

Call for Papers

5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, Morocco

6-11 July 2025

The ISA Research Committee on Futures Research (RC07) invites proposals for paper presentations at the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, Morocco, to be held 6-11 July 2025. We welcome diverse theoretical, empirical, and practical approaches as well as interdisciplinary collaboration. The program offers an exciting spectrum of topics related to forward-oriented social research. It includes thematically open sessions and opportunities in any the ISA's three official languages, i.e. English, French, or Spanish.

A special thematic focus is this year on "Futures of the Anthropocene." Having originated in geological discourse, the notion of the Anthropocene became subsequently more widely embraced by social scientists. As Leslie Sklair and collaborators documented, the concept has spread around the world, but with limitations, as e.g. Daniel Mato emphasized by pointing to discourses of Indigenous intellectuals in Latin America who did not adopt it. While the concept of the Anthropocene highlights human impact on planet Earth, such as global climate change and the world-wide diffusion of micro-plastics or radio-active isotopes, the concept's implied reference to humanity as collective subject obscures on the other hand that only certain modes of production cause the bulk of this impact, and that social segments vary hugely in their contribution to this impact and in how they suffer its consequences. Concepts such as Capitalocene have been suggested as alternatives, which inspired further comparisons across varieties of market- and state-capitalism and across civilizational ways of relating to the world. The focus theme interrogates how such futures are being anticipated, imagined, rejected, revised, validated, propagated, implemented, or avoided. By whom? For whom? Under what assumptions? Within what paradigms? With what implications? What are the roadmaps for social transformation? How can future-oriented social research relate to broader public debates?

Deadline to submit abstracts: 15 October 2024 (24:00 UTC/GMT)

All proposals (title; up to 4 keywords; abstract max. 300 words) must be submitted via Confex: <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2025/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium810.html>. Authors will be notified whether their abstract is being accepted by December 05, 2024.

Further organizational information and instructions can be found on the ISA website at: <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/rabat-2025/5th-isa-forum-guidelines>.

Program Coordinators:

Jan Nederveen Pieterse and Markus S. Schulz, ✉ isarc07@gmail.com

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Session Program

1. Arab Futures

Session Organizer(s):

Zaynab EL BERNOUSSI, zaynab@theafricainstitute.org, Al Akhawayn University, Morocco

Jan P. NEDERVEEN PIETERSE, jnp@global.ucsb.edu, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA

Session in English, French

This session aims to showcase research about the futures of the Forum's host country Morocco, the Maghreb region, and the Arab world more generally. Questions that might be addressed, include, but are not limited to: What futures do different social actors envision, validate, and implement? How do they imagine relations between the traditional (Qadim) and the modern (Jadid), between ruptures, continuities, and mélanges? What demographic, economic, political, and cultural trends are deemed probable or plausible, and why? By whom and how are projects or utopias being formulated that inspire activism?

2. Futures of the Anthropocene: Interrogating Anticipation

Session Organizer(s):

Jan P. NEDERVEEN PIETERSE, jnp@global.ucsb.edu, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

Markus S. SCHULZ, markus@markus-s-schulz.net, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Germany

Session in English, French, Spanish

The ISA Research Committees on Futures Research (RC07) and Sociological Theory (RC16) are planning one or more sessions on the epistemologies, methods, and normative assumptions of futures research in an era of multipolar turbulence, specters of disruption, and new modes of anticipatory governance. Bringing different approaches to futures research into dialogue has become increasingly urgent. Theoretical and theory-reflective empirical studies are welcomed that address questions such as: How do the turbulences and disruptions associated with ecological destruction, global heating, artificial intelligence, and geopolitical shifts transform (un)certainties? What makes scenarios appear plausible, possible, probable, preventable, or preferable? What are the implications of time-frame, spatial scale, and contextual scope for research outcomes? How are risks and opportunities being calculated, visualized, or obscured? Who produces, disseminates, and validates professional futures studies for what

purposes and with what consequences? To whom are futures studies accessible? What normative assumptions are built into the practice of futures research? How can sociological futures research engage with broader publics and democratize futures?

3. Polycrisis: The New Geopolitical Dynamics

Session Organizer(s):

Jan P. NEDERVEEN PIETERSE, jnp@global.ucsb.edu, University of California at Santa Barbara, USA

Session in English

Hegemonic decline used to spawn wars of hegemonic rivalry (1870-1945) and now drives multipolar globalization (Pacific turn, China, emerging economies) which, interacting with diverse dynamics, yields multiple crises. US problems (conservative power, corporate power, uneven development, a billionaire world, extreme inequality) are reproduced on a global scale. This session welcomes papers that address drivers, patterns, trajectories, and future scenarios of the new geopolitical dynamics.

4. Futures of the Anthropocene: Social Movements & Political Imagination

Session Organizer(s):

Markus S. SCHULZ, markus@markus-s-schulz.net, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Germany

Ligia TAVERA-FENOLLOSA, ligia@flacso.edu.mx, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO, Mexico

Camila PONCE LARA, camila.poncelara@gmail.com, Philipps Universität Marburg, Chile
Session in English, French, Spanish

This Joint Session of the ISA Research Committees on Futures Research (RC07), Social Classes and Social Movements (RC47), and Social Movements, Collective Actions and Social Change (RC48) welcomes papers that address questions such as: How do social movements navigate the turbulences of multipolar globalization, ecological crises, AI and rapidly changing media interfaces? How do they challenge the codes of the Anthropocene, engage with anticipatory modes of governance, and form new political subjectivities amidst neoliberal templates? How are visions, tactics, and strategies adapting to the new constellation? What roles do assumptions about the future play in struggles over hegemony, and how are these assumptions being shaped? How do social movements construct long-term visions, strategies, and the solidarities that nourish these? How do they reshape authority, agency, and resonance?

5. Digital Futures: Contesting Power and Visions

Session Organizer(s):

Markus S. SCHULZ, markus@markus-s-schulz.net, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Germany
Session in English, French, Spanish

Digital formations from Internet and social media to Artificial Intelligence, Big Data, and robotics are profoundly reshaping the world, exacerbating inequalities, allowing unprecedented surveillance, and disrupting old models of mass communication, deliberative publics, election campaigns, identity, work, and social struggles. The observation that the new digital technologies have global reach, but are not globally uniform, calls for international and interregional research dialogue and comparisons. Diverse social actors cooperate, compete, or are in conflict over the social shaping of digital formations. Outcomes vary according to differential access to resources, political-legal frameworks, and creative agency. Papers are welcome that address questions such as: Who contests the power of oligopolistic corporate players? How are regulatory agencies intervening (or failing)? How do approaches in the US, Europe, China, India, and elsewhere differ? Who captures the benefits of productivity gains, who loses out, and on what factors does this depend on? What kind of social actors emerge to challenge current trends, expose preventable implications, and produce alternative visions? What role can social science play in discovering the leverage that exists to counter hegemonic trends, or how such leverage could be created? - ISA Research Committees Futures Research (RC07), Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management (RC10), Sociology of Communication, Knowledge and Culture (RC14), Sociology of Science and Technology (RC23), and Working Group Digital Society (WG10) are planning one or more Joint Sessions on contesting power and vision in the formation of digital futures.

6. Health Futures in Turbulence

Session Organizer(s):

Julia ROZANOVA, julia.rozanova@yale.edu, Yale University, USA
Session in English

How can social science rethink the prospects for human health today, when millions of people across world regions struggle for survival amidst intersecting crises? How can it with the intense turbulences of what some call the Anthropocene? Is humans' health going to be increasingly fragile and vulnerable to risks of climate change, war, and physical and mental diseases? How will the distribution of risks to health within and between societies evolve in the future? While mitigating wars and other crises requires ever increasing funds, can basic public health initiatives be sustainable in the future, including but not limited to, HIV and Tuberculosis programs, and WHO initiatives to bridge the Mental Health Gap? Will healthcare workforce collapse under the enormous

strain increasingly placed on them, or will there be solutions that may allow strengthening healthcare systems and ensuring the continuity of healthcare? Is there reason to hope for big technological, therapeutic, and socio-political breakthroughs thereby humanity may respond to all these challenges in a meaningful way? Will the development of Artificial Intelligence offer exciting possible solutions, or become the worst risk of them all within Anthropocene? One or more session(s) are planned to welcome papers that address these and related questions from different angles and using various methods: conceptually and empirically, using qualitative data that prioritizes local knowledge or drawing on large (longitudinal) datasets, referring to national or international case studies. Papers that bridge to other fields like data science, psychiatry, public health, bioethics, are highly encouraged.

7. The Future of Work in the Anthropocene

Session Organizer(s):

Isabel DA COSTA, isabel.da-costa@ens-paris-saclay.fr, ENS Paris-Saclay, CNRS, France
Session in English, French, Spanish

The world of work has been transformed since the turn of the millennium by the introduction of new forms of automation, robots, artificial intelligence and other technological tools, but also by organizational innovations such as automatizing workers control through algorithm management or increasing the division of labor through a myriad of global supply chains. Beyond manufacturing shopfloors these innovations are transforming the human relation to work in a variety of different settings from offices to hired transportation or mass distribution. They are also bringing to the fore major issues of fairness and justice at work. - Academic debates have started to address the issue of the future of work mostly from the perspective of the impact of automation and artificial intelligence on jobs and skills, but there are numerous other dimensions to be debated such as increased job precariousness and inequalities, discriminations, legal and social injustices, detrimental environmental impacts, attacks and challenges for collective bargaining and human rights, to name just a few. - This Session invites communications addressing these issues related to the future of work with the perspective of fostering knowing justice in the Anthropocene.

8. The Future of Work: Understanding Today's Challenges to Build Tomorrow's Egalitarian and Inclusive Solutions

Session Organizer(s):

Hana FOUGHALI, foughalihana@gmail.com, Paris Descartes, Sorbonne, France
Session in English, French, Spanish

The current working environment is marked by persistent inequalities between women and men, influenced by socio-cultural contexts, professional structures, and women's physical experiences that impact their careers. This symbolic malaise exists at all hierarchical levels and across almost all sectors, making complete eradication challenging. This observation applies to women with diverse and varied career paths.

The aim of this session is to envision the professional context of tomorrow with a supranational perspective. The themes to be explored are many and varied:

- How do these inequalities manifest in different countries?
- How do different socio-cultural contexts influence women's career paths?
- What commonalities and differences exist in women's experiences across countries?

This session also invites us to reflect on the challenges for the future:

- What are the current and future challenges to ensuring gender equality in the workplace?
- How can we anticipate and overcome these challenges to build an inclusive future?

Finally, it would be essential to examine what best practices have been identified that could help shape the professional world of tomorrow. Several questions will guide these reflections:

- What successful policies and initiatives can be shared and adapted to other contexts?
- What support and development programs can promote gender equality?

This session aims to create an inclusive discussion space for participants from various backgrounds and sociological schools to share their field experiences, research, and perspectives on these issues. We hope to explore and identify opportunities for reflection that could lead to concrete actions promoting real gender equality in tomorrow's professional world.

9. Les Utopies Féministes Concrètes **/ Concrete Feminist Utopia**

Session Organizer(s):

Marine GAUSS, gaussmarine@gmail.com, PhiléPol, UCP, France

Session in English, French

Une nouvelle compréhension des fondements d'une société capitalopatriarcale se diffuse dans l'espace public. Une prise de conscience collective des dispositifs de domination permet de repenser la démocratie et la justice sociale, mettant en perspective une autre forme de vie déjà émergente. Il s'agira dans cette session d'interroger les utopies féministes concrètes présentes dans l'arène discursive et les capacités d'action qui les sous-tendent. Quelles limites peuvent-elles rencontrer et comment les surmonter ? Quels avenir possibles dessinent-elles ?

10. Social Movements and the Future of Democracy in Latin America

Session Organizer(s):

Ligia TAVERA FENOLLOSA, ligia@flacso.edu.mx, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales FLACSO, Mexico

Session in English, Spanish

According to various authors, the most important political problem of our time is summarized in two paradoxes. The first one posits that democracy as a political idea, has no competition, but democratic regimes are being attacked by multiple actors. The second one asserts that in Latin America the spread of democracy brought with it an enormous degradation of democratic practices. Pierre Rosanvallon argues that citizen disaffection and distrust with democracy can be counteracted by social movements. By "organizing distrust" the latter represent an important democratic potential that could, in his opinion, compensate for the erosion of trust in political institutions and democracy. A thesis that Donatella della Porta supports albeit following a different argument. For della Porta social movements present democratic innovations of deliberative and participatory practices that, in her view, can "save democracy". Starting from this premises this session aims at exploring the potential and limits of the relationship between democracy and social movements, as well as examining the processes and mechanisms through which Latin American social movements can "save democracy".

11. Future Social Policies in the Anthropocene

Session Organizer(s):

Tania GARCIA-RAMOS, tania.garcia@upr.edu, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico

Julian LABOY, julian.laboy@upr.edu, Universidad de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico

Session in English, Spanish

This session proposes a discussion on new social policies in the Anthropocene. Some of these policies include Universal Basic Income (UBI) and Basic Income (BI). UBI is defined as a universal income that is unconditionally received by the people of a country or state, regardless of ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, age, among others. The UBI has been implemented in a few countries. BI is defined as a conditional income that is received during a period of time by some people of a country or state, conditioned to ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, age, among others. The BI has been implemented in many countries. The strengths and areas of opportunities of these and other proposals will be discussed within the realm of social justice in the Anthropocene. Theoretical and empirical research will be evaluated for presentation.

12. Aspirational Justice: Framing Desirable Futures in Vulnerable Contexts

Session Organizer(s):

Evelyne BAILLERGEAU, e.baillergeau@uva.nl, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Benedicte ZIMMERMANN, bzim@ehess.fr, EHESS Paris, France

Olivia VIEUJEAN, olivia.vieujean@ehess.fr, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, France

Session in English

How do individuals and groups shape desirable representations of the future in vulnerable contexts? Drawing on Appadurai (2004) and Zipin et al. (2015), we know that among populations living in disadvantaged circumstances, aspirations tend to be largely conservative. As suggested by the notion of adaptive preferences (Elster, 1983; Sen, 2002), individuals adjust their 'wants' to what is most likely to be successful, particularly in adverse circumstances. Why does this happen? And how could it be differently? Sociologists have used concepts such as "habitus" (Bourdieu, 1971) or "resource" (Giddens, 1984) to explain why this is so, while calling for distributive justice in their plea for more equal conditions. But aspirational justice, i.e. circumstances in which every individual – regardless of income, gender, age, health condition, etc. – could enjoy substantive freedom (in the sense of Robeyns, 2005) to frame desirable horizons that are compatible with a life 'they have reason to value' (Sen, 1999), has received little attention. What are the conditions for aspirational justice? - We welcome both theoretical contributions and empirical contributions to a sociology of desirable futures in vulnerable contexts. We are especially interested in studies of aspirations and desirable futures in the area of work, education and training, but are open to considering contributions based on observations in other empirical areas.

13. Prefigurations of the Future and Community-Formation

Session Organizer(s):

Eva GERHARZ, eva.gerharz@sk.hs-fulda.de, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Sebastian GARBE, sebastian.garbe@sk.hs-fulda.de, Fulda University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Session in English

Contemporary society is characterized by multiple insecurities which are often experienced as crises. Such evaluations evoke responses at all levels: Scientific analyses seek to develop forecasts and prognoses, policy-makers tend to develop approaches to mitigate the effects of crises and many social movements protest against existing orders. We take this increasing volatility as a starting point and ask, how different social actors envision alternative future ideas and how they employ future-oriented practices,

with which they want to shape their own, but also the societal future differently. At the center of attention is the nexus between future-oriented practices and processes of community-formation. Community, as a basic element of social order, plays a crucial role in shaping people's scope for action by serving as a catalyst for future-oriented practices. This session will address this nexus by focusing on empirical inquiries into future-oriented practices in the present. We are particularly interested in how mundane practices are being deliberately designed by social actors to prefigure desirable futures and seek to understand how these practices interrelate with community-formation.

14. Exploring Systematically the Future: How to Capture the Unknown & Uncertain?

Session Organizer(s):

Stefan VOEGELE, s.voegele@fz-juelich.de, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany

Simon BRAUNER, s.brauner@fz-juelich.de, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany

Hawal SHAMON, h.shamon@fz-juelich.de, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Germany

Session in English

Considering the rapid technological developments and their far-reaching social changes, the ability to anticipate possible futures in order to be able to react to them better prepared and at short notice is becoming increasingly important. At the same time, climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time and requires the early development of innovative and future-oriented solutions. - This session is dedicated to the systematic creation of complex socio-economic future scenarios in order to provide decision-makers in business, politics and society with a sound basis for strategic planning and innovation processes. In addition to contributions on content (including case studies from local to global), this session also welcomes methodological contributions focusing on the further development of established methods for exploring potential futures, such as the cross-impact balance, the Delphi method or trend extrapolation. We also encourage contributions that apply participatory approaches by involving citizens in the sense of citizen science into the research process and their reflection in terms of systematic knowledge production.

15. Digital Trust and Foresight

Session Organizer(s):

Jian-Bang DENG, dengjb@mail.tku.edu.tw, Department of Education and Futures Design, Taiwan

Po-Jung SHIH, pojungshih@iii.org.tw, Market Intelligence & Consulting Institute, MIC Institute for Information Industry, Taiwan

Session in English

Our lives are more and more embedded to the digital environment, including the use of digital technology in everyday lives and exchange messages through various social medias and other platforms. However, the trust in digital world is always a central issue. There could be two dimensions of digital trust: the mechanical digital trust and relational digital trust. The mechanical digital trust is related to the issues like cybersecurity, fake news, transparency, fair etc. Instead, the relational trust is concerned more about how the people's attitude toward to the technology, the experience of using technology and how people building trust with the digital technology. Different genders, generations and social economic classes might have different ways of trust building process with the new technology. Particularly, in the coming decades we may expect to see the artificial intelligence and robot will more involve in our daily lives. Are we well prepared to live with the robot at home? Are we expected the robot to become a caregiver to take care the elders? This session welcomes papers to discuss the issue of digital trust and foresight with empirical studies, scenarios, and other innovative ways of thinking.

16. Disinformation and Framing Battles in the New Technomediatic Public Sphere

Session Organizer(s):

Richard MISKOLCI, richard.miskolci@unifesp.br, Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP), Brazil

Session in English

The joint session between RC 07 Futures Research and WG Digital Sociology proposes to discuss the phenomenon of disinformation in the new public sphere shaped by the battles between established media and the parallel ones created through online social networks. This new media landscape has technological and mediatic characteristics that have reshaped political life around the globe. Despite disinformation's long history, information and communication technologies (ICTs) have amplified the conditions to create and disseminate it. Fake news are just the most popular tool among the set of techniques involved in spreading disinformation. Sociological research can help to identify and understand how interest groups and other social actors create and disseminate disinformation. According to each context it can be a tool to attract attention, audience, and also political engagement. The dynamics of the new attention market has had consequences like those of promoting fear and uncertainty, reinforcing social conflict. The joint session is open to any subject of research, methodologies and analytical frames that can contribute to understand the contemporary communication battles and how disinformation emerges in them. Among the vast array of research themes are the logics that shape the new media ecosystem; framing disputes between digital influencers and professional media; political extremists movements; the role of conspiracy theories and other ways of disseminating doubt, uncertainty, and fear; scientific denialism and climate change denialism; disinformation coproducing networks during collective crisis like pandemics, climate catastrophes, and even electoral campaigns, and other phenomena of the new technomediatic public sphere.

17. Social Acceleration, Resonance and Technology

Session Organizer(s):

Felipe AROCENA, felipe.arocena@cienciassociales.edu.uy, Universidad de la República, Uruguay

Emil Albert SOBOTTKA, esobottka@puhrs.br, Brazil

Session in English, Spanish

Hartmut Rosa distinguishes three types of acceleration: technological, social and of the rhythm of life. On the first he argues that “the speed of communication has increased 10^7 times, the speed of transportation 10^2 times and the speed of data processing 10^{10} times.” Social acceleration “is characterized by an increase in the rates of loss of confidence in experiences and expectations, and by the contraction of definable time spans such as the present.” And the acceleration of the rhythm of life, refers to “an increase in the number of episodes of action or experience per unit of time; that is, it is the consequence of desire or felt need to do more things in less time”. This session aims to discuss and problematize the interactions between these accelerations and the intrinsic logics of each one in their evolution towards the future. How are these three analytical categories of acceleration currently linked? Is there an overdetermination of the first one over the other two, or vice versa? Does the speed of technological innovation understood in the light of Moore's Law diminish the capacity for social agency in the future? How acceleration affects everyday life? How does the constructivist paradigm on technology (e.g. Wiebe Bijker and many others) adapt to this acceleration? How to think a good life in the face of accelerated futures? We will seek to frame these controversies both theoretically and empirically.

18. Futures of the Anthropocene / Futurs de l'Anthropocène / Futuros del Antropoceno

Session Organizer(s):

Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY, sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Mariolina GRAZIOSI, mariolina.graziosi@unimi.it, Università di Milano, Italy

Futures RESEARCH, isarc07@gmail.com, Futures Research, Morocco

Session in English, French, Spanish

ISA Research Committee of Futures Research is organizing one or more sessions on new perspectives of futures-oriented research and “Futures of the Anthropocene”.

Le Comité de recherche de l'ISA sur les futurs organise une ou plusieurs sessions sur les nouvelles perspectives de la recherche orientée vers le futur et sur les « futurs de l'Anthropocène ».

El Comité de Investigación de Futuros de la ISA está organizando una o más sesiones sobre nuevas perspectivas de investigación orientada al futuro y "Futuros del Antropoceno".

19. Futures Research: Open Themes / **Investigación sobre los futuros:** **Temas abiertas /** **Recherche sur les futurs:** **Thèmes ouverts**

Session Organizer(s):

Radhamany SOORYAMOORTHY, sooryamoorthy@ukzn.ac.za, University of Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa

Futures RESEARCH, isarc07@gmail.com, Futures Research, Morocco

Session in English, French, Spanish

The ISA Research Committee on Futures Research (RC07) is planning one or more sessions on themes that are not covered by the other proposed sessions on specific topics. Paper proposals on empirical, theoretical, methodological, and/or normative aspects of futures research are welcome.

Le Comité de Recherche de l'ISA dédié à la Recherche sur les Futurs (RC07) prévoit une ou plusieurs sessions sur des thèmes qui ne sont pas couverts par les autres sessions proposées sur des sujets spécifiques. Les propositions de communication sur les aspects empiriques, théoriques, méthodologiques et/ou normatifs de la recherche prospective sont les bienvenues.

El Comité de Investigación de la ISA dedicado a la Investigación de Futuros (RC07) está planeando una o más sesiones sobre temas que no estén cubiertos por las otras sesiones propuestas sobre temas específicos. Se aceptan propuestas de artículos sobre aspectos empíricos, teóricos, metodológicos y/o normativos de la investigación de futuros.

20. Disaster Socialism?

Session Organizer(s): William CARROLL, wcarroll@uvic.ca, University of Victoria, Canada
Session in English. Joint Session hosted by RC02.

Global society is mired in a civilizational crisis that is both geopolitical-economic and ecological. As the structures of neoliberal globalization collapse while other alignments emerge, as the conditions for extractive accumulation on the treadmill of production are eroded, as climate crisis wreaks havoc on living systems that form the bases for human existence, great dangers present themselves, along with unprecedented openings. In a deep, organic crisis of this sort, as Gramsci noted, 'the old is dying and the new cannot be born; in this interregnum a great variety of morbid symptoms appear.' Among the symptoms is what Naomi Klein termed 'disaster capitalism': the enabling of accumulation by dispossession as a response to disasters caused by climate breakdown. In this session, papers will explore the prospects for 'disaster socialism', which, if it is to emerge, will do so not on the basis of abundance but within a situation of ecological overshoot, requiring massive ecological restoration. Themes to be explored include: the social forces, political projects and organizational forms through which post-capitalist, ecologically sustainable economic democracy could develop/is developing, the political-economic and cultural-ideological forces arrayed against such initiatives and the socio-political forms within which initiatives to heal earth and humanity can take root.

21. Alienation and Futures Research

Session Organizer(s):
Dirk MICHEL-SCHERTGES, dimi@edu.au.dk, Aarhus University, Denmark
Mariolina GRAZIOSI, Studi Sociali e Politici, Università di Milano, Italy
Session in English. Joint Session hosted by RC36.

Alienation Research and Futures Research joint session embraces a comprehensive exploration of the intersection between alienation and future sociological trends. This session delves into current research on alienation in society while also speculating on future trajectories and implications. Participants shall examine the evolving nature of alienation in social structures, considering how it influences individual experiences and societal dynamics. By combining in-depth analysis of past and present alienation research with forward-thinking insights into future scenarios, this seminar aims to offer a holistic understanding of alienation's role in shaping the future landscape of sociology. Join us for a thought-provoking discussion on the evolving dynamics of alienation and its sociological significance.

22. Globalization and Social Change in the Anthropocene I

Session Organizer(s):

Ulrike SCHUERKENS, uschuerkens@gmail.com, Université Rennes, France

Session in English and French.

Joint Session of RC02/07/09/24, hosted by RC09.

It is widely acknowledged that the world's current socio-economic system contributes to critical crises of the natural system. This session's topic is influenced by Wallerstein's prediction of a possible system change of the capitalist order that currently challenges life on earth and has disastrous environmental consequences. It seems as if Polanyi's view matters on the transformation of the socio-economic current system into a system that is sharing wealth and tackles global questions in common efforts. Inequality is widespread but political and economic elites continue to favor the success of the fittest population groups and look for possibilities to continue the current world capitalist order by launching i.e. right-wing parties' solutions. Instead, there is a need to imagine possible ways of socio-economic changes that may result in a challenge to overthink current job finding rules that lead large groups worldwide into informal and precarious job structures. - In this session, we are looking for papers that discuss possible socioeconomic transformations initiated not only by elites but by populations at large that can contribute to democratic ways of looking for possible solutions of socio-economic changes on a global level. Political confrontations therefore should no longer be at the forefront of the media but solutions that tackle current worldwide challenges, such as socioeconomic inequality, right-wing movements, and the climate change. Possible solutions should be discussed in abstracts and possible papers that may and should influence globalized politics in the coming years.

23. Dignified Aging in Digital Age?

Session Organizer(s):

Ana VUKOVIC, annvukovic@yahoo.com, Institute of Social Sciences, Serbia

Jelica STEFANOVIC STAMBUK, vzin@zmail.com, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Session in English. Joint Session of RC03/06/07/11/WG10/TG03, hosted by WG10.

The session focuses on the main problems older adults have in adapting to digital technology. How diverse and often non-user-friendly digital apps and devices engender older men and women's enjoyment of the human right to dignify ageing, autonomy, and overall thriving? Even though the „truth“ of the life cycle is inevitably one of stability and predictability, digitally enforced constant change puts the elderly cohort under pressure to adjust to an ever-changing, technically conditioned life continuously. Ableism and agism saturated violence against serenity and habituated living, bringing insecurity and destabilization from outside and within, making them feel not only bodily but mentally inadequate to live in dignity as they failed to keep pace with a digitally frenzied world. Where is justice in all this?

2025 Competition for Best Graduate Student Paper Award

The International Sociological Association Research Committee on Futures Research (ISARC07) is pleased to announce for the third time a competition for the award honoring the best graduate student paper related to sociological futures research. The winner/s will present her/his/their paper in one of RC07's scheduled sessions at the V ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat, Morocco, 7-11 July 2025 and their name(s) will be published in the Newsletter. The award consists of a certificate with a citation and a monetary reward in the amount of US\$1200, which can be used toward expenses for attending the Forum.

Eligibility

Eligible are graduate student-authored papers accepted for inclusion into RC07's program at the V ISA Forum of Sociology in Rabat. The author(s) must be registered for a graduate degree at a degree granting institution at the time the paper is submitted. Employment as academic staff or junior faculty is no reason for exclusion. Candidates must hold an undergraduate degree (B.A. or equivalent) but cannot yet hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) at the time the paper is submitted. Not eligible are papers that were co-authored with a faculty advisor or someone holding a Ph.D. (or its equivalent), that have been published already, or that have been accepted for publication more than three years prior to submission. Papers must be submitted in English or with an accompanying English translation. The maximum length for the paper is 8,000 words, including bibliography, plus an abstract of not more than 500 words. Winners must be member of both the ISA and RC07 at the time of receiving the award.

Deadline to submit full paper: **15 December 2024**

How to submit

Applications must be emailed to isarc07GraduateStudentAward@gmail.com with a copy to isarc07repository@gmail.com and the words "Graduate Student Award 2025" in the subject line and the paper and cover letter as separate attached files. The paper must follow scholarly standards, including proper referencing and documentation of sources. It should be typed double-spaced in 12 point font on numbered pages in a standard size (such as A4 or US letter of around 21cm × 29cm) with 3 cm margins. Notes and the bibliography should appear at the end. The paper may be formatted in one of these three formats: Adobe PDF (*.pdf), Rich Text File (*.rtf), or Word document (*.doc). The front page should bear the paper's title, brief abstract, and up to five keywords, but not the author(s) name or affiliation.

The cover letter must include author(s) names, full contact information (for the period until July 2025), paper title, and a brief curriculum vitae indicating which institutions were attended in what years and what degrees were obtained or are in progress. The names of degrees must be indicated in the original language; English translation or explanation of equivalency may be added.

Candidates normally residing in the Economic South (= ISA's category B/C countries) are encouraged to provide further details on their residency status and periods spent abroad so as to be considered for further special mentioning or travel subsidies.

Submissions not conforming to these rules run risk of rejection. The jury reserves the right to request further particulars.

Selection

The papers will be evaluated by an international jury of distinguished scholars. The primary criteria for selection are originality of ideas, social relevance, conceptual rigor, analytical perceptiveness, and clarity of style.

In accordance with RC07's Award Rules, the jury can decide to split the award, extend special recognition for the best paper from the Economic South (ISA's category B/C countries), make honorary mentions of runners-up, or to not give an award at all. The winner(s) will be notified in or around early April 2025.

Join RC07 - Become a Member Today!

Stay informed. Participate in RC07 events and activities. Network with colleagues around the world. Enhance your career and professional acumen. Contribute to thriving futures research and crucial scholarly endeavors.

Regular dues for membership in the ISA Research Committee Futures Research (ISA-RC07) are only US\$20.00 for an entire four-year period. Discounts are available for members in countries with softer currencies and for students (US\$10.00). There is also a membership category available for voluntary supporters (US\$40).

For more details and for registering directly via the ISA secure website:
<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/individual-membership/>.

Web

ISA RC07 Website: <https://www.isarc07.org>

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NEWSLETTER

RC07 newsletter aims to be a means of communication among the members of RC07 as well as other scholars interested in futures research. It is published non-periodically according to the needs of our scientific community. In addition to announcements of events organized by our RC, or related to our research concerns, we include news from our members, reports of activities, information on new publications, ongoing projects and works in progress as well as short thought pieces on pressing issues and current debates in our field.

Please contribute to our newsletter and help making it an effective tool for interaction. Send your comments and any news item for the next newsletter to isarc07news@gmail.com.

Acknowledgments and Disclaimers

Cover design

Inspired by Moroccan artist Skyseeef (Youssef Oubahou), the cover design freely uses and engages with visual elements from "Culture is the Waves of the Future" (2022-2024), as seen at the contemporary art exhibition "Arabofuturs" at the Institut du Monde Arabe, Paris, France, in the summer of 2024. The word cloud is based on the descriptions of the proposed sessions.

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