I.   Introduction

In this edition of the RC03 newsletter we include the call for abstracts for the upcoming XVIII World Congress of Sociology which will be held in Yokohama, Japan, July 13-19, 2014.

In keeping with the themes of the XVIII World Congress of Sociology, RC03 program focuses on the relationship between inequality and communities – political, economic, urban, rural, etc. – in an increasingly interdependent and globalizing world. Along with the Regular Sessions, the program has two Joint Sessions.

The deadline for submitting an abstract is September 30, 2013. The online submission system is now open.

For general questions regarding RC03 sessions for the upcoming 2014 World Congress of Sociology, please contact the Program Coordinators:

Rachel Harvey, Columbia University, USA
rmh2148@columbia.edu

Clemente Navarro, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain
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II.   Call for Abstracts – XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology

Boom and Bust: The Community before, during, and after Economic Prosperity

Joint session of RC02 Economy and Society and RC03 [host committee]

Session Organizer:
Sam Hillyard, Durham University, United Kingdom, sam.hillyard@durham.ac.uk

Session in English

The session explores the impact of economic prosperity upon communities. Communities can benefit from the prosperity local resources afford them, but the rewards can be highly transitory.

The session invites papers bringing new empirical insight into our understanding of the processes of change before, during and after "booms."

Local resource is broadly conceived (mining, tourism, etc.). The notion of community is neither restricted to a physical nor geographic locale, but could be occupationally-defined, urban or activity-based. The notion of prosperity is also relative, and the session welcomes papers exploring small initiatives and examples of entrepreneurialism as well as globally-driven investment by established corporations and elites. Empirically, are there principles of best practices that can inform our approaches and what cumulative lessons might be learned? Theoretically, which models provide best insight across these micro, meso and macro events?

All papers engaging with one or more of these themes are welcome.

Communities in Transition

Session Organizer:
Johan Zaaiman, North-West University, South Africa, johan.zaaiman@nwu.ac.za

Session in English

Communities are continuously challenged by a changing world. Within an increasing interdependent and globalized world they are pressed into a process of continuous change. Communities differ in their response strategies. Some restructure themselves, others transform themselves, others resist the changes, and still others find themselves marginalized and unable to cope positively with the changes.

This session explores the challenges this transition poses to communities, as well as their impact on communities and the strategies communities utilize to handle them.

Papers are welcomed which explore these issues through comparative and/or case studies thereby elucidating the unique and the common factors found in communities in transition.

Community Size and Transnational Immigration

Session Organizer:
Hans Geser, University of Zurich, Switzerland, geser@soziologie.uzh.ch

Session in English

Due to many factors like increased streams of asylum-seekers, liberalized migration laws and extensive academic exchanges, globalization promotes many forms of transnational migration that affect larger cities as well as more thinly populated areas and smaller municipal units.

This session aims to highlight the role of community/city size as an intervening variable conditioning:

- the social status and cultural background of incoming new residents;
- the residential patterns resulting from their immigration
- the chances of informal integration and assimilation: e.g. due to specificities of local social climate and culture;
- the role of voluntary associations in catalyzing or blocking social integration;
- the coping strategies chosen by municipal governments in order to deal with various consequences caused by immigration;
- changes in the relationship of municipalities to supralocal organizations and institutions (e.g. due to an increased impact of NGO`s or national administration).

The session should provide a forum for presenting studies that focus on communal-municipal size as a major comparative dimension.

Culture, Arts and Politics

Session Organizers:
Terry Nichols Clark, University of Chicago, USA, tnclark@uchicago.edu
Daniel Silver, University of Toronto,Canada, dsilver@utsc.utoronto.ca
Marta Klekotko, Uniwersytet Jagiellonski, Poland, marta.klekotko@uj.edu.pl

There has been much debate about "culture wars," "cultural politics," and "culture matters." However, despite significant interest by policy makers and the general public in cultural impacts on economic growth and of democratic institutions, there has been little research by social scientists. This is especially true of possible impacts of arts upon political processes. Linking arts to politics might help to explain significant variance in political phenomena, which remains unexplained by "traditional" variables. Scattered evidence suggests that the arts may increase political awareness, affect voting and civic participation, and influence social capital and community development. This session asks: how much can we show systematically about how and where the arts matter politically. Can we find specific links between the arts and various political phenomena such as voting, civic participation, governance structures, social movements and political empowerment? We invite international scholars to address these problems in various community (rural, urban, neighborhood) contexts around the world.

Development and Inequality in Post-Socialist Countries: Comparative Perspectives

Joint session of RC03 [host committee] and RC09 Social Transformations and Sociology of Development

Session Organizers:
Nina Bandelj, University of California-Irvine, USA, nbandelj@uci.edu

Cheris Shun-ching Chan, University of Hong Kong, China, cherisch@hku.hk

Session in English

This session invites submissions that examine the intersection of globalization, economic development, and social outcomes in post-socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, Eurasia and China. Rather than limiting inequalities to economic terms, this session calls for works that study any forms of inequalities, such as unequal access to political power, healthcare, housing, education, cultural capital, and social capital, etc.

The former communist countries of Eastern Europe and Eurasia were sharply buffeted by the global economic crisis and prolonged difficulties on the European continent. The way forward in this region seems complicated since the massive transformations of the prior two dozen of years had left more or less skeletons in post-socialist closets. It is easily forgotten that the institutionalization of democracy and the market took many decades, at a minimum, in other parts of the world. How has the global economic crisis intervened into these post-socialist developments?

In many countries, the crisis has brought a time of recession, high unemployment, and soaring sovereign debt, with governance marred by non-transparency and informality. In some cases, restive publics began to register support for populist and radical parties; in others, they staged protest against current governments. Scholars have even questioned the legitimacy of the economic and political models that East European countries had followed since 1989.

Some countries have shown more resistance and have weathered the crisis better than others. China is often cited as a case to illustrate a divergent path, and yet there are tremendous challenges and difficulties that China is experiencing. Social distrust is intensifying and social unrest is mounting under the surface of

an ever stronger economy. Does the Chinese society experience something in common with the European and Eurasian societies? What are they and why is that so? We welcome papers that explore any of these topics, employing a cross-national framework to interrogate the divergences and similarities across the region, and between the post-socialist countries and the rest of the world. We welcome quantitative cross-national analyses, qualitative case study comparisons, or multi-method designs.

Embracing Globalization in the Design of Urban Outcomes: Implications for Equity, Spatial Form, and Sustainability

Session Organizer:
Herman L. Boschken, San Jose State University, USA, herman.boschken@sjsu.edu

Session in English

Contemporary globalization has fostered substantial and enduring impacts everywhere in the world and at multiple levels of human and ecological systems. But, perhaps the greatest of these impacts can be found in those urban habitats most directly connected to globalization's economic, cultural and migratory flows. Whether speaking of world economic transformations, growing inequalities ranging from wealth to health, or encroaching urban metabolic footprints on ecological systems, the forces of globalization are putting each of these dimensions on a collision course with the others.

From an urban perspective, what roles do public policymakers have in promoting outcomes that avoid such collision? As the crossroads of globalization, do global/world cities act as incubators for innovative policy solutions to any or all of these three dimensions?

Are breakthroughs occurring through interurban policy transfers or scaling-up urban innovations to a regional or national level? Can policy fragmentation be made consistent with the realities of systemic interdependencies? This session seeks papers which shed light on how their particular discipline contributes to answering these and related questions, and to a multiple-perspectives integration of this research area.

Global Countrysides and Hinterlands: Rural Communities in an Era of Globalization

Session Organizers:
Matthew Sanderson, Kansas State University, USA, mattrs@ksu.edu
Rachel Harvey, Columbia University, USA, rmh2148@columbia.edu

Session in English

Scholarship on the relationship between communities and global social change largely focuses on urban areas. In contrast, rural areas and peoples are often treated as either entirely detached, or as undergoing gradual processes of disengagement from global circuits and spheres.

Many rural communities in the Global North and Global South certainly have experienced long-term processes of de-population and agricultural restructuring, which have decreased their size and influence relative to urban areas. Yet, recent work on "global ruralities" challenges the urban bias of much globalization research by encouraging attention to the myriad ways rural peoples and places are new and (re-)emerging frontier zones for global actors, institutions, and processes.

Drawing on this growing body of scholarship, the session invites submissions exploring how, and to what extent, rural communities produce, and are made by, globalization. All methodologies, theoretical orientations, and

areas of attention (in the Global North and/or Global South) are welcome.

Papers that employ comparative theoretical frameworks and/or methodologies are especially encouraged.

Global Gentrification: Diversity, Inequality, and Spatial Justice

Session Organizer:
Yue ZHANG, University of Illinois at Chicago, USA, yuezhang@uic.edu

Gentrification, a process through which the economically disadvantaged in a community are displaced, is being identified in a broad range of communities throughout the world. Globalization contributes to gentrification as it accelerates the economic and spatial changes of the rural and the urban areas, promotes the flow of domestic and transnational migrants, and creates venues for the government to implement large-scale spatial restructuring projects. In the community areas of both the Global North and the Global South, gentrification has become an increasingly complex and multi-dimensional process that involves a variety of domestic and international actors.

This session welcomes papers that either offer a comparative approach or examine single case studies on this topic. Examples of questions that papers might consider include:

- Are new forms of gentrification emerging in the context of globalization?
- How do global events affect the social, economic, and cultural makeup of communities?
- What are the patterns of political and social interactions in gentrified communities?
- How does the study of gentrification illuminate our understanding of human conditions and spatial governance?

- And finally, will the process of genuine social mixing occur?

Globalization and the Rise of Cultural Communities

Session Organizer:
Peter Achterberg, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, p.achterberg@fsw.eur.nl

Session in English

The process of globalization can be held responsible for the rise of cultural communities. No matter in what form, no matter in which social venue, like-minded people gather in online and offline spaces to form cultural communities based on their shared beliefs and ideals. These ideals may be twofold. Some may argue that due to the process of globalization people will develop cultural communities around their shared cosmopolitan ideals. Others may argue that due to the same process, others will erect nationalistic communities in defense of their local, regional or national ideals. Either way, globalization may be linked to the rise of rather coherent and cohesive cultural communities, and perhaps even to the rise of newly emerging conflicts between these two types of cultural communities.

This session invites papers around the theme of globalization and cultural communities. The methodological framework is open – both papers using qualitative and quantitative research methods are very welcome to add to the discussion

International Scenes Studies: Theory and Evidence

Session Organizer:
Di Wu, University of Chinese Academy of

Science, China, diwu@ucas.ac.cn

Session in English

As urban societies around the world have moved into a post-industrial stage of development, analysts recognize the growing salience of amenities and lifestyle, rather than jobs and distance, in explaining modern cities. Scenes, in other words, are now identified as critical elements driving economic development, migration, housing price and the living order. Building on these insights, this session focuses on how Scenes work in cities around the world as well as how the emergence of Scenes Theory affects worldwide urban development. The session will demonstrate that whenever Scenes studies are involved, they entail an interface of many different areas, including regional economics; community research; household analysis; housing supply and markets analysis; and regional government analysis.

High-quality theoretical, empirical, and practical papers presenting state of the art academic and practitioner research from all related disciplines are welcome. Furthermore, experimental comparisons with other approaches are strongly encouraged.

State restructuring processes affect the contents of policies, and the way services are delivered; i.e. the substantive and the procedural dimensions of local welfare systems.

With regard to the first, because policies combine new areas of intervention (i.e. gender equality, dependence, childhood care, etc.) with traditional ones (such as poverty and social exclusion), the current economic crisis has increased the number of people requiring coverage. Changes in the procedural dimension presuppose the development of new configurations of public, private, and associative actors in order to provide municipal welfare services.

Thus, some central questions to be explored are: What new policies and services have been developed in local welfare systems? What actor configurations underlie service delivery? How are these processes affected/explained by municipalities' budget crises? Are there differences according national and intergovernmental systems?

Papers addressing these questions, along with those examining the analytical and methodological challenges involved in studying public policy at the local level, are welcome.

Local Welfare State in a Context of Austerity: Inequalities, Socio-political Process and Service Provision in Municipalities

Session Organizer:
María Jesús Rodriguez Garcia, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain, mjrodgar@upo.es

Session in English

This session examines the socio-political dynamics underlying local welfare systems, and in particular, changes occurring in a context of municipalities' budget crises and a general process of welfare state retrenchment. Welfare

Social Network Resources and Community Inequalities: Global and Multilevel Perspectives

Session Organizer:
Mito Akiyoshi, Senshu University, Japan, mito.akiyoshi@gmail.com

Session in English

This session looks into theoretical and empirical issues surrounding the deployment of social network resources by communities in an increasingly globalizing world. Institutions such as governments, NGOs, and corporations have

undergone phenomenal changes in the past thirty years generating and responding to global challenges. How do social network processes affect the operation of globalizing institutions?

This session invites contributions that advance our understanding of the role of social networks in the transformation of various forms of inequality in the context of globalization. Possible exploratory questions include but are not limited to:

- What kind of social network resources are communities endowed with to deal with new and old forms of inequality?
- Do some communities actively cultivate social network resources to enhance their position in the global marketplace?
- What are the consequences of the growing use of global social network resources to address local concerns?

III.   FAUI and Scenes Sources 2013

As part of the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation (FAUI) Project, collaborators in 35 countries have collected surveys of mayors and often council members and administrators using the same core items for over 10,000 local governments. Surveys include a range of items widely used in local politics literatures, such as group activity of some 20 types of groups, responsiveness to each group, policy preferences of the mayor and council and citizens as assessed by the mayor and council members, relative emphasis on a list of some 31 policy strategies (contracting out, subsidizing various groups, raising taxes, fees, across the board cutbacks, etc.--of the sort being discussed at the national level in the Eurozone about 2010-13), and more. Surveys were conducted from the 1980s to present, sometimes in up to five waves. They are generally merged with local socio-economic, fiscal, and other characteristics for analysis. Over 50 books and hundreds of papers use the data, books and

survey questionnaires listed at www.faui.org.   In recent years we have added data on neighborhoods, amenities, and scenes. We have pooled files that join international FAUI and Scenes data. To access the raw data, contact Terry Clark tnclark@uchicgo.edu or Clemente Jesus Navarro Yanez <cnavyan@upo.es>.

For more:

Antonia Maria Ramirez, Clemente J. Navarro, Terry Nichols Clark, "Mayors and Local Governing Coalitions in Democratic Countries: A Cross-National Comparison." *Local Government Studies,* 34, 2, 147-178, April 2008.
Download free:
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Terry Nichols Clark, Old and New Paradigms for Urban Research: Globalization and the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, "Featured Essay: Old and New Paradigms for Urban Research" in *Urban Affairs Review, Vol 36, No. 1,* September 2000, pp. 3- 45.
https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/5559963/Old.NewParadigmsUAR.Featured%20Essay.pdf

"The International Mayor," summarizes key FAUI survey items from about 20 countries in Terry Nichols Clark editor, *The City as an Entertainment Machine*, *Research in Urban Policy*, Vol. 9, Oxford: JAI/Elsevier. 2004, 327 pp.
A full copy of the (non-copyedited) MS can be downloaded free from:
https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/5559963/clark.CityasEntertainmentMachineBK.zip

T.N. Clark and Vincent Hoffmann-Martinot, eds., *The New Political Culture*. Boulder: Westview, 1998. Adapted and with new chapters on other countries added in versions published in Spanish, French, Korean, Japanese,

Chinese. Spanish and French proofs
Free download (search in folder icon in left sidebar): http://faui.uchicago.edu/archive.html

Step by step explanations of scenes construction and results of the Spanish project on scenes website in English and Spanish:
http://proyectoscspl.nubeando.com/en

Clemente J. Navarro, ed*., Las dimensiones culturales de la ciudad*. Madrid: Los libros de la catarata, 2012. 206 pp.
http://www.catarata.org/libro/mostrar/id/765

"Scenes: Social Context in an Age of Contingency," with Daniel Silver and Clemente J. Navarro. *Social Forces,* July 2010, Vol. 88, No. 5, pp. 2293-2324.
Free download:
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Clemente J. Navarro and Terry N. Clark, "Cultural Policy In European Cities: The cultural agenda of mayors" (REUS-2011-0062) (2012), *European Societies,*
DOI:10.1080/14616696.2012.726369.
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https://dl.dropboxusercontent.com/u/5559963/CulPolicy.EurSoc.2012_Navarro_and_Clark_EUSR.pdf

Clemente J. Navarro and Terry N. Clark, "Culturas políticas locales. alcaldes y nueva Cultura política en perspectiva comparada." *Revista de ciencia política,* volume 29 / no 3 / 2009 / pp. 799 – 813.

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On the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project: www.faui.org

On Scenes: http://www.tnc-newsletter.blogspot.com/ and scenes.uchicago.edu

IV. Background on RC03

The RC03 was launched at the Evian World Congress in 1966. We were initially a Working Group under the Committee on Political Sociology of Seymour Martin Lipset and Stein Rokkan. In 1969 we became an autonomous Research Committee, with Terry Clark as President and Ken Newton as Secretary. World Congresses every four years joined larger sets of us from more countries, but from near the beginning we met between the World Congresses on a more geographically limited basis, such as at the American Sociological Association (within which we founded a few years after RC03 the ASA Section on Community, currently Urban and Community). At the ISA World Congress in Mexico City in 1982, Harald Baldersheim suggested that some of us join in a common research enterprise. This led to the Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation Project, which continues actively. The Scenes Network extends these activities.