

Newsletter No 17 2024

The Newsletter of the Research
Committee on Social Movements,
Collective Action and Social Change
RC48

G

Grassroots

The Newsletter of the ISA Research Committee RC48
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Message from the RC48 President



Dear RC48 Members,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the latest edition of *Grassroots*, our shared space for reflecting on and strengthening our collective work in the field of social movements, collective action, and social change. This edition encapsulates significant moments and forthcoming opportunities for our research committee, illustrating our commitment to advancing sociological research and activism on a global scale.

I am particularly delighted to announce that this edition includes comprehensive coverage of the recent Fourth ISA RC48 PhD Workshop, held in the inspiring city of Catania. The workshop brought together emerging scholars whose research is helping shape the future of our field, building bridges between generations of social movement researchers. Inside, you will find a detailed workshop programme that captures the range of topics addressed, along with insightful presenter biographies that highlight the diversity and depth of their contributions. In the accompanying Workshop Book of Abstracts, you will find these young scholars' work compiled, a valuable resource reflecting current trends and methodologies in the study of collective action and social change.

To complement the intellectual achievements of the workshop, we are pleased to share a selection of photographs capturing the event's energy and camaraderie. These images remind us that, beyond academic discourse, our gatherings foster invaluable personal and professional connections that invigorate our work and support our shared goals.

Looking ahead, we also share exciting updates on the upcoming V ISA Forum of Sociology, scheduled to take place in July 2025 in

Message from the RC48 president

Rabat, Morocco. This forum will be an unparalleled opportunity to delve into pressing global challenges and examine how social movements and collective action contribute to social change. We encourage all RC48 members to join us there, as it promises to be an intellectually stimulating and action-oriented gathering.

In addition, we present our Updated Statement of Solidarity with Palestine. The need for academic and social solidarity is as vital as ever, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to addressing the injustices that impact vulnerable communities globally. We encourage our readers to engage with this statement, reflecting our collective responsibility to advocate for peace, justice, and respect for human rights.

As you explore this issue of Grassroots, I hope you feel a renewed sense of connection to our community and a deeper commitment to the work ahead. Together, through research, dialogue, and advocacy, we can continue to forge pathways toward social justice and change.

Warm regards,

Camilo Tamayo Gomez
President, RC48
International Sociological Association

About RC48

The Research Committee on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change (RC48) is part of the International Sociological Association (ISA). It was founded as a Working Group in 1992, under the presidency of Prof. Bert Klandermans. In 1994, it was recognised as an ISA Research Committee.

The objective of RC48 is to foster intellectual, academic and scholarly exchanges between researchers of broadly defined social movements, collective action and social change. The RC48 is currently based at the Collective Identity Research Centre (Department of Sociology 2, University of the Basque Country, Spain).

The ISA was founded in 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. With more than 5,000 members coming from 167 countries, the ISA is currently the most important international professional association in the field of sociology. Its goal is to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world and to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of their school of thought, scientific approaches or ideological opinion.

The ongoing scientific activities of the ISA are decentralised into 55 Research Committees (RC), 3 Working Groups (WG) and 5 Thematic Groups (TG), each dealing with a well-recognised speciality in sociology. These groups bring together scholars who wish to pursue comparative research on a transnational basis and they constitute basic networks of scientific research, intellectual debate and professional exchange. Although they must fulfil certain minimum requirements, RCs have complete autonomy to operate. Each RC's governing body is the Board, formed by a President, a Secretary, and a variable number of board members. RC48 participates in the organisation of both the ISA World Congresses, celebrated every 4 years since 1950 (Zurich), and the ISA Forums of Sociology, also celebrated every 4 years since 2008 (Barcelona).

In contrast to the ISA World Congress, which has a more professional and academic character, the forum's original

About RC48

purpose was to establish an open dialogue with colleagues doing sociology in public institutions, social movements, and civil society organisations. This means that every two years, we are involved in the organisation of a worldwide event. In between ISA World Congresses and forums, our committee organises smaller scientific meetings called RC48 international conferences. These meetings tend to be more narrowly focused than other ISA events and, on average, they gather between 30 and 60 scholars. Consequently, colleagues can make longer presentations, and we can hold deeper and more enriching debates.

RC48 Social media and website information

RC48 Website



It is our pleasure to announce that **RC48 now has a website!** The website serves as a hub for information on our committee's activities, publications, and events. We invite you all to explore it at <https://isarc48.com>



As RC48 we want to be connected to the professional world. That is why **RC48 now has an account on LinkedIn.** Follow us [here!](#)

RC48 Social media and website information



We have also created a [YouTube channel](#), where you can find videos related to our committee's research, seminars, and events. Subscribe to stay updated and access valuable RC48 content.



Connect with us on Twitter/X! **Follow RC48's new Twitter account:** https://twitter.com/RC48_ISA for real-time updates, news, and engaging discussions within the field of social movements, collective action, and social change

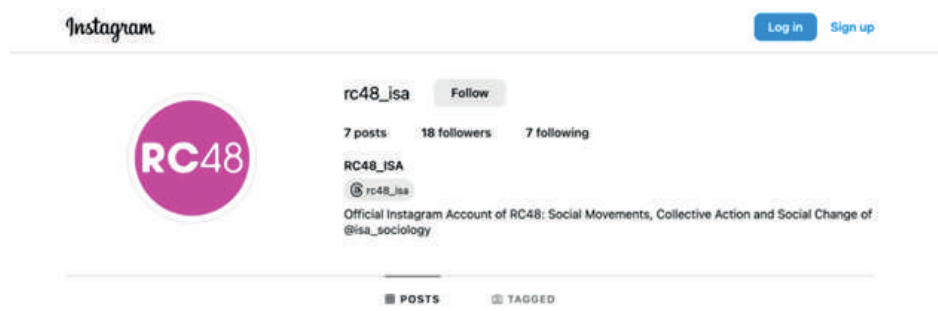
RC48 social media and website information

Find RC48 on social media

If you do not want to miss anything related to RC48 we invite you to visit us on Facebook and Instagram.



<https://www.facebook.com/isarc48/>



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RC48 Board members (2023-2027)



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RC48 Board members



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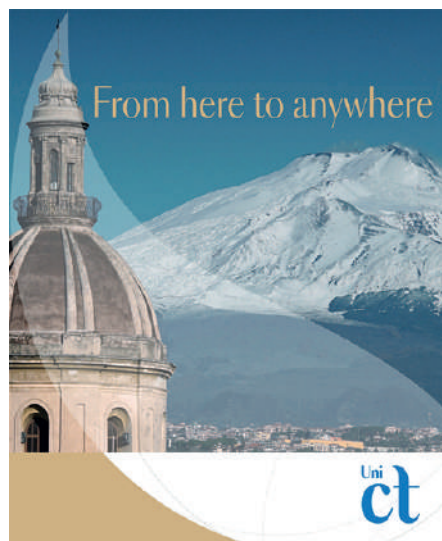
A dark blue banner with a red header box containing the text "4th PhD Workshop". Below this, the text "ISA - RC48 (Social movements, collective action and social change)" is written in white. At the bottom, a white box contains the text "Catania, Italy, September 12 and 13, 2024" in red. A purple circular logo with "RC48" in white is on the right side.

4th PhD Workshop

ISA - RC48 (Social movements, collective action and social change)

Catania, Italy, September 12 and 13, 2024

RC48



The aim of the ISA RC48 PhD workshop that will take place on September 12 and 13, in Catania (Italy), is to discuss with international PhD students working in the field of social movements about their doctoral projects in an open and helpful environment.

Each of the 18 PhD students who have been accepted will have the opportunity to present her/his/their doctoral project in a stimulating international setting and receive theoretical and methodological feedback from both senior and junior scholars as well as other students.

The Workshop will discuss recent developments in the field, publication, and career strategies, and provide an opportunity to network with other social movements scholars within the ISA community.

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Workshop Programme

First day
Thursday 12 september

9:00 – 9:30
Welcoming remarks
Aula Magna - Ground Floor

Professor Rosa Loredana Cardullo, Chair of the Department of Educational Sciences, University of Catania (Italy)

Professor Liana Maria Daher, Chair of the Phd Programme 'Educational Processes, Theoretical-Transformational Models and Research Methods Applied to the Territory', University of Catania (Italy)

Dr Camilo Tamayo Gomez, RC48 President, University of Huddersfield (UK)

9:30 – 11:00
First training session
Aula Magna - Ground Floor

Exploring qualitative research tools and participatory methodologies (Social labs and Innovative approaches).

Facilitators:

Giorgia Mavica and Liana Maria Daher (The University of Catania, Italy)

11:00 – 11:30
Break

Fourth ISA RC48 Phd Workshop

11:30 – 12:30

Second training session

Aula Magna - Ground Floor

Internationalisation of research and practice: How to become a global researcher

Facilitator:

Camila Ponce Lara | Philipps University of Marburg (Germany)

12:30 – 13:30

Third training session

Aula Magna - Ground Floor

From dissertation to publication: A comprehensive guide for postgraduate researchers

Facilitator:

Camilo Tamayo Gomez, University of Huddersfield (UK)

13:30 – 15:00

Lunch

15:00 – 17:30

First Phd Session

Room 2 - First Floor

Phd Student: Daniela Fazio Vargas (University of Manchester, UK)

Phd project: Confronting the “Aesthetics of Politics” and the “Politics of Aesthetics”: the Role of Music in the 2019 Chilean Uprising

Commentator: Eloy Rivas-Sanchez | Athabasca University (Canada)

Phd Student: Natalia Coppolino (University of Catania, Italy)

Phd project: From Utopian City to the City of the Future: Best

Fourth ISA RC48 Phd Workshop

Practices for Sustainability and Participation

Commentator: Camilo Tamayo Gómez | The University of Huddersfield (UK)

Phd Student: Miriam Bartelmann (University of Freiburg, Germany)

Phd project: Different shades of green - On rural and urban antagonisms in the context of environmental protests

Commentator: Liana Maria Daher (The University of Catania, Italy)

Phd Student: Gabriella Holt (The University of Huddersfield, UK)

Phd project: A historical analysis of narratives in Far Right and Irish Republican print media 1982-2012

Commentator: Eloy Rivas-Sanchez | Athabasca University (Canada)

20:00

Welcome Dinner

Second day

Friday 13 september

9:30 – 11:00

Second Phd Session

Room 2 - First Floor

Phd Student: Maria Nefeli Siozou (National Technical University of Athens, Greece)

Phd project: City and War: The Politics of Space and the Politics of War from the Perspective of Political Geography

Commentator: Eloy Rivas-Sanchez | Athabasca University (Canada)

Phd Student: Lidia Yanez Lagos (University of Manchester, UK)

Fourth ISA RC48 Phd Workshop

Phd project: Understanding the role of individual responses to repression in regimes characterised by systematic state violence: Theoretical contributions from the "Chile Desperto" movement case

Commentator: Camilo Tamayo Gómez | The University of Huddersfield (UK)

Phd Student: Andrea Micarelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
Phd project: Western model of development as a form-of-life: representations of sustainability in international politics and social movements

Commentator: Natalia Miranda | Aarhus University (Denmark)

11:00 – 11:30

Break

11:30 – 13:00

Third Phd Session and Closing Remarks

Room 2 - First Floor

Phd Student: Rajkumar Panthoiren (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati, Assam, India, India)

Phd project: The dynamics behind a civil society-led constitutional protection demand in an armed conflict context: The case of Meiteis and their Scheduled Tribe status demand movement

Commentator: Natalia Miranda | Aarhus University (Denmark)

Closing Remarks

13:00 – 15:00

List of Commentators:

Liana M. Daher | The University of Catania (Italy)

Camilo Tamayo Gómez | The University of Huddersfield (UK)

Giorgia Mavica | The University of Catania (Italy)

Eloy Rivas-Sanchez | Athabasca University (Canada)

Davide Nicolosi | The University of Catania (Italy)

Natalia Miranda | Aarhus University (Denmark)

Camila Ponce | Philipps University of Marburg (Germany)

Augusto Gamuzza | The University of Catania (Italy)

Anna Maria Leonora | The University of Catania (Italy)

Presenter Biographies

Daniela Fazio Vargas (University of Manchester, UK)



I am a Third-Year Sociology Phd Student at the University of Manchester. I hold a bachelor's degree in philosophy (cum laude) and a bachelor's degree in history (summa cum laude) from the Universidad de Los Andes (Bogotá, Colombia), where I did my Master's in Sociology (cum laude). In my Phd research, I have been exploring the political significance of music in the context of the 2019 Chilean uprising; in fact, throughout my career, I have been interested in analysing the interplay between arts, politics, and social transformation. Particularly, I have researched how music has helped to resist the Southern Cone dictatorships, and have also focused on music movements, such as The Chilean New Song – a research awarded and published by the Chilean Minister of Culture, Arts and Heritage.

Further, I have participated in initiatives of knowledge exchange

Fourth ISA RC48 Phd Workshop

and publications with the British Council on the relationship between music and peacebuilding. As part of my professional experience, since last year, I have been working as a TA at the University of Manchester on "Political Sociology", "Politics, Power and Everyday Life", and "Youth, Politics and Activism". Moreover, I have worked as a Research Assistant on three different projects revolving around the relationship between protests, justice, and grassroots activism: "JustProtest: Justice Seeking Protest and Democratic Futures" (PI: Prof. Hilary Pilkington, University of Manchester), "From Transitional Justice to Transformative Justice" (PI: Prof. Claire Taylor, University of Liverpool) and "Technologies of Violence" (Dr. Matthieu de Castelbajac, Universidad de los Andes).

My main areas of interest include the Sociology of Music, Social Movements, Protests and Activism, Social Theory, Philosophy of Arts and Aesthetics, Latin American Popular Music, and Cultural History.

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Natalia Coppolino (University of Catania, Italy)



Qualified Criminologist AICIS, currently a Phd student in Political Sciences at the University of Catania, my research activity focuses on the interaction between Environmental and Territorial Sociology (SPS/10), Legal Sociology, Deviance and Social Change (SPS/12), Architectural and Urban Composition (ICAR/14), Technique and Urban Planning (ICAR/20). I obtained my bachelor's degree with honors in Political, Social, and International Relations Sciences (L-36) at Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, in 2016. At the same university, in 2018, I graduated with honors in Criminological Sciences for Investigation and Security (LM-88). I continued my educational path with a second-level master's degree in Management and Co- Production of Participatory Processes, Communities, and Proximity Networks promoted by Alma Mater Studiorum, University of Bologna, and Fondazione Innovazione Urbana.

During the master's degree, I approached graphic visualization

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techniques, which I had the opportunity to deepen during a stimulating experience abroad within the European Erasmus for Young Entrepreneurs project, carried out at a leading company in the sector based in Brussels.

I am particularly interested in urban regeneration processes based on the creation of human bonds in an attempt to reduce the perception of insecurity and improve the quality of life of residents. Another area of interest concerns participatory urban security forms, specifically focusing on processes that place human beings and their ability to establish meaningful relationships with others. Furthermore, I am involved in educational projects for young students in secondary schools, aimed at conveying the values of legality and proximity.

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Miriam Bartelmann (University of Freiburg, Germany)



I am a Ph.D. researcher at the Arnold-Bergstraesser Institut (ABI) within the competence network on 'Postcolonial Hierarchies in Peace and Conflict', funded by the German Ministry for Education and Research. The institute is affiliated with the University of Freiburg (UFR), as is my research through the supervision of Prof. Manuela Boatcă from the UFR. Within the network, I am part of the team, that works on the conceptualization of a Virtual Encyclopedia, a multimedia compilation of post- and decolonial perspectives on and critiques of key issues in peace and conflict studies, such as epistemic hierarchies for example.

In my own research, I focus on a sociology of environmental and territorial conflicts, driven by a critical understanding of modernity/coloniality. Empirically, I am particularly interested in urban-rural antagonisms and tensions that arise based on

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contested approaches to environmental protection. On the conceptual meta-level, my research is driven by a curiosity regarding tensions within the society- nature relation constituted through a capitalist ecological regime. Following the concept of world- ecology, this regime is understood as historically specific and therefore dynamic and, especially in times of climate crisis and global climate protests, under constant negotiation.

My research interest has been sparked during my interdisciplinary and international Master within the Global Studies Programme. In this context, I studied Social Sciences at the University of Freiburg, Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) Buenos Aires, and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) New Delhi, as well as M.A. Sociology at the University of Freiburg. Before that, I pursued a B.A. at Freiburg and Naples (Federico II) in Sociology and Islamic studies.

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Gabriella Holt (The University of Huddersfield, UK)



My name is Gabriella Holt (24), and I am a 3rd year Phd at the University of Huddersfield. I also undertook my BSc in Sociology and Criminology at the University of Huddersfield (1st). After my degree I was invited by the University to skip my master's degree and undertake a Phd; I was awarded the Vice Chancellors Fee Waiver. My undergraduate dissertation was published in Huddersfield's student journal 'Fields' and titled 'Newspaper Discourse: Constructing representations of terrorist groups (IRA and ISIS)'. During my time as a Phd, I have had a plethora of learning experiences. Some examples include: teaching both undergraduate and master's seminars and lectures, organising the PGR conference twice and attending university level meetings as PGR representative and member of Graduate board. I won the 'Outstanding Contribution' award for improving

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the PGR lifecycle experience, and I also won the 'Rep of the year' award from the Students Union. In the last year, I have been involved in creating a new innovative PGR Careers Tool, which has been supported by the careers sector. I am a research assistant on the project, and it has evidenced to me the importance of impact and dissemination within my own research.

I have also learnt a lot about myself as a person whilst being a Phd. I enjoy working whilst listening to background noise, I use sport and music as my main escapes when life gets stressful, and I value those I love above all else. I take pride in sharing my research with others and I enjoy learning from the subsequent conversations which I believe to be invaluable. Through teaching I have built on my presentation skills, and I enjoy communicating my research in relaxed, vibrant and engaging ways by using lots of visual and modern media to illustrate my work.

Maria Nefeli Siozou (National Technical University of Athens, Greece)



Architect M.Sc. in Urban and Spatial Planning Phd Candidate, National Technical University of Athens, Greece. My research focuses mainly on cities and their social and cultural development. Social and political geography as well as urban sociology are of major importance and priority in my academic process. The connection of the reality of city life with the urban landscape, the multiple geographies of urban facilities, the geographical insecurity, spatial justice and social movements are also issues my concern. My presentations on the field up to now concentrate on the city as a social occurrence, which through materiality, historical continuity and interdependence with the social system and the dynamics of social movements attached to it, is perpetually changed, developed and redefined. The dialectic examination of

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the material continuity of the city can reveal and indicate the contemporary antitheses and new ways of oppression while highlighting new forms of reaction through localization and observation of spots, spaces, views and practices of the city together with the social relations interwoven with them.

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Lidia Yanez Lagos (University of Manchester, UK)



Lidia Yáñez Lagos is a sociologist (Universidad de Chile), Master in Sociological Research (University of Manchester) and political activist dedicated to scientific research with a public and political sense. She studies political action and social movements from an intersectional perspective that articulates social class, racialization, and sex-gender inequalities. In her professional trajectory she has coordinated various research teams, conducted analysis and production of quantitative and qualitative data, and worked as an evaluator of public policies with participatory methodologies. Lidia is currently doing a Phd in Sociology at the University of Manchester, fully funded, on the subject of repression and police violence in the Chile Despertó movement.

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Andrea Micarelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)



Andrea Micarelli is Phd candidate in Sapienza University of Rome, in the Doctoral School of Social and Economic Sciences with a scholarship financed by CNR. He studied in Sapienza and got a bachelor's degree in Sociology and master's degree in Applied Social Sciences, with a thesis regards the struggle between spirit of the capitalism and ecologism in the concept of sustainability and sustainable development. His actual research interests regard the transformation of western model of development in agreement with ecological and environmental issue and a critical analysis of the concept of sustainable development and sustainability.

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Rajkumar Panthoiren (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati, Assam, India, India)



I am Rajkumar Panthoiren and currently doing doctoral research in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati, Assam, India. My research area is in the field of social movements and political resistance with intersecting area interests in civil society, insurgency, armed conflict, nationalism, etc. I deal with the Northeastern part of India with specific focus on the state of Manipur. I have done my Masters in Sociology from the University of Hyderabad, Telangana. I come from an armed conflict zone, and have seen violence when growing up. My main impulse to do research is to understand the reality of my own society and to be able to play certain positive political role— in effect embodying the ‘sociological imagination’ and making certain viable impact. So, historical causality is very important for me and my research will be as much historically rooted as sociologically intensive.

Workshop Book of Abstracts

Experiencing a Song: The Aesthetic and Political Possibilities of Art

Daniela Fazio Vargas (University of Manchester, UK)

Abstract

Music has played a crucial role in recent Chilean history as conduct for social and political demands, and the protests of 2019 were not an exception. El Estallido, apart from being a social and political uprising, was also an artistic outburst. In part because demonstrators resorted to art to mobilise themselves but also for the greater visibility of artists and their performances during the protests. Hence, my overall argument attempts to show how protests can be spaces where aesthetic experiences (of music) can be made possible, enabling us to understand how they can be "politically" transformative even in cases where there is little or no change in the institutional arena.

Accordingly, I am arguing that, in Chile, protests were politically transformative despite the institutional setbacks that characterised the period post-uprising (Chapter 4). Focusing on the aesthetic experience of music enables us to understand how music can be transformative in altering the sensible distribution and shifting how subjects might perceive, position, and relate with their reality. Consequently, I am arguing that this experience is political as it transformed what can be heard from the consensus, making other messages listenable and broadcasting alternative voices, rhythms and melodies (Chapter 5). However, since the experience of music in a protest needs to account for the other sounds impacting the sense experience and the blurring of the line of who can be an artist, I examine how protests can be aesthetic events capable of altering the dominant forms of perception and calling, although ephemerally, for a transformation of the sensible

distribution (Chapter 6). Lastly, I explore the power of music that stems from the solidarity it enforces, which not only continues even when movement fades away but also resonate through time (Chapter 7).

Positing the idea of aesthetic experience in the debate of protest and social movement studies might not only defy the traditional understandings of this notion, traditionally associated with a locus of beauty and pleasure, but also challenges the way in which music is comprehended in the context of a protest: not as an object, but as an activity, as musicking. Moreover, introducing this notion enables us to understand how a protest can be transformative despite institutional setbacks as it impacts people's everyday lives: the way they relate to themselves, others, and the world, and so too, how they perceive and relate to their reality.

From Utopian City to the City of the Future: Best Practices for Sustainability and Participation
Natalia Coppolino (University of Catania, Italy)

Abstract

The contribute sets as its general object to identify useful categories for interpreting urban utopias, developed from the Renaissance to the half of the 20th century. In order to achieve this goal, the projects proposed by More, Campanella, and Bacon will be analyzed as examples of Renaissance utopias. Subsequently, the models developed in the wake of the utopian socialism movement will be examined, leading to the functional utopias offered by Le Corbusier and Wright in the first half of the 20th century. The diachronic analysis of contributions on the subject will be useful in identifying elements of continuity and innovative practices currently implemented to create more

sustainable and resilient communities. The research project aims to establish guidelines linking urban design, sustainability, and participation through a comparative study of contemporary European urban utopias using a socio-territorially oriented multidisciplinary approach. The project is structured around three main thematic areas, each with specific research objectives and methodologies. The first thematic area, focusing on utopia, aims to identify the main characteristics of utopian projects from a socio-territorial perspective. The study will explore works by Filarete, More, Campanella, and Bacon, highlighting the relationship between modern urban planning and socialist currents. It will also explore functional, literary and artistic utopias and examine the relationship between urban design and security perception. The second thematic area is sustainability, which aims to identify the characteristics of contemporary urban utopias in terms of sustainability through case studies of different European realities. The third thematic area is participation, which aims to identify techniques and tools that facilitate citizen participation in urban design. It will be reached analyzing co-design, participatory budgeting, and collaboration agreements to facilitate public dialogue in urban planning. This includes studying informal participation processes and the role of creativity in social integration. Methods include participant observation and interviews. In the final phase, a model of the city of the future integrating the three analyzed dimensions will be presented.

Different shades of green - On rural and urban antagonisms in the context of environmental protests

Miriam Bartelmann (University of Freiburg, Germany)

Abstract

In 2022, the road link between Rosario (the third biggest city in Argentina) and Victoria (a rural town), was blocked by protesters various times. The context for these blockades was the parliamentary debates on a so-called 'Law for wetlands', which aimed for stricter protection of Argentine wetlands, including the wetland in the Paraná's Delta, traversed by this very road link. From 2019 to 2022, heavy fires burnt down vast superficies within the wetland, repeatedly blanketing Rosario in smoke. The proposed law triggered different reactions on each side of the wetlands - Rosario in the West and Victoria in the East - as well as from the scarce population living within the wetlands.

While especially urban groups identified with the role of protecting nature within the territory, the farmers living inside the wetlands as well as people living in the rural settings around Victoria, rather identified with a traditional culture of living within and cultivating the ecosystem and a struggle for territorial justice. The momentum of the protests related to the approaches to the ecosystem revealed an antagonism between the urban and the rural narratives and claims.

Given the Argentine context of particularly uneven geographies regarding the distribution of capital in its diverse forms (economic, social, cultural), knowledge production, and hegemonic power, this paper discusses the apparent tensions between the claims of urban and rural protests. Those tensions revolve around differing conceptualizations of living in a relationship with ecosystems, which is conceived as positive and morally right in light of the climate crisis. The paper furthermore aims to address two questions: how do locally engrained experiences and social

constructions of space and society-nature relations result in different claims and forms of resistance? Additionally, in what way do those antagonisms and lack of relationality impede the formation of a greater, enduring and more unified protest movement?

**A historical analysis of narratives in far-right and Irish
Republican print media 1982-2012**

Gabriella Holt (The University of Huddersfield, UK)

Abstract

Extremist ideologies and narratives propagated through media pose a significant challenge to societies harmony and security, but current research into extremist publications focuses its attention on recent online and social media content (i.e. Alfifi et al., 2015). Whilst addressing the online element of extremist media is important, it does not provide any historical underpinning or background to how extremist narratives are being constructed and reinforced in content over time. Instead, online research focuses on predicting the future, interrupting the pathway of online radicalisation (e.g. Ashour, 2010) or understanding the strategic use of social media by Islamist extremist groups to be better at preventing future harm (Farwell, 2014). Therefore, the historical approach adopted by this research is notably different to the current research trajectory as it suggests a nuanced approach to resolving the dilemma of how to interpret and interrupt the extremist media phenomenon. This research suggests looking backwards to gain insight into the narrative pathways we now see replicated and reproduced, stating that perhaps it is the medium that has changed and not the message.

This project also compares outcomes between Irish Republicanism and the Far Right. The comparison has a baseline because Irish Republicanism and the UK Far Right exist within the same constitutional environment in the UK, allowing the research to cross reference. Another axis of the comparison between these perspectives is that both have nationalist ideological underpinnings, but substantially differ on motives and purpose. Their ideological differences will either pull their perspective and narratives apart or their nationalist basis will cause them to have deep rooted similarities (preliminary findings suggest it is a mixture). Another reason for looking at these two perspectives is that whilst there is some research into the discursive content from non-Islamist extremist groups (e.g. Braouezec, 2016; Sarma, 2007). There remains a gap for research which investigates the construction of narratives in the media output of non-Islamic extremist groups, especially where the data is primary, and the period is more than 10 years old.

City and War: The politics of Space and the politics of War from the perspective of political geography

**Maria Nefeli Siozou (National Technical University of Athens,
Greece)**

Abstract

The research topic in the context of which this thesis is being conducted concerns the relationship between the city and war and politics. My research interest in these relationships has emerged from the systematic study of political geography and radical theories of space, but also from the very constitution and organization of the city, where its structure and functions correspond in essence to the social system in question,

composing spatial-social expression. The ontological foundation and the conceptual clarification of space and the science of geography in general, constitutes the main body of this doctoral thesis. The close monitoring of the historical, social and political moments that shaped or defined the concept of the state is also the basis of the interpretation and analysis of urban space and its connection to wars. The interdependence and parallel development of urban space, as well as the wars as an outcome of social, political and racial conflict, either with the state or with power, determine each time the respective form and structure of the city.

The very course of history and its constant changes comprise the basis of the philosophical and sociological search for the connection and relationship between the city and war. The city is closely linked to war. But this connection is not only external, if one considers war only as a conflict. On the contrary, it is deeply internal and the roots of the connection are an integral part of social and spatial reality. Political theories, embedded in these contexts, especially from the formation of the state - and thus the organization of the city and its functions - are a crucial element for this thesis. Although war as a historical and social phenomenon pre-exists the city, or at least seems to pre-exist it, it could not fail to be linked to the course of history and the evolution of the respective social systems.

Understanding the role of individual responses to repression in regimes characterized by systematic state violence: Theoretical contributions from the “Chile woke up” movement case

Lidia Yanez Lagos (University of Manchester, UK)

Abstract

Repression is a crucial factor in understanding cycles of collective action and barriers to political participation. However, its impact on social movements continues to be disputed in the literature, since there is no agreement on how repressive episodes affect the intensity of protests. As has been recently argued, the different individual responses to repression and the tactics carried out by protesters to confront police violence could be an important piece in solving this puzzle. From a perspective that emphasises the realities of the 'global south', this research proposes that memories of past struggles are a crucial dimension of social movements that influence the way individuals face repression. Specifically, this study seeks to address this gap by exploring the case of the “Chile woke up” movement, which emerged in 2019 and radicalised in a context of brutal human rights violations perpetrated by the police. Through a qualitative approach, it is intended to understand the relationship between memories and responses to repression to shed light on how people keep resisting in context of systematic violence.

**Western Model Of Development As A Form-Of-Life:
Representations Of Sustainability In International Politics And
Social Movements**

Andrea Micarelli (Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)

Abstract

The theme of sustainability is increasingly present in public debate today, with significant attention from scientific research, both from natural and social sciences. Sustainability attracts considerable attention from social sciences because it currently serves as an important catalyst for social transformation and change (Ross, 2011). The debate is broad, and the aim of this work is to propose the use of the concept of form-of-life, used in contemporary social and political philosophy, to highlight the significant stakes underlying this debate. Talking about sustainability or sustainable development, does not concern merely technical or economic dimension, but rather a change in the imaginary of development.

To this end, this work will begin analysing the revision of the Western development model starting from the 1970s, during which a dual paradigm regarding sustainability emerged. This paradigm is represented politically by the debate between the Club of Rome and international environmental treaties, and academically by the debate on the substitutability of natural resources with artificial ones. In both cases, the focus will be on the terms in which the Western development model is revised, emphasizing the relationship between development and economic growth. Subsequently, the second paragraph will consider the concept of form-of-life, highlighting why it can be useful to analyse the revision of development. Finally, contemporary environmental social movements will be examined as an expression of a strong version of sustainability, which centre on a critique of the Western development model and propose new imaginaries.

The dynamics behind a civil society-led constitutional protection demand in an armed conflict context: The case of Meiteis and their Scheduled Tribe status demand
Rajkumar Panthoiren (Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Guwahati, Assam, India, India)

Abstract

This research deals with a community called the Meiteis inhabiting the federal state of Manipur in India. Manipur has been mired in a situation of armed conflict where the non-state armed political actors have been locked in a conflict with the Indian state for decades. Therefore, the civil society-led social movements and the accompanying demands that come up in this context are inevitably shaped by this conflict scenario. Duncan McDuire-Ra (2007) has written, basing off his doctoral research in the state of Meghalaya, about how ethnopolitics has shaped the Northeast Indian region's political demand movements which largely centre on issues of autonomy, identity and anti-migration themes. He also notes how civil society has a deeply intertwined relationship with how the Indian state and the military function in the Northeast region. Manipur's context is particularly peculiar in that there has been a trend of a longstanding civil movement space in the post-colonial phase, which is marked by the parallel growth of an armed resistance coming from different quarters, some of which have taken ethnic forms.

This research looks at the interconnectedness of the civil society space operating in an armed conflict situation with the larger issues of how indigeneity, citizenship and political resistance is defined and perceived, with a special focus on the Manipur Valley. Its focus area is in the Manipur Valley, which is mostly inhabited by the Meiteis who are relatively dominant in the state (around 43% of the total state population). But the main crux of the political articulations done by the Meitei political space is of an insecure international border along Myanmar and of an unfettered

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migration of people from both within and outside India (Myanmar and Bangladesh being major concerns). Therefore, there is an articulation centering around adverse demographic change which would eventually result in the decimation of the native population.

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Updated Statement Of Solidarity With Palestine



RESEARCH NETWORKS

Statement of Solidarity with Palestine (*)

As members of ten research committees of the International Sociological Association (ISA), RC05, RC06, RC15, RC29, RC37, RC40, RC44, RC47, RC48 and RC56, we are deeply dismayed by the indiscriminate and unceasing violence perpetrated on Palestinians in Gaza. The staggering disregard for human life and resulting tragedy since the launch of the military operation in October 2023 is beyond words. Since then, the world has witnessed the death of more than 41,000 (**) civilians (most of whom are women and children), the displacement of two million people, the destruction of entire neighborhoods, schools and universities, hospitals, places of worship and civil infrastructure, indiscriminate murder of journalists, aid workers, and healthcare professionals, and the imminent danger of famine and starvation. Meanwhile, Western countries continue to provide military and moral support for this collective punishment which amounts to a war crime committed with possible genocidal intent, as the International Court of Justice has recently declared.

As members of RC05, RC06, RC15, RC29, RC37, RC40, RC44, RC47, RC48 and RC56 we categorically reject from the outset any indication that would portray us as prioritising one or the other side when it comes to condemning any form of atrocity targeting civilians. We unconditionally and unequivocally defend the sanctity of human life and demand justice for each and every innocent victim and their families impacted by the ongoing violence.

Nevertheless, we also believe that the dire situation in Gaza requires an urgent and decisive response from the international community. This is why we demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people for their resilience in the face of growing human catastrophe and believe in their right to live in freedom, with dignity, and as equal citizens. The decades-long apartheid, occupation, and colonisation of the Palestinian land as well as the displacement and dispossession of its population is a grave violation of international law. It perpetuates a cycle of suffering and despair in the region. We call on world leaders to take immediate action to bring a just and peaceful resolution to the conflict in the region in line with international humanitarian law.

In addition to serious human rights violations, we also witness an ongoing assault on academic freedom and freedom of expression by institutions of higher education, academic journals, news outlets, and other spaces of knowledge and consciousness, especially in Western countries. These institutions either remain silent in the face of ongoing violence or subject researchers, faculty members, students, artists, journalists, and public intellectuals who oppose Israel's actions to defamation, intimidation, and suspension. As members of RC05, RC06, RC15, RC29, RC37, RC40, RC44, RC47, RC48 and RC56 we are deeply committed to the principles of academic freedom, and we unequivocally condemn the silencing and dismissal of our colleagues for publicly sharing their views. We believe universities, other academic institutions, and associations must actively and without reserve speak out against injustice and human suffering.

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Finally, as sociologists who believe in the importance of social movements and collective action for a better world, we express our solidarity with activists, scholars, and all others worldwide who refuse to be silent about the ongoing human tragedy. We join their call for an immediate and lasting sustainable ceasefire. We believe that only through collective action and international pressure can we hope for a future of justice and dignity for all people.

In Solidarity,

RC05 (Research Committee on Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity)
RC06 (Research Committee on Family Research)
RC15 (Research Committee on Sociology of Health)
RC29 (Research Committee on Deviance and Social Control)
RC37 (Research Committee on Sociology of Arts)
RC40 (Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food)
RC44 (Research Committee on Labour Movements)
RC47 (Research Committee on Social Classes and Social Movements)
RC48 (Research Committee on Social Movements, Collective Action and Social Change)
RC56 (Research Committee on Historical Sociology)

(*) This statement does not reflect the views of the International Sociological Association (ISA) nor all members (including Board Members) of the Research Committees that have endorsed it.

(**) This number was updated on 07.10.2024.

ISA RC05 Racism, Nationalism, Indigeneity and Ethnicity

ISA RC06 Family Research

ISA RC15 Sociology of Health

ISA RC29 Deviance and Social Control

ISA RC37 Sociology of Arts

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ISA RC47 Social Classes and Social Movements

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