

# SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS AND SOCIOLOGY OF DEVELOPMENT

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## RC09 Newsletter

### What's new in this issue?

- **Remarks from RC09 Co-Chairs p. 2**
- **New research project by Manoj Kumar Jena on Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and its Impact on Human Health in Delhi NCR pp. 3-6**
- **New publications of RC09 members pp. 7-11**
- **Announcements pp. 12-14**

### RC09 STATUTES UPDATED!

**To read and/or download the 2021  
RC09 Statutes,  
visit our RC09 website!**

**More on: p.13**

<https://rc09socialtransformations.org>

# Remarks from the RC09 Co-Chairs: Ulrike Schuerkens and Habibul Khondker

Dear RC 09 members,

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has dominated the global economy for the second year in a row. Vaccines and some therapies brought hope in 2021 but in 2022 so far omicron, and now “stealth omicron” or, Omicron BA.2 is dominating the news creating new uncertainties.

The outlook for the global labor market has worsened, and a return to pre-pandemic performance may remain out of reach for much of the world over the next few years. Recovery trajectories vary widely across regions, countries, and sectors. Since the start of the recovery, employment growth trends in low- and middle-income countries have lagged those in wealthier economies. The impact has been particularly severe for developing nations with higher levels of unemployment and inequality. As many as 150 million people were pushed to extreme poverty in 2021, according to the World Bank.

Job losses and shorter working hours have led to lower incomes. In the South, the lack of comprehensive social protection systems that can provide income stabilization benefits has exacerbated the financial difficulties of already vulnerable households. Millions of people fell into extreme poverty in 2020. The pandemic has generated economic changes that could become structural as working hours and economic participation decline. With the gradual recovery of economic activity, informal employment has rebounded strongly, and many informal workers have come out of inactivity.

This situation characterizes the global develop-

ment perspective and sociologists are asked to analyze these societal changes. RC 09 launches very soon a Call for working groups that may tackle these topics all over the world. Please, suggest possible working groups and submit them to the RC 09 Board once the Call has been launched.

Ilona Wysmulek has prepared this interesting Newsletter. We thank her for her dedication to this task and the creation of an attractive Newsletter.

As soon as we receive more information on the Melbourne Congress of 2023, we'll get in touch with you.

Ulrike Schuerkens

Habibul Khondker

RC 09 Co-chairs

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# Research Project

## Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and its Impact on Human Health in Delhi NCR (National Capital Region)

**Dr. Manoj Kumar Jena**

Associate Professor, Center for the Study of Social Systems,  
School of Social Sciences, JNU, New Delhi

### About the Project:

The project titled *Climate change, environmental degradation and its impact on human health: A study of selected households in Delhi NCR (National Capital Region)* is funded by IMPRESS, Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi (2019-2021). An extensive study has been conducted in Delhi NCR to assess the impact of climate change and environmental degradation on the population of Delhi NCR. It looks into the interlinkages between climate change and environmental degradation, particularly the effect on human health due to the rise of temperatures, rainfall, smog and air pollution. Environmental degradation, as well as air pollution, is a major concern in Delhi NCR, which is adversely affected by bad air quality with carbon and methane pollutants. The general population of Delhi NCR is severely affected by various air pollutants. Delhi air is highly polluted because of airborne pollutants, fossil fuel pollutants resulting from vehicular pollution and other sources. Air pollution is also impacting the working population in Delhi NCR, particularly the low-income categories. Air pollution, heavy rain, winter waves and heat waves impact employment relations

and household activities.

### Methodology:

The mixed-method has been used to study climate change and weather conditions including temperature, rainfall and level of pollution and its role in health and wellbeing of the Delhi NCR population. Rainfall data from Time Series Monthly Rainfall, Delhi from 1901 to 2010 and temperature data from 1979 to 2013 has been analysed to understand the changing weather conditions of Delhi NCR. The pollution level in various zones was also studied.

Delhi NCR was divided into different zones; the data was collected from various zones through the random sampling method. A total of 400 samples was selected including 50 in-depth case studies. The respondents were from various occupational categories.

### Findings:

Most of the respondents believed that air pollution is a critical issue. Around ninety per cent of respondents believed that air pollution is affecting their health conditions, issues like respiratory problems, headaches, eye irritation, as well as



## Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and its Impact on Human Health in Delhi NCR by Dr. Manoj Kumar Jena

— continued

mental and psychological stress. It is also found that the rise of temperature and heavy rainfall, as well as cold waves, affect health of the Delhi NCR population. The rise of dengue and malaria is associated with the rainfall and poor drainage in Delhi. Water accumulation is an important issue in the rainy season. The waterborne disease and its severity have a consequential effect on health of the working population of Delhi NCR. Major proportions of respondents believed that due to change in climatic condition and bad weather many diseases like dengue, malaria, sunburn and respiratory has increased. The impact on the public health system of Delhi NCR is also observed. The waterlogging in Delhi NCR in August, September and November affects most of the economic activities. All workers including marginal/informal workers are acutely impacted. Majority of respondents believed that monsoon is the worst season in Delhi NCR. Waterlogging problems caused economic hardship among daily workers, particularly those working in the informal sector. Waterborne disease is a major problem in Delhi, because of rainwater accumulation, stagnant water, poor waste and garbage management, and also rainy day supply water that is mixed with rain and drain water. Diarrhoea, jaundice, chikungunya, dengue are dreadful diseases in Delhi NCR.

Vehicular emission, stable burning, construction, lack of proper planning and people's negligence are responsible factors for air pollution in Delhi. Pollution is affecting the eyes and lungs. Eye irritation and respiratory problems are common among many respondents. Many of them also believed that cracker burning during Diwali also creates environmental pollution. Roughly 40 per cent consult doctors because of pollution-related diseases. It is also found that there is a substantial mental stress because of traffic congestion. Mental sickness is another problem because of the high intensity of air pollution. Many of respondents agreed that mental stress occurs because of traffic congestion and it impacts family relationships. Vehicular emission and traffic congestion are directly related to mental stress, headache and eye irritant. Driving for a longer period due to traffic congestion and noise pollution directly affect health and work activities.

### Few Case Studies:

**Case 1:** A university teacher, 32 years old female respondent from North campus, considered changing weather conditions, smog, depletion of the ozone layer, litter and poor waste management as critical environmental issues affecting human health. The respondent shared the adverse impact of air pollution and environmental degradation on her personal life. According to her, industrialization, vehicular emission,



## Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and its Impact on Human Health in Delhi NCR by Dr. Manoj Kumar Jena

— continued

traffic, construction, stubble burning, use of fire-crackers during Diwali, lack of awareness and planning were crucial factors responsible for air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

**Case 2:** A doctor by profession, 55 years old male respondent from Najafgarh, minutely discussed the ill-effects of climate change and environmental degradation on human health. Originally from Haryana, he considered changing climate conditions, pollution of rivers and seas, flooding, litter, poor waste management, depletion of the ozone layer and earth's resources, extinction of species, radioactive waste and overpopulation as serious environmental problems affecting the public at large.

**Case 3:** Working in the private sector, a 23 years old male respondent from Najafgarh considered changing weather conditions, air pollution, litter and congestion as important environmental problems. For him, the use of crackers during Diwali, vehicular emission, stubble burning and lack of proper planning and awareness were essential factors responsible for air pollution in Delhi NCR. He experienced health problems like headaches and eye irritation quite frequently. Being asthmatic, the respondent's father faced the brunt of air pollution every year and was even taken to the hospital several times. The respondent also suffered from frequent cough and cold.

**Case 4:** The respondent, originally from Bulandshahr, Utter Pradesh, but currently working as a

rickshaw driver in Najafgarh was affected by environmental issues like air pollution, litter, poor waste management and traffic. The 46 years old respondent expressed concerns regarding the adverse impact of environmental issues on his mental and physical health. He identified vehicular emission detrimental to his health. The rising air pollution level affected the respiratory system of the respondent and his family to an extent that some of them were diagnosed with asthma and were taken to the hospital. Interestingly, he brought to light the issue of migration and linked it up with deteriorating air quality in the city. According to him, water-borne diseases and waterlogging were other problems related to environmental degradation. Winters were regarded as most crucial in terms of health issues. The respondent was advised by the doctor to leave Delhi due to his and the family's debilitating health. Besides the mental and physical pain, the environmental crisis had even led to the respondent's loss of employment.

**Case 5:** 40 years old colonel from Vasant Kunj recognised changing weather conditions as a major environmental problem in recent times. Being originally from Rajasthan, he argued that Delhi was one of the most polluted cities in the world. He considered industrialization, vehicular emission, construction, stubble burning, use of firecrackers during Diwali and lack of planning as factors behind rising pollution levels in the city. Facing respiratory problems himself, he argued that eye irritation and



## Climate Change, Environmental Degradation and its Impact on Human Health in Delhi NCR by Dr. Manoj Kumar Jena

— continued

headache have become an everyday phenomenon for people of Delhi NCR. Calling Delhi, the “pollution capital of the world”, the respondent expressed grave concerns regarding the deteriorating health of people. According to him, water-borne diseases and waterlogging were an outcome of environmental degradation. Monsoon season was identified as the most critical period contributing significantly to various health problems.

**Case 6:** 30 years old real estate agent born and brought up in Delhi. He lives in the Malkaganj area near the north campus of Delhi University running his property-dealing shop. According to him most of the problems occurring around Delhi NCR either it is due to climatic change, air pollution, waterlogging issues, as well as polluted water and the ill will and the negligence of government machinery and lack of proper planning of the urban area. According to him most of the plans are made by past and present governments but at the execution level it is not getting done in reality or on time. As a result, most of the problems arise in Delhi NCR due to mismanagement or delay in implementing them. He told that, he and his family are getting affected due to uneven rain, extreme temperature rise, air pollution. He also said that some of his neighbours have started migrating from Delhi to their native village or other cities because of these problems.

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# NEW PUBLICATIONS

Springer, Emily. 2021. [Caught between winning repeat business and learning: Reactivity to output indicators in international development](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105506). *World Development* 144: 1-15.  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2021.105506>

## In brief

This article details how and why monitoring & evaluation (M&E) have become so powerful, forcing professionals and organizations alike to focus on hitting targets rather than on the substantive content the targets were meant to measure.

## Highlights

- Using a case study, I investigate how standardized output indicators impact informal learning.
- Findings suggest that strong reactions to simple output indicators occur in development projects.
- These reactions negatively sanction learning outside the frame of standardized indicators.
- Each donor and implementer office tier uses indicators to manage and compare the tier below them.
- Auditable indicator data should be considered a key product feature of large donor-funded projects.

## Abstract

Recent sociological scholarship posits that performance metrics alter professional and organizational behavior, meaning performance indicators may recreate rather than empirically measure phenomena of interest. This perverse effect of measurement is at odds with the goals of international development monitoring and evaluation (M&E) practices, which promote learning “what works” to hone financial stewardship and route funds toward the most evidence-based, high-impact projects. Focusing on the internal, mandated, and standardized M&E system of a large bilateral agricultural development initiative, this article examines whether perverse reactions occur in

this case study and how they impact the process of informal learning “what works” by professionals. Although the M&E system under study is standardized across multiple recipient countries, I utilize the experiences of multiple organizations and projects in a single East African country, and interview 58 development professionals. Using this case study, the article demonstrates that the perverse effects of measurement are initiated by the vertical managerial structure of a single project, forming the status quo of everyday development work. It then shows that the status quo is reinforced by the horizontal comparisons at each tier made possible by standardized M&E systems, including comparisons of performance between implementing organizations or donor field offices. Such comparison quiets professionals and organizations that attempt to introduce more empirical forms of learning “what works.” The article suggests that high stakes measurement practices create M&E systems that, instead of enabling learning about “what works” in projects, produce evidence to garner repeat business, what development professionals colloquially term “rebiz.”

## Keywords

Learning; monitoring & evaluation; organizational pressures; evidence-based; African agriculture; East Africa

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# NEW PUBLICATIONS

Parra Saiani, P., E. Ivaldi, A. Ciacci & L. Di Stefano. 2021. [Broken Trust. Confidence Gaps and Distrust in Latin America](#). *Social Indicators Research*. [Open Access Paper]  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11205-021-02796-3>

## Abstract

Latin American societies show lower levels of political trust when compared to other regions of the world. The lack of trust in institutions can lead to ineffective management of public affairs, social crises, lack of transparency, economic problems and even difficulties in countering pandemics. The objective of this work is to build an index (LADI) that provides a measure of the level of perceived distrust in the institutions of the different Latin American countries and its variations over the period from 2008 to 2018. The data used for this analysis are of a subjective nature and come from the series of surveys provided by Latinobarómetro. To

develop the analysis, we have used a quantitative approach of a partially non-compensatory aggregative type, known as Adjusted Mazziotta and Pareto Index. The results show a generalized increase of distrust in the years 2017 and 2018 for several Latin American countries. On the other hand, in countries where the rule of law is more consolidated, a best perception of the functioning of democracy emerges.

## Keywords

Institutional trust; government; Latin America; aggregative method; temporal index

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Stoltz, Dustin S., and Aaron Z. Pitluck. 2021. [Resources in Relational Packages: Social Capital as a Byproduct of Relational Work](#). *Social Currents* 8(6): 549-65.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/23294965211045081>

## Abstract

Social capital theory offers a compelling explanation as to why people are committed to making resources available to others outside of formal institutions. In this article, we build on social capital theory to explain how actors overcome two practical problems endemic to these resource transfers. We present Viviana Zelizer's relational work theory as a complimentary framework which accounts for when an individual may act on commitments to offer resources and which commitments to act upon when they are in conflict. Drawing on our empirical work on almsgiving to social outcasts and resource transfers at mourning ceremonies in Azerbaijan, we describe how people identify and ascribe their relationships to others by relying on available cultural conventions to mark economic transac-

tions and other media as appropriate or inappropriate. By conceptualizing social capital in this way, we also obtain a process-tracing methodology useful for social researchers and for community activists to generate ideas on how to expand social capital in their own or others' communities.

## Keywords

Social capital; relational work; economic sociology; Viviana Zelizer

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# NEW PUBLICATIONS

Parra Saiani, P. & D. Videla Igor. (Eds.) 2020. [Human Development for All. Social Sciences in Dialogue for an Inclusive Society](#). Roma. Social-One. ISBN: 978-88-95697-08-6  
[Download here the open source e-book.](#)



## About this book:

Human development for everyone requires inclusion of all in the development discourse and process» (UNDP 2016: 16): the global scenario shows numerous signs of intolerance, exclusion, and deep conflicts in social coexistence. There is a need to consider the challenge of developing societies that embrace diversity and pluralism in the face of inequalities. An inclusive society aims at promoting both individual and social growth by enhancing everyone's full active participation in social life, irrespective of age, sex, race, ethnicity, disability, origin, religion, economic, or other statuses. Because we understand social inclusion as a process of improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society, our focus is on the study of factors and social mechanisms that cultivate both abilities and opportunities for disadvantaged groups. The authors of this collection come from different disciplines since the concept of human development cannot be correctly examined without a prosperous connection of various fields of knowledge.

1. Human Development.
2. Interdisciplinary research.
3. Social structure.
4. Social stratification.
5. Inequality.
6. Urban mobility.

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# NEW PUBLICATIONS

**Bogner, Artur and Mennell, Stephen. (Eds.) 2022. *Civilisations, Civilising Processes and Modernity – A Debate. Documents from the Conference at Bielefeld, 1984*. Palgrave Studies on Norbert Elias. ISBN-13: 978-3030803780**

## About this book:

In 1984, the celebrated sociologist and historian Norbert Elias convened a major conference on ‘Civilisations and civilising processes’ at the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research (University of Bielefeld). Participants included the most distinguished and influential scholars in historical sociology and world history. This book will make available, for the first time in one place, the papers presented by the speakers and, even more interestingly, the transcripts of discussions at the symposium. This conference brought together eminent and internationally reputed scholars of macro-history and historical sociology including Johann P. Arnason, Elias, Hans-Dieter Evers, Johan Goudsblom, Keith Hopkins, William H. McNeill, and Immanuel Wallerstein. This highly informative encounter between various leading scholars of humanity’s global social history has never before been published, although it was completely recorded on paper and in tape recordings. Its publication in one volume should be an important event for all students of the long-term structural transformations of humanity.

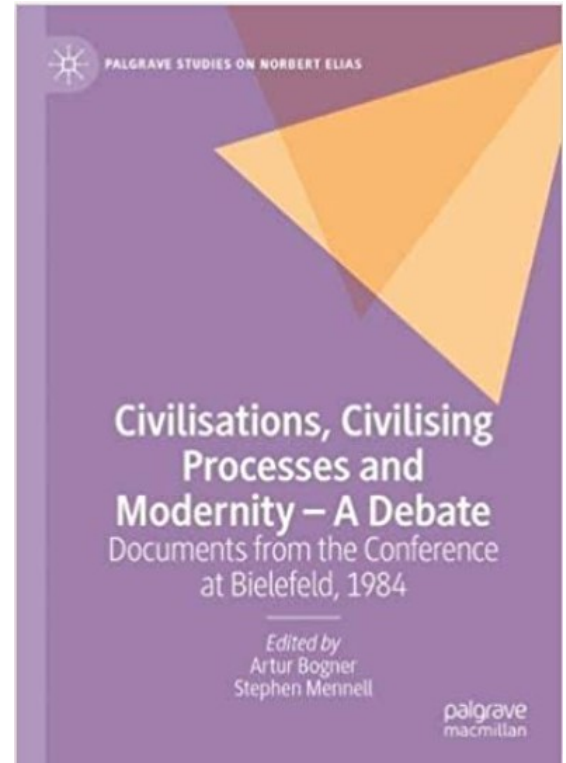
## Highlights:

- ⇒ Makes available for the first time debates between major figures in the study of world history and social development
- ⇒ Collects as-yet unpublished papers of Evers, Wallerstein, McNeill, Elias, Hopkins, and Arnason
- ⇒ Recounts one of the most important phases in the development of macro-history, global history, and macro-sociology

## Editors:

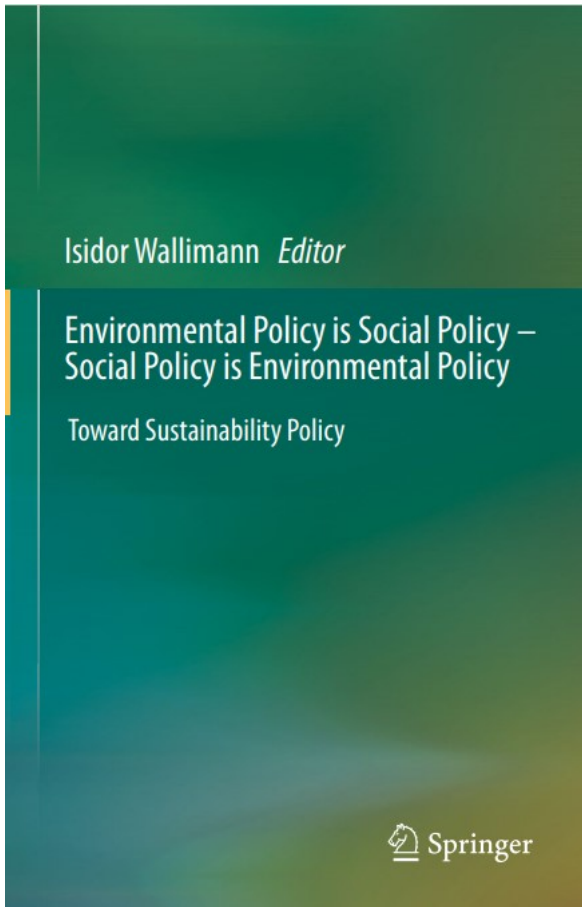
**Artur Bogner**, Dr (Social Sciences), then secretary to Norbert Elias and Research Assistant at the Centre of Interdisciplinary Research at Bielefeld, was the principal organiser of the conference which is the subject of this book. In recent decades, as a researcher at the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities and the University of Bayreuth, he has conducted field research and published on topics related to armed conflicts and peacebuilding in sub-Saharan Africa.

**Stephen Mennell** is Professor Emeritus of Sociology at University College Dublin, Ireland. He served as General Editor of the Collected Works of Norbert Elias, published in eighteen volumes by UCD Press, and as a member of the board of the Norbert Elias foundation from 1997 to 2016. He is a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Royal Irish Academy and Academia Europaea, and a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.



# NEW PUBLICATIONS

Wallimann, Isidor. (Ed.) 2013. *Environmental Policy Is Social Policy – Social Policy Is Environmental Policy*. New York, NY: Springer New York.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-6723-6>.



## About this book:

If sustainability is our goal, social and environmental policy must be treated as one and the same field. Examples from Agriculture, Nutrition, Forestry, Urban Planning, Care Work, Tourism, and University Management show that such a paradigm shift is indicated, important, and timely. They also show that Environmental or Social Impact Assessments are no longer adequate. The new paradigm synthetically combines environmental and social policy. Not to do so leads to policy inefficiency and perverse effects. One policy domain may counteract or outright “sabotage” the other.

To synthetically combine environmental and social policy calls for a trans-disciplinary perspective to include both policy fields and academic disciplines. This is well illustrated by the contributors in this book who represent numerous academic disciplines. They help professionals and students appreciate the centrality of trans-disciplinary thought and practice in working toward sustainability.

## Highlights:

- ⇒ Increases the awareness that environmental policy has social policy type outcomes and is of direct relevance to social policy
- ⇒ Lays a foundation for reorganizing and merging social and environmental policy administrations
- ⇒ Provides a trans disciplinary approach and pursues to influence and advance the discourse on sustainability

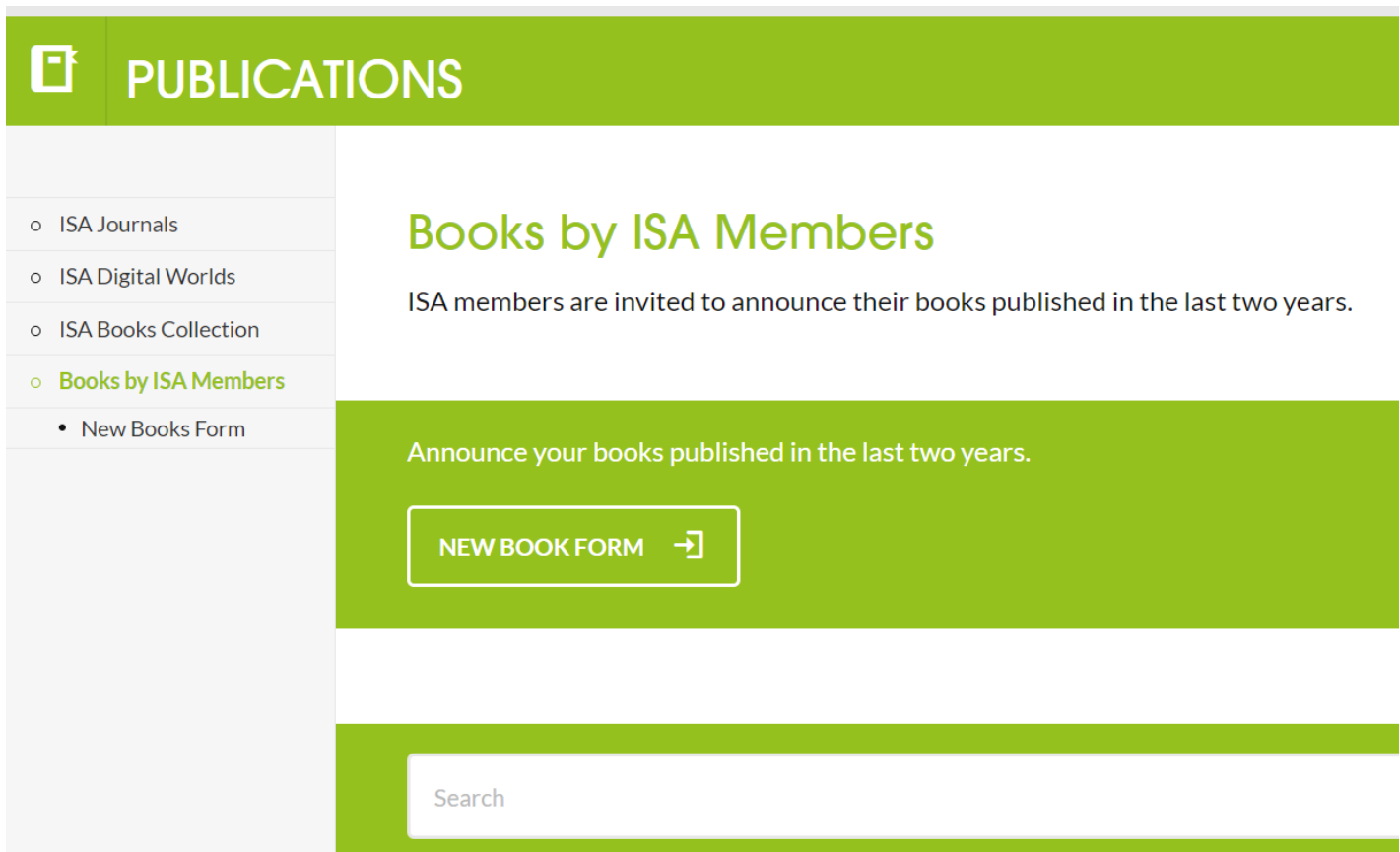
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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

Announcement by Izabela Barlinska,  
Executive Secretary, International Sociological Association

*“ISA RC09 members are invited to announce on the ISA website their books published in the last two years.”*

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/publications/books-by-isa-members>



The screenshot shows a website interface with a green header and a sidebar. The main content area is white with green accents. The sidebar contains a list of navigation items, with 'Books by ISA Members' highlighted. The main content area features a title 'Books by ISA Members', a paragraph of text, a green call-to-action box with a 'NEW BOOK FORM' button, and a search bar at the bottom.

**PUBLICATIONS**

- ISA Journals
- ISA Digital Worlds
- ISA Books Collection
- **Books by ISA Members**
  - New Books Form

## Books by ISA Members

ISA members are invited to announce their books published in the last two years.

Announce your books published in the last two years.

**NEW BOOK FORM** →

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# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## RC09 STATUTES UPDATED

*From Ulrike and Habib:*

*“The RC 09 Statutes that we had submitted to the RC 09 membership have been accepted. We thank you for your kind approval. The changes have been made to be consistent with the ISA statutes requirements.”*

To read and/or download the updated 2021 RC09 Statutes, visit our website:

<https://rc09socialtransformations.org/statutes/>



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### About

Established in 1971, the Research Committee on Social Transformations and Sociology of Development, RC09, strives to represent sociologists interested in the study of social transformations and development around the world, regardless of their theoretical persuasion, methodological approaches or ideological perspective. The goal of the RC09 is to advance sociological knowledge on social transformations and development and to support research on this topic among scholars around the world.

[Download RC09 Statutes 2021 as PDF](#)

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### Welcome!

The Research Committee on Social Transformations and Sociology of Development RC09 strives to represent sociologists interested in the study of social transformations and development around the world, regardless of their theoretical persuasion, methodological approaches or ideological perspective. More about the International Sociological Association [here](#)

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## UPCOMING ISA CONGRESS IN AUSTRALIA

### XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



**Resurgent Authoritarianism:**  
*Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies*

**Melbourne, Australia** | June 25-July 1, 2023  
 Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre  
[www.isa-sociology.org](http://www.isa-sociology.org)





A note from Sari Hanafi, President of the International Sociological Association :

*“The XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia, June 25-July 1, 2023 will be in hybrid format. Further details will be provided in due course.”*

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<https://rc09socialtransformations.org>



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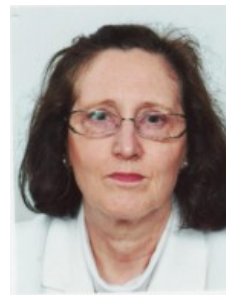
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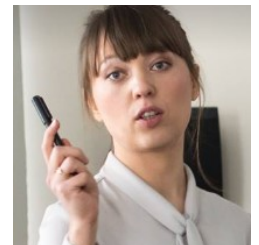


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