empirics." Pp. 105-127 in Alexander Max Bauer and Malte Ingo Meyerhuber (eds.), Empirical Research and Normative Theory. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter. <https://doi.org/10.1515/9783110613797-008>**

Understanding the relation between Is and Ought questions and their relation to theory and empirics is a central task for social science. This chapter makes several contributions. First, it presents two substantive approaches, a deeper forces approach (including two engines of behaviour - to know the causes of things and to judge the goodness of things - leading directly to Is and Ought questions, respectively) and a middle-range theory which recently unified theories of justice, status, and power. Second, it reviews three theory types (two deductive, one nondeductive). Third, it examines postulates and predictions from the new unified theory and its component theories. Fourth, it provides five illustrations tracing the path from ideas to theory to empirics - (1) five types of persons and five types of societies in the new unified theory, (2) three questions on inequality, (3) justice and impartiality, (4) salary secrecy, and (5) theft and punishment. Along the way the chapter notes the classical sources for the ideas, the special tools such as probability distributions for theory and factorial surveys for empirics, and the major embedded Is and Ought questions and behaviour. The chapter also introduces a new kind of question - Is-about- Ought - which represents the scientific search for knowledge about the normative views to which persons subscribe.

**Jasso, Guillermina, and Mark R. Rosenzweig. 2020. "What is the Size and Legal Composition of the US Foreign-Born Population?" *International Migration Review* 54(3): 640-673. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0197918319893287>**

We assess government estimates of the size and legal composition of the US foreign-born population from 2007 to 2015. We examine annual Census Bureau estimates of the total number of foreign born (by citizenship) and annual Office of Immigration Statistics (OIS) estimates of the counts of the three noncitizen categories — legal permanent residents, legal temporary residents, and the unauthorized. Comparison of the annual Census estimates of the number of noncitizens with the estimates implied by the OIS estimates reveals that the OIS estimates are larger than the Census estimates by 3.4–4.7 million over the period. Besides documenting these discrepancies, we describe the data and methods used to produce the estimates, identify the possible sources of discrepancies, propose and implement an approach for reconciling the estimates, and contrast the reconciled estimates with the original estimates. Finally, we provide a foundation for improving estimates of the size of the four major categories of the foreign born, for example, by suggesting new methods to measure citizenship and to estimate such groups as legal permanent residents who become unauthorized. Because in most countries the four foreign-born subpopulations are constrained by distinctive rules, they each have different impacts on their host countries. Estimates of their size are critical for assessments of immigration policy, as differing constraints on employment and entitlement eligibility across these categories means that having accurate counts of their numbers is essential for assessing their economic and fiscal impacts in any country that hosts immigrants.

**Jasso, Guillermina. 2020. "New Results Linking Inequality and Justice." *Journal of Mathematical Sociology*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0022250X.2020.1715970>**

Recent work revives the classic idea that the sense of justice is the first line of defense against inequality and shows that the link depends, in part, on ideas of the just reward. This paper extends earlier work, making three new contributions: (1) it expands the just reward scenarios from the micro scenarios (which start with the individual's idea of the just reward) to six new macro scenarios (which start with the distribution of everyone's ideas of the just reward); (2) it expands the set of justice measures from three to four, including now the proportion underrewarded; and (3) it obtains results for all the new cases, identifying the conditions that lead to radically different connections between inequality and justice.

**Sackmann, Reinhold (2020): Sozialer Zusammenhalt bei Pandemien. Eine vergleichende Topic-Modell-Analyse zu SARS und COVID-19 [Social Cohesion during Pandemics. A Comparative Topic-Model Analysis of SARS and COVID-19]. In: Nicole Deitelhoff, Olaf Groh-Samberg und Matthias Middell (Hg.): Gesellschaftlicher Zusammenhalt. Frankfurt (Main): Campus, S. 349–375.**

## AWARDS

Guillermina Jasso was recently appointed as a DIW Fellow at the German Institute for Economic Research (DIW Berlin). DIW Berlin is a center of excellence in research and an economic policy think tank.

## MISCELLANEOUS

"Quantification is not only a way to describe the world but also a tool of power able to transform it!" Interview with Emmanuel Didier, Walter Bartl (Hypotheses). <https://conventions.hypotheses.org/11917> .

## BOARD 2018-2022

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