

# Futures Research Newsletter

Vol. 22

2008

**Research Committee 07**  
**International Sociological Association**

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## Editor's Note

Dear Readers:

This is the 22<sup>nd</sup> issue of the newsletter. It includes some interesting pieces on the world economy, gender issues, sociology in South Africa and globalization. Markus Schulz presents the detailed programme of RC07 for the forthcoming ISA Forum in Barcelona. We can all look forward to meeting once again after our last World Congress two years ago in Durban. As usual, members are invited to contribute items to the newsletter, and your comments and suggestions are always welcome.

**Radhamany Sooryamoorthy**

## President's Message

Dear Colleagues:

The International Sociological Association Research Committee Futures Research (ISARC 07) presents an exciting program for the First ISA Forum of Sociology, to be held in Barcelona, September 5-8, 2008. The sessions are convened under the title "*Debating Futures: Global Trends, Alternative Visions, Public Discourse and the New Tasks of Social Research.*" The program is meant to provide an integrative platform for discussing the challenges of our globalizing world and the contributions of scholarly research to the wider public debates about the (more or less contested) making of (alternative) futures. A broad range of sessions explores current political, economic and cultural trends, the agency of social movements and elites, the role of media, technology, values and symbols. Other sessions provide opportunities to concentrate on conceptual issues and the role of academic research in a changing environment. The enthusiastic response to the Call for Papers promises a fruitful encounter. The contributors come from dozens of different countries on all five continents and employ a broad spectrum of methodological and theoretical approaches, often across disciplines. The Local Organizing Committee led by Arturo Rodríguez Morató and the Spanish and Catalan Sociological Associations have been working hard on the preparations. Thank you all for your contributions! Enjoy the conference!

**Markus S. Schulz**

*President, ISA-RC07 Futures Research  
Programme Coordinator, (isarc07@gmail.com)*

## The Current State of South African Sociology and Future Implications

**Mokong S. Mapadimeng**

*University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa  
President, South African Sociological Association*

Sociology as a social scientific discipline is no new to debate, especially amongst sociologists themselves, and this has also been so in South Africa. The central concern in this debate is an attempt to establish an understanding of the outlook and role of SA sociology, its state at different historical points, its historical evolution and most importantly its future role and position in the post-apartheid period. In last 13 years of the democratic dispensation in SA, this debate has increased in intensity with the last-mentioned concern being the main preoccupation. While it has found expression mainly through the forum provided by the South African Sociological Association (SASA) and in its journal formerly *Society in Transition* (now renamed *South African Review of Sociology*) in which keynote addresses on this topic have been published, other contributions have appeared in the journals of the International Sociological Association (ISA) to which SASA is an affiliate, and especially in its journal *Current Sociology*.

In this article, I provide a review of this debate that synthesises key views held on SA sociology. This is done with a view to the current state of SA sociology is, its role

and challenges, as well as its future prospects as a discipline. The review also draws on empirical evidence from the recent SASA's survey of departments of sociology in SA universities. The article starts with a synopsis of the debate and an examination of the empirical survey data and then proceeds to outline observations made from the review. On the basis of these, some concluding remarks are made on the role, challenges and future prospects of sociology in post-apartheid, democratic South Africa.

### A Review of the Debate on SA Sociology

The debate on SA sociology takes into account the history of sociology as a discipline and field of study and practice whereby it is traced back to the early twentieth century period. As Burawoy (2004) and Webster (2004) point out, during this period, sociology formulated part of the social work programmes with its main preoccupation being contribution to social administration and social policy. In the 1950s and 1960s, the discipline underwent changes becoming professionalized and autonomous from

social work (Burawoy, 2004; Uys, 2004; Webster, 2004). What was promising to become an independent vibrant discipline however became bedevilled by racial and ethnic divisions under apartheid. This saw sociology growing as a divided discipline in different universities taking different directions in terms of its role and interventions in the society (Webster, 2004).

Racial divisions manifested themselves at the organisational level when the South African Sociological Association (SASOV) was created as an exclusively white-only sociological body for largely Afrikaans-speaking universities. This was later to be challenged through the establishment of a much more liberal, non-racial counter body in the form of the Association of Sociology in Southern Africa (ASSA) which openly opposed apartheid (Uys, 2004; Webster, 2004). The two associations were later merged to form the present-day South African Sociological Association (SASA) in 1993 in order to appropriately locate the community of sociologists in the post-apartheid democratic SA and to ensure that it would play a constructive role in the advancement of a democratic system. In the late 1970s, sociology developed into a critical, vibrant discipline with New Left thinking influences which began, particularly through the ASSA congresses, to engage critically with the society's problems of racial inequality and racial domination. This was followed in the 1980s by sociologists' engagement with these issues through "dialogue with social movements struggling against apartheid" (Webster, 2004: 30).

This historical evolution of sociology in SA up to the 1990s, Webster (2004) argues reflects Burawoy (2004)'s four sociologies i.e. professional, policy, public and critical sociology. Professional sociology is, according to Burawoy (2004), practised mainly in universities with the aim of generating "abstract knowledge, seeking scientific legitimacy, accountable to a community of peers," while policy sociology is concerned "with concrete knowledge, legitimated by its effectiveness, and accountable to a client..." (p. 19). This, he argues, contrasts with critical sociology as the latter "rests on foundational knowledge, rooted in moral vision accountable to a community of intellectuals." Public sociology on the other hand is considered by Burawoy as being dialogic and "relevant to the public to which it is answerable" (p. 19). Beyond these differences, he sees all four types as dependent on each other.

Another dimension to the debate on SA sociology was an attempt to understand the nature of the discipline and the challenges it is facing. As far as the former aspect is concerned, Burawoy's (2004) model and contributions from SA sociologists help in clearly defining sociology and its role. For Tina Uys (2004:3 and 9), the discipline is defined by "its sociological imagination, its emphasis on unmasking deceptions and illusions and its commitment to improving the world we live in," and its association with "social intervention and social action." This view reinforces Burawoy's (2004) mutually dependent four sociologies and is shared by Chachage (2004), according to whom, sociology should continue on its rich

tradition of being primarily concerned with seeking to generate a body of knowledge around contemporary and relevant social problems and social movements which have always been critical to the stimulation of sociological imagination. Hence in Chachage's view "our sociological knowledge will have to reflect the social conditions of struggles through which men and women simultaneously transform their circumstances and themselves" (2004: 60).

Amongst the challenges facing sociology in SA today are those of institutional nature. Webster (2004) noted significant change in the institutional landscape and context in which sociology is practised in SA due mainly to an over-emphasis on the need to become globally competitive. Notable institutional changes are:

1. The strengthening of policy research through transformation of and increased support for the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) which conducts policy research.
2. The creation of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) with the main aim of developing vocationally oriented educational system.
3. The creation of the National Research Foundation (NRF) for a single science funding system as well as to promote inter-disciplinarity.
4. The trend towards commercialisation of universities whereby the emphasis is on producing graduates with marketable skills, thus seeing students as clients (Uys, 2004; Webster, 2004). While these present opportunities,

according to Uys (2004) and Webster (2004), they also pose some serious threats which could see a move away from public sociology towards more professional sociology whose emphasis is on publishing in professional journals. These changes impose pressures that could see a balance between different sociologies and their complementary roles being lost. They also could have a negative impact in terms of inhibiting creativity and innovations in sociology.

Other challenges and constraints facing sociology in SA emerged from the survey conducted in 2003 in 15 South African universities. From this survey, Uys (2004) noted from this survey a number of challenges to the discipline racial (white dominance) and gender (male dominance) imbalances in terms of levels of seniority and numbers; inequalities between the historically black and white universities in terms of research activities and publications output; heavy teaching loads as well as heavy reliance on text books produced in the West and poor teaching staff to student ratio of as much as 1:71.

Notwithstanding these constraints and challenges, Uys (2004) optimistically argues that SA sociology is responding creatively to the local challenges and problems. She maintains that it is ideally suited "to make reasoned judgements and engage in actions aimed at promoting the well-being of human beings" while not abandoning analytical knowledge (episteme) and technical know-how (techne) (p. 9).

The findings of the recent 2007 survey of SA sociology departments conducted by SASA presents a picture that both supports and challenges this optimistic assertion by Uys. The findings show a significant improvement in the number of students enrolled for sociology during the 2003-4 academic year, which has more than tripled to 22,968 undergraduates and 1,364 postgraduates in the 2007-8 academic year. While increases in students numbers may augur well for the future capacity, there is however a downside. Staff-student ratios are still unimpressive. South African universities have a total of 170 full-time staff members and 11 part-time staff members working out to a staff-student ratio of 1: 143.

This implies low capacity for both teaching and supervision, especially in view of the increased numbers in postgraduate students. Staff are still heavily loaded with teaching and supervision leading to a compromise not only in quality but also imposing constraints on ability and time to conduct research and publish. The implications are negative for the development of a strong professional sociology needed for effective critical, public and policy sociologies. This may explain the survey's findings that staff complained that this had led to high staff turnover, especially amongst black academics who are in huge demand both in the private and government sectors. The latter sectors, unlike the academic sector, pay competitive salaries with attractive fringe benefits.

The above scenario is even graver within the historically black universities (HBU). Although staff-student ratios in

both the HBUs and the historically white universities (HWUs) are more or less similar, the difference however lies in the fact that while most of the HBUs have not more than 4 staff members, most of the HWUs have no less than 13 staff members each. The HWUs thus have relatively larger communities of scholars creating a vibrant, dynamic and competitive intellectual environment conducive to numerous intellectually challenging and exciting activities such as staff and students seminar series, resulting in higher research outputs. Another advantage for the HWUs is that amongst their staff, there are several senior/full professors who provide intellectual and academic leadership.

The implications for the development of sociology to not only ensure that racial equity is achieved but also that diversity of sociological perspectives and voices that reflect the socially and culturally diverse nature of the SA society in the knowledge development endeavours are serious and negative. The current low research productivity, especially in the HBUs, could be worsened by poor conditions of service within the universities. This has already seen university-based sociologies, pressured by institutional factors such as corporatisation of higher education and reduced funding, and financial factors, opting to spend more time on commissioned policy-type research funded and owned by the state and the private sector, dealing a blow to production of scholarly research meant for advancement of sociological knowledge needed for development of other sociologies i.e. public, policy and critical (Alexander and Makhura, 2006).

## Conclusion

The above review suggests that the future of sociology rests on striking a balance between the four types of sociologies so that they are mutually enriching. Evidence from the review suggests that the post-apartheid era has ushered in a much more autonomous sociology with a unified sociological community around SASA. However, the era has also presented opportunities for the growth of sociology as a discipline to strike a balance between different sociologies as well as challenges that could stifle the achievement of this balance, possibly resulting in continued historical divisions.

Opportunities suggesting great prospects for SA sociology lie in the increase in student numbers that could bolster future capacity for the ailing situation of only 170 full-time academics. This is however offset by poor staff-student ratios and heavy teaching and supervision loads that present a challenge to high quality. Also of concern are disparities between the HWUs and the HBUs which presents a challenge to the development

of a strong sociology in the HBUs as well as in the entire country on a par with the diverse nature of SA society and with relevance to addressing a wide range of complex social realities and problems.

## Note

An expanded version of this paper will be presented at the ISA's Conference of the Council for National Associations, March 23-25, 2009, Taipei, Taiwan.

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## Subprime and the World Economy

**Jan Nederveen Pieterse**

*University of Illinois, USA*

Foreign credit has been entering the US via Treasury bills, bonds and other credit instruments at \$3 billion per trading day

(2007). This inflow enabled the Federal Reserve to keep interest rates low, at one percent in 2003-4. Low interest rates fuel

the American economy in two major ways. Firstly, cheap credit enables firms' leveraged buyouts and mergers and acquisitions, in turn, prop up the stocks of the firms buying and bought and the middling banks. The Dow Jones rose above 13,000 in 2006. Secondly, low interest rates made mortgages cheap and larger mortgages fuelled a housing bubble. Rising real estate values, mortgage refinancing and easy credit boosted consumer spending. American consumer spending, in turn, kept the world economy spinning and Asian exports and Asian vendor financing going. This charmed circle has kept the world economy in thrall.

The subprime mortgage sector was the latest extension of the easy credit bubble, the latest extension of funneling credit through the consumer grid, on terms that might be viable if the housing market continued its rise, but since it is the last and lowest segment of the money pyramid this was unlikely from the start.

Subprime mortgages grew massively during this period. Adjustable rate mortgages (ARM) represented 40 percent of mortgages during 2004-5 (at \$390 billion). Most of these were due to reset beginning in 2007 (involving \$1 trillion). The subprime default rate was 10 percent already in 2006. The subprime market in the US is 20 percent of mortgages (in the UK the subprime market is 8 percent). The loans were sold to banks who securitized them as bonds (\$800 billion in 2007) and derivatives and resold them in structured loans and collateralized debt obligations (incurring

a loss of 40 percent in 2007). In late 2006 the housing market began to slow and 2007 brought "payback time." The collapse of subprime mortgage lending prompted a wider credit crunch.

At the root of the subprime problem was easy credit: lenders and their brokers were often rewarded for generating new mortgages on the basis of volume, without being directly exposed to the consequences of borrowers defaulting. During several years of strong capital markets and strong investor appetite for high-yielding securities, lenders became accustomed to easily selling the risky home loans to Wall Street banks. The banks in turn packaged them into securities and sold them to investors around the globe (Masters and Scholtes, 2007).

Brokers who earned higher commissions on subprime mortgages offered them also to borrowers who qualify for normal fixed rate mortgages. Automated underwriting software, a technique that was first developed in the 1970s to process car loans and credit card applications, was used to generate as much as 40 percent of subprime loans. A leader in the subprime mortgage market, New Century Financial, on the brink of bankruptcy in 2007, "promised mortgage brokers on its website that with its FastQual automated underwriting system, "We'll give you loan answers in just 12 seconds!" (Browning, 2007).

Speculative home buying by "flippers" who borrow money or leverage their own homes with double mortgages to buy properties, make some



improvements and then expect to sell them quickly, joined the pyramid scheme, again on the premise of ongoing expansion. False advertising and nonfunctioning credit rating agencies compounded the situation. The collapse of the subprime sector is a symptom of a wider problem: "The real issue has been the excess liquidity created by the central banks through a decade of ever-more ambitious crisis management. The risks created by those 'solutions' were not identified, let alone measured, by their econometric models" (Dizard, 2007: 8).

Facilitating the real estate bubble was securitization or mortgages bundled in credit packages and derivatives sold to other banks. The vanishing boundary between banking and non-bank forms of finance facilitated sprawling derivatives, hedge funds and Quantitative Investment, supported by insurance companies and pension funds. Hedge funds became larger players than banks though their risks were partly underwritten by banks through arcane methods of splicing debt.

The current crisis resembles the savings and loan crisis of the early nineties, Japan's real estate bubble bursting and the Asian crisis of 1997-8. Long term finance provided on short term conditions is vulnerable to short term market fluctuations, as in Thailand's "hot money" crisis. In this financial crush, however, "Emerging market debt is the new safe haven" (*Financial Times*, 29 August 2007). For a change, emerging markets have been unaffected because, having learnt from the Asian crisis, they built cash buffers.

Sovereign wealth funds in Singapore, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and other places now emerge as new sources of stable liquidity.

US consumption accounts for at least 20 percent of world consumption (Wade, 2007). The chilling of the American housing market since the end of 2006 has withdrawn \$800 billion from consumer spending. American retail sales such as Wal-Mart and Home Depot were down in 2007. A cycle is ending. The world economy is decoupling from American consumer spending and is slowly shifting gear to demand in China, India and Asia. This means a rerouting of financial flows with Shanghai and Hong Kong coming to the fore as financial centers. High petrol prices create surplus liquidity in oil exporting countries with the United Arab Emirates as a financial hub. The Borse Dubai and Qatar together bought a 48 percent share of the London Stock Exchange in September 2007. Financial centers from London to the Netherlands vie to attract Islamic banking. For some time the headlines have been changing: "Overseas investors lose taste for U.S. securities." "Gulf liquidity offers glimmer of hope for subprime relief" (Bater, 2007; Tett, 2007). The decoupling of the world economy from American consumers holds momentous ramifications.

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## Women's Studies, Interdisciplinarity and Diversity in a Globalizing Academy

**Manisha Desai**

*Director Women's Studies Program*

*Past President, Sociologists For Women in Society*

*University of Connecticut, USA*

As my term as President of SWS comes to an end, I have transitioned to a new position as the Director of the Women's Studies Program at the University of Connecticut (U of C). This is the first time in 18 years in the academy that my position is shaped from the "inside" of a Women's Studies Program. Hence, I am writing this final President's message from this new vantage point. While I have been in this position for only a matter of months, I am struck by some of the issues that have changed since I first started teaching and interacting with Women's Studies Programs from a structural position "outside," as a sociology faculty member. Among the things that have changed are the number of programs that grant a Masters and Ph.D in Women's Studies.<sup>1</sup> We are conducting two searches right now and almost a third of our pool have an interdisciplinary Ph.D degree either in Women's Studies or in other programs. What has also changed is the number of

Women's Studies Programs that have tenure rights. While obtaining this status is one of my priorities for our program at U of C, I have taught where they did have such rights, at the University of Illinois. What has also changed is the increasing focus on interdisciplinarity and working with race and ethnic studies programs, such as African-American, Latina-American Studies, Asian-American Studies, and Native American Studies. It is the interrelationships between Women's Studies and other interdisciplinary programs that I want to address in this message.

While in principle we all value this interchange among women's and ethnic studies and similar programs, in practice what does this interchange mean? I want to suggest that this interaction needs to be more substantive than, for example, co-sponsoring events or sitting on each other's boards. It should mean developing ongoing curricular, research, and public engagement dialogues that speak to each other's concerns and result

in collective endeavors. To begin such conversations, I want to recommend the model of the Inter-Movement Dialogue, a session that I witnessed at the World Social Forum (WSF).<sup>2</sup> While the model did not realize its potential at the WSF, it still offers an apt prototype for such conversations in the academy.

Organized by feminist networks from India, Latin American and African countries, and the US, the aim of the Inter-Movement Dialogue was to invite representatives of the women's movements, the labour movements, race and ethnic movements, and the gay and lesbian movements to discuss how each movement had incorporated the insights of the other into their own work and the limitations and challenges of their own movement *vis-à-vis* the other. Each movement representative then also had a chance to respond to the other movements' presentations. This Inter-Movement Dialogue was held for the first time at the WSF in Mumbai in 2004 and then again at the WSF in 2005 in Porto Alegre in Brazil.

I attended both those sessions and felt they did not fulfill their constructive promise. Apart from the multiple issues of representation—such as which particular movement from across a wide spectrum of each of these movements to include to which countries to privilege—what was problematic was that each representative spoke about their own movement without addressing the issue of if and how they had incorporated the insights of the other movements. So the main problem was the inability of movement representatives to listen to

the organizers' request and then to listen to the other movements' representatives: everyone was speaking in the same space but they were not listening or engaging each other. Moreover, with a couple of exceptions, the representatives of each movement and the audience were all women. While the conditions at the WSF were not ideal for such a dialogue, the model offers possibilities for such a dialogue on campus.

I was awarded a grant from the Office of Multicultural and International Affairs on campus, which houses the Women's Studies and Race and Ethnic programs at U of C, to do such collaborative work on campus and we will begin the first of three such dialogues in the Spring. Our hope is that such a dialogue among the African American, Asian American, Caribbean and Latin American Studies, India Studies, Puerto Rican and Latino Studies, and Women's Studies will enable us to put our interdisciplinary perspectives and transversal politics into action.

But in the process of thinking about such a dialogue across interdisciplinary, diversity programs we were also confronted with the challenge of addressing the new 'globalization' agenda on our campus. Global or International is the new diversity or multiculturalism on all of our campuses. And we have all seen how it is much easier to put resources into new programs than to address continuing inequalities. While I do not want to create a new binary between diversity at home and in the world, as both inform each other, at a pragmatic level I am

concerned about a shift in commitment, and therefore resources, from hiring and recruiting students and faculty of color from the US to students and faculty of color from outside the US, and a similar shift in emphasis in the curriculum and research agendas. As someone who straddles both divides I have advocated a two-track agenda. At the intellectual and curricular level, we need a transnational perspective that both provincializes race and gender inequalities in the US at the same time that it recognizes its hegemony in the world. At the pragmatic level we need to continue hiring and recruiting students and faculty of color from the US even as we make commitments to students and faculty of color from outside the US. In times of budget cuts such multiple commitments are hard to articulate much less to enforce. But that is the only ethical position both intellectually and politically. I am pleased that SWS has shown how both of these can be

achieved through its commitments to the International Committee and the Sister to Sister Committee.

## Notes

This note has appeared previously as a President's Message in the Sociologists for Women in Society's Newsletter.

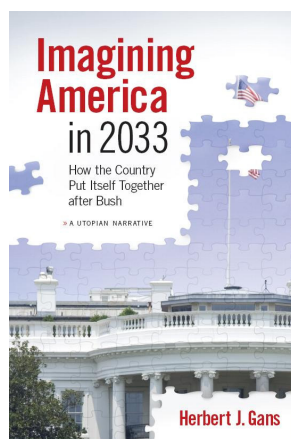
1. Chris Bose's last President's message, Network News Winter 2006, addressed one aspect of this growing student body and examined what Women's Studies graduates were doing.
2. The World Social Forum first met in 2001 in Brazil as a gathering of movements, NGOs, and party-based and -affiliated groups who were opposed to neoliberal globalization ([www.worldsocialforum.org](http://www.worldsocialforum.org)). They modeled themselves in opposition to the World Economic Forum which is an exclusive event that brings together world leaders to chart the course of globalization. Since 2001, the WSF has met annually until 2005. There were regional Forums in 2006 and another World Social Forum in 2007 in Nairobi.

*Forthcoming soon*

*Imagining America in 2033:  
How the Country Put Itself Together After Bush*

**Herbert J. Gans** (*Columbia University*) introduces his new forthcoming book:

My new book, published by the University of Michigan Press in July 2008, is "a utopian narrative." It is written as a



history of the first third of the 21st century, with major emphasis on the years 2012-33. The book describes the policies and political processes by which America overcame the economic, military and other disasters of the century's first decade and began to turn into a more democratic, egalitarian, peaceful and humane society.

In an era of pervasive pessimism, I have tried to depict a more hopeful tomorrow: a "realistic utopia." The book reports the imagined administrations of three future Democratic presidents and one Republican, the major new domestic and foreign policies they pursue and the political battles they have to fight. Although I focus mainly on the decisions these politicians make, I also analyze the global and other forces that are driving their decisions and that move the country toward a 21st century welfare state.

Individual chapters report on policies that create jobs and a living wage for all; prevent unnecessary wars, slow down global warming, and move the country closer toward economic racial, gender and religious equality. Other chapters deal with family policies, the creation of affordable housing and energy saving communities, schools that offer effectively relevant educations, and a variety of strategies, including the emergence of citizen lobbies to counter the efforts of corporate ones, as well as an amended constitution to make America a more truly representative democracy.

I do not propose to be merely hopeful. Instead, I argue that global economic and other forces will drive the

country in the directions I imagine. These forces will continue to reduce the incomes of many Americans even as energy and other prices rise. As a result, the retail economy on which the health of the overall US economy rests can only survive if government creates better jobs, in part by complementing and even replacing services now supplied by profit-making firms. Indeed, the big retailers and the industries that depend on them are likely to join voting consumers to lobby the government to toward such policies. In effect, they will lean on the politicians to create a 21st century welfare state.

Although the book is an imagined history, much of its analysis rests on concepts and insights from sociology and related policy oriented social sciences. Although I write about a possible future, I do not seek to predict it. Instead, the book's method is to project trends, estimate others and meld these with my conception of a better society.

Drawing on my training and experience as a sociologist and planner, I seek to contribute to public policy analysis, long range planning and futurist scenario building. I hope the result will interest scholars and students (including undergraduates) of public policy and of the specific policy areas mentioned above.

Nonetheless, the book seeks also to appeal to general readers who want a new take on social reform through public policy. It is meant for any reader concerned about the country's immediate and longer term future and more generally, to encourage thinking about possible American futures.

However, readers focused on the present can ignore the years about which I write, imagine the policies and politics of the

book in a contemporary setting and think about them accordingly.

### New Arrival

Umbach, E., *Freedom, Knowledge, Power, Money: A Systems Analysis of Modern Society with the Aim of a Social Ecological Market Economy*, published in German in March 2008: MEDU-Verlag, Dreieich near Frankfurt-on-Main. An English edition is planned.

## Living on the Flat Earth: “Geo-Greenism” and Thomas Friedman’s Transnationality

Timothy W. Luke

*Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, USA*

After the wrong turns taken by the Bush administration from New York to Baghdad to New Orleans, new voices (Nordhaus and Shellenberger, 2007; Gore, 2006; Nye, 2004) are calling for a fresh path to maintain American pre-eminence in an increasingly transnational world. Up against the looming specter of global warming, pundits and politicians are busily competing to articulate this new discursive economy of world-construction, trying to find the one, which casts this revitalized American hegemony on a transnational scale in the greenest possible manner. A trend towards the green *doxa* is building up a new political bloc. Its devotees can be found reading green tracts in outlets from *The Reader’s Digest* to *The Wall Street Journal*. One is the strongest proponents of this position is

Thomas L. Friedman, and his thinking about the environment merits closer consideration.

Friedman’s programs for realizing “actually existing sustainability” through renewed American economic development on “a flat world,” are morphing into a new programme of transnational ecological modernization with its own special ethics for managing the planet for maximum ecological and economic sustainability. After declaring that “The World is Flat” (2005b; 2006b; and, 2007), Friedman has used his *The New York Times* writings to label these ethico-political impulses as “geo-greenism” (Friedman, 2005a: A17). Seeing this doxic stance (Bourdieu, 1998) as a means to renew both American democratic politics and the American

neo-liberal capitalist economy, it becomes his vision for adapting to the new world order out on the hot flat world of "Globalization 3.0." Indeed, Friedman has taken up this notion of the "geo-green," and spun it up into another new vision of "Green as the Next Red, White, and Blue" or "America's Mission in a World that is Hot, Flat and Crowded."

While not a card-carrying sociologist, Friedman's work is the sort of sociological discourse that both lay and expert publics often accept more readily and fully than the works of true journeymen and/or real masters in the sociological guild. Consequently, his words clearly "contribute to creating the social world," and, the trends that his thinking reifies as "flattening" become feedback effects in transnational thought and action "more and more inhibited by reified sociology" (Bourdieu, 1990: 54). In this respect, Friedman basically concurs with Kagan (2003: 96), namely, one fact must still remain clear today and tomorrow: everyone in the world shall acknowledge and accept the "reality of American hegemony." Yet, Friedman goes Alfred P. Sloan one better by redefining the nature of today's American hegemony. That is, Friedman (2006: A21) essentially asserts what is "green for America" is "green for the world." Since "green is the new red, white, and blue" (Friedman (2006: A21), it is now America's mission in his mind to bring its red, white, and blue geo-greenism to a world that is hot, flat, and crowded. Such word-smithing at first blush often seems silly, but it must be remembered, "politics is, essentially, a matter of words" (Bourdieu, 1990: 54).

The strong forces in today's geo-green thinking riff off of Al Gore's global warming crusade (2006), investigating how to sustain the true convenience of US national prosperity amid business, technology and world environments full of too many inconvenient truths, regarding the inequitable and irrational use of energy, resources, and information in a new global economy. Energy shortages have been real facts of life, whether they were felt as actual supply disruptions and/or real price increases since 1971. Resource problems tied to air pollution, land degradation, water pollution, habitat destruction, and atmospheric changes around the world have been experienced widely since the 1960s. Yet, scientific information with enough credibility to at least invoke principled precaution about contaminants, pollutants, and risks in the Earth's ecological balance also has been ignored and/or dismissed since the 1950s. Here Gore and Friedman simply follow older trails first marked by others over 30, 40, or even 50 years ago. Still, quantitative increases in all of these ecological troubles are causing qualitative decreases in the characteristics of the Earth's environment and the equity of its global economy. Friedman, however, believes he has the best response to them, especially for the United States of America in this hotter, flatter world.

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Research Committee of Futures Research (RC07)  
First ISA Forum of Sociology, Barcelona, September 5-8, 2008

## Debating Futures

Global Trends, Alternative Visions, Public Discourse and the  
New Tasks of Social Research

Program Chair: Markus S. Schulz <[isarc07@gmail.com](mailto:isarc07@gmail.com)>

### Session 01: New Trends in Globalization I

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00-11:00

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chair: Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (UIUC, USA, [jnp@uiuc.edu](mailto:jnp@uiuc.edu))



## Presenters:

Roland ROBERTSON (U Aberdeen, UK): *This Millennial Moment: The New Phase of Globalization*

Manisha DESAI (U Connecticut, USA): *Rethinking Globalization: A View from the Perspective of Gendered Actors*

Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA): *Globalization 2.0: New Media Trends and Their Social Implications*

Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (USA): *Globalization 21<sup>st</sup> Century: New Balance*

**Session 02:** New Trends in Globalization II

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11:30-13:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chair: Jan NEDERVEEN PIETERSE (UIUC, USA, jnp@uiuc.edu)

## Presenters:

Mun Cho KIM (Korea U, South Korea): *Cosmopolitan Turn in Social Theory*

Lynne CIOCHETTO (Massey U, New Zealand): *Globalization and Sustainability: The Impact of Global Consumer Goods Companies and Their Advertising on the Economic and Environmental Sustainability of Developing Nations*

Franciszek CZECH (Jagiellonian U, Poland): *Global Events: The Huge Consequences of Short Occurrences*

## Distributed Paper:

Timothy W. LUKE (Virginia Tech, USA): *How Flat is the Earth? Mapping 'Geo-Greenism' on Thomas Friedman's Ever-Flatter World as Transnationality*

**Session 03:** Public Sociology, Policy Making, and Power

Sunday, Sept. 7, 11:30-13:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chairs: Raquel SOSA ELÍZAGA (UNAM, Mexico, rsosa@servidor.unam.mx) and Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA, isarc07@gmail.com)

## Presenters:

Barbara ADAM (Cardiff U, UK): *Future Matters for Sociology*

Jenny ANDERSSON (Swedish Institute for Futures Studies, Sweden): *The Privatization of the Future*

Patricia NICKEL (Victoria U Wellington, New Zealand): *Critical Theory, NGOs, and the State: 'Humanitarian Public Sociology' as a Regime of Truth*

- Olga MALINOVA (Russian Academy of Sciences-Moscow, Russia): *Doing Political Science in Post-Soviet Context: Academic Community and Political Practice in Russia*
- Geci KARURI-SEBINA (Human Sciences Research Council, South Africa): *South Africa's State of the Future Index and Its Potential to Contribute to Policy Dialogue in the Region*
- Romana XEREZ (Technical U Lisbon, Portugal): *Sociological Research in Portugal: Public Sociology Perspective*
- Raquel SOSA ELÍZAGA (UNAM, Mexico): *Public Sociology and Alternative Experiences of Public Practice: The Legitimate Government of Mexico*

**Session 04:** The Role of "Future" in Sociological Theorizing (Joint Session RC07 with RC16 Sociological Theory)

Sunday, Sept. 7, 9:00-11:00

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chairs: Elisa P. REIS (UFRJ, Brazil,) epreis@alternex.com.br) and Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA, isarc07@gmail.com)

Presenters:

Emília RODRIGUES ARAÚJO (U Minho, Portugal): *Technology and Imaginary: Towards Governance of Future*

Radim MARADA (Masaryk U, Czech Republic): *Anticipated Generations: Generational Logic of Historical Time in Modernity*

Nina ELIASOPH (USC, USA) and Iddo TAVORY (UCLA, USA): *The Future Tense: Two Ethnographic Studies of Problematic Negotiations of a Temporal Trajectory*

Guillermina JASSO (New York University, USA): *Basic Theory and the Future*

**Session 05:** Comparative Research on Religious Values and Symbolism

Saturday, Sept. 6, 15:30-17:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Presenters:

Chair: Reimon BACHIKA, Kyoto, Japan (r.bac05@w7.dion.ne.jp)

Reimon BACHIKA (Bukkyo U, Kyoto, Japan): *Values as Multidimensional Cultural Phenomena*

Jacqueline A. GIBBONS (York U, Canada): *Islamic and Coptic Religious and Symbolic Features in Girls' Orphanages: Egypt*

Michael GEORGE (St. Thomas U, Canada): *Recognizing the Moral Stranger: Ethics, Religion, and Moral Possibilities*

Tetsuo MARUYAMA (Bukkyo U, Japan): *Religious Values as Universal Elements of Culture in Globalizing Societies*

Seil OH (Boston College, USA): *Holistic Spirituality of Mind-Body Practitioners: Exploring the Social Implications of Holism*

**Session 06:** New Media, Social Movements, and Democracy (Joint Session RC07 with RC48  
Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change)

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11:30-13:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chairs: Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA, isarc07@gmail.com) and Benjamín TEJERINA (U Basque Country, Spain, b.tejerina@ehu.es)

Presenters:

Veronica ALFARO (New School for Social Research, USA): *Comparing Action and Social Movements in the Virtual Public Sphere: Web 1.0 to Web 2.0 from Silence and Disruption to Acting in Concert*

Frederico BERTAGNOLI (NYU, USA): *Human Rights, Wireless Technologies, and Organized Crime in Contemporary Brazil*

Sartaj CHANCHAL (U Texas, USA): *The Role of Media in Advancing the Cause of the Feminist Movement in America*

Gert VERSCHRAEGEN (U Leuven, Belgium): *Commons-based Knowledge Production as a Strategy for Development*

Jürgen GERHARDS and Mike S. SCHÄFER (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany): *Is the Internet More Democratic Than Traditional Media? Comparing Newspapers and Internet in the US and Germany*

Fen LIN (U Chicago, USA) and Yihu ZHOU (Beijing U, China): *Behind Technology: Changes of State-Society Relationship and Media Technology*

**Session 07:** Social Movements: Visions, Persuasion, and Power (Joint Session RC07 with RC48  
Social Movements, Collective Action, and Social Change)

Saturday, Sept. 6, 15:30-17:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chairs: Mark HERKENRATH (U Zurich, Switzerland, herky@access.unizh.ch) and Raquel SOSA ELÍZAGA (UNAM, Mexico, rsosa@servidor.unam.mx)

Presenters:

Hannah NEUMANN (Berlin, Germany): *If We Can Train People For War, We Can Train Them For Peace! The Peace Zone Movement as an Alternative Form to Pacify Ethno-political War and Conflict*

Mangala SUBRAMANIAM (Purdue U, USA): *Persuading Behavior Change: Current Trends in the Discourse on HIV/AIDS in India*

Ajay GUDAVARTHY (Jawaharlal Nehru U, India): *Democracy and Development: Radical Social Movements in Southern India*

Karen Manges DOUGLAS (Sam Houston State U, USA) and Gideon SJOBERG (U Texas at Austin, USA): *Environmental Issues and the Construction of Alternative Futures*

**Session 08:** Architecture, Design, Robots, and the Making of the Future

Sunday, Sept. 7, 15:30-17:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chair: Joerg GLEITER (Free U Bozen-Bolzano, Italy, jhg31@columbia.edu)

Presenters:

Sandra GUERRERO (Zayed U, Abu Dhabi, UAE): *Cities Behind Fences: Will Gated Communities Prevail in the Future? The Case of the Middle East and Latin American City*

Diane M. RODGERS (Northern Illinois U, USA): *The Varying Visions of Early Twentieth Century Human Ecology: Robert E. Park and Radhakamal Mukerjee*

Joerg GLEITER (Free U Bozen-Bolzano, Italy): *Architecture, Social Space and the Digital Habitat*

Vera BORGES (U Lisbon, Portugal): *Architecture, Architects, and the 'Digital Love': A Sociological Point of View*

Kazuo MIZUTA (Kyoto Sangyo U, Japan) *Robots in the year 2025: Mobilizing Parts to Innovative Mobility Toward a Better Quality Life*

**Session 09:** Newage y tercera vía: paradojas e incomodidades de la modernidad

Saturday, Sept. 6, 9:00-11:00

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chairs: Ricardo F. MACIP (ICSyH-BUAP, Mexico, heropedo@yahoo.com)

Discussant: Ángel Gustavo LÓPEZ MONTIEL (ITESM-DF, Mexico)

Presenters:

Edmundo HERNÁNDEZ AMADOR (BUAP, Mexico): *Los compadritos de la tradición: Historia y hegemonía entre los danzantes tradicionales en la ciudad de Puebla*

Luis MARTÍNEZ ANDRADE (École de Hautes Etudes, France): *New age y posmodernidad: Metamorfosis de las ideologías coloniales.*

J. Antonio MORFIN LIÑAN (U Autónoma Metropolitana, Mexico): *El new age y la crisis del trabajo abstracto*

Sonsoles SAN ROMÁN GAGO and David SERRANO (U Autónoma de Madrid, Spain): *Los nuevos valores sociales en la empresa española: un reto para el sistema educativo*

David VARGAS (Universidad Politécnica de Catalunya, Spain): *Actores sociales y ecoturismo comunitario en México*

Ricardo F. MACIP (ICSyH-BUAP, Mexico): *Mientras exista el mundo, permanecerá la gloria de México-Tenochtitlán*

**Session 10:** New Approaches in Interdisciplinary Perspective

Saturday, Sept. 6, 11:30-13:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chair: Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS, Brazil, hermilio@pucrs.br)

Presenters:

Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS, Brazil) and Marcelo Blois RIBEIRO (PUCRS, Brazil): *Systemic Theory and Multi-Agents Systems: Theoretical Approximations and the Simulation of Network Institutional Arrangements*

Arunachalam PRABAHARAN (Public Action, India): *Frontiers of New Research in Sociology*

Patricia VENDRAMIN (U Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium): *The Social Bond Facing Individualisation of Work: Integrated Approach Through the Concepts of Network, Project and Individual-Subject*

Tamara ADAMYANTS (Russian Academy of Sciences-Moscow, Russia): *High Level of Communicative Skills as a Universal Problem*

Mary Ann LAMANNA (University of Nebraska at Omaha, USA): *Novels of Terrorism: Reading Between the Lines*

Alexander SUNGAROV (Higher School of Economics-Moscow, Russia): *Centers for Public Policy: How to Force their Influence on Public Policy in Future?*

Yury V. POPKOV (Russian Academy of Sciences-Novosibirsk, Russia) and Evgueniy A. TYUGASHEV (Novosibirsk State U, Russia): *Scenario Analysis of the Future: System-Genetic Prospect*

**Session 11:** The Internet: From Utopia to Nightmare? (Joint Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)

Friday, Sept. 5, 18:00-20:00

Location: Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull, Room TBA

Chairs: Ann DENIS (U Ottawa, ann.denis@uottawa.ca), Binay Kumar PATTNAIK (Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India, binay@iitk.ac.in) and Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS, Brazil, hermilio@pucrs.br)

Presenters:

Ann DENIS (U Ottawa, Canada): *The Effects of Age and Time: Internet Use by Young People in Barbados*

- Adolfo ESTALELLA and Edgar GÓMEZ CRUZ (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain): *Embodied Practices for Constructing Revolutionary Narratives of the Internet*
- Lech W. ZACHER (Leon Kozmicki Academy of Entrepreneurship and Management, Poland): *Multiple Trajectory Evolution of Information Societies*
- Cotoi CALIN (U Bucharest, Romania): *Global Technologies and Modern Identities: Cyber-ethnicization of Ethnic and Linguistic Minorities in Central and Eastern Europe*
- Eglė BUTKEVIČIENĖ and Eglė VAIDELYTĖ (Kaunas U Technology, Lithuania): *Information Society in Postcommunist Context: Patterns and Social Implications of ICT Diffusion in Rural Communities of Lithuania*
- Kenneth M. KYLE (CalState U, USA): *The Use and Misuse of the Internet in Responding to Hurricane Katrina: A Cautionary Tale*

**Session 12:** Intellectual Property, Digital Inequality, and Global Hegemony (Joint Session RC07 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)

Saturday, Sept. 6, 18:00-20:00

Location: Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull, Room TBA

Chairs: Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS, Brazil, hermilio@puers.br) and Jochen GLAESER (U Lancaster, UK, Jochen.Glaser@Fu-Berlin.de)

Presenters:

Gérard VALENDUC (FUNDP/UCL, Belgium): *Understanding and Preventing the Second Order Digital Divide*

Chris ARMBRUSTER (Max Planck Digital Library, Germany): *Cyberscience and the Knowledge-based Economy: Open Access and Trade Publishing: From Contradiction to Compatibility with Nonexclusive Copyright Licensing*

Vincent H. SHIE (Fu Jen Catholic U, Taiwan), Craig D. MEER (Australian National U, Australia), and Hung-Yi HSU (Fu Jen Catholic U, Taiwan): *The Global IP Divide: Towards an Unsustainable World-Economy?*

Bruno SANGUANINI (U Verona, Italy): *ICT: A Chance for Leapfrogging Development?*

Savaş ÇAĞLAYAN (Mugla U, Turkey): *Internet: The New Dimensions of Inequality from Democratization to Digital Gulf*

Mahjabeen Khaled HOSSAIN (Institute of Hazrat Mohammad, Bangladesh): *E- Accessibility for the Disabled in Bangladesh*

Andrew KIRTON, Matthew DAVID, and Paul JONES (U Liverpool, UK): *Somewhere Over 'In Rainbows': Music Online and the Disruption of the Field*

**Session 13:** Las Nuevas Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación en el Mundo Latino: Perspectivas Sociológicas desde Europa y América Latina / The New Information and Communication Technologies in the Latin World: Sociological Perspectives from Europe and Latin America (Joint Spanish Language Session RCO7 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)

Sunday, Sept. 7, 18:00-20:00

Location: Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull, Room TBA  
Chairs: Hermilio SANTOS (PUCRS, Brazil, hermilio@pucrs.br) and Cristobal TORRES (UAM, Spain, cristobal.torres@uam.es)

Presenters:

Eguzki URTEAGA (Universidad del País Vasco, Spain): *Las Estrategias empresariales: Entre Innovación e Imitación*

Ma. del Carmen DOMÍNGUEZ RÍOS (Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, México): *Difusión de las TICS en PYMES exportadoras en México*

Laura SARTORI (U Bologna, Italy): *A Global Digital Divide: What Modernization Theory Can Tell Us About It and Where Are We Now?*

Jose Manuel ROBLES (IESA-CSIC, Spain): *Participación digital y brecha digital: un estudio para el caso de Andalucía*

Teresa GONZÁLEZ DE LA FE (U La Laguna, Spain), José Luís GARCÍA (U Lisbon, Portugal), Ana Ma. GONZÁLEZ RAMOS (U Oberta de Catalunya, Spain), and Helena JERÓNIMO (U Técnica Lisbon, Portugal): *Science, Technology and Innovation in Portugal and Spain: A Comparative Analysis*

Airton JUNGBLUT (PUCRS, Brazil): *The Use of the Internet for Religious Groups in Brazil*

**Session 14:** Las Nuevas Tecnologías de Información y Comunicación en el Mundo Latino: Perspectivas Sociológicas desde Europa y América Latina - Segunda Parte / The New Information and Communication Technologies in the Latin World: Sociological Perspectives from Europe and Latin America (Joint Spanish Language Session RCO7 with RC14 Communication, Knowledge and Culture and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)--Part II

Monday, Sept. 8, 9:00-11:00

Location: Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull, Room TBA  
Chairs: Markus S. SCHULZ (UIUC, USA, isarc07@gmail.com) and Cristobal TORRES (UAM, Spain, cristobal.torres@uam.es)

Presenters:

Claudia LAUDANO (Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina): *Argentina: Reflexiones acerca de las Políticas Públicas para reducir la brecha digital*

- Cristóbal TORRES ALBERO (UAM, Spain), Carlos Manuel FERNÁNDEZ RODRÍGUEZ (UAM, Spain), and Manuel FERNÁNDEZ ESQUINAS (Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas, Spain): *El estado de la sociedad de la información en España, y el papel de las representaciones sociales de las TIC en su desarrollo*
- Virginia LINARES RODRÍGUEZ and Leticia PORTO PEDROSA (U Complutense de Madrid, Spain): *Las nuevas tecnologías de información y comunicación: Perspectivas sociológicas del E-learning*
- Antonio ARELLANO-HERNÁNDEZ (Universidad Autónoma del Estado de México, Mexico): *The Construction of Informatically Mediated Communities: Exploring the Truth (LaNeta)*
- José Antonio RUIZ SAN ROMÁN (U Complutense, Spain) and Jesús ROMERO MOÑIVAS (U San Pablo, Spain): *Cómo la sociología de la tecnología y los estudios sobre televisión se pueden beneficiar mutuamente*
- Magda GARCÍA QUINTANILLA (U Autónoma de Nuevo León, Mexico): *La tecnología como agente de cambio para la enseñanza y el aprendizaje*

**Session 15:** Gender, Science, Technology, Innovation, and the Future (Joint Session RC07 with RC04 Sociology of Education, RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology, and RC32 Women in Society)

Saturday, Sept. 6, 18:00-20:00

Location: Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull, Room TBA

Chairs: Solange SIMOES (U Minas Gerais, Brazil, [ssimoes@emich.edu](mailto:ssimoes@emich.edu)) and Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY (U KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, [sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za))

Presenters:

- Uta RUSSMANN, Ursula SEETHALER, and Max HARNONCOURT (U Vienna, Austria): *Gender-specific Behavior in Web Based Communication Networks: Gender Barriers to Access and Gender Barriers to Usage*
- Christiane GROSS and Monika JUNGBAUER-GANS (U Kiel, Germany): *Women in Science—Aliens No More?*
- Luisa LEONINI (U Milan, Italy): *New Media and Pornography: How the Internet has Modified the Sex Business*
- Nuria VALLES (Fundació CIREM, Spain): *Construction of gendered technological identities in the school space*
- Helene SCHIFFBAENKER (Joanneum Research, Austria): *Female career orientations in Science and Technology*
- Ana M. GONZÁLES RAMOS, Cecilia CASTAÑO COLLADO, and Milagros SÁINZ IBÁÑEZ (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya): *The Role of Women in ICT-related Projects Within the 'Plan Nacional' in Spain: A Potential for Science and Technology*



**Session 16:** The Role of University Research in the Future (Joint Session RC07 with RC04 Sociology of Education and RC23 Sociology of Science and Technology)

Sunday, Sept. 7, 18:00–20:00

Location: Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull, Room TBA

Chairs: Tamás KOZMA, (U Debrecen, Hungary, kozmat@ella.hu, kozmat@iif.hu), Jaime JIMENEZ (UNAM, Mexico, jjimen@servidor.unam.mx) and Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY (U Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa, sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za)

Presenters:

Fernanda SOBRAL (U Brasilia, Brazil) and Marcello BARRA (IPEA, Brazil): *Academy in the Face of Electronic Leviathan: Reflections on University and Research in the Future*

Sjoerd BAKKER (Utrecht U, Netherlands): *Arenas of Expectations for Future Hydrogen Technologies*

Irene RAMOS-VIELBA, Maria JIMENEZ-BUEDO, Manuel FERNANDEZ-ESQUINAS (Spanish Council for Scientific Research, Spain): *Beyond Spinoffs and Patents: Other Forms of Knowledge Transfer in the Future of University-Industry Collaborative Linkages*

Elena IVANOVA (Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia): *Universities In Russia's National Innovation System*

Chris ARMBRUSTER (Max Planck Digital Library, Germany): *Research Universities: Autonomy and Self-Reliance After the Entrepreneurial University*

**Session 17:** Leisure: Dream or Reality? (Joint Session RC07 with RC13 Sociology of Leisure and RC 23 Sociology of Science and Technology)

Monday, Sept. 8, 9:00–11:00

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chair: Jochen GLAESER (Lancaster U, UK, Jochen.Glaser@Fu-Berlin.de), Dirk STEINBACH (U Applied Sciences Salzburg, Austria, dirk.steinbach@fh-salzburg.ac.at), and Scott NORTH (U Osaka, Japan, north@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp)

Presenters:

Scott NORTH (U Osaka, Japan): *Frayed White Collars: The Future of Leisure in Japan and the United States*

Alan LAW (Trent U, Canada): *Undesirables, Unemployables and Other 'Social Malingerers': Containing the 'Post-War' Leisure Society*

Tatiana CHERNYAEVA (Volga-Region Academy of Civil Services, Saratov, Russia): *Tourism as a Frame of Leisure Society*

Sari PEKKOLA (Kristianstad U College, Sweden): *Diasporic Youth and the Internet: Bolivian Youth and Identity Work in the Cyberspace*

**Session 18:** Leisure in the Age of Technological Transformation (Joint Session RC07 with RC13 Sociology of Leisure and RC 23 Sociology of Science and Technology)

Monday, Sept. 8, 11:30-13:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

Chairs: Jaime JIMENEZ (UNAM, Mexico, jjimen@servidor.unam.mx), Teus J. Kamphorst (Wageningen University, Netherlands, teus.kamphorst@wur.nl), and Scott NORTH (U Osaka, Japan, north@hus.osaka-u.ac.jp,)

Presenters:

Sumana V. PANDEY (Govt. College of Dausa, India): *Leisure in the Age of Technological Transformation in Rural India*

Sara MONACI (U Turin, Italy): *Leisure On Line: New Experiences and Solutions for Edutainment*

Ake NILSEN (U Halmstad, Sweden): *The Second Skin: Technology and Masculinity in the Context of Scuba Diving*

Nuno de ALMEIDA ALVES (CIES-ISCTE, Portugal): *Computers and the Internet: Balancing Work and Leisure in Everyday Life*

Philippe TERRAL (U Toulouse III, France): *A Sociological Analysis of a Scientific and Technological Controversy in the Field of Sport Sciences: The Interest of Electric Stimulation to Increase Muscle*

Christine SCHIWETZ (Georgetown U, USA): *Youth Culture and Consumer Technology: An Investigation into the Larger Picture and Trend among Technological Consumption amongst Youth Culture and College Students*

**Session 19:** RC07 Business Meeting

Sunday, Sept. 7, 13:45-14:30

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona, Room TBA

There will be opportunity for light lunch immediately following the Business Meeting.

- Please stay tuned for announcements regarding a reception or social dinner gathering.

(Please do let us know if you can recommend a suitable restaurant in the proximity of the Universitat de Barcelona.)

**Other Information**

Conference Venues: The conference will be convened in several venues in the heart of Barcelona. Most RC07 sessions are planned to take place on the premises of the University of Barcelona's Faculty of Philosophy, Geography, and History, located on the street Carrer de Montalegre 6. Most of RC07's Joint Sessions with other RCs will be held at the University of Ramon Llull's Faculty of Community, which is just around the corner on Carrer de Valldonzella 23. Useful maps can be found on the Forum website at: <[http://www.isa-sociology.org/barcelona\\_2008/venue.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/barcelona_2008/venue.htm)>.

**Papers and presentations:** Please email the final version of your paper to the Chair(s) of your session by August 18, 2008, unless a different date was specified by your Session Chair(s). The amount of time you will have for your oral presentation will be determined by your Session Chair(s). Depending on the number of presenters, it will probably be limited to about 15-20 minutes, or even less, in order to allow ample opportunity for collective discussion. The venues are expected to be equipped for PowerPoint presentations (though a non-PowerPoint dependent back-up plan can help against surprises).

**Climate:** Barcelona has a Mediterranean climate with September temperatures averaging 22 degrees Celsius (72 Fahrenheit) while mostly sunny and dry.

**Visas:** Spain is one of the fifteen signatory states of the Schengen agreement. Nationals from the Schengen zone do not need a visa; nationals from the United Kingdom, Canada, Ireland, Japan, New Zealand, Switzerland, Australia, Israel and the United States can currently remain in Spain as tourists for 90 days without a visa. Others may need a visa. Keep in mind that current regulations can change. You can obtain further information at the Spanish embassies and consulates in your country.

**More information:** One useful website to search for travel-related information seems to be Barcelona's official tourism site at URL: <<http://www.barcelonaturisme.com>>. A website for finding private accommodation is <<http://www.loquo.com>>.

## **Newsletter: Call for Contributions**

Our newsletter aims to be a means of communication among the members of RC07 as well as other scholars interested in futures research. It is published non-periodically according to the needs of our scientific community. In addition to announcements of events organized by our RC, or related to our research concerns, we include news from our members, reports of activities, information on new publications, ongoing projects and works-in-progress as well as short thought-pieces on pressing issues and current debates in our field. Please contribute to our newsletter and help making it an effective tool for interaction. Send your comments and any news item for the next newsletter to RC07 Newsletter Editor, Radhamany Sooryamoorthy, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa <[sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za)> and copies to [isarc07@gmail.com](mailto:isarc07@gmail.com).

## **Become a Member/Renew your Membership Today!**

Stay informed. Participate in RC07 events and activities to enhance your career and profession. Network with colleagues around the world.

Become a new member of the ISA Research Committee Futures Research (ISA-RC07) or renew your membership. The regular dues are only US\$30.00 for a four-year period, which is discounted for members in countries with softer currencies and for students (US\$10.00). For more details and registration form please visit the secure website: <<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>>

International Sociological Association Research Committee Futures Research (ISARC07) ISA Forum, Barcelona, Sept. 5-8-2008, Sessions Schedule and Locations*				
Locations	Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona	Faculty of Philosophy, Geography and History, University of Barcelona	Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull	Faculty of Communication Blanquerna, University of Ramon Llull
<b>Friday, Sept. 5</b>				
8-00	Registration opens, general opening events at Palau de Congressos de Fira Barcelona			
18:00-20:00			11 Internet Utopia	
20:30	ISA General Welcome Reception (location tba)			
<b>Saturday, Sept. 6</b>				
9:00-11:00	01 Globalization I	09 New Age		
11:30-13:30	02 Globalization II	10 New Approaches	06 Media/Movem.	
Break				
15:30-17:30	05 Religion		07 Soc. Movemnt.	
18:00-20:00			12 IP/Inequality	15 Gender/Sci./Tech.
<b>Sunday, Sept. 7</b>				
9:00-11:00	04 Theory			
11:30-13:30	03 Public/Power			
Break	19 Business Meeting (13:45-14:30)			
15:30-17:30	08 Architecture			
18:00-20:00			13 NTIC/Spanish	16 University Res.
<b>Monday, Sept. 8</b>				
9:00-11:00	17 Leisure I			
11:30-13:30	18 Leisure II			
- 20:00	General closing session, conference ends			
* Please note: All information in this table is subject to change.				