



NEWSLETTER

December 2024

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Letter From the President of RC08



Dear fellow members and friends,

A new year begins, and many of us will have made promises to finish a task or begin a new one, improve ourselves, be more actively involved in a particular endeavour, or perhaps simply take time to appreciate what we have, who we are, or the people around us. Many of us may also have failed to live up to our promises in previous years, but it is, I believe, always a good thing to have goals, and take the time to reflect on the past and the year ahead. So, here are some reflections about our RC08 activities over 2024!

Your management board has had a busy year. Members of the board were organised into several working groups to further the aims of the RC. These were composed of a Communications Strategy Group, a Conference Committee, and an RC08 Awards Group.

The Communications Strategy Group, which is led by Joao Maia and includes Philipp Altmann, Josef Ginnervskov and Juan Martín Morales, worked on a number of strategies, producing a Twitter account, which has been a useful tool for informing members about relevant activities since November 2023. Unfortunately, the ISA advised all members to discontinue the use of Twitter (now known as X), and transfer to Bluesky. Taking this request into consideration, and consideration of the fact that our X account has only 58 followers, and the official ISA Bluesky account is not yet extensively followed (it only has 289 followers despite a large

ISA membership); we decided it would be best to pursue both social media options at this time, as well as opening a LinkedIn account. Members are asked to use our social media accounts more often, so that we can increase our scholarly interaction.

The Conference Committee, composed of Matteo Bortolini, Clara Ruvituso, Philipp Altmann and Stéphané Dufoix, has been very active. Two on-line workshops have been run, both of them successful. Thank you Matteo Bortolini and Giovanni Zampieri for organising and running these! Both workshops were on the theme of methods, and we had some wonderful papers on October 16th from Mikhail Sinyutin, Stefan Bargheer and Joao Maia, and on December 13th from Amna Iftikhar, Volodymyr Shelukhin, Romulo Lelis, Bijan Warner and Muhammad Amasha. A third on-line workshop is planned on gender and the history of sociology. Planning is also well advanced for the ISA Forum in Morocco for July 2025.

The RC08 Awards Group, run by Hon Fai Chen and Diego Pereyra, has also been active, developing plans for new awards. The board is currently considering options for new awards, including awards to recognise a scholar's outstanding contribution to the history of sociology, the best recent publication in our field, and the best recent thesis. We will bring you more information about these in our next newsletter.

With the date of our ISA Forum fast approaching, I urge you all to try your best to register and make arrangements to attend the conference. We have had a really exceptional number of abstracts submitted, despite the terrible funding cutbacks from many of our universities. This shows sociologists continue to have an enormous sense of commitment to their discipline, to their scholarship, and to the academy of scholars.

Fran Collyer

President RC08

Editor: *Serendipities. The Journal for the Sociology and History of the Social Sciences*

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News from the Editor

Since RC08 we have gone through the year 2024 with enthusiasm and energy. It was a year of growth, as we slowly expanded our membership. To date, we have 109 members from all over the world. According to the region of residence, both Latin America and Asia have the highest participation since the creation of this research committee, with 18 and 19% respectively. In the last year, several people from Africa have also joined, totalling 5, which is good news. This forces us to continue working on incorporating new perspectives and languages. Although there is still a long way to go, since 68% of the members come from category A countries, 22% from B and only 10% from category C. A fact that should also be highlighted is that we have 13 students who reside in different countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Germany, Italy, Poland, Sweden, United Kingdom and United States).

The call for papers for our session for the next ISA World Forum of Sociology has been a success. We will soon inform you about the details of the program. In the meantime, we organized the ISA-RC08 Online Conference with the title of “Sources, Data, and Methods for the History of Sociology”, which featured a lively discussion. You can find an enlightening report on this event in the newsletter. You can also find here various news that will be of interest to you.

See you in Rabat.

Diego Ezequiel Pereyra

Registration for the 5th ISA Forum is open now!

The 5th ISA Forum of Sociology will be an on-site event only, and we look forward to welcoming you onsite in Morocco! There will be no options available for presenting or attending online, please plan accordingly.

Confex has sent notification letters to Authors and co-authors of accepted abstracts. To be included in the program, all participants (including presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) must complete their registration by paying full registration fees no later than March 22, 2025. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Program Book and Abstracts Book.

Registration fees vary depending on your membership status with the International Sociological Association, your country of residence, and your membership category (Regular, Student, or Life Member).

Non-member students are eligible for a special registration fee. To apply for this status, you must submit your application through your ISA account attaching your proving documentation.

For more details, please see the ISA Forum website:

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/forum/rabat-2025/visaforumguidelines>

The official forum hashtag is: #ISAforum25!



الرباط
RABAT

ISA International
Sociological
Association

5th ISA Forum of Sociology
6-11 July, 2025

#ISAforum25 #Morocco

Research Projects

The Research Project Gendering Sociology: Proposal for Research and Teaching cordially invited colleagues to participate in its activities. This project is promoted by Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore (Milan) and funded by the Fondazione Cariplo.



The study aims to explore and enhance the theoretical, methodological, and empirical contributions of Early Women Sociologists (EWS) to the discipline during its classical foundational period.

The project is directed towards academics, researchers, and scholars who have delved into the subject of EWS in their studies and research activities. If interested, we kindly invite you to complete a questionnaire designed to map the key networks of scholars dedicated to rediscovering and recognizing these intellectual figures, who have often been erased or overlooked in the sociological canon.

The estimated time required to complete the questionnaire is approximately 20–30 minutes.

Link to the questionnaire:

https://unicatt.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_1LnTSJ1J4n0zGu2

For further information, please feel free to contact the project leader, Dr Chiara Ferrari, at chiara.ferrari1@unicatt.it.



Credit: Photo montage by Vitória Gonzalez, 2023. Taken from Luna Ribeiro Campos and Verônica Toste Daflon, “Women in the Making of Social Theory Beyond the Canon”, *Global Dialogue*, ISA, 13, # 2, August 2023, p. 32.

Calls for Papers

Call for Abstracts & Expressions of Interests Social and Health Sciences Special Issue Utopic Imaginings Guest Editors: Haidar Eid & Nadira Omarjee

This Special Issue focuses on the afterlives of genocide/ ecocide / scholasticide / educaricide / epistemicide and the ways in which restorative justice and utopic imaginings can contribute towards the remaking of life. Furthermore, the contribution of utopic imaginings to scholarship spotlights radical hope as a material reality, allowing for interdisciplinary scholarship to focus on rethinking the significance of love for rhizomatic networks of life-giving. Moreover, the Special Issue highlights rethinking post-genocidal othering through bridging art, activism and scholarship in finding a lingua franca beyond the war economy. Therefore, decolonial love is offered as an embodied experience towards new ways of being beyond colonial logic. Subsequently, it also promotes a machine that is continuously disrupting the genocidal economy of the master/slave dialectic (dominance and submission model) to bring about new imaginaries that reinforce life as opposed to death. Thus, utopic imaginings emphasise the importance of the psychoanalytical understandings of Eros (life drive) and Thanatos (death drive) towards jouissance (la petite mort) as the embodied resistance to the death machine. Consequently, focusing on jouissance highlights the promotion of life as pleasure-giving against an abstractive and extractive world that reifies itself, perpetuating destruction and dominance. Thus, the Special Issue encourages submissions from scholactivists to explore hope and love as ways of reunifying and extending life beyond the imminent climate crisis.

Queries or expressions of interest, and the submission of abstracts should be addressed to the Guest Editors: n.i.omarjee@vu.nl by 7th March, 2025

Abstracts should be 250 words in length and should include: the title of the proposed submission; the author(s) name(s); and the affiliation of the author(s). In the case of a submission with more than one author, please indicate the author to whom correspondence should be addressed, and provide their contact details. Please also include 6 keywords relating to the proposed submission.

Submission Formats

Accepted abstracts can be expanded into the following formats:

Short Communications/Perspectives/Reflections

These may include commentaries, reflections, and perspectives related to utopic imaginings. They should not exceed 2000 words.

Original Contributions

Full scientific manuscripts based on empirical work should not exceed 6 000 words, excluding Title, abstract, references, figures and tables.

Literature Reviews

Literature reviews should engage critically with existing research, proposing new directions for this work. Submissions in this category should not exceed 6 000 words.

Artistic Expressions

Artistic expressions can take the form of images and poetry.

Timeline:

Phase 1: Dissemination of call –	December 2024
Phase 2: Deadline of call/ Abstract submission –	7 March 2025
Phase 3: Submission of final draft –	28 November 2025

Academic Activities

Report on the RC08 online conference on “Sources, Data, and Methods for the History of Sociology” (October 16th and December 13th, 2024)



The first online conference on “Sources, Data, and Methods for the History of Sociology,” organized by RC08 Vice-President Matteo Bortolini and Giovanni Zampieri, was sponsored by the RC08, the Department of Historical and Geographic Sciences and the Ancient World (University of Padova, Italy), and its Center for the Mobility & Humanities (MoHu). The event took place in two events (October 16th and December 13th, 2024), connecting scholars and researchers from all over the globe who shared their research experiences and debated theoretical perspectives related to the intellectual endeavor of writing the history of sociology.

The first meeting started with a warm greeting from RC08 President Fran Collyer. The conference featured panelists Mikhail Sinyutin (University of St. Petersburg, Russia), Stefan Bargheer (University of Erfurt, Germany), and João Marcelo Ehlert Maia (FGV CPDOC, Brazil). In his presentation, Sinyutin compellingly explored the challenges and difficulties of using archival research to write biographies of scholars and intellectuals. Starting from a fascinating reversal of our notions of remembrance and forgetting, Stefan Bargheer discussed methodological strategies for investigating silenced trajectories. Lastly, Maia problematized the implications of using archival sources produced and stored in the global North to write a transnational history of Latin American Sociology.

The second meeting featured panelists Volodymyr Shelukhin (University of Kyiv, Ukraine), Romulo Lelis (Brazilian Center of Analysis and Planning), Bijan Warner (Independent scholar; Huron Consulting Group), and Muhammad Amasha (Yale University). Shelukhin discussed his experience using a declassified Soviet archive and the challenges it poses for writing the history of the institutionalization of sociology within the Ukrainian Sociological Institute in Prague. Starting from his research on the relationship between Durkheim and L’Année Sociologique, Lelis examined the possibilities for developing a comparative-historical method for interpreting theories. Warner placed his experience as an author at the heart of his contribution, which critically assessed the statute of authorship within the historical sociology of the social sciences. Finally, Amasha discussed the promises of combining digital data and process tracing techniques to study public intellectuals and their dilemmas.

After each presentation, a lively debate ensued, offering presenters and the audience an occasion to foster disciplinary reflexivity and share references and practical solutions to difficulties encountered in everyday archival research.

The organizers thank the RC08 for the opportunity and look forward to seeing everyone at the 2025 ISA Forum in Rabat!

Sociology in Mexico



On October 22th, the book *Sociology in Mexico. An Intellectual and Institutional History* (Book series Sociology Transformed, Palgrave Macmillan, 2024) by Gina Zabludovsky Kuper was presented in Buenos Aires. The event was co-organized by the Study Group on the History and Teaching of Sociology (GEHES-HSSA) of the Gino Germani Research Institute and the Research Group on the History of Political Science of the Latin American Political Science Association.

The book presents a condensed history of sociology in Mexico from its origins in the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. Most of the research and publications on the subject has focused on a specific historical period, the contributions of a reduced number of sociologists, a specific concern, or a particular theoretical orientation. Moreover, to the extent that they are written in Spanish, most of the publications cannot be shared by academics beyond the Spanish-speaking world. This project aims to fill this gap.

In comparison with the previous works concentrated on the analysis of short historical periods and a limited interpretation of history, this book will present a broader outlook and a different approach aimed at studying the constitution of sociology in Mexico in the long term. Therefore, the study provides a comprehensive account of the genesis and institutionalization of Mexican sociology and the main turning points from the mid-nineteenth century to the present.

During the presentation, Diego Pereyra and Pablo Bulcourf discussed with the author the characteristics of the book in terms of the networks involved in its production. The merits of a long-term historical perspective and the ability to understand different processes of reception and recreation of sociological traditions were highlighted. Aspects of the relationship between sociology and national identity and the text's openness to an interdisciplinary dialogue were also pointed out. Finally, the participants discussed the challenges of narrating the history of sociology from Latin American countries.



Sociology in Mexico
An Intellectual and Institutional History
Gina Zabludovsky

Presentación del libro
Sociology in Mexico.
An Intellectual and Institutional History
Gina Zabludovsky Kuper (UNAM)

Dialogan con la autora:
Diego Pereyra y Pablo Bulcourf.

Martes 22 de octubre, 11.00 Hs

Instituto Gino Germani
Aula 2

Link para la inscripción
<https://forms.gle/rz1K8r69Evb4Yccu8>

Consultas: grupohssa@gmail.com





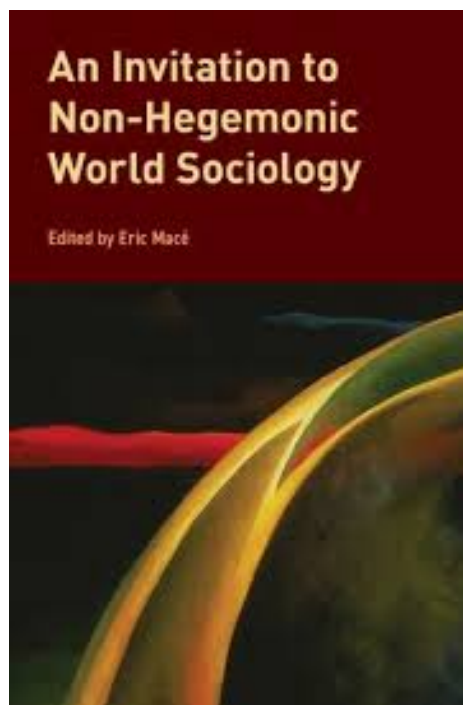


Member's Publications

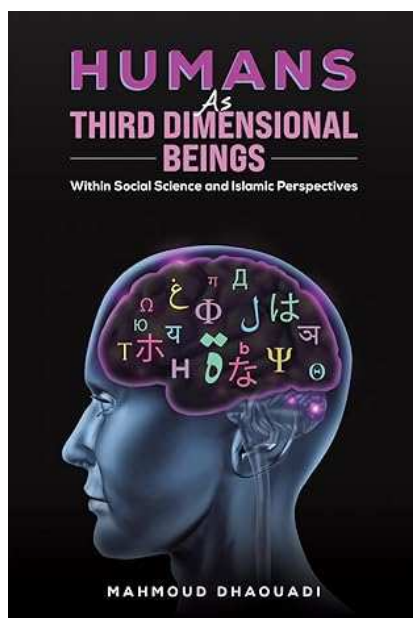
Books

'An Invitation to Non-Hegemonic Sociology' was published this year by Rowman & Littlefield, bringing together scholars from different areas reflecting on the possible shapes of a truly and non-Eurocentric world sociology. The book was edited by Eric Macé and brings chapters from many scholars affiliated to RC08, such as João Maia, Stéphane Dufoix, Sujata Patel, Adewale Adesina and Manuela Boatca'.

Although sociology is present as a discipline or as a social practice in most countries in the world, its future as a not-only Western social science has hardly been addressed before. In this book, a team of interdisciplinary scholars have been working together not so much to offer one single response to the question than to raise important issues at stake for the future of sociology. Is it universal? Can it be indigenous? How is it possible – and is it even desirable – to write its history differently so as to know better about its early world diffusion and gradual Westernization? Do we need to expand or change its canon?



This collection brings together essays that are all engaged in international discussions concerning the universality of sociology, or more precisely the epistemological and theoretical conditions of this universality. The postcolonial and decolonial critiques of the Eurocentrism of sociology are the basis for a reflection on how to continue to do sociology in a non-hegemonic way. That is, sociological ways of describing reality - including the history of sociology and its canon - that are not limited by Western-centrism or other nationalist or religious hegemonies.

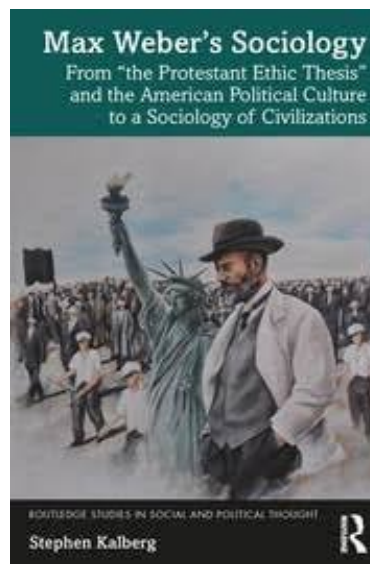


Mahmoud Dhaouadi, *Humans as Third Dimensional Beings: Within Social Science and Islamic Perspectives*, Austin Macauley Publishers, 2024.

This book explores a fresh lens on human identity in *Humans as Third Dimensional Beings*; where the author introduces a unique dimension that sets *Homo sapiens* apart - the Third Human Dimension (THD). Traditionally viewed as bi-dimensional entities encompassing body and soul, this book ventures beyond, inspired by a rich blend of cultural insights, social science theories, and Islamic perspectives. Contrary to prevalent social science paradigms that label humans as *Homo Economicus*, *Homo Politicus*, or *Homo Sociologus*, the author underscores a vital yet overlooked facet: *Homo Culturus* or the Third Dimensional Being. This work not only challenges social scientists for overlooking the *Homo Culturus* aspect but also critiques anthropologists, despite their focus on culture, for missing this crucial dimension. Highlighting the THD or the *Homo Culturus* is imperative for lending credibility to social sciences, especially when asserting the three Homos as fundamental aspects of human behavior.

Stephen Kalberg, *Max Weber's Sociology: From "the Protestant Ethic Thesis" and the American Political Culture to a Sociology of Civilizations*, Routledge, 2024.

This volume outlines Max Weber's comparative-historical sociology of 'interpretive understanding' (verstehen) in a manner that clarifies his complex mode of analysis and multicausal focus. Presenting the central features of his methodology, it demonstrates the strengths of his research strategies through discussions of his major works and overarching concerns. Among other themes this study addresses the origins of the American political culture, the longevity of its civic sphere, and the multiple causes behind the unique historical pathways followed by several civilizations. Indeed, through summaries of Weber's procedures and their application in his own empirical studies, *Max Weber's Sociology* sustains a simultaneous orientation to his 'big picture' themes and his rigorous manner of analysis. It demonstrates in so doing the capacity of Weber's sociology to ground firmly both "ideal-type" theorizing and empirically-oriented investigations. This volume will appeal to scholars throughout the social sciences with interests in the American civic sphere, the West's uniqueness, "the Protestant ethic thesis," the multiple ways that civilizations develop, and the diverse twists and turns of Weber's comparative-historical sociology.





Hynek Jeřábek, *Lazarsfeld's Methodology and Its Influence on Postwar Sociology in Europe: The Rise of the Columbia Model of Sociology*, Routledge, 2024.

Contents (in short)

- Introduction
- 1: Lazarsfeld's Methodological Innovations
- 2: Lazarsfeld's 'Training Projects' and Methodological Publications (1948–1955)
- 3: Lazarsfeld in Norway (1947–1955)
- 4: Lazarsfeld in Poland (1958–1970)
- 5: Lazarsfeld in Austria (1958–1976)
- 6: Lazarsfeld in France (1948–1976)
- 7: Lazarsfeld and UNESCO (1948–1973)
- 8: Lazarsfeld in the Czech Part of Czechoslovakia (1965–1973)
- 9: Lazarsfeld's Contributions to the History of Emp. Soc. Research (1959–1973)
- Conclusion

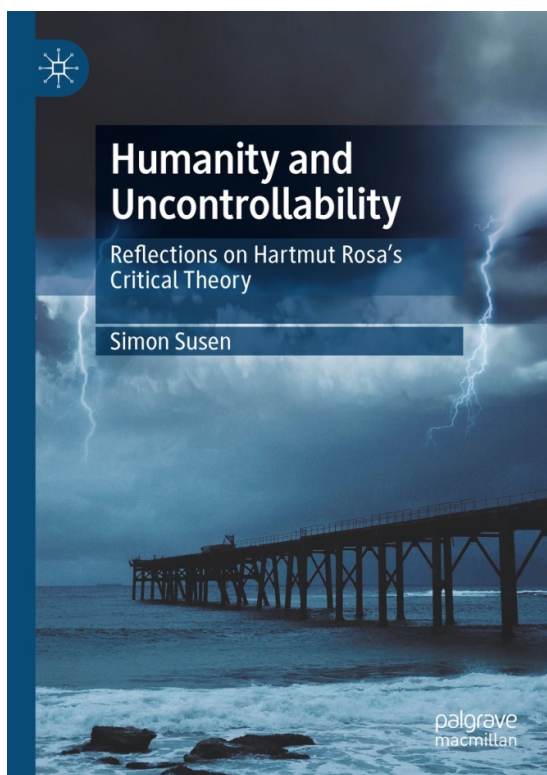
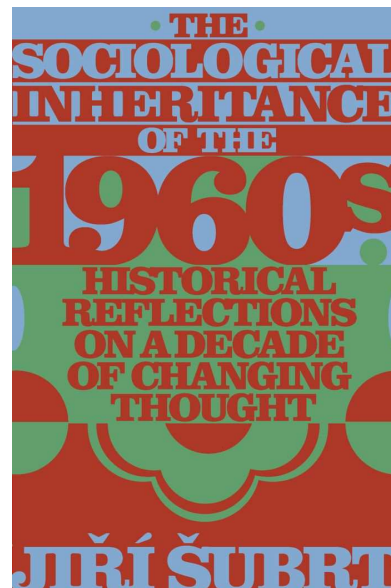
This monograph seeks to explain how and why Lazarsfeld's methodology influenced the practice of sociology and empirical social research in Europe after WW2. The 'Columbia school' served as an example for many scholars in Europe. It showed that sociology could act as a useful resource for state administration, social planning, business, the market, and public opinion research that they could use to analyse, interpret, and understand the social world. Paul Lazarsfeld was a mathematician, methodologist, a psychologist, and later a sociologist, but he was always a data analyst, an experienced designer of empirical social research, and an inventor of methodological principles, and newly designed analytical methods for multidimensional causal analysis. He developed a productive model of teamwork for producing sociological findings and valid results. The monograph presents all the strategies and processes, and describes the influences his work had on sociology and empirical social research in post-war Europe.



Jiří Šubrt, *The Sociological Inheritance of the 1960s. Historical Reflections on a Decade of Changing Thought*, Emerald Publishing Limited, 2024.

The 1960s saw pioneering changes in the realms of international politics, science, culture and art. Turning this historical lens onto the study of sociology, *The Sociological Inheritance of the 1960s* reveals both the continuities and the departures the field has seen in its core principles and approaches over the past several decades.

Beginning with an overview of society in the '60s, Jiří Šubrt provides an important reflection on a period worthy of contemporary reflection. In this context, what new concepts emerged? What were the popular methodological approaches? What controversies and debates emerged? How did sociology form part of a wider landscape of creative explosion throughout the decade? What implications does this have for contemporary sociology?



Simon Susen, *Humanity and Uncontrollability. Reflections on Hartmut Rosa's Critical Theory*. Palgrave, 2024.

Focusing on the work of Hartmut Rosa, this book provides an in-depth account of the extent to which we, as humans, are obliged to face up to the uncontrollability of the world. Rosa is widely regarded as one of the most original contemporary European social theorists. Along with the concepts of 'acceleration', 'alienation', and 'resonance', the notion of 'uncontrollability' [Unverfügbarkeit] ranks among the most important reference points in Rosa's critical theory, especially in his recent work. It is no accident, then, that – following his extensive inquiries into 'acceleration' and 'alienation' and the publication of his magnum opus on 'resonance' – Rosa has found it necessary to offer a brief, but powerful, account of the place occupied by the concept of 'uncontrollability' in his critical theory. The first half of this book comprises a detailed outline of Rosa's central arguments on 'uncontrollability', before moving, in the second half, to a thorough assessment of the most significant limitations of his approach. This book will appeal to students and scholars of the social sciences and humanities – particularly to those interested in social theory, social philosophy, and the history of ideas.



Serendipities

Journal for the Sociology and
History of the Social Sciences

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Brosnan, Caragh and Collyer, Fran; Williams, K. (2024) 'Promising the Earth: Forms of Capital that are Promised and Pursued in Australian-Chinese Research Collaborations' *Journal of Sociology* (<https://DOI: 10.1177/14407833241288954>)

Luiz, Linda (2025), "Women and the institutional cultures of sociology in Kerala", *Routledge Handbook of Gender, Culture, and Development in India. Essays in honour of Antony Palackal*. Edited by Lekha NB and Pradeep Kumar. Routledge: 246-257.

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Susen, Simon and Marc Ortmann (2024) "Das Ende der großen Theorien: Simon Susen im Gespräch mit Marc Ortmann". *Soziopolis: Gesellschaft beobachten*.

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Tada, Mitsuhiro (2024), "Creating 'Ignorance of Ignorance' through School Education: A Sociology of Knowledge Approach to Victimhood Nationalism and Educational Ignorance in Japan," in Chris Shei and James Schnell eds., *The Routledge Handbook of Language and Mind Engineering*, London: Routledge, 386-403.