



Newsletter

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Editor: Matt Patterson

RC03 Board (2020-23)

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Newsletter Editor Matt Patterson, University of Calgary, Canada

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Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

As you know, I was elected RC03 President at the end of 2020 and Matt Patterson as Newsletter Editor. With Marta Klekokto as Vice-President and Rachel Harvey as Secretary, we are trying to enhance RC03 activities.

RC03 has been, and should be, a space to share theoretical perspective and empirical work on community research. What is community? How does community affect individual lives? How and why do communities change? Around these questions, a vivid debate has taken place between RC03 members since the 1960s, addressing issues such as community power and governance, the importance of institutional context on community processes, actors involvement and public policies transforming communities, the extension of a new political culture, linkages between urban and rural settings, community contextual effects on attitude, behaviors and socio-economic outcomes, or community attachment and culture, among other issues—years of very vivid and productive theoretical and methodological debates.

Based on these broad questions and the work previously done, RC03 activities should continue to promote and enhance three main issues: (i) theoretical foundations to provide answers to these questions based on an open debate and integration between different theoretical perspectives, (ii) methodological strategies to foster comparative research about these questions, and (iii) linking theoretical and comparative research to current critical issues in contemporary societies that affect and are visible in communities at different scales. (Continued on page 5)

Announcements

December, 2020. RC03 elections for President and Newsletter Editor. Clemente J. Navarro (Pablo de Olavide University, Spain) and Matt Patterson (Calgary University, Canada) were elected.

March-April, 2021. Research Council debate about the next World Congress of Sociology: a majoritarian option about postponement result from these debates.

May, 2021. Assembly of Councils of the ISA decided to postpone the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology to June-July 2023. Therefore, RCs Board mandates extended to this date.

June, 2021. Research Council debate and decision about next ISA Forum in 2025: a split result between on-line and in-person options. A final decision will be made by the ISA Executive Committee.

July, 2021. RC03 Statutes update consultation among members: 34% participates and agree with the proposed updated.

September, 2021. RC03 Newsletter: new format and contents designed by Matt Patterson (Newsletter Editor)

Welcome to New Members

Thanh-Nghi Bao Nguyen, Vietnam

Aleksandar Bozic, University of Agder, Faculty of Social Science, Department of Sociology and Social Work, Norway

Corey w. Dolgon, Stonehill College, United States

Cornelia Flora, Iowa State University; Kansas State University, Sociology, United States

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Community Profile

Chinatown, Calgary



2 Ave SE in Chinatown, looking west toward the Chinese Cultural Centre. Photo by Mariah Wilson (2019)

Located in the northeast corner of the urban core, Chinatown is one of Calgary's most culturally vibrant and walkable neighborhoods. Like many North American Chinatowns, it is characterized by elaborately decorated streets, storefronts, and restaurants. It is also home to several residential high-rises that provide low-rent accommodations for many elderly Chinese immigrants. Increasingly these buildings have been joined by newer, market-rate condominiums that have brought younger, wealthier residents into the neighborhood.

Despite its popularity, Chinatown has emerged out of a history of struggle and faces an uncertain future. The neighborhood was established in 1910 when Louie Kheong and other local Chinese merchants pooled their resources to purchase property on the fringe of the city center next to the flood-prone Bow River. Its establishment followed the displacement of Calgary's Chinese community from two previous locations in the city. Unlike the first two Chinatowns, this third location managed to survive. It did so in the face of a Chinese Head tax (1885-1923) and immigration ban (1923-1947) that suppressed the arrival of new Chinese residents, and a postwar urban renewal scheme that sought to demolish much of the neighborhood to accommodate a new downtown expressway.

The Chinese community countered these threats by forming kinship associations and other community organizations. The Sien Lok Society, for example, was established in 1969 and organized a national conference aimed at stemming the disastrous impact that urban renewal programs were having on Canadian Chinatowns. Their work eventually contributed to the defeat of the downtown expressway in Calgary. Today the scenic Sien Lok Park commemorates this victory, sitting on the banks of the Bow River in a location that would have been a turnpike had the expressway been built.

By the 1980s and '90s, Chinatown was well established as a major consumer destination for the rest of the city. It was also a favorite lunch destination for office workers in the neighboring central business district, which sprang up during Calgary's 1970s oil boom. During this period, increased immigration from Hong Kong and an economic boom in East Asia led to further renewal for the neighborhood. While most Chinese immigrants now settled in the suburbs, they provided investment, patronage, and political support for the neighborhood. (Continued on next page)

Chinatown, Calgary (Continued)

This period also saw local government and other major players take an active role in preserving and enhancing Chinatown, including providing land and funding for the iconic Chinese Cultural Centre, which was completed in 1990 and continues to be a major landmark in the area (see picture on page 3).

Today, Chinatown faces new challenges. The boundaries of the neighborhood have shrunk against the growing central business district. Skyscraper office buildings such as the Norman Foster-designed Bow Tower (completed in 2012) have cut off Chinatown from its surroundings with sterile walls and desolate plazas. As well, gentrification has brought a new residents who do not necessarily think of themselves as living in Chinatown. Meanwhile, Chinatown merchants now compete with a variety of Asian commercial establishments in the suburbs, including Asian-based international franchises.

Finally, the COVID19 pandemic has struck Chinatown's businesses hard and there have been many reports of racist assaults and vandalism directed against members of the city's Chinese community and Chinese-owned businesses.

For many community members, these present-day challenges are a reminder of the hostility that Canada has shown Chinese immigrants for over a century. However, as they have done in the past, the Chinatown community has organized to push back against these threats and preserve Chinatown as a culturally distinct neighborhood that is welcoming toward Calgarians marginalized by race, language, poverty, and old age. Among their strategies has been the creation of a new cultural plan that aims to guide development and cultural investment to ensure that it enhances rather than detracting from the neighborhood's unique identity.

In adopting cultural planning tools, Calgary's "Save Chinatown" movement reflects similar movements that have emerged in Chinatowns across North America.



The Bow Tower rises to the south of Chinatown. Photo by Mariah Wilson (2019)

Currently Matt Patterson (Sociology, University of Calgary) is leading a team to investigate the role of cultural planning in North American Chinatowns along with a research team that includes Henry Tsang (Architecture, Athabasca University), Hyesun Jeong (Architecture, University of Texas-Arlington), Eliot Tretter (Geography, University of Calgary), and Cary Wu (Sociology, York University). Their research is funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada.

For more information on the history of Calgary Chinatown, see the Chinatown Historical Context Paper (<https://www.calgary.ca/content/dam/www/pda/pd/documents/current-studies-and-ongoing-activities/tomorrows-chinatown/chinatown-context-paper.pdf>)

Matt Patterson (University of Calgary)

Letter from the President (Continued)

Advances in these objectives will depend on members' proposals and involvement in RC03 activities and the facilitation work that the RC03 Board and its Steering Committee should develop. In this sense, RC03 Board and Steering Committee will focus mainly on three objectives:

1. To consolidate RC03 legal and organizational framework according to ISA requirements and RC03 members new proposals.
2. To increase communication and activities among RC03 members.
3. To improve academic visibility of RC03 research activities in events promoted by ISA, other academic associations, and the own RC03.

Regarding the first objective, we held elections for the Presidency at the end of 2020. In July 2021, after consultation among RC03 membership, we have updated RC03 statutes according to ISA requirements regarding elections procedures and mandates. A more flexible process for status amendments and an Honorary Committee to recognize work and contributions done by previous board members have also been included. 20 of 59 RC03 members participated and agreed with the updated proposal. Therefore, the new RC03 statutes have been communicated to the ISA Secretariat, accomplishing the first objective. Nevertheless, the RC03 Steering Committee would like to promote other changes to enhance RC03 functioning based on members' proposals.

As a starting point to improve members' communication, a new format and content for the RC03 newsletter has been designed, and we are working on a new RC03 website. The newsletter will keep members informed about ISA and the RC03 activities. However, the newsletter can also be a space for mutual academic knowledge by including members' activities, research projects and publications. A new 'community profile' section has also been created to showcase, through brief

case studies, our work on communities (on different settings and worldwide regions, from different theoretical perspectives and applying different methods). A new website will also be designed to enhance communication among us and give visibility to our work on RC03. All these tasks are being done by our new Newsletter Editor, Matt Patterson (University of Calgary). In addition to these two communication channels, the RC03 Steering Committee is thinking about the possibility of incorporating new or more innovative channels to share our activities and activities of interest done by RC03 members.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our academic activities have changed, especially the possibility of holding academic events in the format we usually do and prefer. As you know, the last ISA Forum, held in Rio de Janeiro in February 2021, was finally on-line. Due to the same circumstance and the differences in the pandemic consequences in different parts of the world, the Assembly of Councils of the ISA decided to postpone the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology to June-July 2023. This decision was preceded by a vivid debate among RC representatives in the Research Council during the first semester of 2021. This decision also means RC Boards' mandate will finish on June 2023 and the ISA Forum will be held in 2025. The Research Council has also debated the format for the next ISA Forum. The vote, held on June 12th among RC/WG/TG representatives, obtained the following results: 37% for on-site/in-person forum, 35% for virtual/on-line forum, 27.5% for equal support for both options (51 votes were cast). This result has been sent to the ISA Executive Committee for a final decision. (Continued on next page)

World Congress and Forum are two relevant opportunities to share and give academic visibility to own work, individually and as RC03. These events have been a place to create an active and large research community, especially around two research networks promoted by Terry N. Clark as RC03 President: *Fiscal Austerity and Urban Innovation* and *Urban Cultural Scenes*. Comparative research done in these two networks has been presented in the ISA congress and

Letter from the President (Continued)

other scientific meetings organized by RC03 members and their institutions. The Steering Committee would like to enhance these kinds of activities promoting research networks and activities in addition to the World Congress and the Forum. To this end, members' proposals about research activities and scientific events are welcome. The RC03 Board will discuss strategies related to this issue to be proposed and discussed with RC03 membership.

I hope that this 2021 second semester will be a healthy and intellectually fulfilling period, in which collaboration and sharing ideas help to enhance RC03 activities, your professional goals, as well as a safe and enjoyable life with your loved ones.

Clemente J. Navarro, RC03 President (on behalf of the RC03 Steering Committee)

New Members (Continued)

John Foran, University of California at Santa Barbara, United States

Monika Maria Koziar, Uniwersytet SWPS, Instytut Nauk Społecznych, Poland

Sharat Kumar, Delhi Public School Patna, Social Science, India

Czarina Medina-Guce, Ateneo de Manila University, Development Studies, Philippines

Emma Porio, Ateneo de Manila University, Sociology & Anthropology, Philippines

Max Stephenson Jr., Institute for Policy and Government, Virginia Tech, United States

Emmanuel Yenshu Vubo, University of Buea, Sociology and Anthropology, Cameroon

Member Publications

Barnes N, Poets D and Stephenson Jr MO (eds) (2021) *Maré from the Inside: Art, Culture and Politics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil*. Blacksburg: Virginia Tech.

Black T and C Dolgon (2021) Zombie Sociology: Why Our Discipline Is so Susceptible to the Undead. *Critical Sociology* 47(3): 507–514.

Bročić M and Silver D (2021) The influence of Simmel on American sociology since 1975. *Annual Review of Sociology* 47: 87–108.

Dias F and Silver D (2021) Neighborhood dynamics with unharmonized longitudinal data. *Geographical Analysis* 53(2): 170–191.

Dolgon C and Roth R (2020) Labor education Programs. In: Rocco TS, Smith MC, Mizzi RC, Merriweather LR and Hawley JD (eds) *The Handbook of Adult and Continuing Education*. Sterling, VA: Stylus.

Dolgon C (2021) My radical journey back home: Revolutionary humanist sociology--truth, healing, reparations, and restructuring. Presidential Address delivered to the *Society for the Study of Social Problems Annual Meeting* (virtual) Chicago, IL. August 6th.

Fasenfest D (2021) Neoliberalism, urban policy and environmental degradation. In: Cassano G and Benz T (eds) *Geographies of Neoliberal Indifference: Environmental Racism in Flint and Beyond*. Leiden: Brill.

Groenewald L (2021) Lip service: How voices from informal settlements were sidelined during the first decade of local democracy in South Africa. In Bekker S, Croese S and Pieterse E (eds) *Refractions of the National, the Popular and the Global in African Cities*. Cape Town: African Minds.

Harvey R (2020) Contesting hyperglobal framings: An analytical approach. *New Global Studies* 14(3): 237–261.

Member Publications (Continued)

Horikawa, S (2021) *Why Place Matters: A Sociological Study of the Historic Preservation Movement in Otaru, Japan, 1965–2017*. Cham, Switzerland: Springer.

Lachapelle PR, Gutierrez-Montes I, and Flora CB (eds) (2021) *Community Capacity and Resilience in Latin America*. New York: Routledge.

Mateos-Mora C, Herrera-Gutiérrez MR and González-Benítez C (2021) The impacts of area-based policies on essential retail in vulnerable areas. *Sustainability* 13(14): 8023.

Navarro CJ (2020) Políticas de regeneración urbana en España en el marco de las iniciativas de la Unión Europea Papers https://iermb.uab.cat/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/PAPERS_63_ART-5.pdf

Navarro CJ (2021) Comunidades urbanas y participación local en Europa. Modo de vida urbano, apego a la comunidad e implicación en actividades locales *Encrucijadas: Revista Crítica de Ciencias Sociales* 21.

Navarro CJ (2021) The effectiveness of integral urban strategies: policy theory and target scale. The European URBAN I initiative and employment *Sustainability* 13(11): 6251.

Navarro CJ (ed.) (2020) *Los Nuevos Retos de las Políticas Urbanas*. Valencia: Tirant lo blanch.

Navarro, C.J. and Guerrero-Mayo, M.J. (eds.) (2021) *Nuevas políticas urbanas en Iberoamérica*, Valencia, Tirant lo blanch.

Olson AW, Zhang K, Calderon-Figueroa F, Yakubov R, Sanner S, Silver D, and Arribas-Bel D (2021) Classification and regression via integer optimization for neighborhood change. *Geographical Analysis* 53(2): 192–212.

Patterson, M (2020) Revitalization, transformation, and the "Bilbao Effect": Testing the local area impact of iconic architectural developments in North America, 2000 to 2009. *European Planning Studies*. doi:10.1080/09654313.2020.1863341

Silver D, Fox M and Adler P (2020) Towards a model of urban evolution I: context. <https://osf.io/preprints/socarxiv/yubkr/>

Silver D and Silva TH (2021) A Markov model of urban evolution: Neighbourhood change as a complex process. *Plos one* 16(1): e0245357.

Silver D and Taylor Z (2021) The spatial articulation of urban political cleavages. *Urban Affairs Review* 57(4): 911–951.

Silver D, Byrne U and P Adler. Venues and segregation: A revised Schelling model. *PloS one* 16(1): e0242611.

Wedam E and Wong RSC (2021) Religion and Violence in the Urban Context. In: Day K and Edwards EM (eds) *The Routledge Handbook of Religion and Cities*. New York: Routledge.

Wu J, Zheng H, Wang T and Clark TN (2021) Bohemian cultural scenes and creative development of Chinese cities: An analysis of 65 cities using cultural amenity data. *Sustainability* 13: 5260. doi:10.3390/su13095260

Contacts

The RC03 website containing a variety of information is available at the location below. <http://rc03communityresearch.wordpress.com/>

Please send future announcements to Matt Patterson (matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca)

Member Publications (Continued)

Zaaiman J and Mupambwa G (2021) An application of the four dimensional model of power: the case of Khutsong. *Journal of Political Power* 14(2): 131–152.
doi:10.1080/2158379X.2021.1878410

Zaaiman J. 2021. Power and agency in the local domain: A reflection on the debates and pointers for research. *Politikon* 48(1): 115–134.
doi:10.1080/02589346.2020.1861511

Zapata Moya AR and Navarro CJ (2020) Urban regeneration policies and mental health in a context of economic crisis in Andalusia (Spain). *Journal of Housing and Built Environment* 36: 393–405.
doi:10.1007/s10901-020-09774-0