

Newsletter

of the Research Committee on the Sociology of Health



Message from the President of RC15

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Dear RC15 members,

During the most difficult moments of the Covid-19 pandemic, we believed that we were experiencing the start of a new era. It was estimated that after the tragedy, there would be a 'new normal', in which acts of solidarity would be more frequent and widespread in all places and, consequently, around the world. Various groups organized to



collect and distribute food and personal hygiene products, arrange events to support isolated individuals, and provide assistance to those experiencing discomfort and suffering during the imposed isolation. It seemed like a time to build more bridges and fewer walls.

However, still during that period of support, aid, and assistance, the race among the leading pharmaceutical laboratories for the patenting of new vaccines signalled the 'same old normal'. A threatened humanity is also good for business! The 'new normal' was buried prematurely when more walls were erected with the onset of the new wars. The existing violence did not end, and shortly after the pandemic agony, other inhumanities began. The new conflicts not only halted the prospect of a new era, but also revealed the worrying escalation of global government autocracy. We have seen that political polarization and lack of dialogue among different groups are fundamental supports for the creation and maintenance of different forms of fascism in the world.

Given the historical differences, it was within an autocratic, polarized and dialogue-deficient context that the International Sociological Association (ISA) was created in 1948. Among other objectives, ISA sought to internationalize relations among sociologists from different countries to contain and combat fascist ideology and practices. Within RC15, we respond to this call by thematising our investigations, particularly through critical analyses of power relations, social injustices, and inequities.

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We have a lot to thank all the members who have been building our RC since 1963, for more than six decades. We are currently 138 members from 37 different countries, which places us among the largest and most vibrant groups in the ISA, with the possibility of at least 24 different sessions at the V ISA Forum of Sociology, planned for July 6-11, 2025, in Rabat, Morocco. In times of escalating global autocracy, it is important to further intensify our network of personal and institutional collaborations to expand our critical understanding and acts of resistance. I encourage everyone to contact me or other board member if you have suggestions for how the RC can better meet your needs.

Nelson Filice de Barros
President of the RC15

رسالة من رئيس RC15

أعزائي أعضاء RC15،

خلال أصعب لحظات لجائحة كوفيد-19، اعتقدنا أننا كنا نشهد بداية حقبة جديدة. ومن المقدرات أنه سيكون هناك "وضع طبيعي جديد" بعد هذه المأساة، بحيث تكون فيه أعمال التضامن أكثر تواتراً وانتشاراً في جميع الأماكن، وبالتالي في جميع أنحاء العالم. نظمت مجموعات مختلفة لجمع المواد الغذائية ومنتجات النظافة الشخصية وتوزيعها، وترتيب الأحداث لدعم الأفراد المعزولين، ومساعدة الذين يعانون من عدم الراحة والمعاناة أثناء العزلة المفروضة. يبدو أنه مثل الوقت لبناء المزيد من الجسور وعدد أقل من الجدران.

ومع ذلك، خلال تلك الفترة من الدعم والمعونة والمساعدة، كان السباق بين المختبرات الصيدلانية الرائدة للحصول على براءات اختراع للقاحات جديدة يشير إلى "نفس الوضع الطبيعي القديم". وكانت الإنسانية المهتدة جيدة أيضاً للأعمال! تم دفن "الوضع الطبيعي الجديد" قبل الأوان عندما تم بناء المزيد من الجدران مع بداية الحروب الجديدة. لم ينته العنف الحالي، وبعد فترة وجيزة من عذاب الوباء، بدأت أعمال وحشية أخرى. لم توقف الصراعات الجديدة أفاق حقبة جديدة فحسب، بل كشفت أيضاً عن التصعيد المقلق للاستبداد الحكومي العالمي. لقد رأينا أن الاستقطاب السياسي وانعدام الحوار بين المجموعات المختلفة يشكلان دعائم أساسية لتكوين أشكال مختلفة من الفاشية في العالم والحفاظ عليها.

وبالنظر إلى الاختلافات التاريخية، تم إنشاء الرابطة الدولية لعلم الاجتماع (ISA) في عام 1948 في سياق استبدادي واستقطاب الحوار والافتقار إليه. ومن بين الأهداف الأخرى، سعى جهاز الأمن العام إلى تدويل العلاقات بين علماء الاجتماع من مختلف البلدان لاحتواء ومكافحة الأيديولوجية والممارسات الفاشية. في RC15، نستجيب لهذه الدعوة من خلال إضفاء الطابع الموضوعي على تحقيقاتنا، لا سيما من خلال التحليلات النقدية لعلاقات القوة والظلم الاجتماعي وعدم المساواة. ومع ذلك، في أوقات تصاعد الاستبداد العالمي، من المهم تكثيف شبكتنا من التعاون الشخصي والمؤسسي لتوسيع فهمنا النقدي وأعمال المقاومة.

وعلينا أن نشكر جميع الأعضاء الذين ساهموا في بناء ال RC منذ عام 1963 لأكثر من ستة عقود. نحن حالياً 138 عضواً من 37 دولة مختلفة، مما يضعنا بين أكبر المجموعات وأكثرها حيوية في ISA، مع إمكانية عقد 24 جلسة مختلفة على الأقل في منتدى V ISA لعلم الاجتماع، المقرر عقده في الفترة من 6 إلى 11 يوليو 2025. في الرباط بالمغرب. في أوقات تصاعد الاستبداد العالمي، يعد تعزيز شبكتنا من التعاون الشخصي والمؤسسي أمراً ضرورياً لتوسيع فهمنا النقدي وأعمال المقاومة. أشجع الجميع على الاتصال بي أو بأي عضو آخر في مجلس الإدارة إذا كانت لديك اقتراحات حول كيفية تلبية RC لاحتياجاتك بشكل أفضل.

نيلسون فيليس دي باروس
رئيس RC15

Mensagem do Presidente do RC15

Caros membros do RC15,

Durante os momentos mais difíceis da pandemia de COVID-19 acreditava-se que estávamos vivendo um novo começo de era. Estimava-se que após a tragédia haveria um “novo normal”, no qual as ações de solidariedade seriam mais presentes e regulares em todos os locais e, conseqüentemente, em todo o mundo. Diversos grupos organizaram-se para coletar e distribuir alimentos e produtos de higiene pessoal, organizar eventos para amparar pessoas isoladas e prestar assistência para pessoas em desconforto e sofrimento durante o isolamento imposto. Parecia o tempo de construir mais pontes e menos muros.

Porém, ainda naquele período de apoio, amparo e assistência, a corrida dos principais laboratórios da indústria farmacêutica pela patente de novas vacinas anunciava o “mesmo normal”. A humanidade ameaçada é também um bom negócio! O “novo normal” foi rapidamente prematuramente sepultado, também, quando mais muros foram erguidos com o início de novas guerras. Não foram cessadas as violências que existiam e logo após a agonia da pandemia foram iniciadas outras desumanidades. Os novos conflitos não apenas suspenderam a perspectiva de um novo começo de era, mas também deixaram ver a preocupante escalada da autocratização dos governos mundiais. Temos visto que a polarização política e a falta de diálogo entre diferentes grupos é um dos suportes fundamentais para a criação e manutenção dos diferentes fascismos no mundo.

Mensaje del Presidente del RC15

Estimados miembros del RC15,

En los momentos más difíciles de la pandemia del Covid-19 creíamos estar al borde de una nueva era. Fue estipulado que tras la tragedia, habría un “nuevo normal”, en el cual actos de solidaridad serían más comunes y extendidos por doquier y luego serían mundiales. Grupos diversos se organizaron para coleccionar y distribuir alimentos y productos de higiene personal, para coordinar eventos de apoyo a personas aisladas y para brindar ayuda a aquellos que sufrían de malestar y dolor durante el impuesto aislamiento. Aparentaba una época de construcción de más puentes y menos murallas.

Sin embargo, aún durante ese período de apoyo, ayuda y asistencia, la carrera hacia la patente de nuevas vacunas entre los laboratorios farmacéuticos líderes indicó el mismo “viejo normal”. ¡La humanidad amenazada también beneficia a los negocios! El “nuevo normal” fue enterrado prematuramente cuando más murallas fueron erigidas con el comienzo de las nuevas batallas. La violencia existente no finalizó, y con la agonía de la pandemia, otros actos de deshumanización comenzaron. Los nuevos conflictos no solo detuvieron los prospectos de una nueva era, sino que también elucidaron el preocupante ascenso de autocracias gubernamentales en el mundo. Somos testigos de que la polarización política y la falta de diálogo entre grupos distintos sirven como fundamentos para la creación y el mantenimiento de diferentes formas de fascismo.

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Guardadas as diferenças históricas, foi em um contexto autocrático, polarizado e de pouco diálogo que se deu a criação da International Sociological Association, em 1948. Entre outros objetivos, buscava-se com a ISA internacionalizar as relações entre sociólogos de diferentes países, para conter e combater a ideologia e as práticas fascistas. No RC15 atendemos esse chamado tematizando nossas investigações, sobretudo, com análises críticas das relações de poder, das injustiças sociais e da iniquidade.

Temos muito a agradecer a todos os membros que vêm construindo nosso RC desde 1963, portanto há mais de seis décadas. Neste momento somos 138 membros de 37 países diferentes, o que nos coloca entre os maiores e mais vibrantes grupos na ISA, com a possibilidade de pelo menos 24 diferentes sessões no V ISA Forum de Sociologia, agendado para 6-11 de Julho, 2025, em Rabat, Marrocos.

No entanto, em tempos de recrudescimento da autocratização no mundo é importante intensificarmos ainda mais a nossa rede de colaborações, pessoais e institucionais, para ampliar nossas compreensões críticas e ações de resistência. Encorajo a todos a entrar em contato comigo ou com outro membro do conselho se tiver sugestões de como o RC pode atender melhor às suas necessidades.

Nelson Filice de Barros
President do RC15

Dadas las diferencias históricas, y en un contexto autocrático, polarizado y carente de diálogo, la Asociación Internacional de Sociología fue fundada en 1948. Entre otros objetivos, la AIS buscó internacionalizar relaciones entre sociólogos de países diversos con el fin de contener y combatir ideologías y prácticas fascistas. En el RC15 respondemos a este fin a través de análisis críticos sobre relaciones de poder, injusticias sociales y desigualdades.

Tenemos mucho que agradecer a todos los integrantes que han estado construyendo nuestro RC desde 1963, durante más de seis décadas. Actualmente somos 138 miembros de 37 países diferentes, lo que nos ubica entre los grupos más grandes y vibrantes de la AIS, con la posibilidad de llevar a cabo al menos 24 sesiones diferentes en el V Foro de Sociología de la AIS, planificado para el 6 al 11 de julio de 2025 en Rabat, Marruecos.

En tiempos de creciente autocracia global, es importante intensificar nuestra red de colaboraciones personales e institucionales para expandir nuestro entendimiento crítico y actos de resistencia. Los aliento a que se comuniquen conmigo o con otro miembro de nuestro comité si tienen sugerencias sobre cómo el RC15 puede responder mejor a sus necesidades.

Nelson Filice de Barros
Presidente del RC15

RC15 Members Survey

The RC15 Board is exploring different ways to strengthen our community. To do so, we invite you to participate in a brief survey aiming to find out how you prefer to keep in touch, initiate collaborations, look for research opportunities, and help in the formation of younger scholars.

We will appreciate if you can take a few minutes to complete our survey, using this [link](#), or scanning this QRCode:



Thank you very much in advance!

RC15 in the ISA World Congress in Melbourne

The ISA World Congress in Melbourne was held from June 25th to July 1st 2023. RC15 Program Coordinators were Nelson Barros, Farah Purwaningrum, and Michael Saks. They successfully organized 19 sessions and 6 joint sessions with 5 other RCs (RC52, Sociology of Professional Groups; RC34, Sociology of Youth; RC25, Language and Society; RC09, Social Transformations and Sociology of Development; RC03, Community and Research), for a total of 25 sessions. These sessions included ‘Inequalities in Health, Mental Health and Discrimination’, ‘The Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Persons with Disabilities: Call for a Sociological Reflexivity’, ‘Climate Crisis, Mental Health and Youth Resistance’, “Language on Health Under COVID-19 Pandemic”, ‘Sociology of Vaccines’ – to name but a few. There were four roundtable sessions which were held on-site, and the remaining were hybrid sessions.

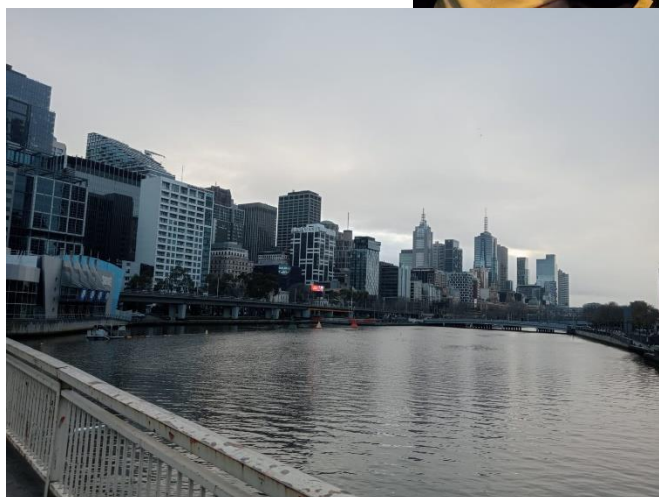


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About half of the total 98 members of the RC15 who attended the Congress were on-site. RC15 Board members held a meeting on June 28th 2023 and elected Nelson Barros as the new RC15 President for the 2023-2027 term.

Circa 45 members of RC15 had dinner with buffet style and welcome drinks in the Plus 5 restaurant. Needless to say, the networking and RC15 social gathering and dinner were a wonderful opportunity to reconnect between members following the pandemic years.

Farah Purwaningrum



RC15 Board Members



Nelson Filice de Barros, President



Joana Almeida, Vice-President

Prof. Filice de Barros holds a B.S. in Social Sciences, specializing in Sociology of Health, an M.A. in Collective Health/Sociology of Health, and a Ph.D. in Collective Health/Sociology of Health. He completed a postdoctoral degree at the University of Leeds, UK (2006-2007), a Senior Internship at the University of London, UK (2017), and serves as a Full Professor (2022) at Universidade Estadual de Campinas (2013). His extensive work experience includes roles as a researcher for the National Council for Scientific and Technological Development (since 2010), coordinator of the Postgraduate Program in Collective Health (2014-2016; 2018-2020; 2020-2022), and leader of the Laboratory of Alternative, Complementary, and Integrative Practices in Health (LAPACIS) since 2006. Additionally, he coordinates the Specialist Training Course in “Integrative Practices in Health: Expansion of the Culture of Care” (2021-present).

Dr Joana Almeida is a health sociologist and [Senior Lecturer in Applied Social Studies](#) (Health and Social Care) at the School of Applied Social Sciences, University of Bedfordshire, United Kingdom. Joana earned a PhD in Health Sociology from Royal Holloway, University of London in 2012, a Masters degree in Communication, Culture and Information Technologies from ISCTE – University Institute of Lisbon in 2004, and a BSc in Sociology from the University of Coimbra in 1997. In 2013/14 Joana was also a Mildred Blaxter postdoctoral research fellow from the Foundation for the Sociology of Health & Illness, UK. Joana has expertise/research interests in the dynamics of professional work, complementary and alternative therapies, the social determinants of health/health inequalities, addictive behaviours with a focus on prescription drugs, and qualitative research methods.



Susan E. Bell



Paula Feder-Bubis

Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Drexel University (United States), where she is a faculty affiliate in the Center for Science, Technology and Society and the Urban Health Collaborative. Her research is about the experience of illness, narrative representations of the politics of cancer, medicine, and women's bodies, and global health. Recent publications include “The case for refugee physicians” (Bell & Walkover, SS&M 2021) and “Becoming doctors again in the United States” (SSM – Qualitative Research in Health 2023). Her forthcoming book, *Permeable Hospitals, Transnational Connections* is under contract with Rutgers University Press. In 2022 she received the Leo G. Reeder Award, the highest honor of the American Sociological Association Medical Sociology section.

Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Ben-Gurion University of the Negev in Israel. A medical and health sociologist, she received her PhD in Public Health in 2006 from the Hebrew University-Hadassah Braun School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Her research interests include the impact of health systems reforms at micro-, meso-, and macro-levels, and health care personnel issues. She has served as an advisor to the Ministry of Health, at the Department of Health Services Research, in a team inquiring into the need to develop a public health nursing specialization, and in the Development of a Clinical Leadership Program for Women Physicians. Paula serves as Chair of the Israeli Center for Qualitative Research of People and Societies.

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Sigrún Ólafsdóttir

Professor of Sociology at the University of Iceland. Her research is at the intersection of medical, political and cultural sociology. In her research, she has for example looked at how broader societal organization impacts health and health inequalities, stigma toward individuals experiencing mental health problems and medicalization of mental health. Her work has appeared in journals such as *American Journal of Sociology*, *Annual Review of Sociology*, *Journal of Health & Social Behaviour* and *Social Science & Medicine*. She served as an editor of *Acta Sociologica* from 2018-2022. Her work has been funded by the Icelandic Centre for Research and U.S. funding agencies including the National Science Foundation and National Institutes of Health.



Alan Petersen

Professor of Sociology, School of Social Sciences at Monash University in Australia. For more than 30 years, his research interests span the sociology of health and medicine, science and technology studies, the sociology of emotions, and gender studies. His book *Stem Cell Tourism and the Political Economy of Hope* won The Australian Sociological Association's Stephen Crook Memorial Prize in 2018. Recently, he has been awarded funds by the Medical Research Future Fund to undertake research on genomic governance and pathways to stem cell treatments; and by the Australian Research Council for a project on loneliness and digital technologies (with Barbara Barbosa Neves). His recent publications include: *Handbook on the Sociology of Health and Medicine* (2023, Edward Elgar) and *Emotions Online: Feelings and Affordances of Digital Media* (2023, Routledge). His book *Pandemic Societies: A Critical Public Health Perspective*, will be published by Bristol University Press in October 2024.



Farah Purwaningrum

Farah Purwaningrum is an affiliate with Kalta Bina Insani – a thinktank on health finance and health policy in Indonesia. She was an academic fellow at School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia in 2021-2022, and research officer and honorary associate at School of Social and Political Sciences – the University of Sydney, Australia in 2018-2020. Farah is a sociologist with an interdisciplinary background in law. She attained her PhD from Rheinische Friedrich Universität Bonn, Germany in December 2012. Farah has a keen interest in research areas of the sociology of health, health policy and sociology of knowledge. Her papers have appeared in international peer-reviewed journals such as International Social Science Journal, South East Asia Research, the International Journal of Health Planning and Management, International Sociological Association (ISA)-E Symposium.



Jae-Mahn Shim

Professor of Sociology at Korea University. He writes on action theory, elaborating the ways individuality intersects with sociality correlatively and consubstantially. His action theory explicates the dialectics in which actors reveal and reconstruct the unspecified yet undeniable and irreducible plurality and riches of existence by concretely living out, experiencing, and communicating them. Empirical fields span across medicine/science, religion, culture, work, gifts, and inequality. He currently expands action theory to generating sociological accounts of how actors construct regularity amid uncertainties during the pandemic. The latest works are "Mask Sociology as a Way of Action Theory: Voices of the Face Mask among Social Individuals in the COVID-19 Masquerade in South Korea" (2023 at PLOS One) and A Sociological Perspective on Blood Plasma Donation During the Pandemic: Convalescent Gifts and Liminality (Forthcoming by Routledge).

Announcements

Conferences and Workshops

"Narratives of Displacement" International Conference

Mallorca (Spain) / Online: 25-27 October 2024; deadline for proposals: 15 July 2024

Organised by the London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

Conference website: <https://narrativesofdisplacement.lcir.co.uk>

"Memory and Trauma" International Conference

London/Online: 7-8 December 2024; deadline for proposals: 15 July 2024

Organised by the London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

Conference website: <https://memory.lcir.co.uk/memory-trauma>

Publications

Call for submissions for a special issue on “Health Workforce Challenges and Solutions: A Focus on Population Needs” [IJERPH—IF 4.614]

RC15 Board Member Farah Purwaningrum and the other guest editors Madhan and Peivand, announce a new special Special Issue titled “Health Workforce Challenges and Solutions: A Focus on Population Needs”. This Special Issue follows a successful Special Issue on the future health workforce and the next chapter of our health workforce collection in the journal. Link to the special issue is as follows:

https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijerph/special_issues/Future_Health_Workforce_2. Undeniably, the health workforce is the backbone of health systems. Doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, and allied health workers are vital to the functioning of any health system. The importance of healthcare workers, especially the social and welfare workforce, is becoming more important in a post-COVID-19 world.

Solutions aimed at redesigning the health workforce need to be people-centric and more responsive to population needs. However, it is still unclear to what extent the current health workforce design

(cont.)

addresses or meets population needs. In many countries, health workforce distribution is biased towards urban or city areas. Primary and preventative care workforce is lacking in many countries. There are growing challenges due to transition environments (demographic, epidemiological, social, and technological), and solutions that are applicable to one country/content might not be necessarily suitable for another country or content. Tailoring health workforce solutions to meet current and future health challenges, address professional sensitivities, and curated to meet population needs is a growing body of research.

Globally, there is an improved focus on addressing health workforce challenges and meeting population needs. It is encouraging news that the WHO has initiated a Global Strategy on Human Resources for Health: Workforce 2030. Several key research teams are actively involved in addressing health workforce challenges that involve models of care, integrated approaches, scope of practice, regulation, and workforce planning.

The following are the key issues to be addressed in the Special Issue:

Health workforce planning and policy solutions to address population needs;

How do we sensitise the health profession to the growing needs of the public?

Trade-offs between technology and health workforce;

Population-centric health workforce solutions that also focus on patient safety and quality of care;

Regulatory frameworks and scope of practice;

New methodologies and solutions in health workforce planning;

Application of health workforce design solutions to education systems.

For this Special Issue, a population-focused approach is taken and articles that identify health workforce challenges and solutions towards meeting population needs in the global south and global north are encouraged. Articles that cover challenges at an education, practice, or regulation level required to facilitate innovative health workforce solutions are welcomed. There is a plan to include a wide range of health workforce articles that spread across all health professions or disciplines (medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, allied health, social and welfare workforce).

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Both quantitative and qualitative research articles are welcomed, as well as systematic reviews or commentaries/perspectives. Well-written articles displaying methodological rigour will be preferred. Please do not hesitate to email me (fara.arum@gmail.com) / Madhan (madhan.balasubramanian@flinders.edu.au) / Peivand, (peivand.bastani@cdu.edu.au) for any queries or interesting article ideas or content. And this call for papers will be anticipating submissions until mid of 2025.

Call for papers, International Journal of Health Governance

International Journal of Health Governance (IJHG) is a peer-reviewed journal that promotes the evolution of governance for health and health systems to meet new challenges in the 21st century. Serving a wide readership, IJHG publishes empirical and theoretical papers that offer national perspectives, international comparisons and global approaches. IJHG welcomes submissions from academics and researchers as well as policymakers working on the following themes:

- Fundamentals of governance for both health care and health promotion
- Governance issues for digital health services and health data protection
- New metrics for measuring health systems quality, outcomes and impact
- Approaches to strengthen patient safety
- The effect of governance on health systems resilience
- Governance of collaboration outside the health sector particularly to tackle social and cultural determinants of health
- Processes to rebalance power between care providers and communities
- Approaches to strengthen patient rights and participation in governance processes
- Issues in governance of global health initiatives
- Basic training and leadership development for health governance

Please do not hesitate to email co-editors of the IJHG

(<https://www.emeraldgrouppublishing.com/journal/ijhg>) : Irina Ibragimova - ibra@zadar.net and Helen Phagava - hphagava@yahoo.com as regards queries, submissions and/or ideas that you might have.

Current Sociology Monographs

Current Sociology Monographs were introduced in 2001, as two additional issues per year of the journal *Current Sociology*. These monographs are published in English and highlight both original and novel themes and problematics within the discipline. Each issue has a single or joint guest editor(s) and presents a selection of papers reflecting (but not limited to) global concerns and critical debates within and outside ISA's Research and National Associational networks and conferences. The papers should include a strong introduction and/or conclusion exploring and developing the theme of the issue. For Current Sociology monographs, we have explicitly required guest editors to incorporate epistemic diversity and inclusivity in their calls.

For further information about proposal submission, word length for proposals and publications and the time duration of the process, please refer to the [Current Sociology Monograph webpage](#).

Editor: Joy Y. Zhang

Assistant Editor: Meher Basit

Centre for Global Science and Epistemic Justice
School for Social Policy, Sociology and Social Research
Cornwallis East Building
University of Kent
Canterbury, Kent. CT2 7NF
United Kingdom

cs-monographs@isa-sociology.org

RC15 Board Members Contact Details

Nelson Filice de Barros	nelfel@uol.com.br
Joana Almeida	Joana.Almeida@beds.ac.uk
Susan Bell	seb376@drexel.edu
Paula Feder-Bubis	federbub@bgu.ac.il
Sigrún Ólafsdóttir	sigruno@hi.is
Alan Petersen	alan.petersen@monash.edu
Farah Purwaningrum	fara.arum@gmail.com
Jae-Mahn Shim	jayshim@korea.ac.kr

RC15 in LinkedIn

Let's (RE)Connect! Join the RC15 LinkedIn group. Our LinkedIn group is officially named "Research Committee on Sociology of Health RC15, International Sociological Association." Thanks to Amélie Quesnel-Vallée for creating the site a decade ago. Today, there are almost 200 members of the group. Post your new publications, honours, awards, conference announcements and other activities to connect us virtually and develop our RC15 community. You can find our LinkedIn group here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8199252/>