



International Sociological Association, RC15

NEWSLETTER OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON THE SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH

Number 49 October 2009

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Letter from the President

Our second interim meeting this year in Jaipur, India, was a great success. There were many interesting papers and delegates from several countries attended. About 80 papers were on the program. In addition to a large contingent from India, there was a very active and sociable group from Australia, as well as several participants from the Netherlands, and others from Japan, Turkey, Jamaica, Mexico, the UK, and the US. Our local host, RC 15 Board member Ishwar Modi, who organized the conference, did an excellent job with the sessions and arranging the various keynote addresses on the health situation in India. He also arranged cultural events in the evenings consisting of dinners, professional folk dancing entertainment, and a visit to a theme park on ethnic Indian village life, along with a city tour. Ishwar Modi, Jonathan Gabe, and myself will edit a book containing selected papers from Jaipur.

For those of you unable to attend the meeting, you missed a very worthwhile and enjoyable event in the history of RC 15. In future years, the RC 15 Board needs to consider holding further interim meetings in developing countries and work toward increasing our membership base in the region of the host country. They have much to offer our research committee. In order to maximize the participation of our far-flung constituency, we held two interim meetings since the last World Congress in Durban, one in Montreal (2008) and the other in Jaipur (2009) which we may wish to consider again in the future.

The 2014 World Congress of Sociology will be held in Yokohoma, Japan, and preliminary efforts are now underway for RC 15 to plan and coordinate activities with the Japanese Medical Sociology Society.

The next major event on the RC 15 schedule is the World Congress of Sociology to be held in July in Gothenburg, Sweden in July 2010. Further information about programme planning are included in this newsletter. RC 15 will host a reception with food and drinks for our members and there will be a Business Meeting to select a new Board for 2010-2014. Please plan to attend and fully participate in the activities of your research committee.

Finally, I would again ask each of our current members to recruit one new member in order to double the size of RC 15. We have an active and pleasant group of colleagues doing interesting work in many countries and joining our ranks provides participation in a global network of health sociologists. I have brought in my new member, so it is your turn for those who have not already done so.

Best wishes

*William C. Cockerham
ISA RC15 President
E-mail: wcocker@uab.edu*

XVII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOLOGY ON THE MOVE
LA SOCIOLOGIE EN MOUVEMENT
LA SOCIOLOGÍA EN MOVIMIENTO

11-17 JULY, 2010
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN



The call for Abstracts for RC15 individual sessions is now closed (October 1st 2009). However it is still possible to submit an abstract to one of the **joint sessions** detailed below. The call for abstracts for individual RC15 sessions received an excellent response with a very large number of abstracts received. The sessions organisers are now selecting presented and distributed papers and authors of abstracts will be informed of their decisions around mid November 2009.

ISA guidelines call for only 4 or 5 'presented papers' in each 120 minute session. This means that abstracts will also be accepted as 'distributed papers'. This is explained in the following modified extract from the ISA Guidelines:

"It is recommended that each regular session uses its 120 minutes to accommodate four 15-20 minute presentations (or five 15 minute ones) and 10-20 minutes of collective discussion. Other papers will be listed as *distributed papers* in the relevant session. These papers will be listed in the programme and, providing the authors register in time, their abstracts will be included in the abstracts book. If a participant does not show up, the first participant listed under *distributed papers* will be asked to present his/her paper."(http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/guidelines_for_programme_coordinators.htm)

****STILL OPEN**:** CALLS FOR ABSTRACTS FOR JOINT SESSIONS WITH OTHER RESEARCH COMMITTEES

Remaking the health professional workforce (deadline December 31st 2009)

Joint session of RC15 (Sociology of Health) and RC52 (Sociology of Professional Groups)

Ellen Kuhlmann RC15, University of Bath, UK, E-mail: e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk

Mike Saks RC52, University of Lincoln, UK, E-mail: msaks@lincoln.ac.uk

Papers are invited that explore the 'making' of a future health professional workforce based on political and organisational/managerial changes and dynamics arising 'bottom-up' from both the professional and professionalising workforce. These changes and dynamics may include, amongst others, new mobility and migration flows, changing gender arrangements and flexible employment patterns.

Women's health and health risks in an unequal world (deadline extended to November 1st 2009)

Joint session of RC15 (Sociology of Health) and RC32 (Women in Society)

Elianne Riska RC15, University of Helsinki, Finland, E-mail: Elianne.riska@helsinki.fi

Alphia Possamai-Inesedy RC32, University of Western Sydney, Australia,

E-mail: alphia.possamai@uws.edu.au

This session will deal with the global conditions that influence the material conditions and the social definitions of women's health. The session will also include an examination of new public health policies on risk, responsibilities and implications for women in different parts of the world. A global perspective on these themes will illuminate the structural patterns that shape the health conditions for different groups of women.

Leisure: A Pathway to Health and Happiness (deadline December 15th 2009)

Joint session of RC13 (Sociology of Leisure) and RC15 (Sociology of Health)

Ishwar Modi RC13, India International Institute of Social Sciences,

E-mail: iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in

Ellen Annandale, University of Leicester, UK, E-mail: eca7@le.ac.uk

Papers are welcome which address the following themes. Leisure has formed an important element in the maintenance of physical and mental health and resulting happiness. Inversely it can be said that activities undertaken for the enhancement of physical and mental health generally fall under the overall rubric of 'leisure', since they do not directly contribute to material production. All cultures have had inbuilt spaces for such activities – be they in the form of games, sports, festival or carnivals. Traditional leisure forms may need to be revived and given new attention and new impetus. In order to maintain the happiness and health levels of society it may be worth examining governmental and non-governmental initiatives being taken in this field.

RC 15 World Congress planning timetable

Mid November 2009	<p>Participants to be informed about decisions on abstracts by RC15 session organisers.</p> <p>(this excludes joint sessions which will be later due to different deadlines of collaborating RCs)</p>
January 31st 2010	<p>Deadline for applications for financial support to attend the World Congress (see rules and guidelines later in this Newsletter)</p>
31st January 2010	<p>i) Deadline for RC15 final programme of sessions to be submitted to Congress Secretariat by RC15 Programme Coordinator</p> <p>ii) If RC membership is higher than on the April 15th 2009 census then we will be allocated extra sessions at this point.</p>
By 31st March 2010	<p>Deadline for electronic submission of abstracts of accepted papers (presented and distributed) to the Sociological Abstracts website, http://www.csa.com/socioabs/submit.html</p> <p>Only abstracts submitted to this website will be accepted. Presenters must be registered for the Congress in order to submit an abstract.</p>
4th May 2010	<p>Pre-registration deadline for all other programme participants, otherwise their names will not appear in the Programme Book etc.</p>
4th May 2010	<p>Deadline of submission by authors of Abstracts of accepted papers to Cambridge Sociological Abstracts</p>
1st June 2010	<p>Deadline for last minute changes to session programmes</p>
July 2010	<p>World Congress, Gothenburg</p>

RC15 Program Coordinator: Ellen Annandale, E-mail: eca7@le.ac.uk
Conference website: <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/rc/rc15.htm>

Financial support to attend ISA World Congress of Sociology, Gothenburg 2010 Rules and guidelines

Following information from Arturo Rodriguez Morato, Vice-President for Research Council, the Research Coordinating Committee has approved new rules and procedures for allocating financial support to attend the forthcoming XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology, July 2010 in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Guidelines for submitting an application for a grant

1. Who is eligible?

Individual members of the ISA in good standing (i.e. having paid their individual membership fees) coming from developing countries (listed in economies B and C on the congress registration form) and who play an active role in the Congress programme either as a session chair or a paper giver.

2. What will the grants be?

The grants can be allocated for one or more of the following items:

- * Congress registration fee (available also for economy A).
- * Airfare (in full or in part).
- * Accommodation (in full or in part).

3. How to apply?

One can apply for a grant only to one RC/WG/TG. Multiple applications will not be considered.

A letter of application shall be sent before 31 January 2010 to the Programme Coordinator of the Research Committee, Working and/or Thematic Group where a paper will be presented (late applications will not be accepted).

Applications for support for RC15 should be sent to the Program Coordinator, Ellen Annandale eca7@le.ac.uk
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/>
<http://www.ucm.es/info/isa>
<mailto:isa@cps.ucm.es>

4. Decisions

The Board of each RC/WG/TG will review all applications and recommend the allocation of available funds. A list of the selected individuals will be posted at the ISA website by mid- March 2010, so that all successful applicants can register to the Congress before May 4, 2010, the deadline for early registration.

Conference Report

International Sociological Association Research Committee on Sociology of Health (RC 15) Mid-term Conference



Health for All: Opportunities and Challenges Jaipur, India, September 21-23, 2009

A three-day ISA RC15 International Conference on *Health for All: Opportunities and Challenges* was organized in India at Jaipur during September 21-23, 2009 on behalf of Research Committee on Sociology of Health of the International Sociological Association under the auspices of India International Institute of Social Sciences (IISS). Over 90 delegates from India and more than a dozen countries representing all the continents participated in the conference. Professor Ishwar Modi, Member Board ISA RC15 and Organizing Secretary of the conference, while welcoming the guests, underlined the purpose and objective of organizing the conference and said it was the need of the hour to address the health related issues more frequently.

His Excellency Shri S.K. Singh, the Governor of Rajasthan while inaugurating the conference observed that health was the real wealth and precious gift of the nature. Healthy and clean environment and positive lifestyle were the preconditions for good health. He said that physical and mental wellbeing was essential conditions for happy and productive life of an entire society or community. Every man was the author of his own health and disease. Health was the real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver. Health was the greatest gift and the greatest wealth, he further observed. Health care involved both preventive and curative aspects. All these aspects of health involved issues like proper education, access to clean and adequate safe water, fresh air and hygiene, healthy food and nutrition, and regular exercises. Pointing out the significant contribution of Yoga for preventive and curative aspects of public health, he said that more and more Yoga and Pranayam centers were being opened at different places. People were being encouraged to resort to such methods of keeping good health.

In his presidential address William Carl Cockerham, Professor of Sociology, University of Alabama, Birmingham, USA, brought into light the social causes of health and diseases. The presentation focused on the importance of a paradigm shift in medical sociology from individualistic explanations of disease toward including full consideration of social causes of disease. Prof Cockerham discussed about the epidemiological triad, social factors, including social patterning of population health and diseases, that were responsible for causing several

diseases. He pointed out that lifestyle greatly affected the disease status and said that smoking and alcohol consumption were associated with more diseases than any other health lifestyles. He further said that diabetes was increasing more in western countries with a significant rise in America. The social mechanism triggering this disease is health lifestyle, notably poor diet and lack of exercise. He also discussed about HIV/AIDS, which offered yet another example of race and class as a social determinant. Delivering the key note address at the inaugural session, Prof K.L.Sharma, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Rajasthan observed that political power had played a crucial role in shaping the health, medicines and other related issues. He said that the state had shifted the responsibility of health to private sectors. As a result more and more private clinics and hospitals had opened which were more costly. In his address, he also discussed about the intra racial effect, social detriments of disease and referred to the lifestyle theories of Max Webber and Pierre Bourdieu.

Besides the above, four technical sessions on: Alternative systems of medicines, Gender related discrimination and health care, Geriatric health, and Happiness in the afternoon/Leisure, health and wellbeing, took place on the first day of the conference. Another keynote address on the second day of the Conference was delivered by the Director, Indian Institute of Health Management Research, Dr S.D.Gupta. Presenting the health scenario of the country, he said that a vast and strong health infrastructure had been developed right from the village level to the top level in the country in the last few years. Large number of sub-health centers and primary health centers were functioning in this direction. He said that as a result of the sound health structure, advances in health technology in diagnosis and therapy, information technology, availability of wide range of services, super specialty vis-a-vis primary health care, has lead to the improvement in access and availability of health care, vast man power to provide health care and communicable disease had been brought under control to some extent. He expressed his concern that despite of all these achievements and expansion of medical and health facilities, the status of the management of the health system continued to be poor and beyond satisfactory level, which posed still a challenge. He said that women and children were facing high level of malnutrition, communicable diseases were causing large number of deaths, treatment of diseases in private hospitals were becoming costlier, which was posing difficulties for the poor sections of the population.

Besides the Keynote, eight technical sessions on AIDs and STDs, Diseases of lifestyle and heath, Social support for health care, Health, health providers and health education, emerging trends in morbidity and mortality, Feticide, infanticide and gender violence, Socio-cultural barriers to contraception and population control, and Reproductive health and adolescents took place on the second day of the conference.

Four technical sessions were organized on the third day of the conference on Environmental and other diverse concerns of health, Privatization and corporatization of the health sector, Regulatory mechanisms in health sector, and Health workforce governance besides a Keynote address at the Valedictory Session of the conference delivered by Dr Ashok Panagariya, Vice Chancellor, Rajasthan Health Sciences University. He observed that the treatment of the diseases was becoming costlier. On the one hand, the rich persons were being over investigated and over medicated by making filthy show of their money and on the other hand it

was becoming difficult for the poor to gather resources to spend money on the treatment of their family members. He talked about the changing patterns of disease in India and said that incidents of coronary artery disease had increased by 200 percent during the last few years. He also compared the health scenario of India with United States of America and said that they had made tremendous advancement in the medical science and their life expectancy had increased significantly, even then 47 percent of US adult population suffered with insomnia. Referring to the disillusion, which was on the rise, with the Western system of medicines (Allopathy), he said that people feared the side effects of these medicines. There was a kind of phobia of side effects. He made it clear that medicine came in the market only after it was found safe. It was not wrong with the medicines but the persons, who used it with apprehensions of getting side effects. As a result people were getting more inclined towards using the alternative therapies. Dr Panagariya also discussed about the peculiarities of health issues like high cost, uneven quality, frequent errors and limited access to care and also rising population, low spending of GDP on health care, poor public health awareness, indifferent attitude towards preventive health. He also presented the Jaipur model of redefining health care, discussed innovative schemes, emphasized on public private partnership and tapping sources for pooling resources.

The Chief Guest of the Valedictory Session, Padma Bhushan Prof. V.S Vyas, Member of Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council, observed that the country was suffering from two handicaps: education and health. This was probably because now people had become aware and had realized the importance of education in the development and growth of the individual, society, state and nation but it was not same with the health sector. He stressed the need to generate intense awareness in regard to the importance of having good health for leading a happy and joyful life. There is a need to create positive environment for the same. Civil society, academicians, NGOs, religious leaders could play a significant role in generating awareness in regard to health care; cooperation of public-private institutions could also be sought in this.

Prof Ishwar Modi, Secretary, Indian Sociological Society and Organizing Secretary of the Conference, welcomed the guests at the valedictory session and briefed them about the proceedings of the conference and apprised that besides the three Keynote Addresses, 16 technical sessions took place at the conference and each one of these sessions was co-chaired by an overseas scholar and an Indian scholar. He further added that a post-conference volume of the selected papers would be brought out soon and as such expected the paper presenters to update and revise their papers for consideration of inclusion in the proposed volume. Dr. Rashmi Jain presented a comprehensive report about the various sessions held during the course of the three day conference. Professor Cockerham, in his presidential address, apprised the delegates and guests that the conference had been successful in achieving its goals. Professor Jonathan Gabe, Board Member, ISA RC15 praised Prof Modi for organizing the conference very successfully and extended the vote of thanks to the guests and delegates present on the occasion.

Prof. Ishwar Modi
Organizing Secretary
ISA RC 15 International Conference on Health for All, Jaipur, India

Report from Portugal

New Thematic Group *Sociology of Health* established

Recently, ongoing scientific activities of the Portuguese Sociological Association are decentralised in Thematic Groups, dealing with well recognized specialties in sociology. The *Thematic Group on Sociology of Health* is now officially established within the Portuguese Sociological Association. It constitutes a main forum for sociological advancement and debate on Sociology of Health, bringing together scholars who wish to pursue comparative research on a national and/or transnational basis, and it constitutes a basic network of scientific research, intellectual debate and professional exchange, promoting cooperation between researchers who have research interests in this field.

The establishment of this thematic group corresponds to the expectations of those who, since long ago, have been stimulating sociological research into health in Portugal. Today, we can stand that Portuguese Sociology of Health has its own knowledge heritage. Sociologists linked through different levels and contexts of training, multiple agendas and research programs, professional practices on different health sites, have been on the basis of this group.

According to this, the Portuguese *Thematic Group on Sociology of Health* aims to spread its frontiers to new contexts, new actors and new challenges, leading up to a national and international scope. An active and prominent effort will be taken to work in close collaboration with international scientific associations and research groups interested in Sociology of Health.

If you are interested in collaborations or wish to learn more about Sociology of Health in Portugal, we invite you to visit our website – [http:// www.aps.pt](http://www.aps.pt) – or contact the coordinators – Email: saude@aps.pt.

The coordinators

Noémia Lopes

Egas Moniz, High Institute of Health Sciences

Email: nlopes@egasmoniz.edu.pt

Helena Serra,

ISEG, Technical University of Lisbon,

Email: hserra@iseg.utl.pt

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ISCTE, Lisbon University Institute,

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Book announcements

Riska, E., Annandale, E. and Dingwall, R. (2009) 'Health sociology: Conflict, competition, cooperation', in Denis, A. and Kalekin-Fishman, D. (eds) *The ISA Handbook in Contemporary Sociology*, London: Sage

Burau, V., Wilsford, D. and France, G. (eds) (2009) 'Reforming medical governance in Europe. What is it about institutions?', Special Issue, *Health Economics, Policy and Law*, 4 (3)

Calnan, M. and Gabe, J. (2009) *The Sociology of the Health Service*, London: Routledge

Conference announcements

2nd Bilingual Scientific Meeting for the Canadian Society for Sociology of Health

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
23-26 May 2010

Key note speakers: Donald Light and Ronald Labonte

For further information please visit the website: <http://www.health.uottawa.ca/profs/bourgeault>

Rejoin RC15 and ISA – New membership

We strongly encourage you to rejoin RC15 and ISA when your membership is due for renewal and also to inform your colleagues about RC15 and ask them not only to join RC15, but also to join us in Göteborg 2010. Please remember that the final number of RC15 sessions in Göteborg will be determined by the number of current members on 31 January and respond promptly to the Secretary's reminders!

How to join ISA

Please visit the ISA website and register online. Dues USD 60 (USD 20 discount) for a 4 year period; <https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>.

Individual Membership

Open to scholars and professionals of sociological teaching, research or practice. At present there are 4,300 members from 167 countries. Benefits:

- Subscription to ISA journals Current Sociology and International Sociology.
- The Directory of Members.
- Reception of isagram, an electronic newsletter containing announcements of the forthcoming conferences, calls for papers and manuscripts, prizes, competitions, etc.
- Access to e-bulletin, ISA on-line publication.
- Access to SAGE Full-Text Collection which includes 31 journals with more than 12,500 articles.
- 35% discount on SAGE Publications books.
- Special subscription rates to journals offered by various publishers.
- A reduction in registration fees at ISA World Congress of Sociology.

All members may participate in the meetings of the ISA and its [Research Committees](#), [Working and Thematic Groups](#) upon paying an affiliation fee.

To apply for membership, submit an

- [electronic membership or renewal form](#)
- [membership form in pdf format](#) [35 KB]

or write to ISA isa@isa-sociology.org, fax:34-91352 4945

Changes of Address

If you change your email or postal address, please do not forget to let us know by contacting us by email or regular mail. Please contact:

Robert Dingwall
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Nottingham NG7 2RD, UK
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Note from Newsletter Editor

The next Newsletter No 50 is scheduled for April 2010.

Your notices and Call for Papers of interest for RC15 members are, as usual, very welcome and must be sent as a word file (please note: no pdf files or email announcements!). Please send your information to the Newsletter Editor until 31 March 2010 at the latest:

Ellen Kuhlmann
E-mail: *e.c.kuhlmann@bath.ac.uk*