



## Research Committee 52 Professional Groups

# Newsletter, Spring 2013

### Letter from the President of ISA RC52

ISA Research Committee 52 (Sociology of Professional Groups) is looking forward to a busy and exiting year 2013. But at first, I wish to thank Mike Saks as the outgoing RC52 President for all his work over the last years, especially for hosting and organizing a very successful RC52 Interim Conference in Ipswich, UK, November 2012, to only mention the most recent contribution. Following from this experience, we are aiming towards more frequent interim meetings in future. In 2013, an Interim Conference will be hosted in Lisbon, 28-30 November, organized by RC52 Board member Helena Serra and Tiago Correia. Safe the date! Abstract submission will be open from 1 April - 31 May 2013 (see p.4).

We are also busily preparing for the ISA World Congress in Yokohama, 13-19 July 2014. The Call for Sessions is open and proposals are invited until 28 February 2013 (see p. 5). ISA will run an abstract submission system that is likely to be available by May 2013.

With this Newsletter we introduce a translation of the introductory letter into Spanish and French hoping to reduce the language barriers – many thanks to our translators! As a special honour, RC52 founding member and President Yvette Lucas will introduce the French version! Another novelty is that we now have a Representative of PhD Students and Young Researchers sitting on the Executive Board: Lara Maestriperi. Lara has also a strong interest in nurturing virtual communication in RC52; please visit the new blog: [researchcommittee52.wordpress.com](http://researchcommittee52.wordpress.com).

I look very much forward to discussing 'hot topics' and contemporary developments in the sociology of professions during the forthcoming conferences and also creatively using other communication channels. I am especially hoping that we expand international dialogue and knowledge exchange across the various geopolitical regions of the world and the different research areas.

With best wishes  
Ellen

*Ellen Kuhlmann*  
*ISA RC52 President*  
[e.kuhlmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:e.kuhlmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de)

## Carta del Presidente del ISA RC52

El Comité de Investigación 52 (Sociología de los Grupos Profesionales) de la ISA está deseando empezar a trabajar este año 2013 que se presenta atareado y apasionante. Pero antes, quisiera dar las gracias a Mike Saks, Presidente saliente de este comité de investigación RC52, por el trabajo realizado durante los pasados años. Especialmente por su labor como anfitrión y organizador de la exitosa Conferencia Intermedia del RC52 en Ipswich, UK, que tuvo lugar el pasado mes de Noviembre, por mencionar una de sus más recientes contribuciones. Siguiendo su experiencia, esperamos realizar más encuentros intermedios en el futuro. Para 2013, hemos programado una Conferencia Intermedia que tendrá lugar en Lisboa, el 28-30 de Noviembre, organizada por Helena Serra, la miembro del panel del RC52, y Tiago Correia. Anotad las fechas! El envío de *abstracts* estará abierto desde el 1 de Abril al 31 de Mayo de 2013 (p.4).

Estamos también preparando el próximo Congreso Mundial de la ISA en Yokohama, que tendrá lugar en Julio de 2014. La Convocatoria de Sesiones está abierta en estos momentos y las propuestas son bienvenidas hasta el próximo 28 de Febrero; para más información ver la sección Convocatoria de Sesiones (p.5). La ISA pondrá en marcha un sistema de envío de *abstracts* que probablemente estará disponible en Mayo del 2013.

En este Boletín Informativo hemos introducido la traducción de la Carta de Introducción al español y francés con el propósito de reducir barreras idiomáticas. Otra novedad es que ahora hay un Representante de los Estudiantes de Doctorado y de los Jóvenes Investigadores en el Comité Ejecutivo: Lara Maestriperi. Lara tiene un especial interés en promover las comunicaciones virtuales en el RC52. Para más información podéis visitar nuestro blog: [researchcommittee52.wordpress.com](http://researchcommittee52.wordpress.com).

Estoy deseando debatir sobre temas candentes y sobre los recientes desarrollos en la sociología de las profesiones durante las próximas conferencias, así como utilizar creativamente otros canales de comunicación. Especialmente espero ampliar el dialogo internacional y promover un intercambio de conocimiento entre los diferentes territorios geográficos y políticos del mundo y entre las diferentes áreas de investigación.

Saludos cordiales,

Ellen

*This letter has been translated by  
Roser Beneito Montagut, PhD,  
University of Birmingham, UK/ University of Barcelona, Spain*

## **Lettre de la Présidente du RC 52 de l'AIS**

2013 sera pour le Comité de Recherche 52 de l'AIS (Sociologie des groupes professionnels) une année active et excitante. Mais pour commencer je tiens à remercier Mike Saks, Président sortant, pour son travail durant ces dernières années, notamment, m'en tenant à une seule et dernière de ses contributions, pour l'accueil et l'organisation d'une «Interim Conference» très réussie à Ipswich (GB) en novembre 2012. Poursuivant cette pratique, nous souhaitons tenir à l'avenir des réunions intermédiaires plus fréquentes. En 2013, une Interim Conférence sera accueillie à Lisbonne du 28 au 30 novembre, organisée par Helena Serra, membre du Bureau du RC 52, et Tiago Correia. Réservez cette date! La soumission des Abstracts sera ouverte du 1<sup>er</sup> avril au 31 Mai 2013 (p. 4).

Nous sommes aussi très occupés par la préparation du Congrès Mondial de l'AIS à Yokohama en Juillet 2014. L'appel pour les Sessions est ouvert et les propositions sont reçues jusqu'au 28 février; voir «Call for Sessions» (p. 5). L'AIS mettra en place des règles de soumission des Abstracts valables vers Mai 2013.

Avec cette Newsletter nous inaugurons une traduction de la lettre d'introduction en Espagnol et en Français afin de réduire la barrière linguistique. Une autre nouveauté est que nous avons maintenant au Bureau Exécutif une représentante des Etudiant en PHD et Jeunes Chercheurs: Lara Maestriperi. Lara prend aussi un vif intérêt à entretenir la communication virtuelle au sein du RC 52. Visitez s'il vous plaît le nouveau blog: [researchcommittee52.wordpress.com](http://researchcommittee52.wordpress.com).

J'attends avec intérêt la discussion de «sujets brûlants» et des développements contemporains de la sociologie des professions durant les futures Conférences et par l'usage créatif d'autres canaux de communication. J'espère tout particulièrement que nous amplifierons le dialogue international et les échanges de savoirs dans des régions du monde variées et dans les différents champs de recherche.

Cordialement

Ellen

*This Letter has been translated by Yvette Lucas ([yvluc@sfr.fr](mailto:yvluc@sfr.fr)), founding member and past President of ISA RC52. Many thanks for the support of the Sociology of Professions, even long after retirement!*



## RC52 'Professional Groups'

### Call for Papers

#### ISA RC52 Interim Conference

Technical University of Lisbon, Portugal, 28-30 November 2013

# Challenging professionalism

New directions in **P**olicies, **P**ublics and the **P**rofessions

Professionalism in contemporary societies is facing many challenges that may create substantive transformations in the professions and their relationships with the state, the market and the management as well as the clients and citizens. Major challenges are arising from the global economic crisis and the ways in which governments are restructuring (or forced to do so) their public sectors and the concept of citizenship. While public sector services as key area of professional work face overall cuts, thus creating potentially negative effects for professional work and development, other areas may even face expansion and new chances, like the emergent areas of enterprising professionalism furthered by privatisation and new managerial regimes. Ironically, the new challenges of professions may foster professionalism as part of changing policies and governance practices especially in times of crises, because of the high levels of trust that professions enjoy and their unique capacity to buffer social conflict and manage the provision of essential services for the citizens. Yet this capacity may vary between professional groups, countries and globally, and the contemporary challenges may therefore create variety and even contradictions in the transformations of professions.

We invite papers that explore these developments in comparative perspective or in a single country or professional group. We especially welcome contributions from PhD students and early career researchers as well as from regions currently underrepresented in the sociology of professions. Next to open sessions, a list of thematic sessions will be available soon.

Safe the date! Abstract submission will be open from **1 April to 31 May 2013**; a conference website will be launched shortly, where you will find guidelines for abstracts, and information on conference fees and other things. Information will also be available on the ISA RC52 website (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc52.htm>) or contact the conference organiser, Helena Serra ([hserra@iseq.utl.pt](mailto:hserra@iseq.utl.pt)).



# XVIII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

FACING AN UNEQUAL WORLD:  
CHALLENGES FOR GLOBAL SOCIOLOGY

13-19 July 2014

横浜  
YOKOHAMA



## ISA RC52 'Professional Groups'

### Call for Sessions

### Professions and inequality in a globalising world

Professions across the globe play a key role in the making and unmaking of social inequalities. As nurses, doctors, social carers, teachers, lawyers and many others they are the backbone of public sectors serving to improve both everyday life and wellbeing of the people and the functioning of societies. At the same time, professions hold elitist positions in society and claim an expert status, thereby creating (gendered, ethnic/racial, geopolitical and other) inequalities both globally and locally. Hence, public sectors are facing radical transformations and this includes new emergent professional groups, new forms of 'hybrid' and 'entrepreneurial' professionalism as well more integrated modes of professional development. Similarly, gender arrangements are changing, and globalisation has added new and other ambivalences of the making and unmaking of inequalities by the professions, that are yet not well understood.

We invite SESSION proposals that address these issues in all areas of the professions either in comparative perspective or in one dimension. We also welcome proposals for joint sessions with other RCs and/or a national association. Please send a Call for Papers of no more than 150 words and the name and full contact details of the session organizer and, if appropriate, up to two co-organizers by email (as word file) to RC52 programme coordinator Ellen Kuhlmann ([e.kuhlmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de](mailto:e.kuhlmann@em.uni-frankfurt.de)) no later than **28 February 2013**.

Decision on the final selection of sessions will be made by the RC52 Executive Board during March 2013. The selected Call for Papers will be launched in April 2013 and abstracts invited for submission via the ISA online system. Please also consult the ISA guidelines and responsibilities for session organizers

(<http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/guidelines-program-coordinators-and-session-organizers.htm>).

# ISA RC52 Blog

## A new space for improving debates

The ISA RC52 blog is now online – [researchcommittee52.wordpress.com](http://researchcommittee52.wordpress.com) – and provides a new space to promote a relaxed environment where all the people interested in professions can participate and put a step forward in the debate about professions.

PhD students and early career researchers are especially invited to participate, but the blog is open to everybody who is interested in the sociology of professions. It welcomes small interventions (max 1000 words) about professions in Europe and in the world, in which RC52 members and non-members can present their recent work in the field of sociology of professions and/or exchange of research findings. There are three main sections:

- **Conferences:** write about your national and international forthcoming conferences on professions
- **Publications:** present your recent books about relevant topics for RC52.
- **Debates:** introduce your research, discuss 'hot spots' in the area of professions and professionalism, propose a new debate, or search for research project collaborators.

Everybody interested in participating the blog, please send a brief summary of your idea (max 150 words) to Lara Maestriperi ([l.maestriperi@gmail.com](mailto:l.maestriperi@gmail.com)), member of the ISA RC52 Executive Board, Representative of PhD students and early career researchers.

# A new blog

A new blog

[researchcommittee52.wordpress.com](http://researchcommittee52.wordpress.com)

# Report

## ISA RC52 Interim Conference 2012

### “Professions and Enterprise”

held on 11-12 November 2012 at University Campus Suffolk, Ipswich, UK

This lively conference brought together some 60-70 participants from 15 countries, as far afield as Japan, New Zealand and South Africa. As well as two intensive but fascinating days of academic presentations and debate, it included pre-conference social trips to the internationally renowned music venues of Aldeburgh and Snape Maltings in Suffolk, as well as an invigorating audience with the Mayor of Ipswich (also herself a sociologist) and a visit to the Mayor’s Parlour – not to mention the convivial conference meals provided throughout the event.

The conference explored the overarching theme of Professions and Enterprise through sixteen sessions, each with several papers, organised into two streams – “Enterprising Professions” and “Health Professions and Enterprise” – the interface of a broad range of professionals and professions with the enterprise context and the dilemmas and opportunities that thereby arise. The conference programme also considered ways in which professions can positively be enterprising in terms of the use of such devices as new technologies, social networks, knowledge transfer and ‘can do’ approaches – as well as how they may obstruct change, to the prejudice of those that they are often publicly committed to serving.

The conference, organised and introduced by Mike Saks in his last event as President of ISA RC52, was very well evaluated by delegates. It also provided an opportunity for the new President of ISA RC52, Ellen Kuhlmann, to make the closing speech in her new role, and for an RC52 Board meeting and general RC52 Business Meeting to be held. For a fuller programme of the conference see the UCS website at [www.ucs.ac.uk](http://www.ucs.ac.uk). Here (or at [researchcommittee52.wordpress.com](http://researchcommittee52.wordpress.com)) you also find the picture that depicts many of the delegates standing by the Question Mark – a major piece of international art work by Langlands & Bell – outside the Waterfront Building by the very attractive quayside at UCS in Ipswich.

*Mike Saks*  
*m.saks@ucs.ac.uk*

## Forthcoming Conferences

**European Sociological Association 11th Conference Torino, 28-31 August 2013**

**RN19 - Sociology of Professions**

**Chair:** *Ruth McDonald, University of Nottingham, UK, [ruth.mcdonald@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.mcdonald@nottingham.ac.uk)*

### Call for papers

#### **Crisis, critique and change: professions and professionalism in challenging times**

In a context of social, political and economic breakdown, there is a pressing need to foster an understanding of the crisis and the role of critique in interpreting and affecting change. The focus of this session is the exploration of professions and occupational groups in the context of crisis, critique and change and we invite papers from sociologists and social scientists that address these themes.

We welcome conceptual and empirical papers that address the conference theme concerning professionalism and professional groups either in a single country or occupation or in a comparative perspective and we especially encourage submissions from PhD students.

In addition we have 2 joint sessions:

RN19 Joint session with RN16 Sociology of Health and Illness

Patients, citizens and professionals in Europe: modern health care societies in crisis

RN19 Joint session with RN28 Society and Sports

Managing competitiveness in working/professional environments: exploring elite sports

**Deadline for abstract submission – 1 February 2013** (watch out for an extension)

Further details at <http://www.esa11thconference.eu/call-for-papers>

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### **German Sociology Association**

#### **Section Sociology of Professions**

**Chair:** *Christiane Schnell, Goethe-University Frankfurt, [christianeschnell@gmx.net](mailto:christianeschnell@gmx.net)*

The spring meeting of the German Sociology of Professions Section will take place at the Institute of Social Research at the Goethe-University Frankfurt/Main, Germany, 25-26 April 2013. The conference is organised by Christiane Schnell; the conference theme is concerned with issues of professional ethics and the relation of professions and morality in general. Keynote speaker is ISA RC52 Vice-President and previous President Mike Saks, University Campus Ipswich, UK.



## Notices

### „Doctors in Management“ – International Research Network

COST Action IS0903 “Enhancing the Role of Medicine in the Management of European Health Systems – Implications for Control, Innovation and User Voice” is an international research collaboration, chaired by Professor Ian Kirkpatrick, and managed by the [Centre for Innovation in Health Management \(CIHM\)](#) at the University of Leeds, UK. The Action runs until the end of 2013 and aims to increase understanding as to how health management reforms have unfolded across different European states and (organizational and occupational). In particular, how the role of the medical professions in the management of healthcare has changed and the impact this has had on areas such as control, innovation and user voice.

This COST action is rooted in a number of recent trends in healthcare: the growing involvement of doctors in management and changes in medical education, training and career structures. Underpinning the trend to increase the involvement of doctors in management is an assumption that this will have a positive impact on such things as organization learning and control, service innovation and user voice. However, the evidence supporting such conclusions remains fragmented. While changes in the relationship between management and medicine have received some attention at national levels there is less research adopting a rigorous, comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. This Action aims to address these limitations and advance theoretical, empirical and policy relevant knowledge.

The Action unites researchers in the field of health management from 23 countries (21 European countries plus Australia and South Africa) who have signed their intention to participate in this 4 year collaboration, focused on hospital doctors. A Management Committee formed by national experts of the signatory countries is in charge of implementing, supervising and co-ordinating the research activities.

The website – <http://www.dr-in-mgmt.eu/> – provides further information on the COST action as well as a number of recent publications and conference papers. If you wish to be more active in this Network then please do not hesitate to contact [b.lister@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:b.lister@leeds.ac.uk).

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ISA RC52 has established a close collaboration with the COST action Network. Among other things, COST action research was showcased at the previous Interim Conference in Ipswich, UK. A Call for Papers by COST Working Group Chairs Mike Dent and Ellen Kuhlmann and the Action Chair Ian Kirkpatrick met with great interest and fuelled two interesting sessions; see <http://www.dr-in-mgmt.eu/>. Following from this successful event, a joint session and Call for Papers will also be proposed for the next Interim Conference in Lisbon in 2013.

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# Publications

Open Access Journal

*Call for papers*

## & PROFESSIONS PROFESSIONALISM

Professions and Professionalism (P&P) is an open-access, net-based, peer reviewed and English-language journal. The Journal invites research-based empirical, theoretical or synoptic articles focusing on traditional professions as well as other knowledge based occupational groups approached from any perspective or discipline. By prioritizing no single theoretical horizon or methodological approach, the journal creates a space for development of the research field. The review process of manuscripts will be done by two or more referees whose field of expertise is pertinent to the subject area.

### Articles 2012

Tara Fenwick: Co-production in Professional Practice: A Sociomaterial Analysis

Julia Evetts: Similarities in Contexts and Theorizing: Professionalism and Inequality

Devin Rexvid, Björn Blom, Lars Evertsson, Annika Forssén: Risk Reduction Technologies in General Practice and Social Work

Elin Funck: Professional Archetype Change: The Effects of Restricted Professional Autonomy

Mike Saks: Defining a Profession: The Role of Knowledge and Expertise

Pål Nygaard: Professional Autonomy versus Corporate Control

Maria Kallberg: Archivists - A Profession in Transition?

Ivan Spehar, Lars Erik Kjekshus: Medical Management in Norwegian Hospitals

Bente Abrahamsen, Kari Anne Holte, Marjukka Laine: Work–Family Interference: Nurses in Norway and Finland

For further information, registration with the journal, and downloading and submission of articles access: [www.professionsandprofessionalism.com](http://www.professionsandprofessionalism.com)

Jens-Christian Smeby, Editor  
E-mail: [Jens-Christian.Smeby@hioa.no](mailto:Jens-Christian.Smeby@hioa.no)

Christine Teelken, Ewan Ferlie and Mike Dent (eds) (2012) ***Leadership in the Public Sector: Promises and Pitfalls***, London, Routledge

In view of the approaching age of austerity for the public sector, leadership is likely to continue to become a key theme. This edited volume brings together a host of material from the public sector to analyze the issue internationally. A team of contributors examines three key aspects of this increasingly important theme: the meaning of public sector leadership, and how this changes in different contexts; the implications for leadership style given the growing role of the private sector; and the response to the leadership issue from professionals moving into senior management roles.

Lorenzo Speranza (2012) ***Medici in cerca d'autore*** (*Physicians in Search of an Author*)  
Bologna, Il Mulino

The author tries to decipher the “black box” of medical identity. He does so collecting the stories of doctors in various branches of different ages and professional placements. Perhaps even the choice of trying to understand the profession through biographical tales reveals more than a point of intersection with the “narrative” approach in medicine: to make a proper anamnesis, both clinically and sociologically, it is necessary to collect a good story, as only this can tell us not only the what, where and when, but also the how and why.

Constanzo Ranci and Emmanuele Pavolini (eds) (2012) ***Reform in Long Term-Care Policies in Europe***, Springer

*Reforms in Long Term Care Policies in Europe* describes and interprets the changes recently introduced in long-term care policies in Western Europe. The volume argues that recent reforms have brought about an increasing convergence in LTC policies across Western Europe. Most of the new programs have developed a new general approach to long-term care, based on a better integration of social care and healthcare. The book combines case studies from different schools of welfare thought in Europe (the Anglo-Saxon model, the Scandinavian model, the Continental model, and the Southern European model); includes a full description of all the main advances in long-term care in Europe in the past 20 years; and synthesises the case studies to draw implications on the evolving nature of welfare in general.

Mike Saks and Judith Allsop (eds) (2012) ***Researching Health: Quantitative, Qualitative and Mixed Methods, second edition***, London: Sage

This much enhanced second edition of this popular, comprehensive and well-reviewed textbook will be very helpful to final year undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as to academic researchers more generally in health and other areas. It has 24 chapters covering the wide range of research methods written by leading international researchers in their field. It is published in paperback and hardback and is accompanied by a companion website which contains in the notes for students and lecturers further reading and PowerPoint slides for each chapter. .



## Membership

We strongly encourage you to rejoin RC52 and ISA when your membership is due for renewal. Do also inform your colleagues about RC52 and ask them to join RC52 so that we can increase the strength of the group.

To join the ISA please visit the ISA website and register online. The regular affiliation fees for RC52 specifically are an additional USD 40 for a 4 year period:

<https://secured.com/~f3641/formisa.htm>

Individual ISA membership is open to scholars and professionals of sociological teaching, research or practice. At present there are some 4,300 members from over 150 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 and competitions.
- Access to e-bulletin, ISA on-line publication.
- Access to the 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 the ISA World Congress and the ISA World Forum of Sociology.

All members may participate in the meetings of the ISA and its Research Committees, and the 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

or write to ISA at [isa@isa-sociology.org](mailto:isa@isa-sociology.org)

## Change of Address

If you change your email or postal address, please do not forget to contact us by email.

Updated details should be sent to ISA RC52 Treasurer/Secretary Jens-Christian Smeby, email: [Jens-Christian.Smeby@hio.no](mailto:Jens-Christian.Smeby@hio.no).

