

**XVII ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY,
SOCIOLOGY ON THE MOVE
GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
11 - 17 JULY, 2010**

Call for Papers

RC 32 Abstract Submission Deadline – October 1, 2009

RC32 Program Coordinators:

**Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University, USA, MAbraham2010WC@hofstra.edu
and Esther Ngan-ling Chow, American University, USA echow@american.edu**

A major objective of the Research Committee on Women in Society (RC32) is to advance the development of theory, methods, and practice concerning women in society and the gendered nature of social institutions. RC 32 is also committed to improve research, organize meetings, and promote other means of communication, cooperation, and collaboration among researchers at the national, regional, and international levels. One of the ways that RC 32 achieves these objectives is by organizing multiple regular sessions and collaborating on joint sessions as part of major conferences. The XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology with its theme of *Sociology on the Move* provides a major forum for RC32 to interrogate theoretical paradigms and methods, discuss current research, hear a diversity of voices, and inspire collective action to empower women and men, locally and globally. Below is the list of proposed sessions and submission deadlines. (The order and session number are subject to change).

REGULAR SESSIONS

1. Gender and ‘Traditionalism’ in Global Times: Women Negotiating Difference

Session organizers:

Cynthia Joseph, Monash University, Australia, cynthia.joseph@education.monash.edu.au
and *Shanti Thambiah*, Universiti Malaya, Malaysia, shanti@um.edu.my

How do we understand women’s identity practices in new contemporary times? How do women negotiate ethnic and cultural traditions of patriarchy, neo-colonialism and globalisation? How are they (dis)empowered by the material inequalities of their lives and the globalised neo-colonial webs of power? How are ‘new’ gender identities being re-defined and re-constituted through discourses operating at the local and global levels? This panel welcomes papers that will address these important questions through case studies located in diverse social and national contexts. The session will look at the ways in which cultural, educational and/or work spaces are both dynamic and constraining within the processes of women’s self-identifications. The papers presented will raise

important issues of doing research on multiple identities in challenging and changing globalised racial/ethnic and gendered spaces of education, work and/or womanhood.

2. Women, War, and Peace Building

Session organizers:

Josephine Beoku-Betts, Florida Atlantic University, USA, beokubet@fau.edu, *Bandana Purkayastha*, University of Connecticut, USA, bandana.purkayastha@uconn.edu and *Abha Chauhan*, University of Jammu, India, acju@rediffmail.com

This session will focus on the gendered nature of armed conflicts in national/civil and across international spaces, with emphasis on the distinctive ways in which women and girls are affected. It will also focus on gendered peace. Much attention has been given in social science scholarship to the role of states, civil society, and historical processes, such as colonialism and globalization in perpetuating conflict, and ways in which women and girls have been victimized including the institutional and ideological factors that make women's suffering invisible. Emerging scholarship also addresses particular ways in which women contribute to peace building across public and private spheres, reconstruction, and democratization locally, nationally and globally, after armed conflict. We invite proposal submissions that reflect current theoretical and empirical sociological scholarship on the gendered nature of armed conflict and strategies women employ to attain peace, justice, and the reconfiguration of gender roles in post-armed conflict societies.

Topics may include but not be limited to:

- Gender based violence
- Women and children in armed conflict
- Refugees, internally displaced and asylum seekers
- Food security, land rights and land reform
- Gender and rights based discourse
- Civil society and social movements
- Women's participation in economic and social reconstruction
- Ethnicity and citizenship
- Promoting gender equity in international laws, resolutions, and conventions
- Women's participation in peace building and conflict resolution
- Cultures and ideologies of peace and human capabilities
- Building peace by claiming civil, political, cultural, and economic human rights.
- Rebuilding societies that are cognizant of human rights after long periods of conflict.

3. Violence, War and Beyond: Gender, Embodiment and Women's Lived Experiences of War and Violence

Session organizers:

Abha Chauhan, University of Jammu, India, acju@rediffmail.com *Josephine Beoku-Betts*, Florida Atlantic University, USA, beokubet@fau.edu and *Bandana Purkayastha*, University of Connecticut, USA, bandana.purkayastha@uconn.edu

Resolution 1325 at the UN encapsulates decades of women's activism to recognize the ways in which women are harmed by armed conflict along with the ways in which women build peace. This session will focus on women—as embodied beings—in situations of war and conflict. How are women's bodies used, reconstituted, and reframed in times of war and violence? How are caste, community, religion, nation, race, and gender in their complex interconnections inscribed on women's bodies in situations of war and violence? And what roles do ideologies of shame, honour, chastity and stigma play in this process? As their lived experiences suggest, women have been abducted, beaten, raped, rendered destitute, widowed, rehabilitated, and fenced in refugee camps. At the same time embodied women have quietly and vocally initiated and sustained peace-building efforts promoting social conditions that ensure human beings are able to live to their fullest capabilities. We welcome papers that bring out such lived experiences of women—who belong to diverse communities and groups across the world—who have faced war and violence of various forms across the world.

4. Gender, Private Life and Quality of Life

Session organizers:

Laura Maratou-Alipranti, Greek National Centre for Social Research, Greece, lalipranti@ekke.gr and *Alexandra Koronaiou*, Panteion University, Greece, alexkoron@gmail.com

The session will focus on gender roles in the private sphere and will try to investigate and identify the processes that sustain and reproduce the unequal gender division of paid and unpaid work within the context of private life and the degree of change in social practices and behaviors. We welcome papers that examine the intersection of work and family, the father-mother balance in the distribution of child care and housework tasks, the new patterns of life, the allocation of unpaid work assumed by parents and how this is accommodated in the new model related to the shift to the adult worker model. The nature of the choices made by men and women depend on the extent to which social policies address the implementation of equality in everyday practices and the position of men and women in the labour market where there are substantial variations. In addition, free time is an important issue for the understanding of citizens' quality of life. The formal time for childcare and work versus the informal time, that is free-leisure time of men and women, indicate that there is a dichotomy and unequal balance of family responsibilities in private life. Women usually carry the burden of family responsibilities which affect their quality of life at all levels and this tends to limit their personal free time for different activities.

5. Women, Social Movements and Collective Action

Session organizers:

Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University, USA, MAbraham2010WC@hofstra.edu, *Anna-Britt Coe*, Umea University, Sweden, anna-britt.coe@soc.umu.se and *Eva Blay*, Brazil, eblay@usp.br

Women have played a critical role in social movements. Through collective action they have advocated for social justice and equality. The goal of this session is to examine how women have organized social movements, historically and in contemporary contexts, to address social justice issues, access to resources and to secure the rights of individuals and communities at the local, national, transnational and global level. Particular attention will also be paid to conceptual frameworks for understanding the ways that women mobilize to tackle the emerging issues of our time and use collective action to influence public policy and practice. We will also look at the impact of feminism in shaping social movement outcomes and the ways that women have organized, within and across differences of class, ethnicity, race, religion and nationality for social change.

Topics for submission may include but are not limited to:

- Women and national movements
- Women's inclusion and exclusion in social movements
- Gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender advocacy
- Conceptual frameworks for understanding women and social movements
- Successes and challenges in the Feminist movement
- Ending violence against women
- Women in labor movements
- Coalition building in social movements
- Women, social movements and cultural change
- Identity politics in social movements
- Reproductive rights movement
- Women, war and peace building movements
- Immigrant women's organizing

6. Gendering Migration in a Globalized Post Cold War Era

Session organizers:

Oluyemi Fayomi, Covenant University, Nigeria, olu_fayomi@yahoo.com and *Ehiyamen Ozezua*, Covenant University, Nigeria, osezuaomo2002@yahoo.com

Globalization entails multiple and contradictory processes in the era of post Cold War and women make up an increasing proportion of international movements. Political and policy environments of the host countries are influenced by the neoliberal ideological principles, which are contributing to changes in migration policy, labour markets, and social provisions that make female migrants vulnerable to socio-political inequalities. The Session seeks papers on theoretical and empirical studies that reflect the most pressing and contested issues-neoliberal policies, democracy, multiculturalism in the era of post Cold War. Gendered work environmental impacts on the migrant such as the erosion of socio-political provisions and deregulation of labour market that undermine commitment to principles of economic redistribution that threatened the well-being of women who migrate to other countries.

7. Multiple Visions of Gender Equality

Session organizers:

Minako Konno, Kobe University, Japan, konno@kobe-u.ac.jp and *Linda Pietrantonio*, University of Ottawa, Canada, Linda.Pietrantonio@uottawa.ca

Sociologists have not been very good at directly asking normative questions. This is true for the works of feminism as well, which is among the most normatively oriented within the field. Normative orientations as to what exactly is meant by the concept of gender equality are often taken for granted, or not discussed very openly, which have made true dialogues difficult among those from diverse backgrounds. For example, the vision of equality upheld in some “Western” countries is sometimes viewed as an ideal, which have lead to label other societies “more patriarchal,” while hasty dichotomy between the “East” and the “West” have masked the important commonality between them as well as the inner diversity of the “East” as well as of the “West”. Many would agree that the visions of basic equality, such as those concerning basic living and social conditions, should be shared by a wide variety of people. Yet we have gradually been aware that beyond this basic level there are multiple visions of gender equality in different parts of the world and they can be a powerful tool for “immanent critique” in each society. Articulating them in a different level of abstraction and sharing them with those from different cultural backgrounds must be a great opportunity for mutual learning. This session aims to help understand the multiple visions of gender equality, which can offer a basis for unity in diversity in the tradition of feminist imagination. Papers that address the above are welcome.

8. Women's Bodies, Religion, and Politics: Unveiling the veil in the Middle East

Session organizers:

Nazanin Shahrokni (Iran), University of Berkeley, USA, nazanin@berkeley.edu and *Suaad Zayed Al-Oraimi*, UAE University, United Arab Emirates, s.aloraimi@uaeu.ac.ae

Behind the veil, beyond the chador, beneath the scarf, Middle Eastern women’s lives have been under scrutiny of the “Western eye”. The veil has become the central element around which Middle Eastern women’s stories are told. These stories and the scholarship on the veil predominantly make use of binaries such as oppression / resistance, tradition / modernity, and religious / secular. The veil means different things to the women who wear it (or those who don’t), to the “Western” observer, and to the states which make their women to veil or unveil. The story of the veil in the Middle East is more complicated than the current scholarship suggests it is. This session is about women’s bodies, religion and politics. It aims at bringing together papers that offer fresh approaches to this rather over-studied issue. The session especially welcomes papers which critically engage with the abovementioned binaries and investigate their implications for the study of the veil in the Middle East.

9. Women’s Empowerment; Pathways to Well-Being: Global Lessons

Session organizers:

Akosua Adomako Ampofo, University of Ghana, Ghana, adomako@gmail.com and *Akosua Darkwah*, University of Ghana, Ghana, keseboa@ug.edu.gh

Growing out of lessons from a 2004/2005 Fulbright New Century Scholar collaboration as well as the work of a Global Research Project Consortium (2005-2008) this panel seeks to bring together experiences from the Global North and South on Pathways to Women's Well-being. Kabeer (2001) has defined empowerment as "the expansion in people's ability to make strategic life choices in a context where this ability was previously denied to them." This definition contains the elements of change from a condition of disempowerment, and that of human agency and choice. While this kind of empowerment will be context specific and differ from one woman to another it is likely to include economic, socio-cultural, familial/interpersonal, legal, policy, political, and psychological aspects. Papers are invited that speak to aggregate lessons on positive change for women under different circumstances and in different contexts. For example, market traders in the Global South might benefit from policy changes that improve their access to global markets, while women in the industrialised North might benefit from popular constructions that free them from the bondage of the fashion and cosmetic surgery industry. The papers should speak to original research that shows how and why these experiences or changes have been empowering for the specific group of women.

10. Transnational Feminism and Cultural Boundaries: Theory, Research and Practice

Session organizers:

Esther Ngan-ling Chow, American University, USA echow@american.edu,
Tan Lin, Women's Studies Institute of China and All China Women's Federation,
China, tanlin6030@yahoo.com, and *Marilyn Porter*, Memorial University,
Canada, mporter@mun.ca

Transnational processes emerge in a variety of ways to intersect at the juncture where global forces are intricately linked to the local cultures, people and changes. Transnational analyses cover a wide spectrum ranging from transnational corporations, diaspora and migration, cultural diffusion, sexuality, citizenship, nation-state, religion, tourism and women trafficking, decolonization, women's activism, social movements, war and environment. As feminists try to overcome the barriers between researchers from north and south and from different cultural backgrounds, we explore how transnational and transcultural research creates new forms of feminist knowledge. This session seeks to illuminate transnational and transcultural scholarship on women and gender that broadens and deepens sociological knowledge and enhances women's agendas for positive social change. We are soliciting both theoretical and empirical papers that employ transnational frameworks as well as those that examine the challenges of methodological issues and those that consider issues of agency, policy and change in studies that cross borders. We welcome work that reflects a variety of perspectives, approaches, and methods and that draws upon empirical research from different countries and contexts to address the complexity and dynamic relationships between gender and transnationalism.

11. The Gender Challenge(s) in Academia: Local, National and International Perspectives

Session organizers:

Liisa Husu, Hanken School of Economics, Finland, liisa.husu@hanken.fi and *Jan Currie* Murdoch University, Australia, j.currie@murdoch.edu.au

Women have made great gains in higher education and academia globally during the last decades, but despite the growing presence of women it is obvious that academic careers, organisations and their knowledge production have remained gendered. In many parts of the world gender inequalities in academia and science have been taken visibly up in the national or regional policy agenda, and as a result numerous gender equality interventions have been launched. The problems are still frequently framed as women's problems, and men are seldom problematized as men. Universities in many countries are currently experiencing major structural and governance reforms and internationalization pressures but the gender impacts of these are rarely discussed. To this RC 32 session on Gender Challenge(s) in Academia we invite papers exploring various gender challenges in modern academia from local, national and international perspectives. Theoretical, empirical or policy oriented papers are all welcome, and we would especially like to attract papers building on international or comparative studies. The gender challenges concern both structures and dynamics of academia: careers, networks, governance, allocation of resources, gatekeeping, interventions, sexualities, discrimination and harassment, intersectionality, as well as content of knowledge production in sociology or other disciplines.

12. Men, Masculinities and Gender Equality: National, Transnational and Global Contexts

Session organizers:

Jeff Hearn, Linköping University, Sweden, hearn@hanken.fi, jefhe@tema.liu.se, *Robert Morrell*, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, MORRELL@ukzn.ac.za, robert.morrell@googlemail.com, and *Sofia Aboim*, University of Lisbon, Portugal, sofia.aboim@ics.ul.pt

Building on the successful session at the Durban ISA Conference, we invite papers, as well as offers of short information pieces and posters on the theme of 'Men, Masculinities and Gender Equality: National, transnational and global contexts' (Form: 1 & 7). In this, we are keen to attract presentations that engage with theoretical, empirical and policy/political aspects of attempts to involve and transform men and masculinities in furthering gender equality and feminist agendas, or indeed responses and resistances to those attempts. While these can be framed in local and national political and policy contexts, we particularly encourage examinations of interventions that are international, multinational or transnational in scope and vision. This inevitably means attention to the relation of the gendering of men to other social divisions, such as ethnicity, racialisation, nationality, sexuality and geographical location. We would especially welcome contributions that attend to social intersections, such as around age, disability and

violence (both military and interpersonal), that often remain neglected in such interventions and analyses.

JOINT SESSIONS

13. Confronting the Politics of Racialized Sexualities: On Regulating Minority Gender Relations and Sexualities

Joint Session of RC 32 (Women in Society) and RC 05(Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations): (RC32 session hosts)

Session organizers:

Sirma Bilge, Université de Montréal, Canada, sirma.bilge@umontreal.ca and *Paul Scheibelhofer*, Central European University, Hungary, scheibelhofer_paul@phd.ceu.hu

Questions of gender and sexualities are essential to understand politics of race and nation at different levels of analysis, whether the local, the national, or the global.

Drawing on what David Goldberg called the ‘liberal paradox’, i.e. how the commitment of modernity to idealized principles of liberty and equality goes hand in hand with a multiplication of racialized identities and the sets of exclusions they prompt and rationalize, enable and sustain (Goldberg 1993), the proposed session will tackle the ways in which ethnocultural exclusion and racialization processes in western liberal democracies currently operate through the problematization of minority/migrant gender relations and sexualities. We are particularly interested in the current mobilizations of women’s rights and gay rights to construe the ‘civilized’ space of western freedoms and their ‘enemies’. Besides the critique of these exclusionary discourses and practices, we welcome contributions engaging with questions of resistance/emancipation and counter-hegemonic practices, and providing frameworks for developing knowledge that lessen domination.

Identified thematic areas for papers include but not limited to:

- Articulations of sexuality and nationalism: recent developments and historical legacies
- The ‘war on terror’ and ‘progressive’ politics of sexuality
- Regulatory controls over migrant gender norms, sexualities and bodies
- Discourses on sexual freedoms/gender equality and (cultural) racism
- Minority/Migrant challenges to regulatory practices and hegemonic discourses
- Representing and regulating minority/migrant masculinities and femininities
- The class politics of racializing sexualities
- Regulating controversial practices (hijab, arranged marriage, polygamy, ‘honour’ crimes, excision, etc.)
- [Discourses on] ‘Human trafficking’ and the control of mobility
- [Discourses on] ‘urban riots’; the ‘war on drugs’, the ‘war on gangs’
- Conjunctions of racism and technologies of sex

14. Globalization, Gender and Families

Joint Session of RC 32 (Women in Society) and RC 06 (Family Research): (RC 32 session hosts)

Session organizers:

Evangelia Tastsoglou, Saint Mary's University, Canada, evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca and *Antoinette Hetzler*, Lund University, Sweden, antoinette.hetzler@soc.lu.se

This session will focus on changing gender and family relations and structures in an increasingly globalized world. Such changes are contextualized first in the rise of neo-liberalism forcing women around the world to exit formal labour markets and relinquish well-established social and economic rights. Migration and “transnationalism from below”, or the constant movement of people across national borders in response to necessity, opportunity and gender roles, are also underlying the changing arrangements. Finally, racialization and the new security climate (“securitization”) globally are also affecting these changing arrangements. Diverse theoretical perspectives and conceptual frameworks in understanding the changes are particularly welcome. Such changing relations and structures include but are not limited to:

- Transnational mothering and parenting;
- Raising of children by live-in caregivers and other paid workers in the global North, which frees professional women of care duties and alters little in traditional gender expectations and responsibilities;
- “Other” ways and experiences of mothering in the global North than those of white, middle-class women;
- Consequences of women “exiting” the labour force, both through forced exits due to changing labour markets and “voluntary exits” in order to attend to family responsibilities (that have fallen through the cracks as a result of a shrinking welfare state), on families and gender relations;
- Divided, "astronaut" immigrant families where the immigrant, usually male breadwinner is separated from the rest of the family and goes back to work in the country of origin for lack of credential recognition and work experience (a result of institutional racialization and securitization) in the receiving country;
- Relations with extended families left behind due to migration and securitization;
- Gendered, transnational caregiving responsibilities;
- Impact of long-term separation for employment purposes on gender relations and families.

15. Gender and Sexuality and Discourses on Citizenship

Joint Session of RC 32 (Women in Society) and RC 25 (Language and Society): (RC 32 session hosts)

Session organizers:

Margaret Abraham, Hofstra University, USA, MAbraham2010WC@hofstra.edu and *Celine-Marie Pascale*, American University, USA, pascale@american.edu

This panel will explore gender, sexuality and discourses on citizenship through two primary frames: 1. How discourses of citizenship construct, reproduce and contest particular conceptions of gender and sexuality. 2. How discourses of gender and sexuality construct, reproduce and contest particular notions of citizenship. We are particularly interested in papers that explore identity formation and citizenship through analyses of language and representation and which address possibilities for social change. Analyses may include any variety of cultural, historical and political spheres.

Themes for paper submissions may include but are not limited to:

- Recent theoretical developments, strategies, and trends in discursive analyses of gender, sexuality and citizenship
- Intersections of gender, sexuality, ethnicity, race and class in citizenship discourse
- Discourses of contestation in movements for sexual citizenship
- Impacts of globalization on gender, sexuality and citizenship discourse
- Language, identity formation and sexual citizenship
- Discourses of gender-equality policies and the development of gay and lesbian policies
- Role of feminist sociology in shaping the discourses on gender, sexuality and citizenship

16. Femininities, Masculinities and Inter-Ethnic Intersections, Contestations and Competition in Post-Colonial Plantation Societies

Joint Session of RC 05 (Racism, Nationalism and Ethnic Relations) and RC 32 (Women in Society) (RC05 session hosts)

Session organizers:

Rhoda Reddock, University of the West Indies, Trinidad and Tobago,
reddock@cgds.uwi.tt and *Ann Denis*, University of Ottawa, Canada,
adenis@uottawa.ca

While a great deal of recent emphasis has been placed on the situation of new migrants to metropolitan centres, there are continuing stories of the impacts of older migrations – forced and assisted, which occurred in earlier phases of capitalist colonial expansion. This panel will explore the situation in specifically post-colonial multi-ethnic plantation societies which trace their population diversity to the labour demands of an expanding trade in plantation products especially through British colonial and capitalist expansion. Countries such as Fiji, Guyana, Sri Lanka, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore and the entire Caribbean share this history and legacy of British colonialism, forced labour systems, large-scale labour transportation and immigration, multi-ethnicity and the plantation. Contestations over ethnicity, identity and citizenship characterise many of these societies and some have been the site of ongoing or recent violent conflict. How are these societies located in the emerging scholarship on intersectionality and post-coloniality, and what new insights can gender analysis bring to our understanding of the history, current context and future of these societies? As feminists how can we learn from each other in addressing this problematic yet exciting legacy?

17. Gender Equality and Family Transitions

Joint Session of RC 06 (Family Research) and RC 32 (Women in Society) (RC 06 session hosts)

Session organizers:

Eva Bernhardt, Stockholm University, Sweden, eva.bernhardt@sociology.su.se and *Kari Skrede*, Statistics Norway, kse@ssb.no

We encourage papers that address the interrelationship between gender equality and family transitions, and which contribute to our understanding of how the processes by which family formation and expansion, family stability, and gender role changes that engage fathers with their children unfold in the lives of those currently in their family-building ages. The Scandinavian countries have been in the forefront of the gender role revolution, with high proportions of fathers sharing the caring role with mothers, and even higher proportions of mothers sharing the providing role with fathers. They also do better than most other countries in maintaining fertility levels near replacement. Most research linking these trends has focused on the role of the state in reducing the conflict between women's employment and family responsibilities, suggesting that this relatively high fertility is the result of state policies that provide women with job security, quality childcare and paid family leave. However, state support for women's ability to combine employment with childrearing has also been cited as a source of these countries' relatively high rates of separation and divorce. But this research has seldom considered the origins of gender equality in the household during childhood and the young adult years, and rarely has it examined its consequences for family building and family dissolution later in young adulthood. Scandinavian scholars as well as those from other countries where these processes are underway and are invited to be contributors.

18. Leisure Time: Women, Work and Family

Joint Session of RC 13 (Sociology of Leisure) and RC 32 (Women in Society) (RC 13 session hosts)

Session Organizers:

Ishwar Modi, India International Institute of Social Sciences, India, iiiss2005modi@yahoo.co.in and *Elizabeth Mathew*, Kerala University, India, ebmathew@hotmail.com

Women's status and social image is changing fast the world over. Globally, though not everywhere, the most significant trend is probably women's increased participation in the labour market. However, throughout the world, women continue to be in charge of the greatest part of house work and child care. As such the distribution of time remains unequal between the genders practically everywhere, as shown by the Time Budget studies carried out, with men generally having more discretionary time for leisure than women. Constraints of the double day for employed women and non-employed women's primary responsibility for house-hold labour result in domestic labour having a stronger effect on women's leisure than on that of men. Several studies have shown that women have significantly less time for both total and domestic leisure than men. However, at the world level, we can discern a strengthening of the values attached to leisure and a clear

development of leisure practices. As such, how has women's leisure evolved in the midst of and outside the family needs to be examined and deliberated?

19. Women's Health and Health Risks in an Unequal World

Joint session of RC 15 (Sociology of Health) and RC 32 (Women in Society) (RC 15 session hosts)

Session organizers:

Elianne Riska, University of Helsinki, Finland, Elianne.riska@helsinki.fi
and *Alpha Possamai-Inesedy*, University of Western Sydney, Australia,
alpha.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.

20. Gender, Education and Reproductive Choices: A Cross-Cultural Perspective

Joint session of RC 41 (Sociology of Population) and RC 32 (Women in Society) (RC 41 session hosts)

Session organizers:

R. Indira, University of Mysore, Mysore, India, indiraramarao@rediffmail.com and
Laura Corradi, Università della Calabria, Italy, laura.corradi@unical.it

There is an increasing realization that population is not just about numbers. Issues relating to population growth or decline have to be understood from different perspectives, of which the gender perspective is a prime one. The influence of gender is further affected by the interplay of socio-economic and cultural factors. This joint session of RC 41 and RC 32 proposes to examine the levels at which female education has an impact on fertility related decisions in a multi-cultural setting. The session invites presentations, which focus on theoretical perspectives on the relationship between women's reproductive choices and their educational levels, and case studies from different parts of the world.

Papers are invited for presentation in this joint session on the following broad themes:

- Population choice and social choice: the gender angle
- Reproductive rights of women, women's autonomy and gendered body dimensions
- Abortion laws and human rights as women's rights,
- Maternal mortality, poverty and institutional delivery
- Female genital mutilation and women's cause
- Age at marriage and fertility

- Women's occupation and population issues: fertility, maternal health and migration

All these issues would be expected to focus on Female Education. Each abstract will be reviewed keeping in view its contribution to the methodology and conceptual issues of Sociology of Population and Gender Studies.

21. Gender, Science, Technology and Innovation, and the Future (RC 23 session hosts)

Joint Session of RC 07 (Futures Research), RC 23 (Sociology of Science and Technology), and RC 32 (Women in Society):

Session organizers: *Radhamany Sooryamoorthy*, University KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa, sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za and *Solange Simões*, Eastern Michigan University, USA, ssimoes@emich.edu

The presence and absence of information and technology (ICT), as that exists today in different parts of the world, have opened up opportunities for scholars, including sociologists, to examine the ways technology is affecting society. As a fast developing realm of technology ICT is inventing new means of communication (mobile and wireless, for instance) that make the study of science communication both challenging and interesting. Although there is an overwhelming literature on science communication still there are areas to be explored, researched, and understood. The divide-including region and gender-is apparent in science as well. The ways the disparities in this divide of access to and availability of ICT is affecting communication in science are not easy to comprehend either. Many new areas of inquiry have sprung up, contributing to the knowledge of science communication across the world. This joint session is to bring together such theoretical, empirical, and methodological knowledge about science communication including its varieties of patterns, types and forms.

ADDITIONAL SESSIONS

22. RC 32 Additional sessions 1: RC 32 Business Meeting

23. RC32 Additional session 2: RC 32 reception and award presentation to the winner of the "Essay Competition for New Scholars"

- Updated details for the essay competition will be posted by March 1st 2009 at http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc32_essay_competition.htm
Committee Chair: *Evangelia Tastsoglou*, Saint Mary's University, Canada (evie.tastsoglou@smu.ca)

24. RC32 Round Table Session: (TBA in final program schedule)

IMPORTANT DEADLINES *

October 1, 2009

- RC32 deadline for submitting your paper abstracts. Abstracts should be approximately 350 words.
- Please be sure to provide the full name, affiliation phone, fax, and email address for all authors.
- Please submit your paper abstract by email directly to the session organizer(s) with a cc of your submission to the conference program coordinators: Margaret Abraham: MAbraham2010WC@hofstra.edu and Esther Ngan-ling Chow: echow@american.edu

December 1, 2009

Session organizers submit details on session (author names, affiliation, email, paper title and abstracts to program coordinators.

January 31, 2010

Programme Coordinators to submit the details of the session program (authors' name, affiliation, e-mail, and paper title) to ISA.

ISA May 1, 2010

Pre-registration deadline for all programme participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.). Otherwise their names will not appear in the Programme Book and abstracts of their papers will not be published.

May 1, 2010

Deadline for on-line submission of abstracts of accepted papers to the *Cambridge Sociological Abstracts* web site. Abstracts are only accepted by the system from those who are already registered for the Congress.

* **Note:** For Joint Sessions with another RC (on their session slot), please check with the session co-organizers as the earlier submission deadline may apply.