
Theory RC16 Newsletter, Summer 2023

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Introduction

Editors' Introduction

Nick Osbaldiston & Frank Welz

The years of the pandemic were a difficult time for scholarly networks such as ours. Fortunately, the ISA World Congress *Resurgent Authoritarianism: Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics, and Economies* in Melbourne, Australia, June 25 – July 1, 2023, stands for the resumption of in-person encounters.

This newsletter documents our Melbourne World Congress sessions, particularly for members not participating in the Congress. RC16 Sociological Theory sessions comprise 94 papers, including 89 oral presentations and five distributed papers, one-third of them jointly organized with other Research Committees:

RC02 Economy and Society,
RC03 Community Research,
RC07 Futures Research,
RC18 Political Sociology,
RC24 Environment and Society, and
RC35 Conceptual and Terminological Analysis.

Since 2010, the RC16 has granted the *Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Theory Award* to a thinker who has contributed significantly to sociological theory over the last two decades at least. Anthony Giddens is the winner of the 2023 prize. See the next page. Earlier recipients have been Zygmunt Bauman (2010), Alain Touraine (2014), and Jeffrey Alexander (2018)

International Sociological Association RC16 Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Theory Award 2023

2023 Award: Anthony Giddens

Anthony Giddens has made a distinguished contribution to sociological theory: he is the originator of the theory of structuration; a distinctive theoretical perspective intended to overcome some of sociology's basic dichotomies and perennial dilemmas. The theory of structuration has inspired subsequent programs of sociological theory and Giddens counts among the most cited social scientists, possibly the most cited contemporary sociological theorist. Before developing the theory of structuration in works like *The Constitution of Society and Central Problems in Social Theory*, Giddens made a major contribution to demonstrating and determining the contemporary relevance of classical social theory. These early works continue to be influential. Giddens subsequently sustained classical sociological theory's interest in formulating an interpretation of modernity and its consequences. Giddens was one of the first sociological theorists to clarify the general dynamics of contemporary globalization and his later writings addressed topics of global concern, including the politics of climate change and the future of the European Union. Giddens became a major public intellectual who sought to rethink social democracy in the guise of *The Third Way*, a political project that informed the British Labour government of Tony Blair and other European social democratic parties.

Giddens' institutional contributions to sociological theory are similarly considerable and were a significant part of the consolidation of sociological theory in the UK and globally. Giddens is a former Director of the London School of Economics, and he was the first Head of a newly formed Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Cambridge. Giddens was one of the founders of the major academic publisher Polity Press, which has played a substantial role in the dissemination of European social and political theory in English. Polity Press have



published works by the most important contemporary European sociological theorists, like Bauman, Bourdieu, Beck, Boltanski, and many other major figures. Since 2004, Giddens has been a member of the House of Lords, having been made a Life Peer.

Giddens has undoubtedly satisfied the definition of agency that he proposed; the ability to make a difference or 'transformative capacity'. Giddens has formulated a substantial theoretical perspective, offered a distinctive interpretation of modern society, presented diagnoses of the times, and linked theory to practice. Giddens' theory of history and structuration theory, as well as his overall contribution to the field of sociological theory, have inspired the work of influential and substantial current sociological theorists, like Peter Wagner, José Maurício Domingues, Rob Stones, Andreas Reckwitz and Hartmut Rosa. RC 16 welcomes this opportunity to recognise Anthony Giddens' legacy and to give due recognition to his distinguished contribution to sociological theory.

Craig Browne

Chair of RC16 Distinguished Contribution to
Sociological Theory Award (2022/2023)

RC16 Sociological Theory Sessions at the ISA World Congress 2023

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

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

Melbourne, Australia, June 25 – July 1, 2023

Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre

Program Coordinator: Craig Browne, The University of Sydney, Australia

MONDAY 26 JUNE

Theorizing the Social World in the Digital Age. Part I

Organizer: Erik Schneiderhan, University of Toronto, Canada

Chair: Martin Lukk, University of Toronto, Canada

Civil Society in the Age of the Algorithm Ronald Jacobs, University at Albany, SUNY, USA and Eleanor Townsley, Mount Holyoke College, USA

Network Analysis and Computational Modeling in Sociology Aditya Raj, Indian Institute of Technology Patna, India

Globalization, Glocalization and the ICT Revolution Victor Roudometof, University of Cyprus, Cyprus

Choices 'Democratic' and Freedoms Compromised Pranoti Chirmuley, St. Xavier's College Mumbai, India

Antipodean Social Theory

Organizers: Peter Beilharz, La Trobe University/Sichuan University, Australia and Rachel Busbridge, Australian Catholic University, Australia

Co-chairs: Peter Beilharz, La Trobe University/Sichuan University, Australia and Rachel Busbridge, Australian Catholic University, Australia

Discussant: Jeffrey Alexander, Yale University, USA

Land scape and Antipodean Social Theory: On the Theoretical Affordances of Sandstone Eduardo de la Fuente, University of South Australia, Australia

When Are We at Home Sian Supski, Thesis Eleven, Australia

Australian Sociologists: Knowledge Making, Identity and Global Position Fran Collyer, University of Karlstad, Sweden

Antipodean Travels and National Matters: Meaningful Mobility and Reimagining of the Australia and Turkey through Witnessing Acts Bradley West, University of South Australia, Australia

Authority and Authoritarianism Revisited. Part I

Joint session with RC07 Futures Research, RC18 Political Sociology

Organizers: Chad Goldberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States and Markus S. Schulz, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Germany

Chair: Gabriela Fried Amilivia, California State University Los Angeles, USA

How the Civil Authority of Office Saved American Democracy Jeffrey Alexander, Yale University, USA
Integrating the Study of Charisma and Populism through the Sociology of Emotions Paul Joosse, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Eros and Trumpism: A Marcusean Interpretation Chad Goldberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States
The Predicament of Democratic Authority Markus S. Schulz, Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, Germany
Beyond Legitimacy: How to Study Authority in Contemporary Societies Kathya Araujo, Instituto de Estudios Avanzados, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Chile and Macarena Orchard, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile

Materialist Sociology: Biometabolism, Technometabolism, Technoaddiction

Joint session with RC24 Environment and Society

Organizer: Haimo Schulz Meinen, University of Hannover, Germany
 Chair: Tyler Bateman, University of Toronto, Canada

Energy Transitions and Social Revolutions Marina Fischer-Kowalski, Institute for Social Ecology, Austria
Sustainable Human Life As Function of Technometabolism Laurentiu Tanase, Universitatea din Bucuresti, Romania and Haimo Schulz Meinen, University of Hannover, Germany
Going Back to West: The Rise of Chinese Television Format (1998 - 2022) Xinwei Zhang, University of Helsinki, Finland
Energy Demand: Sustainable Transition or Dangerous Addition to Fossil Fuel Emissions? Raymond Murphy, University of Ottawa, Canada
Entre Constructions Et Contractions Argileuses, Retrait-Gonflement Anthropo-Lithique Sophie Nemoz, University of Bourgogne Franche-Comte (LaSA MSHE CNRS UAR 3124), France

TUESDAY 27 JUNE

Theorising Elites

Organizers: Marcus Morgan, University of Bristol, United Kingdom; Narzanin Massoumi, University of Exeter, United Kingdom and Tom Mills, Aston University, United Kingdom
 Chair: Bradley West, University of South Australia, Australia

The New Class Realities of Rentier Capitalism: Theorising Elites in the Asset Economy Roger Burrows, University of Bristol, United Kingdom
Theorising 'Elites' across Discursive-Material Terrain: A Poststructuralist Approach to England 's 'Red Wall' Adam Dinsmore, University of York, United Kingdom
The Impact of Crises on the Hegemony of Nuclear Power Elite in Finland: A Neo-Gramscian Approach Hanna-Mari Husu, LUT University, School of Engineering Science/Social Science, Finland and Matti Kojo, LUT University School of Engineering Science/Social Sciences, Finland
The Concept of Sociodicy: A Useful Heuristic to Describe the Social Domination of Elites Charles Bosvieux-Onyekwelu, CNRS-Centre Norbert Elias, France

Social Imaginaries and Political Forms. Part I

Organizer: Craig Browne, University of Sydney, Australia

Chair: Kathya Araujo, Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Chile

Social Imaginaries and Modernity: Revisiting the Conception of Autonomy in Castoriadis's Works Angelos Mouzakitis, University of Crete, Greece

The Political Forms of Modernity: The Gauchet-Badiou Debate over Democracy and Communism Craig Browne, The University of Sydney, Australia

Metropolitan Imaginaries and Regional Cities in the North Americas Jeremy Smith, Federation University, Australia

Social Imaginaries and the Civil Sphere: A Cultural-Sociological Typology of Solidarity and Conflict Celso Villegas, Kenyon College, USA

From Oil to Lithium: Extractivism in the Mexican Social Imaginary As Political Legitimiser Josafat Morales, Universidad Popular Autonomadel Estado de Puebla (UPAEP), Mexico

Authority and Authoritarianism Revisited. Part II

Joint session with RC07 Futures Research

Organizer: Chad Goldberg, University of Wisconsin-Madison, United States

Chair: Zezheng Lin, School of Foreign Languages, Renmin University of China, China

Semi-Authoritarianism or Authoritarian Democracy on the Rise: South Asian Perspective Habibul Khondker, Zayed University, United Arab Emirates

Questioning Neoliberal Authority: Changing Patterns of Peace Activities in Israel Uri Ben Eliezer, University of Haifa, Israel and Adriana Kemp, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Disproportionate Judgement and Other Challenges to Democratic Equilibria Posed Populist Discourse: An Interdisciplinary Discussion Fernando Castanos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico, Mexico and Matilde Luna, Coyoacan, Mexico

The Idea of Authoritarianism in Brazilian Sociology: A Critical Review Felipe Garcia, Center for the Study of Violence / University of São Paulo (NEV/USP), Brazil; Gustavo Higa, Center for the Study of Violence / University of São Paulo (NEV/ USP), Brazil; Pedro Callari Trivino Moises, Yale University, USA and Roberta Novello, Center for the Study of Violence / University of São Paulo (NEV/USP), Brazil

State Repression and Political Orientation of Collective Action in China: A Multiple-Case Study of Student Activism at Peking University Ruanzhenghao Shi, University of Chicago, USA

WEDNESDAY 28 JUNE

Ulrich Beck and COVID-19 Pandemics

Organizer: Sang-Jin Han, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

Chair: Shujiro Yazawa, Center of Glocal Studies, Seijo University, Japan

Who Will be the Agency of Social Change in the Covid-19 Era? Young-Hee Shim, Hanyang University, Republic of Korea

Ulrich Beck and the Diverging Pathways of the COVID-19 Governance Sang-Jin Han, Seoul National University, Republic of Korea

Social Theory in China, Social Theory of China

Organizers: Jack Barbalet, Australian Catholic University, Australia and Xiaoying Qi, Australian Catholic University, Australia

Chair: Xiaoying Qi, Australian Catholic University, Australia

Market Town, Diffused Religion, and Industrial Metropolis: C.K. Yang As a Chinese Social Theorist Hon Fai Chen, Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Understanding Chinese Society: Examining the Concept of Ritual Jack Barbalet, Australian Catholic University, Australia

'Ritualized Relational Work' As Ethical Support for Corruption: How Do Banquets Promote Guanxi Exchange Among Rural Cadres in China Ji Ruan, Guizhou Minzu University, China

Non-Hegemonic Theory and Post-Western Sociology from China to Europe Laurence Roulleau-Berger, French National Center of Scientific Research-ENS Lyon, France

Being Chinese: Moving Beyond the Dichotomy of China and the Occident Weiyi Hu, The University of Sydney, Australia

Charisma, Populism, or Charismatic Populism?

Organizer: Paul Joosse, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Chair: Paul Joosse, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong

Towards a Weberian Theoretical Framework on the Differences between Charismatic and Populist Leadership Lorenzo Viviani, University of Pisa, Italy

Folk Devil or Folk Hero? Strategic Use of Emotions in Viktor Orban's Politics Rudolf Metz, Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

The Utility of 'Modern Demagoguery' for the Charisma/Populism Analytic Paul Jones, Research School of Social Sciences, College of Arts and Social Sciences, the Australian National University, Australia

Incarnation Charismatique Et Strategie De La Refondation Populiste Au Sein Du Mélenchonisme En France Valentin Soubise, Université Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, France

Can the New be Born? Critical Theory in Times of Interregnum. Part I

Joint session with RC35 Conceptual and Terminological Analysis

Organizers: Craig Browne, The University of Sydney, Australia and Arthur Bueno, University of Frankfurt, Germany

Chair: Spyros Gangas, DERE- The American College of Greece, Greece

Capitalist Modernity in Transition: Metamorphoses of Heteronomous Dependency and Autonomy Craig Browne, The University of Sydney, Australia

The Standpoint of the Proletariat Today Arthur Bueno, University of Frankfurt, Germany

Critical Theory As Historical Practice Frank Welz, University of Innsbruck, Austria

The Production of Fake Maturity Gregor Bongaerts, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany
Sociological Ways to Create a Human Society on Networked Contacts and Harmony with the Planet Kokichi Shoji,
University of Tokyo, Japan

Can the new be Born? Critical theory in times of interregnum. Part II

Joint session with RC35 Conceptual and Terminological Analysis

Organizer: Arthur Bueno, University of Frankfurt, Germany

Chair: Craig Browne, The University of Sydney, Australia

Differentiation or Centralization? An Attempt at Unifying the Two Sociological Viewpoints on Modernity Ichiro Okano,
Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Japan

Progress, Utopia, Imagination and Ideology Jiri Subrt, Charles University, Czech Republic

Genealogy As Immanent Critique of Forms of Life James Santos, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio Grande
do Sul, Brazil

Herbert Marcuse's Dialectic of Modernity in the Perspective of Post-Virtualization Dmitry Ivanov, St. Petersburg
State University, Russian Federation

THURSDAY 29 JUNE

The New Trinity: Simmel. Tarde. Mead

Organizers: Frederic Vandenberghe, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Olli Pyyhtinen,
Tampere University, Finland

Chair: Frederic Vandenberghe, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Simmel and Tarde: Beyond an Equilibrium Theory of SocialLife Andrea Brighenti, University of Trento, Italy
Simmel's Sociology of Imagination. Alberto Cordeiro de Farias, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro
(UERJ), Brazil

Simmel, the Adventure, Memory and the Self. Nick Osbaldiston, College of Arts, Society and Education,
Australia

Reconstructing Sympathy through Relational Theory Boris Traue, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Cultural Sociology: Hermeneutics, Semiotics, Dialectics

Organizers: Frederic Vandenberghe, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Jean-Francois Cote,
UQAM, Canada

Chair: Frederic Vandenberghe, Universidade Federal de Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Discussant: Jean-Francois Cote, UQAM, Canada

*The Incompatibility and Dialogue between Theoretical Perspectives: Habitus, Absorbed Coping, and Embodied
Understanding.* Csaba Szalo, Masaryk University FSS Jostova, Czech Republic

Structural Hermeneutics, Dialectical Hermeneutics: Is a Synthesis Possible? Nelson Arteaga, Facultad
Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales, Mexico

Limitations of Parsons on Norms Victor Lidz, Drexel University College of Medicine, USA

Can the New be Born? Critical Theory in Times of Interregnum. Part III

Joint session with RC35 Conceptual and Terminological Analysis

Organizer: Arthur Bueno, University of Frankfurt, Germany

Chair: Arthur Bueno, University of Frankfurt, Germany

Critical Theory's Unforgetfulness: Human Essentialism Reconstructed in the Capability Approach Spyros Gangas, DEREET-The American College of Greece, Greece

The Implications of the Ontological Turn in Sociological Theory: A Necessary Debate Alvaro Malaina, University Complutense of Madrid, Spain

Critical Theory before a New Structural Change of the Public Sphere: Digital Social Media between Democracy and Economic Rationality Mauro Carvalho, NA, Brazil and Milton Lahuerta, UNESP-FCL/Ar, Brazil

Individualism and Critical Theory: Rethinking Critical Potential in an Individualized Social Environment Enzo Colombo, Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy and Paola Rebughini, Milan University, Italy

Distributed Papers:

Reconnaissance and Measurement of Sociology's Social Improvements Esther Oliver, University of Barcelona, Spain and Mar Joanpere, University of Barcelona, Spain

Theories of Practice: New Perspectives in Urban Theory and Research

Joint session with RC03 Community Research

Organizers: Natalia Martini, Jagiellonian University, Poland and Karol Kurnicki, Lancaster University, United Kingdom

Chair: Natalia Martini, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Apartments As Excluded and Arhythmic Spaces in the Urban Waste Regime Bhavna Middha, RMIT University, Australia and Ralph Horne, RMIT University, Australia

Urban Community As Meta-Practice Marta Klekotko, Jagiellonian University, Poland

FRIDAY 30 JUNE

Configuration and Codes and Sustainability. Part I

Organizers: Gilles Verpraet, University Paris Ouest Nanterre, France and Erik Schneiderhan, University of Toronto, Canada

Chair: Christian Girard, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji

Socially Possible Worlds: Grounding Normative Statements Beyond Ontological Actualism Ariane Hanemaayer, Brandon University, Canada

The Container Model of Society: The Concept's Origins and Its Theoretical Potential for the Modern Social Transformations Research Liubov Klepikova, Moscow State University of Railway Engineering, Russian Federation

From the Paradigm Wars to a 'New, New Paradigm' of 'Full Cycle Science' As an Inquiring-for-Life Meta-Epistemology - the Making of a Trans-Disciplinary Sociology for a New Era Yoland Wadsworth, Foundation for Human Inquiry for Living Systems, Australia

Social Imaginaries and Political Forms. Part II

Organizer: Jeremy Smith, Federation University Australia, Australia

Chair: Jeremy Smith, Federation University Australia, Australia

Conflict As a Global Social System: A Treatise on Sociological Theory Oday Uraiqat, Bielefeld University, Germany

Social Distortions in the Social Imaginary of the 21st Century Global North William Bradley, Ryukoku University, Japan

Singularity and Social Resistance in the Interplay of Imaginaries, Politics and Religion Ilaria Riccioni, Free University of Bozen-Bolzano, Italy

Political Imaginaries of Solidarity in Transnational Social Movements: Barriers and Opportunities Rana Sukarieh, American University of Beirut, Lebanon

Cultural Politics: Disaffection and Imagination Ben Gook, University of Melbourne, Australia and Sean Cubitt, University of Melbourne, Australia

Configuration, Code and Sustainability. Part II

Language: English, French

Organizer: Gilles Verpraet, University Paris Ouest Nanterre, France

Chairs: John Cash, University of Melbourne, Australia and Ben Gook, University of Melbourne, Australia

Zeit Diagnosis and Dialectics of Control: Contribution of Configurational Analysis Gilles Verpraet, University Paris Ouest Nanterre, France

The Gaming Capital. A Study of Gaming Communities through Bourdieusian Theories Giulio Pitroso, Griffith University, Australia

Whiteness and Privilege at Work in Hong Kong: Why Do White Western Migrants Receive Higher Returns to Education on the Hong Kong Labor Market? Caroline Schoepf, Hong Kong Baptist University, Philippines

Thinking through and Beyond Capitalism after the Great Reset

Joint session with RC02 Economy and Society

Organizer: Hiro Saito, University of Tokyo, Japan

Chair: Hiro Saito, University of Tokyo, Japan

Accelerationism: Capitalism Beyond the Great Reset Alwyn Lim, Singapore Management University, Singapore

The Formation of a Bipolar World with a New Anti-Capitalist Coalition? Svetlana Kirdina-Chandler, Institute of Economics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russian Federation

The Test for "Post-Neoliberal" Governance: Harnessing Human Value with Residual Competition Carlos Palacios, Macquarie University, Australia

Social Entrepreneurship and Social Business: Foundations for the 'Great Reset' or Canary in the Coal Mine? Christian Girard, The University of the South Pacific, Fiji

SATURDAY 1 JULY

Classical Social Theory and Emotions Revisited

Language: English, French, Spanish

Organizers: Adrian Scribano, CONICET, Argentina; Vincenzo Romania, Università degli Studi di Padova, FISPPA, Italy and Massimo Cerulo, University of Perugia, Italy

Chair: Jack Barbalet, Australian Catholic University, Australia

- Emotional Recognition. Emotions, Sociality and Morality in a Meadian Perspective* Lorenzo Bruni, Università di Perugia, Italy
- An Approach to Digital Sensibilities from Theoretical Contributions of Norbert Elias* Maria Mairano, CIC-UNLAM, UBA, Argentina
- Transducing Scheler through the New Mobilities Paradigm* Rodanthi Tzanelli, Sociology and Socialpolicy, United Kingdom
- No Way Home: The Erasmus's Experiences of "Leaving" through Socio-Phenomenological Lenses* Alessandra Polidori, Università Perugia, France and Giulia Salzano, Università Perugia, Italy
- Distributed Papers:
- Emotions and the Crisis of Basic Concepts in Classical Sociology* Helmut Staubmann, University of Innsbruck, Austria
- Relational Loneliness and Mead's Theory of the Self* Amy Vanderharst, The University of Melbourne, Australia
- A Division of Labour: The Impact of Sociology on Psychology* Rock Chugg, Freelance, Australia
- Love and Lovelessness in Mary Wollstonecraft's Thought* Eliana Debia, CONICET-IIGG-FSOC-UBA, Argentina

Authority and Authoritarianism Revisited. Part IV

Organizer: Bradley West, University of South Australia, Australia
 Chair: Bradley West, University of South Australia, Australia

- Authoritarianism and Imperial Legitimation in US College Students* Joshua Klein, Iona University, USA; Daniel Patten, Purdue University, USA; Gabrielle Liriano, Iona University, USA; Puneet Kaur, Iona University, USA; Myles Chiarello, Iona University, USA; Trent Crespo, Iona University, USA and Rachele Lacroix, Iona University, USA
- Broken Mirrors and Fake News: The Russian Authoritarianism from Der Spiegel* Yulia Belinskaya, University of Vienna, Austria and Joan Ramon Rodriguez-Amat, Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom

Theorizing Desires: Sexualizing Sociological Theories

Organizers: Alan Martino, University of Calgary, Canada and Ying-chao Kao, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA
 Chair: Rock Chugg, Freelance, Australia

- Translating the Queer of Color Critique: The Impossibility of Applying a (racialized, queer theory-based) U.S. Concept in Latin America - for a Truly Hemispheric Approach* Salvador Vidal-Ortiz, American University, USA
- The Land of Rising Celibacy: Racialized Masculinity, (A) Sexuality, and the Global Gender Order* Anna Wozny, University of Michigan, USA
- Decentralising the Panopticon: How Neo-Disciplinary Power Relations Work* Alexander Kondakov, University College Dublin, Ireland
- Toward a "Liquid Sociology" of Modern Conservatism: Theorizing the Anti-LGBTQ Movements Flowing between Taiwan and the United States* Ying-chao Kao, Virginia Commonwealth University, USA

RC16 Board 2023-2027

ISA RC16 Board 2023-2027

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Objectives

Following the RC16 statutes, the goal of the Research Committee in Sociological Theory is

- to organize open interrelationships among its various schools of thought,
- helping resolve its recurring crises and define its future prospects and
- to create an international community among scholars

¹ Past Co-Chairs are ex-officio members of the board.