



ESA26

17th CONFERENCE

WARSAW

25-28 AUGUST 2026

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACIES:
SOCIAL ACTION, SOLIDARITY,
AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURES

PARTNERS:

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PROGRAMME

17th ESA CONFERENCE

WARSAW

25-28 AUGUST 2026

Outline Programme



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Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures

In these turbulent times, democracy is facing a concatenation of unforeseen challenges across the globe: a persistent polycrisis of concurrent shocks, risks, and perils impacting public health, the environment, and energy systems; triggering conflicts, wars, and population displacements; ushering in economic challenges and amplifying human misery. Europe is navigating not only the dilemmas themselves, but also public discontent regarding demographic problems, access to and distribution of resources, food insecurity and labour market instability. Mistrust in institutions and disillusionment with political systems have led to populism and upsurging far-right movements; threats to human rights are exemplified by xenophobia and transphobia, a backlash against LGBTQI+ as well as setbacks in women's and other minority rights. Witnessed is the militarisation of groups, proliferation of wars, and intensification of rearmament. These times of uncertainty have generated scepticism, the devaluation of facts, and a disregard for truth. Called into question are the institutions of democracy itself, the European project, and the prospect of future prosperity.

Moreover, the accelerated pace of the digital transformation particularly Artificial Intelligence is reshaping social realities by opening up new scenarios in all fields of social life. These technologies could offer new vantage points as well as the tools to address societal changes and inequalities, including support for migrant and refugee populations as well as for rural, less populated, remote regions and various peripheries. At the same time, high tech can also aid and abet the proliferation of post-truth narratives, political extremism, and authoritarianism. All of the above underscores the importance of public sociology here and now.

This complex societal landscape has deepened social and economic inequalities, increased precariousness, and diversely affected people's living conditions. Robust democracies and extensive civic participation are essential for fairer and more sustainable futures. Greater social inclusion, respect for diversity, gender equality, recognition of marginalised identities, and support for academic freedom can contribute to improved social cohesion, unveiling a horizon of hope and opportunity for transformative social change.

Collective social action and solidarity can empower communities to work for social, economic, and environmental justice, emphasising active engagement towards more democratic and inclusive societies. Both individual and collective human agency is crucial for building dialogue across different perspectives and for finding solutions that inform knowledge-based policies, politics, and practice.

The upcoming 17th European Sociological Conference Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures will take place in Warsaw, Poland on 25-

28 August 2026, bringing together social scientists from across the European continent and beyond for discussions, scholarly exchanges, and networking. Its topics include but are not limited to the role of sociology and the social sciences in improving and strengthening democracies; theoretical and methodological pathways and tools for social transformation; the evolving role of sociologists in effecting positive change during turbulent times and on shifting social landscapes; the role of public sociology and creative approaches in both priming and strengthening dialogues towards more democratic and inclusive societies open for all. Social scientists are invited to submit proposals and to participate in this significant, international scientific event. ESA is looking forward to your submissions!

The ESA President's Welcome to the 17th ESA Conference

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

On behalf of the European Sociological Association, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Warsaw and to the 17th ESA Conference. Here, from the 25th to the 28th of August 2026, we will be taking up the theme of Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures.

In the time which has passed since our decisions were taken about this conference and its focus, not only Europe, but the wider world has continued to experience profound and interconnected challenges. Wars, forced displacement, environmental and energy crises, demographic transformations, food insecurity, and labor market instabilities are affecting societies around the globe. The cumulative consequences have deepened inequalities and increased precariousness, reshaping people's living conditions and expectations for the future.

Distrust in institutions and disillusionment with political systems have contributed to the growth of populist, authoritarian, and far-right movements. Xenophobia and hostility towards migrants and refugees are increasingly mobilized to political ends. Women's rights, LGBTQI+ rights, and the very acknowledgement of marginalized identities are facing deterioration. Academic freedom, independent research, and institutions responsible for imparting reliable knowledge are also coming under increasing pressure.

At the same time, the accelerating digital transformation (above all, the fast-tracking of artificial intelligence) is opening new possibilities while giving rise to new inequalities and risks. These technologies are transforming employment, education, communication, research, and public life. On the one hand, they provide important tools for meeting societal challenges, but, on the other hand, they also facilitate surveillance, exclusion, political manipulation, and the global transmission of disinformation or post-truth narratives.

Under these circumstances, democracy cannot be understood solely as a system of elections and formal institutions. Democratic societies also require meaningful civic participation and collective action, individual and group rights, egalitarianism and inclusion, recognition of and respect for diversity, autonomy of thinking and freedom of speech, freedom of assembly and freedom of expression.

The title of this conference unequivocally links the strengthening of democracy with social action, solidarity, and the construction of sustainable futures. It invites us to examine not only the forces that weaken democratic societies, but also the institutions, practices, and collective projects through which democracy can be defended and renewed.

Sociology has a fundamental contribution to make to this effort. Through the sociological imagination, theoretical reflection, and methodological rigor, our discipline connects individual experiences with broader social structures. It enables us to understand how inequalities are produced and reproduced, how people and institutions respond to crises,

and how individuals and communities develop forms of resistance, cooperation, and solidarity.

The social sciences must elucidate for societies all experiences and changes. It must also remain present in public debate—communicating its findings beyond the academy and engaging with citizens, communities, institutions, and policymakers. The public role of sociology (locally, nationally, and globally) is especially important at a time when evidence is devalued and the legitimacy of scientific knowledge is openly challenged.

The extraordinary response to the 17th ESA Conference demonstrates the vitality and international reach of our discipline. We received 3,889 submissions, with 3285 participants gathering in Warsaw this month. Those numbers mean that this is one of the largest sociological meetings in Europe and one of the most significant international gatherings in the social sciences.

Standing behind these figures are thousands of individual and collective research projects, a wide-ranging spectrum of theoretical and methodological approaches, and many different ways of practicing sociology. For four days, Poland's capital will become an international agora for presenting research, discussing new ideas, developing collaborative networks, and reflecting on the responsibilities of sociology in a period of paradigm shifts at every level.

The symposium program is structured around two Plenary Sessions, and twelve Semi-Plenary Sessions, supplemented by hundreds of sessions organized by the ESA Research Networks, Research Streams, and other conference bodies.

The First Plenary Session—Democracy under Transformation: Social Change and the Role of Sociology (which I will have the honor of chairing)—will bring together Grzegorz Ekiert, Geoffrey Pleyers, and Anna Giza. With reference to Karl Polanyi's seminal work, *Great Transformation*, the speakers will examine the driving forces underlying the sweeping changes in contemporary societies, the challenges this poses for democracy, and how the social sciences can offset the negative through enhanced resilience.

The Second Plenary Session—Embedding Democracy in Times of Accelerated Transformation: Knowledge, Rights and Sustainable Futures, chaired by Loukia-Maria Fratsea (ESA Vice-President and Chair of the Conference Committee)—will convene Joyeeta Gupta, Bandana Purkayastha, and Rolf Lidskog. Their contributions will connect the environmental crisis with issues of democracy, migration, human security, and resistance, as well as with the role of sociological expertise in supporting just and sustainable transformations.

The twelve Semi-Plenary Sessions approach the conference theme from a breadth of perspectives rooted in various fields of the social sciences. They address academic freedom; rural discontent and the future of rural Europe; education and social justice; consumption vis-à-vis ecology; open science and knowledge governance; public sociology; solidarity with Palestine amid repression of protest; democratic erosion, migration, and national identity; sociology in warfare contexts; artificial intelligence and sociological research; gender, sexuality, and the state; and inequalities in work and care. The Semi-Plenary Sessions are the result of cooperation among and/or contributions by the ESA Executive Committee, Research Networks, the Council of National Associations,

and the Local Organizing Committee. In addition, Midday Special Sessions will provide further opportunities to discuss matters of singular importance for the social sciences; as a memorial tribute, one session will be dedicated to Jürgen Habermas and another to Iván Szelényi; a separate session will recognize the recipients of the ESA Best Article Awards and the ESA Early Career Scholar Award.

The heart of the conference will nevertheless be found in the abundance of sessions organized by the ESA Research Networks and Research Streams. Whereas the former sustains specialized scholarly communities and provide continuity between our biennial conferences, the latter creates space for emerging subjects and interdisciplinary approaches. Together, they epitomize the remarkable thematic and intellectual diversity of European sociology.

Each paper, panel, and discussion contributes to the collective production of sociological knowledge. I encourage one and all to move beyond topics already familiar or colleagues already known: it is enriching to engage with different theoretical and methodological traditions, and to listen to researchers working in social and institutional contexts different from one's own.

Among other considerations, ESA Conferences must create an intergenerational space. Doctoral candidates and early-career scholars bring new questions, methods, and perspectives to sociology, yet they frequently face the greatest uncertainty and precarity on today's academic labor market. Their full participation in our social sciences community is essential to the future of the discipline.

Our association's commitment is evidenced most clearly through the ESA PhD Summer School which immediately precedes our conference—in Warsaw from the 22nd through the 24th of August 2026. The current edition also received an unprecedented number of applications, confirming that the Summer School has become one of the ESA's most dynamic initiatives for graduate school scholars. It provides PhD candidates with a dedicated space in which to present their work, receive feedback, discuss theoretical and methodological challenges, and establish connections with colleagues from different countries and sociological traditions.

Returning to the 17th ESA Conference itself, its scale is reflected not only in its program, but also in its geographical diffusion. Rather than remaining within a single venue, this ESA symposium will move through several of Warsaw's academic and civic spaces.

Our opening congregation will take place on Tuesday, 25 August, at COS Torwar where the Opening Ceremony and First Plenary Session will be held. This spacious indoor arena will render it possible for the entire conference community to meet before participants begin following the many different itineraries created by hundreds of parallel sessions.

Over the following two days, the core program will be housed at the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW), on its Ursynów campus. SGGW will host the Research Network and Research Stream sessions as well as the Semi-Plenary and Midday Special Sessions. This venue will also accommodate the meetings, exhibitions, and limitless informal encounters that constitute an essential part of conference life.

SGGW is also particularly appropriate for a conference concerned with sustainable futures. Its research and teaching mission is focused on social issues related to

agriculture, rural societies, food systems, natural resources, and environmental transformation. Climate change, food insecurity, rural depopulation, and unequal access to resources are profoundly social and political dilemmas that require sociological knowledge.

On the final day, the conference will move to the University of Warsaw (UW). Parallel sessions will take place in the university buildings on Dobra Street, while the Second Plenary Session and Closing Ceremony will bring participants together at the historic Auditorium Maximum, on the University's main, Krakowskie Przedmieście campus.

The venue moves will gradually take the conference from the outlying SGGW campus into the historical and civic center of the Polish capital. The University of Warsaw is one of Poland's principal academic institutions, but is also intricately connected with the country's intellectual, cultural, and political history.

The final day will also include the institutional moments through which ESA members consider the future of the association. The General Assembly and the transition to the newly elected ESA bodies will take on special meaning when held during a conference devoted to strengthening democratic societies. Democracy is more than the subject of our research: it must also guide the governance of our organizations through participation, representation, transparency, and collective responsibility.

The organization of a conference on two university campuses represents an exceptional example of academic cooperation. These principal venues are supported by a wider academic partnership involving Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, SWPS University, Maria Grzegorzewska University, Civitas University, and Koźmiński University. This joining of forces demonstrates the strength and diversity of sociology and the social sciences in Warsaw.

It is the Polish Sociological Association (Polskie Towarzystwo Socjologiczne, PTS) that has acted as the linkage between the conference and the Polish sociological community, bringing the participating institutions together and providing the local foundations necessary for the 17th ESA Conference. With traditions dating back to 1931 and its re-establishment in 1957, the PTS has played a central role in sustaining sociology, connecting researchers across institutions and regions, promoting professional ethics, and representing the discipline in Polish academic and public life.

The academic program will be accompanied by social and cultural activities introducing opportunities to meet beyond formal session rooms and to experience Warsaw from different viewpoints. Informal conversations during walks, meals, and social events frequently generate collaborative projects that continue long after a conference has ended.

Constituting a significant communal moment will be the Conference Dinner and Party at the Palace of Culture and Science. The Palace is one of the most identifiable buildings in Warsaw: one of the most complex symbols in the city's urban and political landscape, it reflects Polish postwar history. It is simultaneously a historical monument, a cultural center, a workplace, a meeting place, and an object of continuing debate and contested memory.

Warsaw itself provides a meaningful setting for our gathering. The city bears traces of wartime occupation, genocide, destruction, and resistance, as well as postwar reconstruction, state socialism, and democratic transformation. Its streets, buildings, and institutions embody layers of memory and sometimes competing narratives about Polish and European history.

Situation of this conference in Warsaw also offers an opportunity to recognize the contribution of both Polish and Central Eastern European sociology to the wider European social sciences community. The experiences of state socialism, post-socialist transformation, European integration, migration, democratic mobilization, and democratic backsliding are not peripheral concerns. They are fundamental to an understanding of contemporary Europe.

Poland's own history lends particular resonance to the theme of this conference. In 1981, nearly ten million people belonged to the Solidarity trade union in a country of around 36 million inhabitants, creating one of the largest and most diverse social movements in modern European history and giving collective voice to aspirations for freedom, dignity, and social rights. The 21 Demands of August 1980 connected fundamental civic and workers' freedoms with the social realities of everyday life—healthcare, housing, childcare, working conditions, and social security. What followed was not an inevitable path to democracy, but martial law, repression, crisis, and persistence. Yet, in 1989, political adversaries sat together at the Round Table here in Warsaw, opening the way to elections and peaceful political transformation—a powerful reminder that social action and solidarity can survive tyranny, sustain democratic aspirations and, under particular historical conditions, transform confrontation into dialogue, dialogue into compromise, and compromise into institutional change.

An international event on this scale also depends on the support of public institutions, benefactors, and partner organizations. On behalf of the ESA, I express our sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Warsaw Tourism Organisation, the Kohli Foundation for Sociology, and the European Parliament Liaison Office in Poland for their support of the 17th ESA Conference. We are equally honored that the conference is being held under the Honorary Patronage of the Masovian Voivodeship, the Honorary Patronage of the Mayor of Warsaw, and with the Patronage of the European Parliament. We warmly thank all our sponsors, partners, and patrons for the confidence they have placed in the European Sociological Association, the Polish Sociological Association, and the wider academic community responsible for organizing the conference.

A congress of this magnitude can only be realized through an extensive collective effort, much of which remains invisible to participants. I would first like to thank my colleagues on the Conference Committee: John O'Brien, Gerben Moerman, Teresa Sorde, Michela Franceschelli, Paulo Peixoto, and Ana Patricia Faria Pereira. Their judgement, dedication and perseverance have been essential to the development of the conference program. Above all, special acknowledgement and appreciation is extended to the Conference Chair, Loukia-Maria Fratsea for her stellar contribution to the realization of this vast undertaking.

I express my genuine appreciation to members of the ESA Executive Committee: Maggie O'Neil, Ilenia Picardi, Marilena Macaluso, Krešimir Žažar, Ana-Cristina Santos, Ana Vidu,

Milica Antić Gaber, Audronė Telešienė, and Nilay Kaya. Their collegiality and commitment have sustained the Association, along with this conference, throughout the 2024–2026 mandate.

We are deeply indebted to the ESA Office—to our Executive Assistants, Hana Achargui and Noelle Geller, as well as to our Conference Assistants, first and foremost Małgorzata Odolczyk, who assumed the daunting task of coordinating everything with the Conference Chair and the Local Organizing Committee, with support from Sandra Pinheiro; also key were the strivings of Manuel García-Ruiz, responsible for communication and general coordination. Recognized and appreciated, too, is the vital work of Jorge Almeida, our graphic designer. The professionalism of all these individuals has underpinned each stage of the conference - from participant communications and program administration, to our website, publications, and visual identity.

I also thank the coordinators and boards of the ESA Research Networks and Research Streams, the Council of Research Networks, the Council of National Associations, the organizers of the Plenary, Semi-Plenary, Midday Special, and joint sessions, as well as the numerous reviewers who evaluated almost 3,900 submissions received.

On behalf of the ESA, I express our profound gratitude to the Local Organizing Committee, chaired by Mirosława Grabowska, representing both the Polish Sociological Association and the University of Warsaw. I personally thank, too, that committee's Vice-Chairs: Julia Kubisa (University of Warsaw), Joanna Wyleżątek (Warsaw University of Life Sciences); and Izabela Bukalska (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw). My warmest appreciation also goes to the members of the Local Organizing Committee: Rafał Boguszewski, Konrad Burdyka, Mikołaj Cześnik, Katarzyna Dębska, Małgorzata Herudzińska, Agnieszka Kampka, Joanna Konieczna-Sałamatin, Krzysztof Kuźmicz, Marta Makowska, Wojciech Poteć, Dagmara Szczepańska, Rafał Wiśniewski, Katarzyna Witkowska, and Justyna Zielińska. Their coordinated teamwork directly connected the ESA with Warsaw's universities, public institutions, and conference venues.

I also extend my thanks to the authorities, academic communities, and administrative teams of all the collaborating establishments.

A debt of special gratitude is owed to the local conference staff, venue teams, technicians, accessibility specialists, communications professionals, photographers, videographers, caterers, exhibitors, and all other partners playing a role in the success of this event. Warm and heartfelt thanks go, above all, to the conference volunteers. They will be among the first people that attendees meet at COS Torwar, SGGW, UW, and all the other conference locations. The knowledge, patience, and generosity of these assistants are the key to coordination of this large and complex event, to facilitation of access, and, above all, to making everyone feel at home.

Last but not least, we are deeply grateful to everyone participating in this 17th ESA Conference. By submitting your research, travelling to Warsaw, presenting your work, organizing and chairing sessions, and contributing to debates and discussions, you have made this conference possible. The European Sociological Association is not simply its elected bodies, its Office, or its biennial conference. It is a community of scholars created through the involvement and commitment of its members. Over the time ahead, I hope that this congress will provide opportunities for rigorous debate, intellectual discovery,

and fruitful happenstance. May the ideas, relationships, and collaborations that emerge in Warsaw continue well beyond these four days.

Welcome to Warsaw, and welcome to the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association.

I wish you an inspiring, productive, and memorable experience.



ESA President 2024-2026, Kaja Gadowska

The Chair's Welcome to the 17th ESA Conference

It is a great honour and pleasure to welcome you to the 17th European Sociological Conference, taking place in Warsaw from 25 to 28 August 2026.

Every ESA conference offers a unique opportunity to come together – to share knowledge, engage with different perspectives, reconnect with colleagues and forge new intellectual and professional relationships. The 17th ESA Conference takes place at a particularly consequential moment, amid profound social and political transformations, ongoing wars and displacement, and growing uncertainty. In such times, critical inquiry, intellectual exchange and the capacity to understand societies in all their complexity acquire renewed importance.

The conference theme, “Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures”, speaks directly to the challenges confronting contemporary societies. Democracies are being tested by intersecting crises, persistent and widening inequalities, environmental pressures, demographic change, economic insecurity, declining trust in institutions and threats to human rights. At the same time, rapid digital transformation, particularly developments in artificial intelligence, is reshaping how people communicate, work and participate in public life, as well as how knowledge is produced, circulated and contested.

These developments raise fundamental sociological questions about power and inequality, participation and exclusion, identities and belonging, solidarity and conflict, trust and knowledge, and the possibilities for building more sustainable futures. Sociological research and analysis are particularly timely today, as large groups of people experience social change as inevitable and uncontrollable, provoking feelings of powerlessness and discontent. At the same time, sociological thinking requires critical knowledge, reflection grounded in real life, and guidance towards better understanding and social action, particularly for the benefit of the less powerful, the vulnerable and the excluded.

The conference theme is deliberately not only about the challenges facing democracy. It is equally concerned with agency, social action, solidarity and the possibilities for change. Societies are not simply shaped by crises and structural forces; they are also shaped by individual and collective action, by communities responding to change, by social movements contesting inequalities, by institutions developing new forms of participation, and by practices of care and solidarity. Sociology and the social sciences make an essential contribution not only to understanding these processes, but also to informing public debate and contributing to more inclusive, democratic and sustainable societies.

Over four days in Warsaw, these questions will be examined from a wide range of perspectives. The scientific programme reflects the breadth and intellectual diversity of contemporary sociology, encompassing different substantive fields, theoretical approaches, methodological traditions and sociological perspectives. It includes two Plenary Sessions, 12 semi-Plenary Sessions and 19 Research Streams, alongside the extensive programme developed through ESA's Research Networks. The Research Streams provide an important forum for emerging and cross-cutting areas of sociological

inquiry, extending the intellectual scope of the conference beyond established fields and networks.

At the heart of the scientific programme, the two Plenary Sessions bring together distinguished scholars to engage with the conference theme from different yet interconnected perspectives, reflecting on the challenges confronting democracies and on the possibilities for social action, solidarity and sustainable futures.

The 12 Semi-Plenary Sessions connect the conference theme with some of the most pressing transformations of our time, addressing democracy and academic freedom, war and collective action, migration and belonging, education and social justice, gender and care, rural and ecological transformations, artificial intelligence, knowledge production and the public role of sociology. Across these fields, they invite critical reflection on inequalities and changing relations of power, while examining forms of agency, solidarity, resistance and knowledge through which more democratic, inclusive and sustainable futures might be imagined and pursued.

The 10 Midday Special Sessions provide a different but valuable forum, focusing on issues relevant both to sociology as a discipline and to the everyday professional and intellectual work of sociologists. They bring contemporary debates and intellectual legacies into conversation with questions of publishing, professional practice, inequalities and care within academia, disciplinary development, and the recognition and support of scholarship across different career stages.

Collaboration across ESA's Research Networks is also an important feature of this year's programme. The 29 Joint Sessions, organised collaboratively by Research Networks, bring different fields and perspectives into conversation across established areas of specialisation, fostering intellectual exchange and cooperation. The 17th ESA Conference also marks an important milestone for four newly established Research Networks, which will meet for the first time at an ESA Conference, further extending the range of fields and perspectives represented within the Association.

ESA's National Associations enrich the conference by bringing together sociological perspectives and experiences from diverse national contexts across Europe. The plurality of sociological approaches, perspectives and questions enhances the expanding dialogue across specific subdisciplines, schools of thought and social networks.

The programme is further enriched by seven Fringe Events and one Special Event, organised with the support of the Local Organising Committee, as well as by the formal and informal encounters that are an integral part of conference life. Taken together, these events create a setting for intellectual encounter, debate, discovery and collaboration.

Participants from 68 countries across Europe and beyond come together in Warsaw, reflecting the international reach and diversity of ESA. The breadth of viewpoints represented provides a valuable basis for sociological exchange and debate across national and intellectual contexts.

Such plurality is fundamental to academic exchange. Different perspectives should be able to meet and sometimes disagree; established scholars and those beginning their academic journeys should be able to learn from one another; and different generations, regions and sociological traditions should have opportunities to engage with each other.

Academic debate can and should be critical, challenging and intellectually demanding, while remaining grounded in respect, collegiality and kindness. These are not secondary qualities of academic life. They are fundamental to an environment in which people are able to participate, exchange ideas, disagree and belong. If solidarity is something to be examined sociologically, it should also be practised in academic life and in the ways in which scholars relate to one another.

The Sociological Walks take sociology beyond the conference venues and into the streets of Warsaw, inviting participants to consider how history, collective memory, political transformation, urban development and contemporary social dynamics are inscribed in the everyday life of the city. They also offer an opportunity to engage with Warsaw's sociological heritage, including the important contributions of women sociologists whose scholarship, teaching and public engagement have shaped Polish and European sociology across generations.

Warsaw provides a particularly meaningful setting for these intellectual encounters. Its history speaks powerfully of destruction and reconstruction, conflict and resilience, memory and transformation, and of the continuing relationship between past and present. Today, it is a dynamic European capital as well as an important centre of sociological scholarship.

Sincere appreciation is extended to the host institutions and venues that have made the conference possible: the Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) and the University of Warsaw, which host the scientific programme; COS Torwar, which hosts the Opening Ceremony and conference activities; and the Palace of Culture and Science, which provides the setting for the Conference Dinner. Their hospitality and support are integral to bringing the 17th ESA Conference to life across Warsaw.

An international conference of this scope is necessarily a collective undertaking, made possible through sustained cooperation across different parts of the Association. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the members of the Conference Committee – Kaja Gadowska, John O'Brien, Gerben Moerman, Teresa Sordé Martí, Michela Franceschelli, Paulo Peixoto and Patrícia Pereira – and to all colleagues of the ESA Executive Committee for their support throughout the preparation of the conference.

Sincere thanks also go to the Research Network Coordinators and members of the Research Networks, whose expertise, intellectual engagement and considerable work have been fundamental in shaping the scientific programme. Much of its breadth and richness is the result of their contribution.

My warmest thanks go to the Local Organising Committee, chaired by Mirosława Grabowska, to the Polish Sociological Association, and in particular to Joanna Wyleżatek, Julia Kubisa, Izabela Bukalska and Wojciech Połec. Preparing an international conference of this magnitude inevitably involves complex organisational and practical challenges, and the sustained cooperation, commitment and work of Polish colleagues and partners have been indispensable.

My sincere thanks also go to the ESA Office: Małgorzata Odolczyk (Conference Assistant), Manuel Garcia-Ruiz (Communications Officer), Sandra Pinheiro (ESA Assistant), Hana Achargui (Executive Secretary), Noelle Geller (Executive Secretary) and Jorge Almeida

(Graphic Designer). Their dedication, professionalism, patience and constant willingness to find solutions have been invaluable throughout the preparation of the conference.

Warm thanks are also due to all the volunteers, whose contribution is essential to making these four days welcoming and enjoyable for participants.

Above all, a conference draws its intellectual vitality from its participants. Thank you to everyone presenting research, organising and chairing sessions, contributing to discussions, asking questions and sharing experiences. It is through this participation that a scientific programme becomes a forum for critical engagement, intellectual exchange and sociological inquiry.

I hope that these four days in Warsaw will stimulate new questions and insights and provide inspiration for the sociological work that continues beyond the conference.

I warmly welcome you to Warsaw and to the 17th European Sociological Conference, and wish you an intellectually stimulating, productive and enjoyable conference.



ESA Vice-President and Conference Committee Chair
Loukia-Maria Fratsea

The LOC Chair's Welcome to the 17th ESA Conference

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association in Warsaw.

We meet at a time when Europe is experiencing profound political, social and cultural transformations. Democracy, social cohesion, migration, technological change, climate challenges, and the consequences of war are no longer abstract subjects of academic inquiry. They have become part of the everyday reality of millions of people across our continent. In such times, sociology has a particular responsibility – not only to understand these processes but also to contribute to informed debate about the challenges societies face.

There could hardly be a more meaningful place for these conversations than Warsaw. Almost entirely destroyed during the Second World War, rebuilt through the determination of its inhabitants, transformed by the democratic breakthrough of 1989, and today situated on the eastern frontier of the European Union, Warsaw is a city where history and the present continuously intersect. It reminds us that societies are shaped by memory and hope and by continuity and change.

We also meet at a moment when the war in neighbouring Ukraine continues to affect European societies profoundly. Its consequences for security, migration, solidarity, democratic resilience and social trust have become central topics of sociological inquiry. For Poland and for Central and Eastern Europe, these questions have a particular immediacy. Gathering in Warsaw, so close to these events, reminds us that sociology is never detached from the societies it studies. Our discipline is called not only to analyse the world but also to help us understand the conditions under which peaceful, democratic and based on solidarity societies can flourish.

For many participants, this will also be their first opportunity to experience Central and Eastern Europe. We hope that your stay in Warsaw will encourage you to discover not only the city's history and culture but also a region whose profound social transformations have contributed significantly to contemporary sociological thinking. Polish sociology has long been an important part of the European sociological tradition – from Florian Znaniecki, Stanisław and Maria Ossowski, and Józef Chałasiński to Zygmunt Bauman and many distinguished contemporary scholars whose work continues to shape international debates.

Holding our conference in Warsaw also reminds us that sociology is fundamentally an international endeavour. Our theoretical perspectives and methodological approaches may differ, but we share a commitment to dialogue, critical reflection and mutual learning. The ESA Conference offers a unique opportunity to exchange ideas across generations, disciplines and national borders, to establish new collaborations and to strengthen the European sociological community. We hope that the conversations you begin in Warsaw will continue long after the conference has ended – through new ideas, new collaborations and new connections across the European sociological community.

Welcome to Warsaw. We wish you an inspiring, stimulating and memorable conference.

Prof. Mirosława Grabowska

Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

President of Polish Sociological Association 2023-2026



Prof. Julia Kubisa

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Dean of the Sociology Dept.

University of Warsaw



Prof. Joanna Wyleżatek

Vice-Chair of the LOC

Director of the Institute of Sociology and Pedagogy

Warsaw University of Life Sciences



Dr Izabela Bukalska

Vice-Chair of the LOC

Board Member of Polish Sociological Association



The Rector of Warsaw University's Welcome to the 17th ESA Conference

Dear Sociological Community of scientists and researchers, Dear Participants of the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association,

I am honoured to welcome the participants of the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association (ESA), co-hosted by the University of Warsaw. This event marks an important moment in the history of our university and our city – for the first time in the history of this prestigious and influential conference, it will take place in Poland, bringing together more than 3,000 sociologists and researchers from across Europe and beyond.

Warsaw is today one of the fastest-growing capitals in Central Europe – a city of innovation, start-ups, lively cultural scene and international institutions that looks firmly to the future. The University of Warsaw, the largest university in Poland, has accompanied these transformations for more than two hundred years, and today it consistently develops research that addresses the challenges of our times – from artificial intelligence, through climate change, to the future of democracy. Sociological thought and research have always been crucial for the development of our university, as this discipline, critical and curious, sees the world from different perspectives, questions the obvious and seeks for answers beyond the expected.

We are proud to host a conference that aligns with this mission: building shared knowledge on how to shape more solidarity and resilient societies for tomorrow. Recent years have highlighted just how vital sociological reflection is in the face of unprecedented challenges – the COVID-19 pandemic, growing social inequality, the war in Ukraine, and the mounting erosion of trust in democratic institutions across many European countries. These events have tested social cohesion, but they have also reminded us of the power of civic engagement and solidarity as tools for responding to crisis.

This year's conference theme, “Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures”, resonates strongly with our university's mission as a centre for the social sciences, humanities and law, long committed to studying the mechanisms of democracy, civic life and social trust.

Sessions will be held on the campuses of the University of Warsaw and the Warsaw University of Life Sciences, with accompanying events planned at exceptional venues across the capital, including the Palace of Culture and Science and the Torwar Hall. We believe that the face-to-face meetings and conversations made possible by the conference will foster a fruitful exchange of ideas and new scholarly collaborations.

Once again, a warm welcome to the University of Warsaw and to the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association. May this time be intellectually stimulating and personally enriching for you.

Professor Alojzy Nowak

Rector of the University of Warsaw

The Rector of Warsaw University of Life Sciences Welcome to the 17th ESA Conference

Dear Participants of the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association,

On behalf of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to Warsaw and to the 17th Conference of the European Sociological Association.

For SGGW, hosting this important international gathering is both an honour and a meaningful continuation of our academic tradition. Nearly a century ago, Władysław Grabski – Rector of SGGW, statesman and one of the pioneers of rural sociology in Poland – recognised that understanding economic and social change requires, above all, a deep understanding of society. This idea remains remarkably relevant today.

The challenges we face – from demographic shifts and migration, climate change to technological transformation, social inequalities and the changing nature of democracy – are never purely economic, environmental or technological. Every transformation is also a social transformation. This is why sociology plays such an important role in helping us understand the world and make responsible decisions about its future.

Our University is proud to contribute to this debate as an institution whose research and education bring together the natural, social, economic and technological sciences. We strongly believe that interdisciplinary dialogue is essential when addressing the complex challenges facing contemporary societies.

I hope that the days you spend in Warsaw will offer not only inspiring academic discussions and new research perspectives, but also opportunities to build lasting international partnerships and professional friendships.

I wish you a stimulating, productive and memorable Conference, and I am delighted to welcome you to Warsaw and to our Campus.

Prof. Michał Zasada

Rector
Warsaw University of Life Sciences

ESA Executive Committee

ESA President: Kaja Gadowska (Poland)

Vice-Presidents: Loukia-Maria Fratsea | Maggie O'Neil | Teresa Sorde

Treasurer: John O'Brien

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Chair of the Council of National Associations: Paulo Peixoto

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ESA Office

Malgorzata Odolczyk | Conference Assistant

Noelle Geller | Executive Secretary

Hana Achargui | Executive Secretary

Sandra Pinheiro | ESA Assistant

Manuel Garcia-Ruiz | Communications

Jorge Almeida | Graphic Designer

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Chair: Mirosława Grabowska (Polish Sociological Association & University of Warsaw)

Vice Chairs: Izabela Bukalska (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw) & Julia Kubisa (University of Warsaw), Joanna Wyleżątek (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

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Konrad Burdyka (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

Mikołaj Cześćnik (SWPS University)

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Agnieszka Kampka (Warsaw University of Life Sciences)

Joanna Konieczna-Sałamatin (University of Warsaw)

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Katarzyna Witkowska (Civitas University)

Justyna Zielińska (Maria Grzegorzewska University)

Supporting Institutions



POLISH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



WARSAW
UNIVERSITY
OF LIFE SCIENCES



UNIVERSITY
OF WARSAW

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WYSZYNSKI UNIVERSITY
IN WARSAW



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FILOZOFII I SOCJOLOGII
APS



SWPS
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Civitas
University



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RN01 - Ageing in Europe

Coordinators:

Outi Jolanki, Tampere University & University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Co-coordinator: Marcos Bote, University of Murcia, Spain

RN02 - Sociology of the Arts

Coordinators:

Dafne Muntanyola Saura, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain,

Vice-coordinator: Paula Guerra, University of Porto, Portugal

RN03 - Biographical Perspectives on European Societies

Coordinator: Baiba Bela, Latvia

Vice Coordinator: Ina Alber-Armenat, Germany

RN04 - Sociology of Children and Childhood

Coordinators:

Phil Mizen, Aston University, United Kingdom

Vicky Johnson, University of Highland and Island, United Kingdom

Aleksandra Zalewska-Królak, University of Warsaw, Poland

RN05 - Sociology of Consumption

Coordinators:

Mikko Laamanen, Coordinator, Consumption Research Norway (SIFO), Oslo

Metropolitan University, Norway

Francesca Forno, Vice-Coordinator, University of Trento, Italy

Senja Laakso, Vice-Coordinator, University of Helsinki, Finland

RN06 - Critical Political Economy

Coordinator: Yuliya Yurchenko, Senior Lecturer in Political Economy, University of Greenwich

Co-Coordinator: Bernd Bonfert, Assistant Professor in Economics at EM Normandie

RN07 - Sociology of Culture

Coordinator: Simon Stewart, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom

Co-coordinator: Rita Maria Gonçalves Ribeiro, University of Minho, Braga, Portugal

RN08 - Disaster, Conflict and Social Crisis

Co-coordinator: Antti Silvast, NTNU, Norway

Eugenia Petropoulou (Greece)

RN09 - Economic Sociology

Coordinators:

Giacomo Bazzani, Florence University, Italy and

Alberto Veira Ramos, University Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

RN10 - Sociology of Education

Coordinators:

Anna Odrowąż-Coates, Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland

Antigone-Alba Papakonstantinou, (co-Chair), University of Athens, Greece

RN11 - Sociology of Emotions

Coordinator: Cécile Vermot, Biotechnologies in Society Research Group, Sup'Biotech
Paris, France

Co-coordinator: Rotem Leshem, The Unit of Culture Research, Tel-Aviv University, Israel.

RN12 - Environment & Society

Coordinator: Aleksandra Wagner, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Vice-coordinator: Pia Laborgne, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany

Vice-coordinator: Markus Hadler, University of Graz, Austria

RN13 - Sociology of Families and Intimate Lives

Coordinator: Katarzyna Suwada (Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, Poland)

Co-coordinator: Inga Lass (University of Melbourne, Australia)

RN14 - Gender relations in the labour market and the welfare state

Coordinators:

Paula Koskinen Sandberg, Aalto University School of Business, Finland

Rebecca Selberg, Lund University, Sweden

RN15 - Global, transnational and cosmopolitan sociology

Coordinator: Marjaana Rautalin, University of Helsinki, Finland

Co-coordinator: Sylvain Beck, University of Paris-Nanterre/CEMEA, France

RN16 - Sociology of Health and Medicine

Coordinators: Dino Numerato

Co-coordinator: Ana Patrícia Hilario

RN17 - Work, Employment and Industrial Relations

Coordinator: Valeria Pulignano

Co-coordinator: Guglielmo Meardi

RN18 - Sociology of Communications and Media Research

Coordinator: Aško Bilić, Institute for Development and International Relations, Croatia

Vice-Coordinators: Eran Fisher, The Open University of Israel, [eranfisher\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:eranfisher[at]gmail.com);

Tatiana Mazali, Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy

Honorary Chair: Peter Golding, Northumbria University, United Kingdom

RN19 - Sociology of Professions

Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Nina Weimann-Sandig, University of Applied Sciences for Social Work, Education and Nursing, Dresden, Germany

Co-Coordinator: Christiane Schnell, Institute of Social Research at the Goethe-University of Frankfurt/Main, Germany

RN20 - Qualitative Methods

Coordinator: Tea Torbenfeldt Bengtsson, VIVE, The Danish Center for Social Science Research, Denmark

Co-coordinator: Silvia Cataldi, La Sapienza University Rome, Italy

RN21 - Quantitative Methods

Coordinator: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen, LUT University, Finland

Co-coordinator: Fabrizio Martire, La Sapienza University Rome, Italy

RN22 - Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty

Coordinator: Bert de Graaff, Erasmus University Rotterdam, The Netherlands

Co-coordinator: Veronica Moretti, Bologna University, Italy

RN23 - Sexuality

Coordinators:

Christian Klesse, Manchester Metropolitan University, UK

Tanja Vuckovic Juros, University of Zagreb, Croatia

RN24 - Science and Technology

Coordinator: Melissa Sessa, National Research Center (CNR - IRPI), Italy

Co-coordinator: Luís Junqueira, ISCTE-IUL, Portugal

Co-coordinator: Stefania Capogna, Link University, Rome, Italy

RN25 - Social Movements

Coordinators:

Elena pavan, University of Trento, Italy

Daniel Platek, Polish Academy of Science, Poland

RN26 - Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare

Coordinators:

Volkan Yilmaz, Ulster University (Belfast), Northern Ireland

Ingrid Fylling, Nord University (Bodø), Norway

RN27 - Regional Network Southern European Societies

Coordinator: Vieira Inês (CeIED, Lusófona University)

Vice-coordinator: Salido Olga (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

RN28 - Society and Sports

RN28 studies the role sport plays in contemporary societies, how that role has changed over time, and whether and how sports foster or inhibit social cohesion

Coordinator: Enrico Michelini, TU Dortmund, Germany

Vice-coordinator: Klara Kovacs, University of Debrecen, Hungary

RN29 - Social Theory

Coordinator: Kornelia Hahn, University of Salzburg, Austria

Vice coordinator: Arthur Bueno, University of Passau, Germany

RN30 - Youth and Generation

Coordinator: Annalisa Dordoni, Department of Sociology and Social Research, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Co-coordinator: Dragan Stanojevic, Department of Sociology, University of Belgrade, Institute for Sociological Research, Serbia

RN31 - Ethnic Relations, Racism and Antisemitism

The network's perspective is to bridge an exclusive divide between the understanding of antisemitism and of racism, exploring the correspondences and affinities, but also the differences and contrasts.

Coordinator: Kim Robin Stoller, International Institute for Education and Research on Antisemitism, Berlin, Germany

Co-Coordinator: Elke Rajal, Chair of Sociology, Passau University, Passau, Germany

RN32 - Political Sociology

Coordinators:

Louisa Parks University of Trento, Italy

Michele Grigolo, Nottingham Trent University, United Kingdom

RN33 - Women's and Gender Studies

Coordinator: Esther Oliver Perez, University of Barcelona, Spain

Vice-Coordinator: Stellamarina Donato, LUMSA University, Italy

Assistant Coordinator: Alicja Zawistowska, University of Bialystok, Poland

Assistant Coordinator: Sara Merlini, University of Lisbon, Portugal

RN34 - Sociology of Religion

Coordinator: Julia Martínez-Ariño, Groningen, Netherlands

Co-coordinator: Marta Kołodziejaska, Warsaw, Poland

Communications Officer: Anna Szwed, Krakow, Poland

RN35 - Sociology of Migration

Co-Coordination:

Ilenya Camozzi, University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Linda Haapajärvi, Tampere University, Centre Maurice Halbwachs (ENS EHESS CNRS INRAE), Finland

RN36 - Sociology of Transformations: East and West

Coordinator: Matej Makarovič, Faculty of Information Studies in Novo Mesto, Slovenia

Vice-Coordinator: Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak, Institute of Sociology Marie Curie-Skłodowska University, Lublin, Poland

RN37 - Urban Sociology

Coordinator: Gabriele Manella, University of Bologna, Italy

Vice-Coordinator: Katarzyna Kajdanek, University of Wrocław, Poland

RN38 - Space, society and rurality

Coordinator: Apostolos G. Papadopoulos, Harokopio University, Athens, Greece

Co-coordinator: Maria Jesus Rivera Escribano, Public University of Navarra, Spain

RS01 - Animals and Society

Coordinators:

Magdalena Żadkowska, University of Gdansk, Poland

Gaia Peruzzi, University of Sapienza, Italy

RS02 - Sociology of Celebration

Coordinators:

Ismo Kantola, University of Turku, Department of Social Research/Sociology

Ozana Cucu-Oancea, Institute of Sociology, Romanian Academy

RS03 - Interpretative Interactionism: sociology of Interactions and Meaning

Coordinators:

Don Weenink, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands

Evelyne Baillergeau, EHESS and University of Amsterdam, Netherlands and France

René Tuma, Technische Universität Berlin, Germany

RS04 – Sociology of Fashion

Coordinators:

Kalina Kukielko, University of Szczecin, Poland

Dorota Hrycak-Krzyzanowska, Polish University Abroad, UK

RS05 - Social Trauma in Times of Polycrisis

Coordinators:

Monika Frąckowiak-Sochańska, Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland

Outi Kähäri, University of Oulu, Finland

Mandy Lee, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, mslee[at]tcd.ie

RS06 - European intimate lives and reproductive choices in the face of planetary crises

Coordinators:

Anna-Maija Castrén, University of Eastern Finland, Finland

Lynn Jamieson, University of Edinburgh, UK

RS07 - Digital Lifeworlds: Childhood, Youth and Intergenerational Futures

Coordinators:

Seran Demiral, Universidade do Porto, Portugal

Anna Witeska-Młynarczyk, Institute of Sociology, Marie Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland

Maria Cecilia Zsögön, UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, Poland

RS08 - Sociology of masculinities: power, conflict, change

Coordinators:

Katarzyna Wojnicka, University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Katarzyna Suwada, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Poland

RS09 - The Gifted Body: Technological Innovation, Social Ties and Solidarity in Biocapital

Coordinators:

Daniela Bandelli, Department of Political and Social Studies, University of Salerno, Italy

Leah McLaughlin, School of Health Sciences, Bangor University, UK

Francesca Greco, Department of Department of Languages and Literatures, Communication, Education and Society, University of Udine, Italy

RS10 - Socialization, Roles, and Identity in Organizations

Coordinators: Kathia E. Serrano Velarde, Heidelberg University, Germany

Elina I. Mäkinen, Tampere University, Finland, elina.makinen

RS11 - Sociology of Spatial Mobilities

Coordinators:

Knut Petzold, Zittau/Görlitz University of Applied Sciences, Germany

Heiko Rüger, Federal Institute for Population Research (BiB), Germany

Gil Viry, University of Edinburgh, UK

RS12 - Lived Precariousness, Structural Insecurity, and the Politics of Solidarity

Coordinators:

Annalisa Murgia, Department of Social and Political Sciences, University of Milan, Italy

Mireia Bolívar Planas, Department of Sociology, Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Renato Miguel do Carmo, Department of Sociology, Iscte - Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal

RS13 - Humanitarianism Under Pressure: Social Action, Governance, and Global Norms

Coordinators:

Talita Cetinoglu, University of Groningen, Netherlands

Marjaana Rautalin, University of Helsinki, Finland

Alex Odlum, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

RS14 - Maritime Sociology

Coordinators:

Robert Bartłomiejski, University of Szczecin, Poland

Helena Martínez-Cabrera, University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Birgit Pauksztat, Nordland Research Institute, Norway

RS15 - Sociology of Democratic Practices and Politics of Engagements

Coordinators:

Gisle Andersen, Research Professor, NORCE Research Centre / Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation (CET), University of Bergen, Norway

Eeva Luhtakallio, Professor of Sociology, University of Helsinki, Finland

Veikko Eranti, Associate Professor of Urban Sociology, University of Helsinki

RS16 - Governance and Transformation in Times of Multiple Crises

Coordinators:

René John, Institute for Social Innovation Berlin, Germany

Renata Putkowska-Smoter, University of Warsaw, Poland

RS17 - Sociology of Knowledge

Coordinators:

Barbara Grüning, University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

Ajit Singh, University Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Miloš Jovanović, University of Niš, Serbia

RS18 - Institutional Ethnography

Coordinators:

Morena Tartari, Northumbria University, UK

Órla M Murray, Northumbria University, UK

Sarah Murru, KU Leuven, Belgium

RS19 - Vegan sociology for nonhuman animals

Coordinators:

Rūta Pelikšienė, Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania

Marlies Bockstal, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

RS20 - Environmental Issues, climate change and Far Right Politics

Coordinators:

Manuela Caiani, Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy

Anna Durnova, University of Vienna, Austria

Sponsors and Partners

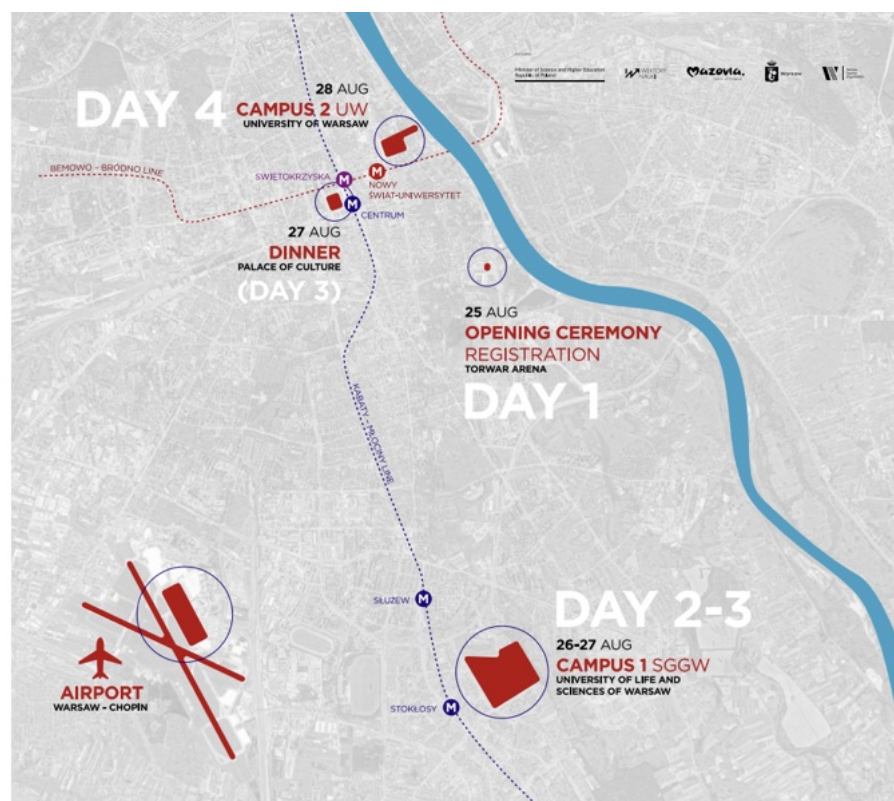


Project partially financed from the state budget funds awarded by the Minister of Science and Higher Education of Poland under the Science Vectors Programme.

Venues and access



CONFERENCE
CITY MAP



Opening Ceremony and Plenary 1



COS Torwar, Łazienkowska 6A, 00-449 Warsaw
(52.222514663392744, 21.042214958471384)

Plenary 2 and Closing Ceremony



Auditorium Maximum of the University of Warsaw, Krakowskie Przedmieście, 26/28,
Warsaw
(52.241296985548196, 21.018731270227164)

Social Dinner



Palace of Culture and Science, pl. Defilad 1, Warsaw
(52.23197596419361, 21.006027182321652)

Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Day 1 and 2 regular sessions



Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Nowoursynowska 166, Warsaw
(52.16440355826097, 21.044533053480986)

University of Warsaw, Day 3 regular sessions

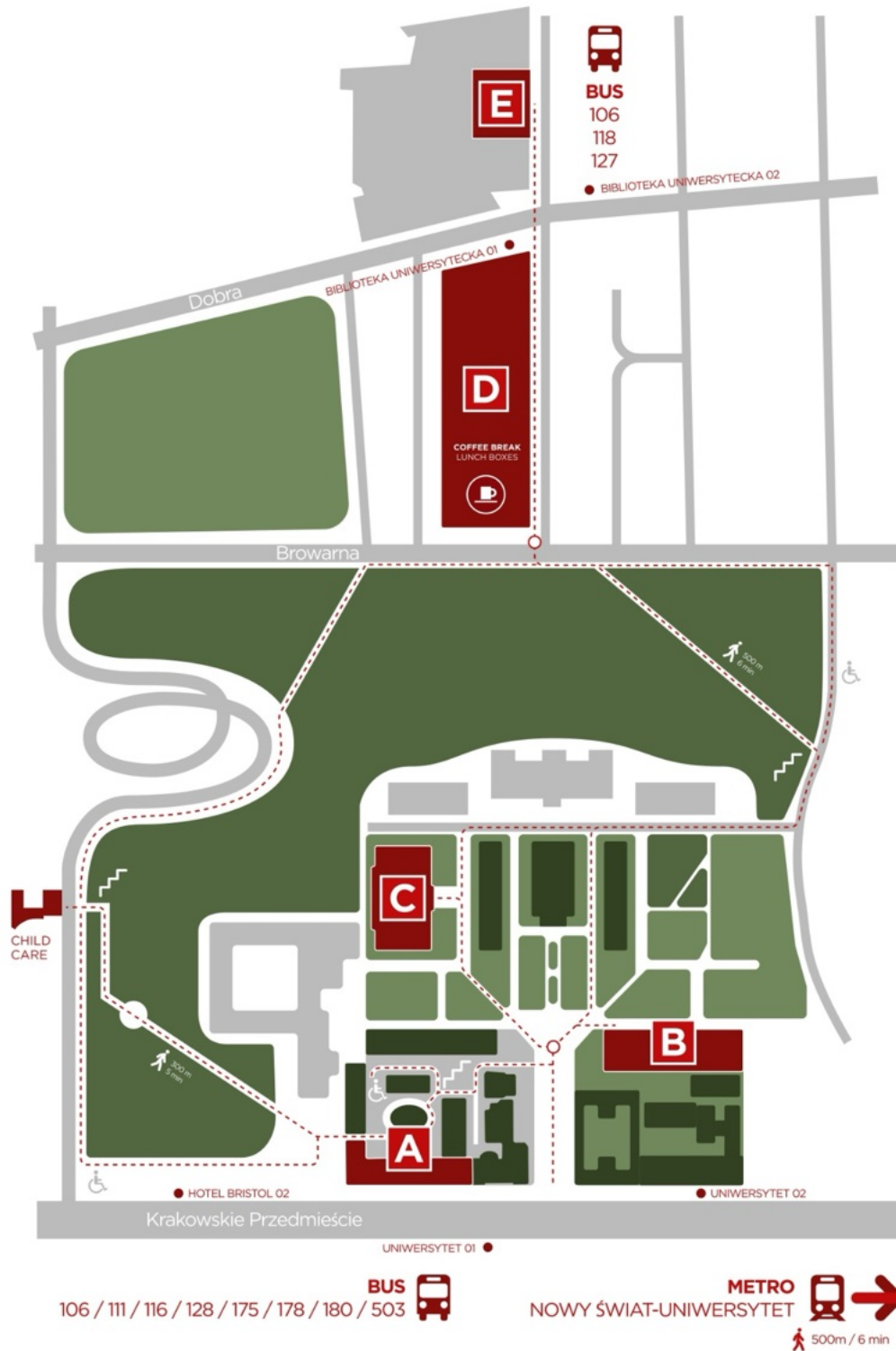


The Applied Linguistics and Modern Languages Faculties, University of Warsaw, Dobra
55, Warsaw
(52.24206538070197, 21.023991314669388)

SGGW - Warsaw University of Life Sciences



UW - University of Warsaw



[Registration desks](#)

25 August - COS Torwar | 26-27 August - SGGW | 28 August - UW

Registration at COS Torwar ([Łazienkowska 6A, 00-449 Warsaw](#)) on 25 August will be open from 9:30 to 19:30. There will be eight desks organised alphabetically by surname. You can check your registration desk here:

[Find your registration desk](#)

Please note that the conference moves between venues during the week: Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW) on 26–27 August and the University of Warsaw (UW) on 28 August.

Registration will also be available on 26, 27 and 28 August, from 8:30 until the end of the regular sessions.

- On 26–27 August, registration will be located in Building A at SGGW.
- On 28 August, registration will be located in Building D at the University of Warsaw.

[Coffee breaks and lunch areas](#)

Coffee breaks

Warsaw University of Life Sciences (SGGW)

Wednesday | Thursday | 10:30-11:00 and 16:00-16:30

Distribution points: Tent halls next to Venue B and Venue G.

University of Warsaw (UW)

Friday | 10:30-11:00 and 16:00-16:30

Distribution points: 1st & 3rd Floors, Venue D.

Coffee breaks are available for all conference participants.

Lunch Boxes

Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Wednesday | Thursday | 12:30-13:00

Distribution points: Tent halls next to Venue B (Vegan and Special Requirements) and Venue G (Vegan).

Lunchboxes are available for those conference participants who have purchased them in advance. **Your name badge functions as voucher for your lunchbox (there are codes indicating your orders).**

The special dietary requirements lunch boxes will be distributed in the tent hall next to Venue B.

University canteens in Venues B and F will be open throughout the conference. Food trucks will also be available next to Venue G.

University of Warsaw (UW)

Friday | 12:30-13:00

Distribution point: 2nd Floor, Venue D (Vegan and Special Requirements)

[Practical information and survival kit](#)

Time zone: UTC +1 / Central European Summer Time (CEST)

Dial code: +48

Electricity: In Poland there are two associated plug types – C and E. Poland operates on 230V supply voltage and 50Hz.

Copy shop: There are several copy shops close to the conference venues. One recommended option is:

Drukarnia Ksero Warszawa – ul. Rakowiecka 36, 02-532 Warszawa

Police station: 997

Komenda Rejonowa Policji Warszawa II

ul. Malczewskiego 3/5/7, 02-617 Warszawa

Currency: Polish Zloty = PLN (zł)

Most banks operate from 9:00 to 17:00 on weekdays. Many branches in the city centre may open longer hours. Cash machines (ATMs) are widely available near the conference venues and across Warsaw.

Coffee shops/cafés, restaurants and breweries: Warsaw has a rich café culture and many restaurants offering both traditional Polish cuisine and international options.

1. Pastries/bakery and coffee shops

Charlotte – Chleb i Wino, Plac Zbawiciela 2, 00-573 Warszawa

Ministerstwo Kawy, ul. Marszałkowska 27/35, 00-639 Warszawa

STOR Café, ul. Tamka 33, 00-355 Warszawa

Kawiarnia Relaks, ul. Puławska 48, 02-559 Warszawa

2. Restaurants

Zapiecek Polskie Pierogarnie, ul. Nowy Świat 64, 00-357 Warszawa

Specjały Regionalne, ul. Nowy Świat 44, 00-363 Warszawa

Butero, Bracka 3, Warsaw, Poland

BursztyNova, ul. Królewska 16 00-103 Warszawa

CITY SAM, ul. Twarda 4

3. Breweries and craft beer bars

Kufle i Kapsle, ul. Nowogrodzka 25, 00-511 Warszawa

Same Krafty, ul. Nowomiejska 10, 00-271 Warszawa

PiwPaw Beer Heaven, ul. Foksal 16, 00-372 Warszawa

Climate and weather: In August, daytime temperatures are typically around 24–27°C, and nighttime temperatures around 15–17°C. The UV index can be high, so protection against sun exposure is recommended. Sudden summer showers are common—bring light rain protection.

Pharmacy: Apteka Dbam o Zdrowie

ul. Rakowiecka 36, 02-532 Warszawa

Hospital/Urgent care: Szpital Kliniczny MSWiA w Warszawie

ul. Wołoska 137, 02-507 Warszawa

+48 22 508 20 00

Post offices: Poczta Polska

ul. Rakowiecka 36, 02-532 Warszawa

Central Post Office: ul. Świętokrzyska 31/33, 00-941 Warszawa

Warsaw Chopin Airport (WAW): +48 22 650 42 20

Public transport: Warsaw has an extensive system of metro, trams, and buses operated by ZTM Warszawa.

You can buy tickets at ticket machines in metro stations, bus/tram stops, and onboard. A 20-minute ticket costs approx. 3.40 PLN. A 24-hour ticket costs approx. 15 PLN.

PhD Summer School

22-24 August | SGGW

Council of Research Networks*

26th August 2026 | 18:30 | E2 A4 | SGGW

*Only for RN coordinators

Council of National Associations*

26th August 2026 | 18:30 | E2 A3

*Only for representatives of National Sociological Associations

RN Business Meetings

27th August 2026 | 13:00

ESA General Assembly*

28th August 2026 | 16:30 | Auditorium Maximum UW

*All ESA Members welcome

Within the intensive Summer School program, participants will present aspects of their ongoing doctoral research projects, primarily in relation to the key topics of the conference: democracy, social action, solidarity, and sustainable future. Instructors' and fellow peer feedback will be provided, focusing on the theoretical basis, epistemological approach, methodological features, as well as scientific and practical implications of the research presented. In the concluding plenary session, an open debate will deal with the widest scope of queries and challenges that early career scholars encounter in their PhD journeys. This event represents an outstanding opportunity for networking with peers all across Europe and beyond and thus enhancing academic career prospects.

Summer school participants:

Kim McFalone, University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Njesgos Vujadinovic, University of Belgrade, Serbia

Josep Maria Caroz Armayones, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Spain

Roberto Santos, University of Coimbra, Portugal

Vasiliki Kakosimou, Harokopio University, Greece

Clara Adrienne Noëlle Léa Gervaise-Voltaire, CNRS, France

Antonina Albanese, Università di Palermo, Italy

Neerej Dev, University of Wolverhampton, United Kingdom

Suvi Mutanen, Tampere University, Finland

Tuna Ogut, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), United Kingdom

Marina Iaroslavtseva, Justus Liebig University Giessen, Germany

Yusuf Murteza, Marmara University, Turkey

Daniel Guigui, University College Dublin, Ireland

Sophia Chabursky, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, Germany

Anna Kalinina, Leuphana University, Germany

Sabrina Fialho, Institute of Social Sciences, University of Lisbon, Portugal

Julia Michcik, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Indra Lukosiene, Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania

Marius Liedtke, University of Salzburg, Austria

Bronte Isabella, Maastricht University, Netherlands

Carolin Hess, King's College London, United Kingdom

Yvonne Jila, Lund University, Sweden

School Directors: Krešimir Žažar, Marilena Macaluso and Nilay Kaya

Summer School's instructors: Milica Antić Gaber (Slovenia), Nilay Kaya (Turkey), Marilena Macaluso (Italy), Gerben Moerman (Netherlands), Maggie O'Neill (Ireland), Ana-Cristina Santos (Portugal), Ana Vidu (Spain), Krešimir Žažar (Croatia)

While Research Network and Research Stream sessions cover the immense variety of sociological inquiry, Plenary, Semi-Plenary and Midday sessions offer the opportunity to engage in core debates. All session formats will include time for open discussion.

- **Plenaries (P)** address the main conference theme. They take place in the evenings (Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday).
- **Semi-Plenaries (SPs)** discuss the main conference theme from the viewpoint of different fields of research. They promote discussion between speakers, next to that with participants. SPs are based on proposals made by the ESA Research Networks.
- **Midday (MD)** sessions cover topics which are relevant for sociology as a discipline and/or for the day-to-day work of sociologists. They are offered at lunchtime (on Wednesday and Friday).
- **Research Network (RN)** sessions feature research papers submitted in response to the Call for Papers. The majority of sessions is organised by ESA's 38 Research Networks. RNs are open to all ESA members. All RNs hold a business meeting at the conference. New members are cordially invited to join one or several RNs of their choice. Note that many RNs organise **Joint Sessions (JS)**.
- **Research Stream (RS)** sessions are made by sociologists from several European countries who come together to organize sessions on specific sociological topics. RSs are self-organised bodies with a loose structure which is determined by the researchers who join the stream. While some RSs are regularly organizing sessions at ESA conferences, other RSs offer ad hoc sessions around spur-of-the-moment topics.

Information on the Venues and Rooms

In the Semi-plenary, Midday, Research Network, Research Stream and Joint Sessions the rooms will be listed and associated to one of the venues of the Conference – SGGW (Warsaw University of Life Sciences) or UW (University of Warsaw).

General Schedule

	Tuesday 25/08/2026	Wednesday 26/08/2026	Thursday 27/08/2026	Friday 28/08/2026
09:00-09:30		Semi-plenaries	Semi-plenaries	Semi-plenaries
09:30-10:00		SGGW	SGGW	UW
10:00-10:30				
10:30-11:00			Break	
11:00-11:30		RN/RS Time Slots 1	RN/RS Time Slot 4	RN/RS Time Slot 7
11:30-12:00		SGGW	SGGW	UW
12:00-12:30	Fringe & Special events		Break	
12:30-13:00	COS Torwar		Break	
13:00-13:30		Midday Specials	Business Meetings	Midday Specials
13:30-14:00		SGGW	SGGW	UW
14:00-14:30		Registration Torwar	Break	
14:30-15:00		RN/RS Time Slot 2	RN/RS Time Slot 5	RN/RS Time Slot 8
15:00-15:30		SGGW	SGGW	UW
15:30-16:00			Break	
16:00-16:30				
16:30-17:00	Opening Ceremony	RN/RS Time Slot 3	RN/RS Time Slot 6	ESA General Assembly
17:00-17:30	1st Plenary	SGGW	SGGW	Auditorium Maximum UW
17:30-18:00			Break	
18:00-18:30				
18:30-19:00	COS ORWAR	Council of Research Networks SGGW	Council of National Associations SGGW	2nd Plenary and Closing Ceremony
19:00-19:30				Auditorium Maximum UW
19:30-20:00	Welcome reception COS TORWAR			
20:00-20:30			Conference Dinner Palace of Culture	
20:30-21:00				
21:00-21:30				
21:30-22:00				

You can find the detailed Conference Agenda on ConfTool

<https://www.conftool.com/esa2026/sessions.php>

- Search for specific sessions, keywords and authors
- Read the abstract of each presentation
- Find out about the session chairs
- Filter by specific Research Networks or Streams

Some of the ESA Conference rooms at the venues will be designated as “Special Rooms”, each serving a specific purpose and providing support to participants. At the 17th ESA Conference, these will include: Quiet Room – a dedicated space for participants who need a quiet environment and/or wish to use the room for prayer. Purple Point – a dedicated space where a member of the organising team or conference staff will be available to provide support and address any concerns related to harassment or discrimination that may occur during the ESA Conference.

Room locations:

- **SGGW:** The Special Rooms are located in Building A, Floor 1.
- **UW:** The Purple Point is located in Room D203 and the Quiet Room in Room D115.

Purple Point*



**The purple point is the symbol of the attitude of rejection of gender violence. Displaying this symbol publicly implies an active commitment against any violence or harassment.*

At the 17th ESA Conference in Warsaw, we are proud to continue the "Purple Point" initiative, a space designed to promote an inclusive, respectful, and gender-comfortable environment for all conference participants. The Purple Point serves as a welcoming spot where attendees can seek assistance and access resources tailored to their needs.

The Purple Point applies to all ESA spaces, including presentations, chats, individual messaging, and discussion forums.

Purple Points are spaces for attention, information, and help for victims of sexual aggression. Any defamatory, abusive, profane, threatening, offensive, or illegal materials are strictly prohibited. Conference participants who violate these rules may be sanctioned or expelled from the conference depending on the Organization's decision.

If you witness or suffer any uncomfortable situation, contact us and ask for Noelle Geller or Hanna Achargui, at:

- Torwar (registration desk)
- SGGW: A, Floor 1
- UW: D203

You can also send formal complaints or reports of misconduct to:

- n.geller@europeansociology.org
- H.Achargui@europeansociology.org

ESA aims for a comfortable, respectful and safe environment. It supports and embraces slogans such as #TellSomeone, #SeeSomethingSaySomething, #NoMeansNo, #RespectForEachOther, #ZeroToleranceForSexistAggressions. Therefore, ESA encourages at:

- Reporting any sexist aggression, including offensive comments and non-consensual compliments.
- Provide victims of sexist assaults with information and advice on where to go and what to do when faced with a sexual assault.
- Promote spaces free of sexual assaults.
- Raise awareness and involve attendees to prevent and end sexual harassment and assaults.

What to expect at the Purple Point:

- Support and assistance: our trained staff will be available to provide support and address any concerns related to harassment and discrimination.

- Safe space: a designated safe space where attendees can have confidential conversations about uncomfortable situations that may happen to them during the conference.

At the 17th ESA Conference in Warsaw, we invite all attendees to take the pledge and contribute to our collective effort to create a more respectful and equal academic community. Our priority is an environment where everyone feels heard and respected.

At its conferences, the European Sociological Association usually offers Plenary, Semi-Plenary and Midday sessions. All sessions will offer the opportunity to engage in core debates, with the different formats including time for open discussion.

ESA's 38 Research Networks offer so-called regular RN sessions and Joint Sessions with four paper presentations per session. Research Streams also organize sessions under the same format.

Below, you can find the different sessions for the ESA 2026 Conference:

- Plenaries
- Semi-Plenaries
- Research Network Sessions
- Research Networks' Joint Sessions
- Research Streams
- Midday Special Sessions
- Special Session

You can browse the Conference Agenda in Conftool:

<https://www.conftool.com/esa2026> or on the website:

<https://www.europeansociology.org/conference/2026/article/6d015739-a9c3-4ad0-bff4-020f4e9707bb>

TUESDAY

AUGUST 25TH

When art and activism collide. Walking through a gentrification live lab in Warsaw Praga

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

**Ten Million Strong: Warsaw's Role in Europe's Largest Civil Rights Movement"
Where the Iron Curtain cracked– the places that sparked Poland's peaceful revolution**

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

In the Footsteps of Polish Women Sociologist

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

**"Ten Million Strong: Warsaw's Role in Europe's Largest Civil Rights Movement"
Where the Iron Curtain cracked– the places that sparked Poland's peaceful revolution**

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

**"Green Uprising: How Warsaw is Reclaiming Its Future One Street at a Time"
From communist concrete to community gardens – the battle for breathable, livable space**

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

A Walk in the Footsteps of Warsaw Museums That Never Happened

Tuesday, 25 August 2026, 13:00-15:00

The University of Warsaw: history and heritage tour

Tuesday, 28 August 2026

Big Brother Is Watching: Socialist Realism in Warsaw

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Muranów – A Memorial Estate

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Cultural and Social Heritage of the “Vistula District”

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

Traditional Vistula River Navigation: Boatbuilding and Rafting as UNESCO Intangible Heritage

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

The Vistula as Natural Heritage: The Last “Natural” River in a Large European City

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

The Varsavianist Cruise: The City-forming Role of the Vistula River

Tuesday, 25 August 2026

FE1 - Book presentation: “Denial, Deterrence, and Disenchantment” by Jacob Richard Thomas (Forthcoming with Cambridge University Press 2026)

25 Aug 2026 | 10:30 am - 11:30am | Room A | COS TORWAR

Organisation: RN15 | Global, transnational and cosmopolitan sociology

Coordination: Marjaana Rautalin (University of Helsinki, Finland) and Sylvain Beck (University of Paris-Nanterre/CEMEA, France)

This session will review a book that complements the abundant research on immigrants by offering novel data, insights, and theories about those who might have immigrated to other societies but did not, despite the benefits of migration for immigrants and for migrant-origin and migrant-destination societies. The book examines three mechanisms that reduce immigration: denial of visas, deterrence of many from applying for visas, and ex-immigrants' disenchantment with immigration. Jacob Thomas both quantitatively and qualitatively analyzes both surveys and interviews conducted with over 2,500 individuals in different cities in mainland China. He extends the push-pull model of migration into a push-retain-pull-repel model that illustrates how social forces and immigration policy interact to lead potential immigrants to remain ambivalently immobile, providing evidence that retain factors in origin societies and repel factors in destination societies counteract and outweigh the push and pull factors that motivate immigration. Potential immigrants' narratives reveal how a (im)mobility paradox that the factors that facilitate migration—socio-economic resources and social ties—also often impede immigration across different stages of the life course. Finally, examining denial, deterrence, and disenchantment alongside each other stimulates readers to think more globally about inequalities in migratory opportunities by revealing how countless people who never immigrate due to one of these obstacles are socio-economically stratified with respect to one another within origin societies, mirroring theories of how immigrants are stratified in destination societies. The book thereby offers a more global understanding of international migration by offering perspectives from those who do not immigrate for different reasons.

Speakers

Jacob Richard Thomas (PhD, UCLA) is an Assistant Professor in the Sociology Department of Corvinus University of Budapest and a Research Fellow at Princeton University's Center for Migration and Development. Previously he was a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Princeton University's Center for Contemporary China where he conducted research with Yu Xie about the impact of COVID-19 and later a Research Assistant Professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Sociology Department, where he won a large General Research Fund grant and began conducting a survey of over 4,500 survey participants and 450 oral history interviews of Hong Kong residents who considered emigrating but have not yet done so and emigrants from Hong Kong to show how they differ from each other. His mixed-methods research addresses important questions like why more people do not migrate or travel internationally than we observe in

the world today; what structures migrant selectivity; what constrains the state's ability to control migration; and how migratory opportunities are stratified along a range of intersecting social dimensions. He has published articles in *Theory and Society*, *International Migration Review*, *European Journal of Sociology*, *Chinese Political Science Review*, *International Journal of Sociology*, *Symbolic Interaction*, and *International Political Science Review*.

Discussants

Jörg Dürschmidt is Professor of Sociology at the University of Applied Sciences Ludwigsburg, Germany. He is also Co-Director of IAF (Institute of Applied Research) at the University of Applied Sciences Ludwigsburg. His research interest is focussed on the intersection between globalization and migration. The most recent publication in this context is a joint venture with M. Caselli and J. Eade: (2024) *Migrants' (Im)Mobilities in three Urban Contexts: Global Pandemic and Beyond*. London: Palgrave.

Joh Eade is Emeritus Professor in Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Roehampton, London, and Senior Research Fellow, University of Toronto. Professor Eade works on global migration, identity politics, cultural diversity and pilgrimage. His publications include many journal articles and chapters as well as two single authored books, a single edited volume and eighteen co-edited volumes.

FE2 - Launch of Barberis, E, Caponio, and McAreavey, R (eds) *Handbook on Migration to Small Towns and Rural Areas* (Edward Elgar)

25 Aug 2026 | 11:45 am | Room A | COS TORWAR

Organisation: Newcastle University

Coordination: Ruth McAreavey (Newcastle University, UK)

Panel discussion to launch Handbook which draws on case studies from Europe, North America, and Australasia as well as showcasing research from Africa and Asia including Taiwan, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and Japan. It includes five sections:

1. Incorporation processes. Theories, concepts and cases.
2. Migration politics and governance
3. Perspectives on civil society and migrant groups
4. Destinations
5. Methodologies

The Chair (McAreavey) as one of three editors will introduce the handbook, giving an overview of the editorial approach to the handbook. She will comment on the degree to which there is a unifying thread across the five sections, or if there are important tensions that can be drawn out. She will then ask each of the panel members to briefly reflect (8-10 mins) on how their contribution helps to advance the state-of-the art and relatedly,

what they see as openings for future research agendas in this area. There will be time at the end for questions/reflections.

Speakers

Ruth McAreavey (FACSS Newcastle University, UK) Panel co-ordinator and chair; co-editor of Handbook

Prof McAreavey is Head of Sociology at Newcastle University and has published extensively on migration, rural development and research ethics. She is a Board Member of RN38, co-editor-in-chief of a leading rural sociology journal, *Sociology Ruralis* and an elected member of the Academy of Social Sciences.

Loukia-Maria Fratsea (Harokopio University, Greece)

Dr Fratsea is member of RN38 and currently the chair of the Conference Committee for ESA's 2026 Congress. Dr. Fratsea's research has been published on different aspects of migration and territorial inequalities, social and spatial mobility, rural development policies, farm labour in agriculture and rural areas, labour market integration, and social stratification.

Stijn Oosterlynck (University of Antwerp, the Netherlands)

Stijn Oosterlynck is a member of the Centre for Research on Environmental and Social Change and of the board of the Antwerp Urban Studies Institute. He is scientific director of the Hannah Arendt Institute for Diversity, Urbanity and Citizenship. His research is concerned with local social innovation and welfare state restructuring, the political sociology of urban development, urban renewal and community building, new forms of solidarity in diversity, urban diversity policies, civil society dynamics and the relationship between cities and states.

Johan-Fredrik Rye (Oslo University, Norway)

Prof. Rye has published on a range of issues including migration and mobilities (international labour migration, domestic migration, leisure mobility); social inequalities/marginalisation (class, gender, race/ ethnicity, urban/rural); sociological theory, methodology/ methods.

Apostolos Papadopoulos (Harokopio University, Greece)

Prof. Papadopoulos is Head of Geography at Harokopio University, co-editor-in-chief of a leading rural sociology journal, *Sociology Ruralis* and founder member/Board member of RN38. He has published widely on rural sociology, social transformations of rural areas, geographies of migration and on the connections between mobility, inequalities and spatial organisation.

FE3 - Book Launch of Culture and Society: A Critical Introduction (by Bruce M. Z. Cohen with Anisha Sankar, Jessica Terruhn, and Cameron Lawrence; Palgrave Macmillan, 2026)

25 Aug 2026 | 11:45 am | Room B | COS TORWAR

Organisation: Waipapa Taumata Rau (University of Auckland, New Zealand)

Organisation: Bruce M. Z. Cohen (Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland New Zealand)

Described by Chris Rojek (Professor of Sociology, City and St George's University of London) as “a game changer in the field of Culture and Society”, Bruce Cohen will take this opportunity to launch his new cultural studies textbook, *Culture and Society: A Critical Introduction*. Five years in the making, the resulting volume promotes sociology and social theory as *essential* for a critical understanding of popular culture and ‘the arts’. Aimed at the undergraduate level, what John Storey (Emeritus Professor of Cultural Studies, University of Sunderland) has found to be “an excellent introduction to the field of cultural studies and popular culture” is split across two sections on key theory and key issues from the Frankfurt School to fashion, from queer theory to videogames, from British Cultural Studies to celebrity culture, from postmodernism to digital and social media. With Paul Hodkinson (Professor of Sociology, University of Surrey) admitting it is a “beautifully organised and engagingly written” textbook, each chapter contains easy to digest learning aids including key point summaries, highlighted text boxes on key scholars, concepts, and examples, further reading suggestions, and revision and study group questions. Bruce will briefly summate the highlights of the book, before opening up the floor for a Q&A on why the sociological analysis of popular culture and the arts still matters!

Bruce M. Z. Cohen is Associate Professor in Sociology at Waipapa Taumata Rau / University of Auckland in Aotearoa / New Zealand. With over twenty years teaching experience, he has taught courses on cultural studies, popular culture, subcultures, education, and mental health. Bruce is the author of *Mental Health User Narratives: New Perspectives on Illness and Recovery* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008) and *Psychiatric Hegemony: A Marxist Theory of Mental Illness* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), as well as editor of the *Routledge International Handbook of Critical Mental Health* (Routledge, 2018), *Addiction and the Medicalisation of Conspicuous Behaviour: New Critical Perspectives* (with Martin Harbusch and Jo Reichertz, Palgrave Macmillan, 2026), and the Palgrave Macmillan book series, *The Politics of Mental Health And Illness* (<https://link.springer.com/series/16854>). He is also the editor of the previous cultural studies textbook, *Being Cultural* (Pearson, 2012).

FE4 - Meet the Editors

25 Aug 2026 | 11:45 am | Room C | COS TORWAR

Organisation: RN16 Sociology of Health and Medicine

Coordination: Dino Numerato (Charles University, Czechia) and Ana Patrícia Hilário (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal)

This fringe session, organised by RN16 Sociology of Health and Medicine, takes the form of a Meet the Editors event focused on leading journals in the sociology of health, illness and medicine. The session brings together editors from three journals, Professor Janice McLaughlin (*Sociology of Health and Illness*), Professor Patrick Brown (*Health, Risk & Society*) and Professor Rebecca Olson (*Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*), to engage in an open and interactive discussion with participants about academic publishing, editorial work, and the future directions of health-related sociological research.

The event will start with a brief presentation of the journals, followed by short reflections by the editors with an extended Q&A, allowing discussion of how journals operate in practice, how editorial decisions are made, and what editors look for in manuscripts submitted to their journals. Particular attention will be paid to the peer review process, common reasons for rejection, and strategies for developing submissions that make a strong theoretical, empirical, and methodological contribution.

The session will also explicitly address the needs and concerns of Early Career Researchers, including advice on selecting appropriate journals, navigating revisions and responding to reviewers. At the same time, the discussion will be relevant for more senior scholars interested in current editorial expectations and evolving publication practices.

Speakers

Patrick Brown (*Health, Risk & Society* - Editor) is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Amsterdam and Editor of the journal *Health, Risk & Society*. His research focuses on trust, risk, uncertainty, health policy, and decision-making in healthcare contexts, with particular attention to how individuals and institutions navigate uncertainty and vulnerability. He has published extensively in leading journals in medical sociology and risk studies. Professor Brown is also co-editor of various volumes on the sociology of risk and uncertainty, including work on pandemic governance and risk theory.

Janice McLaughlin (*Sociology of Health and Illness*) is Professor of Sociology at Newcastle University and Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Sociology of Health & Illness*. Her research is situated at the intersection of medical sociology, disability studies, childhood studies and the sociology of the family. She has an extensive track record of qualitative and participatory research focusing on disability, care, diagnosis, medical intervention, family life, and citizenship, with particular attention to the experiences and voices of disabled children and young people. Professor McLaughlin has published widely in leading sociology and interdisciplinary journals and is the author and editor of several books on disability, care, and social justice.

Rebecca Olson (*Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*) is Professor of Sociology at the University of Queensland, cutting-edge

translational qualitative researcher, mentor and award-winning educator with expertise in the sociologies of health and emotions. Her work advances the human aspects of care. As Co-Founder and past Director of SocioHealthLab, she leads an interdisciplinary collective of researchers, health professional educators and practitioners interested in doing health and healthcare differently: more socially aware, more relational, more inclusive and more just. As Joint Editor-in-Chief of *Health: An Interdisciplinary Journal for the Social Study of Health, Illness and Medicine*, Olson fosters dialogue across theory-curious clinician researchers and critical health social scientists. Olson is internationally renowned for bringing sociological insight to complex challenges related to emotions, well-being, healthcare and caregiving.

FE5: Generations of Feminism and Gender Studies in Europe (Bristol University Press, 2026)

25 Aug 2026 | 1 pm | Room A | COS TORWAR

Organisation: RN33 Women's and Gender Studies

Coordination: Ana Vidu (University of Ramon Llull, Spain), Stellamarina Donato (LUMSA University, Italy), Esther Oliver Perez (University of Barcelona, Spain) and Alicja Zawistowska (University of Bialystok, Poland)

This session presents the book *Generations of Feminism and Gender Studies in Europe* as both a collective intellectual achievement and a reflection of the long-standing work of ESA RN33 within the European Sociological Association.

The book brings together scholars from different generations to trace the development of gender studies from its roots in feminist thought and activism to its current, more diversified and institutionalized forms. Structured in two parts, it first reconstructs the history of RN33 as a key site for legitimizing gender within sociology, highlighting how feminist knowledge has been preserved, debated, and transformed through intergenerational exchange. The second part broadens the perspective through national and regional case studies, examining how gender studies have taken shape in specific socio-political contexts.

Across the chapters, particular attention is given to the tensions and continuities between feminist traditions and newer approaches, including intersectionality, queer theory, and decolonial perspectives. Empirical case studies are combined with theoretical reflections on care, migration, inequalities, and institutional change.

As an oral session, this event is particularly engaging because it recreates the intergenerational dialogue at the core of both RN33 and the book itself. Contributors and discussants will actively exchange perspectives, making visible the dynamic process through which feminist and gender knowledge is debated, reinterpreted, and renewed. This interaction offers participants a unique opportunity to engage directly with authors, reflect collectively on shared challenges, and experience the continuity of RN33 as an ongoing, dialogical space rather than a static scholarly output.

Speakers

Consuelo Corradi (LUMSA University, Italy)

Consuelo Corradi (Ph.D.), LUMSA University, is professor of sociology at LUMSA University (Italy). Her interests include feminism, violence against women, and exploitation of women's biocapital. While comparatively looking at societies, she has tried to identify general trends that facilitate or hamper women's empowerment. She has served as Vice-President of ESA (2007-2009), member of the Executive Committee (2007-2011). She was one of the initiators of the RN 33 in 2009 and served as Board Member for 10 years.

Elina Oinas (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Elina Oinas, the University of Helsinki is professor of sociology. She is vice-president of the International Sociological Association 2023-2027. Her research interests are health, the body, science, feminisms, and of course, gender.

Federica Cabras (University of Milan, Italy)

Federica Cabras, PhD, is a researcher at the Department of International, Legal, Historical and Political Studies of the University of Milan. Her interests mainly concern human trafficking issues, with a specific focus on the sexual and labor exploitation of migrant women in Italy.

Monica Massari (University of Milan, Italy)

Monica Massari, University of Milan is Associate Professor, teaches Sociology of Memory, Global Society and Rights and Comparative Social Systems. Her research activities are mainly focused on forced migration across the Mediterranean with particular attention to gender dynamics, processes of social construction of otherness and new forms of racism and discrimination in Europe.

Simona Miceli (University of Milan, Italy)

Simona Miceli, University of Milan PhD, is a researcher at the Department of International, Legal, Historical and Political Studies. Her research interests concern contemporary migration phenomena, racialization processes and agency practices.

Yeliz Kendir-Gök (Çankırı Karatekin University, Turkey)

Yeliz Kendir-Gök, Çankırı Karatekin University, Türkiye is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Sociology. Her research focuses on gender studies, women's studies, the sociology of the body, sexuality, and migration.

Nilay Çabuk Kaya (Ankara University, Turkey)

Nilay Çabuk Kaya, Ankara University, Türkiye, is a Professor of Sociology. She holds a PhD from Durham University, UK. She is mainly interested in the sociology of gender, youth, family, labour and occupation, and education. She is currently a member of the European Sociological Association (ESA) executive committee and vice-president of the Sociological Association (TSA) in Turkey.

Tal Meler (Zefat Academic College, Israel)

Tal Meler, Zefat Academic College, is an Associate Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies. Her research focuses on family sociology and feminist theory, with a particular focus on Arab-Palestinian society in Israel, examining issues such as single motherhood, family structures, labor market integration, and economic violence against women.

Raghda Alnabilsy (Ruppin Academic College, Israel)

Raghda Alnabilsy, Ruppin Academic College is a researcher. Her research focuses on marginalized populations, particularly ethnic and gendered inequalities, including Arab-Palestinian women survivors of domestic violence, abused children and adolescents, and minority students in higher education in Israel.

Discussant**Sara Merlini (University of Lisbon, Portugal)****FE6 - Creative reflection on an invisible line: presenting art processes from
EUROBORDERWALKS**

25 Aug 2026 | 1 pm | Room B | COS TORWAR

Organisation: EUROBORDERWALKS (University College Cork, Ireland)

Coordinators: Michael McLoughlin (Technical University of the Shannon, Ireland), Maggie O'Neill (University College Cork, Ireland) and Krešimir Žažar (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

This Fringe Event will present screen-based manifestations, of artworks and process, by the artists commissioned as part of the EURBORDERWALKS project. This will involve a series of short film presentations and an opportunity to discuss the artworks with the artists and the projects team.

The EUROBORDERWALKS projects stated aims and objectives are to work collaboratively in interdisciplinary ways across sociology, biographical sociology and arts practice (ethno-mimesis). The aim is to open up horizons and opportunities for scholarship and produce knowledge and understanding that has impact, that makes a difference, not only in better understanding the problems and challenges associated with the three borders (Croatia/Bosnia-Herzegovina, Poland/Ukraine, NI/roi) at the edges of the European Union, and the very meaning, experience and practices of borders, but also in contributing to European policy and education.

(<https://www.ucc.ie/en/euroborderwalks/about/>)

The artists at each border site have taken different approaches in response to both context and their own entry into the research sites. Since 2024, they have worked as an integrated part of the research team and brought perspectives from their respective disciplines to the fieldwork. In June 2026, the first exhibition of this work was held in Łódź, Poland. For the ESA Fringe Event they will create a bespoke screen based presentation reflective of this artwork.

If appropriate, and space dependent, Michael McLoughlin will also lead attendees to the Fringe Event, mapping their own journeys and border crossings to arrive at the 17th ESA Conference in Warsaw.

Speakers

The fringe event will present work by four artists all of whom are part of the EUROBOARDERWALKS team and have developed artwork relating to the project. The artists all have many years of experience of developing artwork in an interdisciplinary way and in particular at the intersection of artmaking and sociology. The artists are:

Michael McLoughlin (Technical University of the Shannon, Ireland); John Perivolaris (University College Cork, Ireland); Tomasz Ferenc (University of Łódź, Poland); Marek Domański (Łódź Academy of Fine Arts, Poland)

Discussants

Michael McLoughlin (Technical University of the Shannon, Ireland)

Michael McLoughlin has created soundworks, drawings, videos, and sculptural installations since the mid 1990's. Much of this artwork has sociological inquiry at its core and frequently examines the mechanisms of social interaction and the infrastructures that support them. His work has been commissioned and purchased by many public and private institutions and collections. He has made site-specific work in Limerick (Cumann: An Audio Map of Limerick, Limerick City Gallery of Art), Drogheda (Cumann, Droichead Arts Centre; Beyond the Pale, Highlanes), and Dublin (Rest Here, UCD Sutherland School of Law; Ocean Wonder, Resort Revelations, Portrane). Michael was inaugural UCD College of Social Science & Law Artist-in-Residence (2015) and Artist-in-Residence with Dublin City Council 2017/18; Universidad del Valle, Cali, Colombia (2019); Rūcka, Cēsis, Latvia (2019/20); PRAKSIS Oslo, Norway (2018). He was Artist in Residence in Draíocht Arts Centre, Blanchardstown (2017-2019) and presented civic soundworks in Cēsis, Latvia (2021) and Ennistymon (2023) in the public realm. In 2026, Michael is also developing work on two islands on opposite sides of the Atlantic border: at Áras Éanna, the EU's most westerly arts centre, on Inis oírr, and in the US on Governors Island, New York.

FE7 - Meet the Editors of The Sociological Review
25 Aug 2026 | 1 pm | Room C | COS TORWAR
Coordination: Jan Dobbernack (Newcastle University, UK)

Meet up with members of the editorial team of *The Sociological Review*, a general sociological journal and space for critical thinking across all branches of sociology and related disciplines that is based in the United Kingdom but oriented towards an international readership. This event offers the opportunity to learn more about the journal's manifest, its editorial and peer-review processes, related activities and opportunities and to ask the members of the editorial team any questions you might have. The session will also cover *The Sociological Review's* Monograph Series. Come along for an informal discussion and gain further insights on publishing in and connecting with *The Sociological Review*.

Speakers

Silke Roth (University of Southampton, UK)

Silke Roth is Professor of Sociology at the University of Southampton. She is working on the intersections of political sociology and the sociology of work, social movement studies and humanitarian studies. She is interested in questions of solidarity, inclusion and exclusion, including a critical assessment of the impact of information and communication technologies (ICT). Silke served on the editorial board of *The Sociological Review* from 2019 to 2022, as general editor since 2023, and as monographs editor since 2024. Previously, she served on the editorial board of *Sociology* from 2014 to 2019 and as managing editor of *Social Movement Studies* from 2020 to 2022.

Doğuş Şimşek (Kingston University, UK)

Doğuş is Senior Lecturer in Sociology and Criminology at Kingston University London. Her research interests revolve around sociology of migration, race and ethnicity, and class. Her research addresses global problems such as, colonialism, neoliberalism and structural inequalities; and attempts to examine how power is materialized in processes of exclusion and inclusion, and organized around class, race, ethnicity, gender and migration status. Doğuş joined the Editorial Board of *The Sociological Review* in 2026.

Jan Dobbernack (Newcastle University, UK)

Jan is Senior Lecturer in Political Sociology at Newcastle University. His work is about knowledge production and political contestation in the areas of post-immigrant integration, citizenship, 'race' and class. In addition to his role as Editor of *The Sociological Review*, which he took up in 2025, Jan is a member of the Editorial Board of the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* and *Ethnicities*.

Sören Carlson (Flensburg University, Germany)

Sören is a research associate at the Department of Sociology at Flensburg University, Germany and has joined the editorial team of *The Sociological Review* in January 2026. In

his research, he is particularly interested in culture, class, mobility/migration and transnationalisation and Europeanisation processes.

Other members of the editorial board, who are in attendance at ESA Warsaw, may join us for this session.

Opening Ceremony

25 Aug 2026 | 16:00 | COS Torwar, Łazienkowska 6A, 00-449 Warsaw

The opening ceremony will be held at COS Torwar prior to Plenary 1. The ceremony will feature a performance by the Polish Radio Symphony Orchestra, followed by speeches from:

Kaja Gadowska, ESA President 2024-2026

Loukia Maria Fratsea, 17th ESA Conference Chair

Professor Mirosława Grabowska, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

Professor Michał Zasada, Rector of the Warsaw University of Life Sciences

Professor Zygmunt Lalak, Vice-Rector for Research at the University of Warsaw

Aleksandra Hanzel, Deputy Director of the Marshal's Office for Economic Affairs and International Cooperation

Geoffrey Pleyers, FNRS-UCLouvain (Belgium), President of the International Sociological Association

Plenary 1

Democracy under Transformation: Social Change and the Role of Sociology

25 Aug 2026 | 16:30 | COS TORWAR

With: Grzegorz Ekiert, Geoffrey Pleyers, Anna Giza

Chair: Kaja Gadowska, ESA President (2024-2026)

Are contemporary societies undergoing a deep-seated change comparable to the “great transformation” once described by Karl Polanyi? And what do profound economic, technological, social, and political changes mean for democracy, social bonds, and our capacity to shape collective futures? This opening plenary examines the ongoing tectonic shifts in contemporary societies as well as the challenges this poses to democratic institutions and the social foundations of democracy.

Yet such a transformation has neither predetermined negative nor positive outcomes: it raises fundamental questions about the sources of both democratic discontent and the endurance of democratic societies. On the one hand, there is democratic backsliding, political radicalization, renascent authoritarianism, the expansion of market logics, and the transformation of communication and sociability. How should we comprehend reactions to the erosion of social bonds and a growing disaffection with democracy? On the other hand, there is the generation of social responses, collective actions, and new forms of solidarity. What can increase the stamina of democratic institutions? How can social action and solidarity contribute to democratic renewal? And what role can sociology play in understanding all these processes and strengthening societies’ capacity to respond constructively?

Bringing together perspectives on democratic institutions, social transformation, and the role of sociology, this plenary speaks directly to the conference theme, *Strengthening Democracies: Social Action, Solidarity, and Sustainable Futures*. This session opens a far-reaching discussion about the conditions under which more democratic, inclusive, and sustainable futures can be built.

Grzegorz Ekiert, Harvard University

Is the current crisis of liberal democracy driven by fundamental economic, technological, and social transformations similar to those that produced the first “great transformation” described by Karl Polanyi? The industrial revolution of the 18th and 19th centuries ushered in the first wave of globalization, the advent and spread of democracy, the expansion of markets, technological upheaval, and an unprecedented creation of wealth. At the same time, it undermined and toppled social and political institutions, norms, status hierarchies, and ways of living that had endured for centuries. The disorder and confusion generated by rapid modernization across the world contributed to two devastating world wars, two brutal revolutionary movements—communism and fascism—and a lasting

division of the world into advanced and underdeveloped countries. Democracy barely survived the fascist and communist assaults, but it was restored as a desirable political model by the late 1970s with the advent of the “third wave” of democratization. After the collapse of the Soviet bloc, liberal democracy emerged as a hegemonic political project. Yet this reversal of fortune did not last long. Since the early 2000s, two global political developments have become evident. First, there has been distinct democratic backsliding affecting both new and established democracies. This trend is characterized by a declining quality of democratic institutions and elections, the rise of radical right-wing parties, growing political polarization, and attempts by incumbents to subvert democratic norms and practices. At the same time, authoritarian regimes across the world have become more assertive and repressive, increasingly resembling old-fashioned dictatorships. Are democratic backsliding and this dictatorial drift manifestations of deeper, more fundamental transformations in contemporary societies? Is a second “great transformation” now undermining political institutions, liberal norms, and the global liberal order that emerged after the Second World War? If so, how must democratic institutions be reformed to become more resilient and to withstand the disruptive impact of this second “great transformation”?

Biography

Grzegorz Ekiert (MA Jagiellonian University, PhD Harvard University) is the Laurence A. Tisch Professor of Government at Harvard University, Director of the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, and a Senior Scholar at the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. He served as Director of the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard University (2012–2024) and Chair of the Social Studies undergraduate concentration in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences (2000–2006).

His research and teaching focus on comparative politics, regime change and democratization, civil society and social movements, and the politics and societies of Eastern Europe. He is the author or editor of several books and special issues of academic journals, including:

- *Ruling by Other Means: State-Mobilized Movements* (co-edited with Elizabeth J. Perry and Yan Xiaojun), Cambridge University Press, 2020



- *Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe: Assessing the Legacy of Communist Rule* (co-edited with Stephen Hanson), Cambridge University Press, 2003
- *Rebellious Civil Society: Popular Protest and Democratic Consolidation in Poland* (co-authored with Jan Kubik), University of Michigan Press, 1999
- *The State Against Society: Political Crises and Their Aftermath in East Central Europe*, Princeton University Press, 1996

His articles have appeared in numerous social science journals in the United States, Europe, and Asia, as well as in edited volumes. He served as a member of the advisory board of the Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin für Sozialforschung (2016–2024) and as External Examiner in Politics, Public Administration, and Global Studies at the University of Hong Kong (2012–2018). He is a member of several advisory and editorial boards in social science research institutions, journals, and international NGOs.

Geoffrey Pleyers, FNRS-UCLouvain (Belgium), President of the International Sociological Association

Sociology: A vibrant discipline in a world in crisis

Far from being in crisis, sociology has experienced one of its most stimulating and creative periods since the beginning of the century. One of the sources of this renewal lies in a more open dialogue with critical perspectives (intersectional, decolonial...) and with the epistemologies and contributions of the Global South and East. This has paved the way for a renewal of sociology grounded in a re-examination of its history, its canons, its epistemology, its methods and its key concepts. This ongoing work has helped to build a sociology that is better equipped to analyse the challenges of our times, including the ecological collapse, threats to democracy and resurgent authoritarianism.

This internal dynamism within the discipline, however, contrasts with a more troubling context in which it evolves. Sociology and sociologists are facing a growing number of attacks on the social sciences and on science more broadly, even in well-established democracies. How can sociology remain relevant in a context dominated by wars, authoritarian turns, fake news, and shrinking academic freedom? Over the past few years, sociologists working in contexts of war or extreme violence, and in countries facing an existential threat, notably in Palestine and Ukraine, have shown that resilience does not lie in withdrawal or endurance, but in the capacity of sociology to remain socially useful, rigorous, and ethically grounded.

Biography



Geoffrey Pleyers is an FNRS Research Director and Professor of Sociology at the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium. He is the current President of the International Sociological Association and the director of the Centre for Research on Democracy, Institutions and Subjectivities (CriDIS, UCLouvain). He holds a PhD from the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en

Sciences Sociales (Paris, 2006). His research focuses on global sociology, global studies, social movements, sociology of religion and Latin America. He is the author of four books including [“Alter-Globalization. Becoming Actors in the Global Age”](#) (Polity, 2011) and [“El cambio nunca es lineal”](#) (“Change is never linear”, in Spanish, CLACSO, 2024). His recent articles in English include [What sociology can do in wartime. The resilience and dynamism of Ukrainian sociologists](#) (International Sociology, 2026); [“For a global sociology of social movements. Beyond methodological globalism and extractivism”](#) (Globalizations, 2024), and [“The pandemic is a battlefield. Social movements and solidarity during the COVID-19 lockdown”](#) (Journal of Civil Society, 2020); and a series of articles on the renewal of [global sociology published in Global Dialogue](#).

Anna Giza, University of Warsaw, Faculty of Sociology

The Great Disembedment and the Role of Sociology

The essence of the “great transformation”, as theorized by Polanyi, was the process of disembedding the economy from society and placing it within the cosmos of the free market’s objective laws. Practiced within this perspective, economic activities lost their social meaning and purpose, now aimed solely at profit. My thesis is that the transformation is still underway, bringing new areas under market imaginary and control. *Consumption* was the first to be appropriated, as (in the words of Victor Lebow) the postwar “enormously productive economy [...] needed things consumed, burned up, worn out, replaced, and discarded at an ever-increasing rate.” This is where marketing entered the picture, founded on the truly Copernican insight that what people buy is not things themselves, but the satisfaction of needs. It was therefore necessary to reach into those needs and make them serve consumption. Industries that have emerged to exploit needs—market research, advertising, and related fields—are armed to the teeth with budgets almost comparable to R&D investment, and equipped with cutting-edge, primarily psychological knowledge. As the next step, marketers reach for *sociability* itself,

claiming, as Muniz and O'Guinn observed, that "brands are [...] increasingly part of the social fabric, centers of social organization," and "communities began to coalesce around them." Now, finally, social media and GenAI extend this logic to *communication* and *thought* itself. I argue that disturbing phenomena such as political radicalization or the weakening of support for democracy are expressions of what Polanyi theorized as a social countermovement: reactions to the gradual appropriation of the social foundations of our collective life. We should strive to understand their sources and the reasons why they take this form. That is why I place my hope in sociology: in its capacity to understand these reactions without dismissing them as merely irrational.

Biography



Polish sociologist, since the 80s associated with the University of Warsaw, Faculty of Sociology. She closely observed the political and economic transformation in Poland and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, co-conducting large-scale, also international, research on privatized enterprises, the liquidation of State Agricultural Farms, and the fate of the older generation labeled as *homo sovieticus*. She worked for several years at a transnational corporation, which allowed her to gain insider insight into the logic

of market expansion and marketing philosophy. She loves working with students and non-governmental organizations, believing that the task of sociology is exactly as Norbert Elias put it: "to explore, and to make men understand, the patterns they form together, the nature and the changing configurations of all that binds them to each other." She also gained in-depth knowledge of the situation universities found themselves during the neoliberal era, serving for two terms as Vice-Rector for Financial Policy and Development at the University of Warsaw. Her scientific interests include theoretical sociology and the theories of social change. Main publications: *Family and the Social System. Reproduction and Cooperation in Interdisciplinary Perspective* (2005), *Mirrors' Cabinet. The Production of Social Self-Knowledge in Public Discourse* (2013), *Sorcerer's Apprentice, or The Social History of Marketing* (2017), *Transformations of Social Bonds: The Outline of the Theory of Social Change* (2018, co-author Mirostawa Marody), *Re-thinking the Social*, eds. with Kaja Gadowska (2025), *Lost in Transition. Stories from the Post Cold War Poland* (2026).

WEDNESDAY

AUGUST 26TH
MORNING

**SP1 - Academic Freedom in Times of Democratic Strain: Knowledge, Power, and
Public Responsibility**

26 Aug 2026 | 9:00-10:30 | Auditorium SGW

Organised by ESA President 2024–26, Kaja Gadowska,
ESA Executive Committee, Milica Antić Gaber, Nilay Çabuk Kaya, Maggie O'Neil, Paulo
Peixoto, Ana-Cristina Santos, Krešimir Žažar, and
Council of National Associations
Chair: Kaja Gadowska (Jagiellonian University, Poland)

Across Europe and globally, academic freedom has become increasingly constrained, reflecting deeper transformations in the relationship between knowledge, power, and democratic governance. While democratic backsliding and authoritarian tendencies form an important backdrop, this session focuses primarily on how academic freedom itself is being redefined, limited, and contested through legal reforms, managerial restructurings, funding mechanisms, and regulatory interventions that shape what kinds of knowledge can be produced, circulated, and publicly voiced.

Rather than isolated national developments, the decline of academic freedom emerges as part of broader global processes: the politicization of universities, state-driven anti-intellectualism, the rise of performance-based governance, the platformization and datafication of research, geopolitical competition for knowledge infrastructures, and growing inequalities in transnational science. These dynamics create new forms of vulnerability for scholars, institutions, and disciplines, narrowing the space for critical inquiry and reducing the autonomy essential for intellectual innovation. In this context, the social sciences are particularly exposed to these pressures: because of their inherently critical orientation, their public relevance, and their capacity to question dominant power structures, they often become direct targets of political interventions aimed at curbing their autonomy and marginalizing dissenting knowledge.

The session examines how such pressures operate across different parts of Europe – Central and Eastern, Western, Northern, and Southern – while also situating them within wider global trends. It highlights the social, legal, and institutional mechanisms through which academic freedom is curtailed, as well as the emergent forms of resilience and resistance: transnational academic networks, collective mobilizations, institutional safeguards, and solidarities that seek to protect the autonomy of research and the public role of universities.

Speakers

Biray Kolluoğlu (Boğaziçi University, Turkey)

The Double Siege: Market Discipline, Political Control, and the Erosion of Academic Freedom

This paper argues that the contemporary erosion of academic freedom needs to be understood as a structural phenomenon driven by two analytically distinct but convergent forces: market discipline and political control. Drawing on cases from around the world including Hungary, the United Kingdom, India, the United States, and Turkey the paper traces the mechanisms through which each force operates: defunding of critical knowledge fields, audit culture and performance measurement, casualisation of academic labour, administrative capture, surveillance of teaching, and the direct targeting of individual scholars.

The paper proposes the concept of *double compression* to describe the interaction between these forces: neoliberal audit culture pre-weakens universities by fragmenting solidarity, delegitimising non-instrumental knowledge, and hollowing out governance structures creating institutional conditions into which political control moves with less resistance. The Turkish case is examined in particular depth, as it reveals a further paradox: massive state-led university expansion, designed in part to extend political hegemony, generated educated publics whose political behaviour exceeded the intentions of those who built the system.

The paper concludes by insisting on a distinction between the legitimate democratising critique of universities and the structural attack on their capacity for autonomous critical inquiry and on the public stakes of that distinction.

Biography



Biray Kolluoğlu is Professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology at Boğaziçi University, Istanbul. She completed her doctoral studies at Binghamton University and has held fellowships at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin and the Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen (IWM) in Vienna. She is coeditor-in-chief of *New Perspectives on Turkey*. Her research spans urban sociology, historical sociology, the sociology of space and memory, and port

cities. She is currently working on culture, education, and universities in Turkey, with

recent publications on the global transformation of higher education and academic freedom under authoritarian pressure. She writes popular sociological essays under [Zappa Zamanlar](#).

Eric Fassin (Université Paris 8, France)

Against “Bullshit”: Academic Freedom and the (Un-) Democratic Politics of Truth

Today, throughout the world, East and West, North and South, academic freedom is under fire. Universities are the target of neofascist campaigns while at the same time they are under the pressure of neoliberal logics. This is not just about critical theories; science itself is now exposed to political threats. What complicates the matter is that these assaults are often waged in the name of freedom. In order to resist these attacks, we must first define academic freedom as analytically distinct from freedom of speech. It is not simply a matter of opinion; it is a professional freedom that derives from the functions of teaching and research. Academic freedom is about independence from the powers that be. We can thus understand what is at stake when politicians declare that “the universities are the enemy.” Beyond the fear that professors may have an influence on younger generations, the issue is the status of truth itself in democratic societies. The right to say everything, which we claim for our profession, is not the same as the right to say anything – including what philosopher Harry Frankfurt aptly called “bullshit,” that is, speech ostensibly displaying a radical disregard for truth. What is happening now is a wholesale offensive against all the “regimes of truth,” from academia to the news media, from the justice system to public statistics, to impose that of power itself. We are under siege, not despite, but because of our academic freedom.

Biography



Éric Fassin is a professor of sociology and gender studies in the department of political science at Université Paris 8, affiliated with the research center Sophiapol (Nanterre / Paris 8). He is also a senior member of Institut Universitaire de France. He works on gender and sexuality, race and

immigration, anti-intellectualism and academic freedom as democratic issues.

Sociologue engagé, his public interventions on these issues are related to his work as a social scientist. Among his recent publications : State Anti-Intellectualism and the Politics of Gender & Race. Illiberal France and Beyond, CEU Press, Budapest, 2024.

Liviu Matei (King's College London, UK)

Frameworks of reference for academic freedom: understanding and addressing the crisis in academic freedom

The concept of frameworks of reference for academic freedom is a useful analytical tool for understanding recent trends and orienting action. An analysis using this tool reveals both negative and positive developments of significant magnitude in Europe and worldwide since 2016–2018. It also identifies ways to address the crisis in academic freedom, including ongoing efforts, some of which have already been successful and others that show clear promise of impact.

Biography



Liviu Matei is Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy and Head of the School of Education, Communication and Society at King's College London, where he directs the Global Observatory on Academic Freedom.

He has taught in Europe, the US and Asia, consulted widely and conducted applied policy research for intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations, national authorities and universities across Europe and Asia. His expertise includes university governance, academic freedom and autonomy, funding, internationalisation, quality assurance, and the history and politics of higher education.

He is Vice-President of the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Universitatum Observatory, a trustee of the American University of Central Asia and a member of the Board of Governors of CHER (Consortium of Higher Education Researchers). He founded and directed the Yehuda Elkana Centre for Higher Education and the Global Teaching Fellowships programme.

He led development of a monitoring framework for the fundamental values of higher education—academic freedom, autonomy, integrity, student and staff participation in governance, public responsibility for higher education, and public responsibility of higher education — and currently leads the research team carrying out the first monitoring of these values in all but four European countries.

Ivana Spasić (University of Belgrade, Serbia)

Are we all in this together, really? Reflections from the Serbian case

What is happening in Serbia right now is that a political crisis, begun in November 2024 by the outbreak of the student protests against corruption and lack of accountability, has been used as a pretext for a frontal attack on the public university, long resented by the ruling party as one of the very few institutions that have not yet been brought under their control. A wide variety of forms means and channels of harassment are deployed – financial, administrative, criminal, legal, through the media. The two most drastic cases so far, among many, have been the splitting of the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, and the sacking of two professors from the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad. Both instances showcase something we often forget: the role of inside helpers to outside attacks. These are academics who decide to forfeit the norms and rules that make up the crux of the university as an institution, and start complying with the will of the political power instead. Many of the punitive measures and moves that reduce academic freedom, in Serbia as in other places, would not be possible without them. Thus the situation is not, as we sometimes like to imagine, one of a simple clash between a noble, virtuous „Us“, and the evil „Them“ who seek to destroy us. At the same time, such people are still part of the university and fighting against outside pressures means, paradoxically, fighting for them too, for the autonomy of the field in which we all operate. This paradox will be the main question I propose.

Biography

Ivana Spasić is professor and Chair of the Department of Sociology, Faculty of Philosophy, University of Belgrade, and president of the Sociological Scientific Society of Serbia. She is also a visiting professor at the University of Sarajevo and a Faculty Fellow of the Center for Cultural Sociology, Yale University. Her research interests include postsocialist transformation, the cultural production of nationhood, urban identities, memory culture, and social history of ideas. She is the author or coauthor of ten books and a large number of articles and chapters in national and international outlets, including: “The transformations of civil society in Serbia” (2026), “The polluting colony: The uses of postcolonial argument in present-day Serbia” (2026), “The recurrence of patriotic outbidding: contemporary Serbian nationalism” (2025), *Sociology in Serbia: A Fragile Discipline* (2022), “Urban Identity of Belgrade: Perfect Chaos, Imperfect Balance” (2020).



SP2 - Rural Discontent and the New Rural Question: Rethinking Democracy in Europe

25 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | C1 A1

Organised by Loukia Maria Fratsea (ESA Vice-President 2024–26, Conference Chair) and Tiziana Nazio (University of Turin)

Coordination and Chairs: Loukia Maria Fratsea (Harokopio University of Athens, Greece) and Tiziana Nazio (University of Turin)

Rural areas in Europe are undergoing profound transformations shaped by economic restructuring, welfare retrenchment, depopulation and ageing, environmental pressures, and intensifying political contestation. This session revisits the “rural question” from a sociological perspective, examining how contemporary rural dynamics challenge established analytical frameworks, methodological approaches, and policy paradigms. It explores the future of rural Europe by connecting debates in rural sociology with environmental change, the governance of rural commons, and pressing concerns around food safety and food ethics, positioning agriculture and agri-food systems at the intersection of social, ecological, and moral inquiry.

Particular attention is given to forms of social action, solidarity, and democratic practice emerging in rural contexts, including recent farmers' mobilisations that have brought rural grievances, sustainability claims, and food-related conflicts to the forefront of public debate across Europe. These mobilisations raise critical questions about environmental responsibility, social justice, ethical food production, and the multi-level governance of agri-food systems.

Bringing together contributions from across Europe (South, North, and East), the session examines how rural actors negotiate ecological transitions, mobilise collectively, and articulate alternative rural and food futures. By connecting empirical research with normative and policy-oriented concerns, the session highlights the continued relevance of sociology in understanding rural transformations and informing more democratic, sustainable, and ethically grounded rural and food policies in Europe.

Speakers

Apostolos G. Papadopoulos (Harokopio University of Athens, Greece)

From Land to People: Inequalities, Vulnerabilities and Justice in Rural Europe

Issues of depopulation, the restructuring of agriculture, ecological change and political unrest significantly shape contemporary debates on rural Europe. These developments are often viewed through the lenses of territorial development, competitiveness or environmental sustainability, but my presentation argues that the emerging rural question is fundamentally one of people and the uneven distribution of opportunities, vulnerabilities and democratic voice. I conceptualise rural transitions as the outcome of intersecting socio-economic, demographic and ecological processes that unevenly redistribute risks and resources across rural populations. The presentation pays particular attention to the experiences of groups generally rendered invisible in prevailing narratives of rural development, such as migrant agricultural workers, women, young people, ageing populations and residents of declining rural communities.

My presentation argues, from the Southern European and Mediterranean perspective, that understanding rural discontent requires moving beyond explanations that focus solely on farmers' protests or electoral behaviour towards a broader analysis of structural inequalities, socio-spatial divides and differentiated vulnerabilities. My perspective reframes the future of rural Europe as a question not only of sustaining landscapes and agricultural production, but also of enabling people to live, work, participate and belong under conditions of social and ecological transformation. In this context, I identify rural Southern Europe as experiencing a "crisis of social reproduction". By reconnecting depopulation, labour shortages, migrant labour, ageing, care deficits, declining public services and

democratic disengagement, it becomes possible to develop new ways of repositioning migration, socio-spatial restructuring and rural depopulation, and to offer a coherent theoretical contribution that moves beyond the mere recognition of “rural discontent”.

Biography



Apostolos G. Papadopoulos studied sociology and holds a PhD in sociology and human geography. He is a full Professor of Rural Sociology and Geography in the Department of Geography at Harokopio University of Athens, Greece. He has coordinated and/or participated in fifty (50) research projects funded by national and European organisations, and has

over 160 publications in scientific journals, books, book chapters, and conference proceedings. He served as Vice-Rector for Economic Affairs, Research and Development at Harokopio University of Athens (2011–2015). He has been a member and Chair of the International Advisory Board of the International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM) (2017–2020). He was Director of the Institute of Social Research at the National Centre for Social Research (2020–2024). Currently, he is Coordinator of ESA RN38 ‘Space, Society, and Rurality’ and co-Editor-in-Chief of the peer-review journal *Sociologia Ruralis*. His research interests include agriculture and rural areas, socio-spatial transformations, demographic change and land use in rural areas, social stratification and social mobility, return to the countryside, local food, migrant labour and social inclusion, population mobility, international migration and asylum policies, sustainable rural development, and rural development policies.

Ruth McAreavey (Newcastle University, UK)

Rural Futures in a Changing Europe: Nurturing Community Resilience

Across Europe, rural regions are experiencing profound social, economic, environmental, and demographic transformation. Migration, climate pressures, technological change, food insecurity, labour market restructuring, and growing political uncertainty are reshaping the ways rural communities live, work, and connect. At the same time, many rural areas continue to face persistent inequalities linked to depopulation, service withdrawal, ageing populations, and uneven economic development. Others experience gentrification, serious housing

challenges and a range of associated challenges. Against this backdrop, questions of societal resilience — the capacity of communities and institutions to adapt, respond, and thrive amidst uncertainty — have become increasingly significant within both policy and academic debates.

This presentation examines how societal resilience is produced and sustained within contemporary rural Europe. The presentation explores how different rural institutions and organisations can contribute to adaptive and equitable rural futures. It considers how some locally embedded organisations can strengthen democratic participation, support diverse populations, and promote innovation in the face of social and environmental change. Other organisations provide employment, ecosystem services and contribute to food security. All of these bodies have the capacity to contribute to more resilient rural futures. However, as I argue in my presentation, this relies not only on economic investment, but also on strong institutions; inclusive and ethical governance; and sustained community relationships across rural Europe.

Biography



Ruth McAreavey is a sociologist whose research explores migration, social justice, governance, and inequalities in rural and peripheral regions. Her work examines how communities respond to social and economic change, with a particular focus on migration, integration, labour mobility, and the role of

institutions in shaping resilient and inclusive rural futures. She has led and contributed to interdisciplinary and international research projects addressing rural development, food systems, migration, and societal resilience across Europe and beyond. She has published widely in peer reviewed journals and is co-editor for the forthcoming Elgar Handbook on Migration to Small Towns and Rural areas. Ruth is an elected member of the Academy of Social Sciences. Drawing on extensive qualitative and participatory research, Ruth's work engages with policymakers, community organisations, and rural stakeholders to better understand how local responses can support social cohesion and equitable development. Ruth is widely recognised for her contributions to rural sociology and migration studies and regularly speaks at international conferences on rural futures, governance, inclusion, and resilience in changing European contexts. She is co-editor in Chief of

Sociologia Ruralis, a Trustee of Plunkett UK and August T. Larsson guest Professor at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences Uppsala.

Katarzyna Zajda (University of Lodz, Poland)

In the Shadow of Crisis: Everyday Democracy in Rural Poland through the Lens of Formal and Informal Civic Activity.

Democracy is not merely about casting a ballot into a ballot box once every few years. It encompasses everyday decision-making processes and the negotiation of community transformations in the shadow of crises (driven, among others, by depopulation, economic insecurity, and the climate crisis). It is precisely within this everyday reality that the resilience of rural communities is shaped.

Rural democracy in post-socialist countries such as Poland is burdened by the legacy of the past. It remains more challenging here to foster dialogue, public consultations, and cross-sectoral cooperation. In rural areas, everyday relational democracy (based on reciprocity rather than procedures) is constructed by neighbouring practices, informal support networks, and local non-governmental organizations. These are sometimes supported by local authorities, and at other times marginalized by them. Formal democratic mechanisms and EU funds are filtered through local power structures.

When Europe speaks today of “rural discontent,” the media depict tractors blocking highways. Sociology, however, must look deeper—beneath the surface of spectacular protests. This presentation will address the issues of formal and informal civic activity in rural Poland, exploring the opportunities and barriers to the development of everyday democratic practices. It will conclude with a question on how to strengthen local democracy in rural areas in order to build social resilience and respond to rural discontent in the era of polycrisis.

Biography

Katarzyna Zajda, PhD, DSc, Associate Professor at the University of Lodz, is a sociologist and practitioner specializing in rural studies. As the Head of both the Social Innovation Centre (CEIN) and the Department of Rural, Urban, and Social Change Sociology, she bridges the gap between academic research and community engagement. Her primary research interests focus on civic activity, social innovation, and local governance, with a particular emphasis on the Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) approach.



SP3 - Education, Democracy, and Social Justice: Challenges and Pathways for Solidarity and Sustainability in Southern European Societies

25 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | B0 A1 / B0 A2

Organised by RN27 Research Network on Southern European Societies and RN10
Sociology of Education

Coordinators and Chairs: Inês Vieira (Lusófona University) Antigoni-Alba and
Papakonstantinou (National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)

This semi-plenary session brings together two distinguished scholars – Peter Mayo (University of Malta) and Vasiliki Kantzara (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece) – to explore the intersections of education, democracy, and social justice within Southern European societies.

In the context of the Anthropocene, where public goods are shrinking and social justice is increasingly contested, we will explore how democracy can facilitate access to education in societies facing economic instability and technological disruption. The challenges are twofold: expanding access to education while ensuring its quality, aligning with the ideals of democracy and humanism, and avoiding what Adorno called *Halbbildung* – a "semi-education" that fails to empower individuals. The rise of artificial intelligence poses an additional threat, potentially contributing to a "de-education" of large sections of the population, especially marginalized communities. This trend risks further entrenching social inequalities.

Drawing on the speakers' critical perspectives on pedagogy and the politics of education in crisis-ridden societies, the session will critically examine how education systems can foster democracy, inclusion, solidarity, and sustainability in an age of uncertainty. The aim is to, from Southern European examples, examine current educational practices that prioritize economic utility over democratic ideals, against frameworks that guarantee equal access to quality education for all, reaffirming its transformative potential for social justice and collective empowerment.

Speakers

Peter Mayo (University of Malta)

'Southern' Europe in the Mediterranean. Elements for a Critical Sociology of Adult Learning and Education

This presentation, given this conference and specific panel, focuses on the European side of the Mediterranean. It highlights major landmarks in Adult Learning and Education (ALE) in this part of the world, indicating the tension between the more community-oriented popular education traditions and the imposition, owing to most countries EU membership, of Lifelong Learning (LLL) measures reflecting a 'Northist' agenda, the latter often at odds with 'Southern' rhythms of life. The presentation, in the historical dimension of its sociological analysis, draws on the work and conceptualisation, regarding the Mediterranean, of *Annales* historian, Fernand Braudel. It is here that models of adult and community learning and education are analysed with respect to the region's climatic conditions and ensuing cultural manifestations, including popular education. This stands in contrast to the more 'Western' capitalist and neoliberal LLL agenda as exemplified by the EU's Memorandum on Lifelong Learning. The latter concept differs conceptually and politically from the old, UNESCO promoted Lifelong Education (LLE) which was more geographically 'majority world' oriented and which is somewhat closer to the cultural conditions of 'Southern' Europe. Like most of the countries targeted by UNESCO with its LLE master concept, this European region is characterised by nations emerging from periods of either colonialism and more specifically, with Italy and more recently Portugal and Spain, totalitarian regime experiences. Popular education that is grassroots oriented found fertile ground here with its connection with the grassroots 'bottom up' imaginary. In many instances, *realpolitik* led to creativity in securing EU funding by circumventing the policy discourse, at various levels (supranational, national, regional, municipal) to worm more popular agendas into the overriding hegemonic 'employability' one.

Biography

Peter Mayo is Professor and UNESCO Co-Chair in Global Adult Education at the University of Malta, where he has taught and been researching aspects of Sociology of Education and Culture and Adult Education over the years. He authored around 150 papers, in refereed journals or edited books, and produced 28



books, the majority authored. One of his latest single authored books is *Culture, Power and Education. Representation, Interpretation, Contestation* (Routledge, 2025) also published in Catalan, Spanish and Turkish.

Vasiliki Kantzara (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Athens)

A Silent Struggle in Higher Education Institutions: between Inclusive Democratic Principles and Exclusionary Authoritarian Practices

Major societal changes put pressure and pose challenges for education as a common good. A series of crises, most notably the financial one of 2008, became the impetus for faster introduction of changes in the education systems, especially in the Southern European countries that were severely affected by it. The next crisis, the pandemic of Covid-19 introduced technological innovation in education with varied effects. The ramifications in education, in general, are the increase of privatisation and the inequalities associated with it, more authoritarian regimes, growing competition among universities and between countries, widespread use of artificial intelligence, and work overload on academic and managerial personnel. Creating precarious conditions for the personnel goes hand in hand with severe cuts in projects and salaries, matching in a way measures across the Atlantic against what is called Democracy, Equality and Inclusion (DEI) policies.

In this paper, I concentrate on governance of education, on basis of research in Greece and other countries, examining some concepts that refer to organisational changes that shifted power relations in the landscape of higher education. One of these is the overall introduction of evaluation/assessment of institutional and individual performances. Evaluation produces new hierarchical categories of value (e.g. university ranking lists) leading to more competition to acquire more such 'badges of value' and the 'recognition' that accrue to them. Additionally, we pose the question of who is doing the work needed to keep the university going. The answer

refers to labour, called ‘service’ or ‘care’ work, furnished daily by conscientious teachers (and personnel who do more than their share) challenging dominant ideas of ‘excellence’ and providing the ground for education as *Bildung*. This largely unseen and unpaid ‘care’ work (gendered to an extent) sustains the university, its academic and democratic principles creating a space for students to cultivate science together with humanistic principles.

Biography

Vasiliki Kantzara is Professor at the Sociology Department of Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences. She is a member of the *Gender Equity and Anti-Discrimination Committee* at Panteion and in the past she served as Director of the Postgraduate Program “Sociology”.

Her research interests cover a wide range of topics that focus on understanding institutionalised relations, individual interactions and structural configurations. She is concerned about rising inequalities, looks at governance and privatisation in education, implementation of policy in education and migration, and solidarity actions.

Vasiliki studied in three countries, writes and publishes in three languages. Among her latest publications are: (2026 -in press) “Evaluation, audit culture and recognition: exploring links and relations in education” in *Research in Sociology of Education*, Athens; (2025) “Gender as a principle of organising society or “How is gender possible”? [in Greek] in *Philosofein*, vol. 32: 39-56; (2020) *Education in Crisis Conditions (2009-2014)*.



Impacts and policies – a sociological approach, Gutenberg [a book in Greek]; an article with co-authors (2023) “Demarcating New Borders: Transnational Migration and New Educational Governance. Empirical Explorations in Greece, Turkey, and Germany” (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Erziehungswissenschaften (DfGE) & Verlag Barbara Budrich).

SP4 - Rethinking consumption in the Capitalocene

25 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | E0 A1 / E0 A2

Organised by RN05 Sociology of Consumption, RN12 Environmental Sociology and RN06

Critical Political Economy

Coordination: Tullia Jack (Lund University), Monika Berg (Örebro University, Sweden) and

Bernd Bonfert (EM Normandie Business School, France)

Chair: Tullia Jack (Lund University)

Escalating ecological crises and overshooting planetary boundaries urge sociologists to rethink consumption's role in shaping our socio-ecological future. Once primarily seen as a domain of identity formation and social stratification, consumption must now be analysed in relation to material flows, energy regimes, and ecological collapse, highlighting the colonial-extractivist and imperial structures underpinning consumer capitalism. We are now living in the capitalocene (Moore, 2017) where the ecological crisis is rooted in capitalism and high-consuming individuals—not an undifferentiated humanity. This calls for exploring how feminist and decolonial perspectives, alongside emerging ideas of sufficiency, degrowth, and post-capitalism, can move us beyond green consumerism towards more just and sustainable ways of meeting of human needs within planetary boundaries.

Speakers

Daniel Welch (Manchester University, UK)

Consuming the Planet: or Imagining Consumption Otherwise

The ecological crisis is driven by the energy and resource use that sustains the bundle of goods and services taken for granted as necessities of everyday life by the expanding global consumer class. Historically, ecological impacts intensified dramatically with the “great acceleration” of the Anthropocene associated with the expansion of mass consumption in the West from the 1950s onwards (Steffen et al., 2015). Concomitant with this transformation was the emergence of the cultural imaginary of “consumer society”, that expressed faith in the inextricable linkages of democracy and capitalism, of freedom and affluence, and of economic growth and technological progress. In the Cold War West, consumer society promised to resolve the political problem of the future, in direct competition with the promised future of communism. Following the 2007 financial crisis, in the Global North, there has been a profound loss of faith in the imaginary of consumer society. In the face of ecological crisis, consumer society's promise of continuously rising living standards and a limitless horizon of economic growth has become increasingly untenable; its exclusions and dependencies on colonialism, extractivism, and fossil fuels ever more visible. The increasing failure of the state imperative of “prosperity for all” on the one hand, and disenchantment with affluent consumption on the

other, signal legitimisation crisis. We witness here also a profound rupture with the modern temporal regime: a crisis of futurity.

Consumption has long been a site of contestation and experimentation with alternative social relations: from the boycott of slave-grown sugar in eighteenth century Britain, to contemporary “ethical consumerism”. Through consumption, global forces are experienced and recognised within everyday life. Today, consumption has become fundamentally problematised - as both cause of ecological crisis and, increasingly, as a critical factor in the latter’s mitigation (IPCC, 2022). This paper asks what possibilities emerge from the problematisation of consumption. Beyond the limits of “sustainable consumption” and the individualisation of socio-ecological responsibility what cultural and political resources might enable the imagination of consumption otherwise, and with it, alternative ecological futures? How might the relation between consumption and the future be reconfigured in the service of an ecologically sustainable and emancipatory social project?

Biography

Daniel Welch is the Research Director of the Sustainable Consumption Institute and Senior Lecture in Sociology at the University of Manchester. He is a founding editor of the journal *Consumption and Society*. His main research fields are the sociology of consumption, the future, and the environment, and social theory, particularly theories of practice. His work has been published in journals such as *Cultural Sociology*, the *Journal of Consumer Culture*, the *Journal for the Theory of Social Behaviour*, *Environment and Planning A* and *Futures*, and a number of edited collections.



Markus Wissen (Berlin School of Economics and Law, Germany)

Consumption, Capitalocene and the Imperial Mode of Living



Despite an exacerbating ecological crisis, patterns of production and consumption based on fossil fuels remain deeply rooted in everyday practices, particularly in the Global North. In fact, fossil fuels have even experienced a comeback in recent years. This presentation introduces the concept of the 'imperial mode of living' as a framework that aims to explain this contradictory situation. The 'imperial mode of living' is a hegemony theoretical category that links everyday practices to wider social and international structures. It seeks to explain why production and consumption patterns based on the unlimited appropriation of nature and labour power on a global scale persist: Advanced capitalist economies

depend on an external sphere in which they can exploit nature and labour power, and to which they can transfer their socio-ecological costs. This process renders socio-ecological destruction invisible and normalises it. However, due to the climate crisis and the rise of new geoeconomic and geopolitical powers such as China, the external sphere is becoming increasingly contested. This is resulting in growing eco-imperial tensions and social conflicts, but also creating opportunities to promote progressive alternatives. At the heart of these alternatives are environmentally sustainable provisioning systems for areas such as housing, mobility, education, healthcare and energy, which replace the capitalist logic of profit maximisation with a logic of care and social reproduction.

Biography

Markus Wissen is Professor of Social Sciences with a focus on socio-ecological transformation at the Berlin School of Economics and Law (HWR). He teaches and conducts research on society-nature relations, the imperial mode of living, and the labour-ecology nexus. He is a member of the editorial board of PROKLA. Zeitschrift für kritische Sozialwissenschaft and the scientific advisory board of the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung (RLS). Furthermore, he is involved as spokesperson for the graduate program Crisis and Socio-Ecological Transformation of RLS. His publications include *The Imperial Mode of Living. Everyday Life and the Ecological Crisis of Capitalism* (with Ulrich Brand, London, Verso, 2021) and *Capitalism at the Limit. A Political Ecology of a World in Crisis* (with Ulrich Brand, Polity Press, London, 2026).

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN03_RN16_T01	Collective and Participatory Approaches to Evolving and Embodied Lives	D2 09 SGGW
JS_RN03_RN35_T01	Imaginaries and Identities	B0 04 SGGW
JS_RN04_RN13_T01	Children and adults active in the world	G2 03 SGGW
JS_RN07_RN29_T01	Conceptual Reflections	E2 04 SGGW
JS_RN13_RN37_T01	Families & Housing: policies, strategies and practices in European cities	D3 01 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN23_T01	Politics of Care: Reproductive Rights, Sexuality and Inclusion	B1 06 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN33_T01	Endometriosis, Chronic Pelvic Pain and the Gendered Delegitimation of Suffering	G0 02 SGGW
JS_RN20_RN21_RN29_T01	Inside the Black Box: Theory and Method for Algorithmic and Computational Objects	B0 05 SGGW
JS_RN23_RN29_II_T01	Researching Intimacy Politics	F0 01 SGGW
RN01_T01_01	Civic engagement of older people in communities and societies 1	B1 04 SGGW
RN01_T01_02	Digitalisation and older people 1	B2 02 SGGW
RN01_T01_03	Social justice and ageism at work, in policies and in policymaking 1	B0 02 SGGW
RN02_T01_01	Representations in Democracy	B1 07 SGGW
RN04_T01_01	Children, Learning and Knowing I	B2 03 SGGW
RN05_T01_01	Cultural consumption 1	F2 03 SGGW
RN05_T01_02	Food: Sustainability	F2 05 SGGW
RN05_T01_03	Housing 1	F0 02 SGGW
RN05_T01_04	Fashion and textile consumption	F3 01 SGGW
RN06_T01_01	Arrival of a new world?	B1 03 SGGW

RN07_T01_01	On Cultural Stratification	C0 A2 SGGW
RN07_T01_02	On Aesthetic Appearances	C0 A1 SGGW
RN09_T01_01	Money, Households, and Moral Orders	B0 03 SGGW
RN09_T01_02	Banking, Investment Cultures, and Welfare Futures	B1 02 SGGW
RN09_T01_03	Labour Precarity, Employment Policy, and Economic Insecurity	B1 08 SGGW
RN10_T01_01	Sociology of Education 1	D1 A2 SGGW
RN10_T01_02	Sociology of Education 2	D1 A3 SGGW
RN10_T01_03	Sociology of Education 3	D0 A1 SGGW
RN11_T01_01	Emotions, Gender and Health	E1 06 SGGW
RN11_T01_02	Emotions in Organizations: Relational Work and Insecurity	E1 04 SGGW
RN11_T01_03	Emotions, War and Military Defence	E1 03 SGGW
RN12_T01_01	Imagining the future	F1 A2 SGGW
RN12_T01_02	Governing Sustainable Future	F1 A1 SGGW
RN12_T01_03	Science, Trust, Foresight	F1 A3 SGGW
RN12_T01_04	Climate Change Awareness	F3 A4 SGGW
RN13_T01_01	Gender Roles in Parenting	E0 01 SGGW
RN13_T01_02	Parental Separation and Care Arrangements	E1 02 SGGW
RN13_T01_03	Parenting and Vulnerabilities	E2 01 SGGW
RN14_T01_01	Gender, Democracy & Society	B0 06 SGGW
RN16_T01_01	Beyond Protocols: Hospitals as Social Worlds	D2 06 SGGW
RN16_T01_02	Narratives and Emotions for Sustainable Futures	D2 04 SGGW
RN16_T01_03	Applied Health Sociology: Opportunities and Limits	D2 03 SGGW

RN17_T01_01	Sociology of Precarity	D0 01 SGGW
RN17_T01_02	Gender & Care	D0 02 SGGW
RN18_T01_01	Contradictions of openness and democracy	D3 04 SGGW
RN18_T01_02	Gender and the media 1	D3 02 SGGW
RN19_T01_01	Academic Professions, Authority, and Democratic Contestation	E1 05 SGGW
RN20_T01_01	Interviewing	D2 01 SGGW
RN21_T01_01	Trust, Threat, and the Politics of Belonging	D3 03 SGGW
RN22_T01_01	War, Security and Civil Preparedness	D2 02 SGGW
RN23_T01_01	Navigating Systems of Social Care	D1 02 SGGW
RN23_T01_02	Sex Work and Pornography	D1 03 SGGW
RN24_T01_01	Innovation, Policy and Knowledge Governance	F1 02 SGGW
RN24_T01_02	AI, Education and Knowledge Production	F1 01 SGGW
RN25_T01_01	Social movements and their repertoires	D1 01 SGGW
RN26_T01_01	Ideas, Discourses and Narratives in Social Policy	G0 01 SGGW
RN29_T01_01	Theory of Democracy	G3 01 SGGW
RN30_T01_01	Young People and Work Precariousness	F2 01 SGGW
RN30_T01_02	Youth, Time, and Temporalities	F2 02 SGGW
RN31_T01_01	Conceptualising Antisemitism: Theory, the Field and Analytical Frameworks	F2 04 SGGW
RN31_T01_02	Antigypsyism and Anti-Roma Racism	F-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T01_01	Repression and contentious politics	G3 A4 SGGW
RN32_T01_02	Mechanisms of democratic regression (1)	G-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T01_03	Politics, Elites, and Behaviour	G3 02 SGGW

RN32_T01_04	Exploring democratic resilience	G3 A3 SGGW
RN33_T01_01	Work & Gender	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN33_T01_02	Masculinities	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN33_T01_03	Gender Perspectives I	B2 01 SGGW
RN35_T01_01	Gender, care and return migration	E-1 02 SGGW
RN35_T01_02	Migration, Parenthood and Children 1	E2 A3 SGGW
RN35_T01_03	Health and Migration	E2 A4 SGGW
RN35_T01_04	Ukrainian Migrants 1. Temporalities of Temporary Protection	E1 01 SGGW
RN36_T01_01	War, Identity, and National Cohesion in Ukraine	G2 02 SGGW
RN37_T01_01	Urban Safety, Youth and Queer Experiences	G3 03 SGGW
RN37_T01_02	Co-produced Urban Knowledge, Digital Mediation and Data Politics	G3 04 SGGW
RN38_T01_01	Rural Depopulation and Renewal	F3 03 SGGW
RN38_T01_02	Rural Culture and the Landscape	F1 03 SGGW
RS01_T01	Animals and Society 01	B2 04 SGGW
RS03_T01	Introduction to the RS/Interpersonal conflicts and violence in interaction	B1 05 SGGW
RS05_T01	Social Trauma in Times of Polycrisis: Social Trauma and Resilience from Wars and Conflicts I	D2 07 SGGW
RS07_T01	Intergenerational Perspectives Amidst Rapid Digital Transformation	E0 02 SGGW
RS09_T01	The Gifted Body: theoretical reflections and sociological implications	G3 06 SGGW
RS10_T01	Organized power and subjectivities	D2 10 SGGW
RS12_T01	Governance devices and infrastructures of precariousness	C0 01 SGGW

RS13_T01	Limits of, and avenues for, humanitarian norms and principles in a politicized world	B1 01 SGGW
RS14_T01	Maritime Sociology I	F-1 02 SGGW
RS15_T01	Democracy and plurality	C0 02 SGGW
RS16_T01	Governance and Transformation in Times of Multiple Crises (I)	G2 04 SGGW
RS17_01	Artificial Intelligence, Automation, and Fast/Slow Knowledge Production	F3 02 SGGW
RS18_T01	Institutional Ethnography of Welfare, Work, and Care Services	F3 04 SGGW
RS19_T01	Theorising Veganism & Vegan Sociology	D2 05 SGGW
RS20_T01	Political emotions and environmental sociology	E-1 03 SGGW

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 26TH
MIDDAY

**MD1 - Markets, Meanings, and Materiality: Reconnecting Sociology of
Consumption and Economic Sociology**

26 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | B0 A1 / B0 A2 | SGW

Organised by RN05 Sociology of Consumption and RN09 Economic Sociology

Coordinators: Giacomo Bazzani (University of Florence, Italy) and Francesca Forno
(University of Trento, Italy)

This Midday Session will explore how consumption both shapes and is shaped by market institutions, how valuation processes and moral economies inform economic coordination, and how everyday practices reflect and challenge broader transformations of capitalism. By reconnecting sociology of consumption and economic sociology, two fields that have often evolved in parallel, the session seeks to open new analytical pathways for understanding markets, meanings, and materiality.

Economic sociology has traditionally focused on institutions, markets, and forms of coordination, while sociology of consumption has developed influential analyses of identities, lifestyles, and cultural practices. Bringing these perspectives into dialogue offers an opportunity to address their respective blind spots and to strengthen shared sociological agendas.

This exchange is particularly timely in the face of pressing societal challenges, including platformisation and algorithmic governance, the financialisation of everyday life, and the accelerating ecological crisis. These transformations blur boundaries between production and consumption, structure and practice, and call for approaches capable of integrating cultural, institutional, and material dimensions, contributing to debates on democracy, justice, and ecological sustainability.

Speakers

Philipp Balsiger (University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland)

Philipp Balsiger is Professor of Economic Sociology at the University of Neuchâtel and Director of its Institute of Sociology. His research examines how social movements and ethical concerns transform markets, with a focus on ethical consumption, impact investing, cooperatives, and the platform economy. He has held research fellowships at leading international institutions, including the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and the European University Institute.

Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier (Sciences Po Paris, France)

Sophie Dubuisson-Quellier is CNRS Research Professor and Director of the Centre de Sociologie des Organisations (CSO) at Sciences Po Paris. Her work in economic sociology examines how economic behaviours are shaped by markets, social movements, and public policies, with particular attention to sustainable consumption, political consumerism, and food policies. She is currently developing a political economy approach to contemporary regimes of abundance.

MD2 - Meet the ESA Journals: European Societies and the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology

26 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | C1 A1 | SGGW

Organised by Patrícia Faria Pereira, Loukia-Maria Fratsea, Gerben Moerman, John O'Brien, Maggie O'Neil, Teresa Sordé Martí (Chair), Krešimir Žažar. (Members of the ESA Publications Committee)

Coordinator: Teresa Sordé Martí (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain)

This Midday Session introduces the European Sociological Association's two journals, *European Societies* and the *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* and creates an open space for ESA members to discuss pathways to publication. The editors-in-chief will present the distinctive scope, intellectual profile and readership of each journal, the types of manuscripts they welcome, and the key stages of submission. Particular attention will be given to what makes a strong journal article, how authors can identify the most appropriate outlet for their work, and how to position a manuscript in relation to current sociological debates. The session will also address practical and strategic questions relevant to each of the journals perspectives that are welcome, how to develop theoretically and methodologically robust contributions, proposing special issues, responding to reviewers, and avoiding common reasons for manuscript rejection. The editors will discuss how the journals seek to support geographical and career stages diversity, emerging topics and contributions from across ESA's Research Networks and National Associations. A substantial part of the session will be devoted to questions and dialogue with participants. ESA members are invited to bring publication ideas, uncertainties and experiences for discussion. The session aims to make editorial processes more transparent, strengthen links between the journals and the ESA community, and widen access to publication opportunities among ESA members.

Speakers

Sarah Neal (University of Sheffield, UK)

Sarah Neal is Professor of Sociology in the School of Sociological Studies, Politics and International Relations at the University of Sheffield and a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences. Her research and publications focus on ethnicity, racialisation, migration, community and place, urban and rural social life, and education. She has led and co-led projects funded by the Economic and Social Research Council and the Leverhulme Trust and works closely with policy and practitioner stakeholders. She has served on advisory and research initiatives for Natural England and on national and international research review panels, including the Irish Research Council, the Danish Independent Research Fund and the UK Research Excellence Framework. She previously co-edited *Sociology and Current Sociology*. Sarah is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of *European Societies*.

Karim Murji (University of West London, UK)

Karim Murji is Professor in the School of Human and Social Sciences at the University of West London. His research examines culture, ethnicity and racism and their application to race equality, policing, migration and public engagement. He is currently working on the interdisciplinary Open City project. His books include *Racism, Policy and Politics* (Policy Press, 2017), and he is co-editor, with Sarah Neal and John Solomos, of the second edition of *An Introduction to Sociology* (Sage, 2026). He has also co-edited a 2026 special issue of *Identities* on global configurations of whiteness. Together with Sarah Neal, he previously edited the journals *Sociology* and *Current Sociology*. Karim is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of *European Societies*.

Laura Centemeri (French National Centre for Scientific Research, France)

Laura Centemeri is Research Director at the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and a member of the Centre d'étude des Mouvements Sociaux at the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS), based in Paris and Marseille. Her research lies at the intersection of environmental sociology, social movements and the sociology of valuation. She has published on environmental disasters, agroecological movements, including permaculture, and the practices of repair that emerge in response to ecological and social disruption. Her current work investigates improvisation as a mode of coordination in care work and crisis situations. It explores how vocal interactions and sonic practices can reveal different forms of cooperation, evaluation and collective life. Her scholarship contributes to debates on ecological transformation, practical knowledge and alternative ways of organising society. Laura is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of the *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology*.

Carla Malafaia (University of Porto, Portugal)

Carla Malafaia is Assistant Professor at the University of Porto and a member of the Centre for Research and Intervention in Education (CIIE-FPCEUP). Her research explores how young people from different educational and socioeconomic backgrounds learn and practise democracy across schools, social movements, social media and public space. She uses digital, artistic and community-based methods and combines qualitative, quantitative and participatory approaches. She leads the EDigiPolis project, funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology, and co-leads the CIVITAS project, funded through North2030. Her work addresses youth participation, citizenship, political learning and democratic engagement. She has co-authored four books and published more than sixty journal articles and book chapters. Carla is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology.

Taina Meriluoto (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Taina Meriluoto is Academy Research Fellow and Docent of Sociology at the University of Helsinki. She works at the Centre for Sociology of Democracy, where she leads the projects Synthetic Activism: Politics of Presence in the Age of AI and Bare Activism: Politics of Authenticity and Exposure in the Margins. Her research connects democratic theory with empirical studies of political participation and public action. She has published widely on visual political action among marginalised groups, social media activism, the politics of presence, and the relationships between political action, identity and the self. Her current work examines how artificial intelligence, authenticity and exposure reshape the conditions of activism and democratic representation. Taina is currently Co-Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology.

MD3 - Becker: the aftermath and future of sociology of music

26 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | E0 A1 / E0 A2 | SGGW

Organised by RN02 Sociology of the Arts, RN07 Sociology of Culture and RN30 Youth & Generation

Coordinators: Paula Guerra (University of Porto, Portugal) Anna Lisa Tota (Roma Tre University, Italy) Dafne Muntanyola-Saura (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain) and Simon Stewart (University of Portsmouth, UK)

The legacy of Howard S. Becker, particularly his seminal work *Art Worlds* (1982), remains central to the sociology of art and music for emphasizing cultural production as a collective practice structured by conventions and cooperation. Yet, in a post-cultural turn era, this framework requires reassessment considering new

tensions in artistic and musical worlds. Music scenes and other cultural configurations have become privileged laboratories for examining belonging, creativity, and resistance. The themes of precarity and risk discussed by Becker remain central in the sociology of music, particularly for understanding the vulnerability of cultural workers under neoliberalism. However, recent studies show that these scenes are not neutral, being traversed by inequalities of gender, race, class, and sexuality. In this critical extension, migrations and diasporas highlight the transnational dimension of art worlds and how they are reconfigured through cultural circulation, while also exposing exclusion, racism, and bordering. Contributions from the Global South emphasize how cultural conventions reproduce Eurocentric hierarchies, whereas insurgent artistic practices propose alternative epistemologies that contest dominant logics. This decolonial and intersectional approach reveals the full potential of the networks of creative work outlined by Becker, but also pushes his framework further. This midday session invites us to revisit Becker today, recognizing cooperation and instability while articulating his legacy with critical agendas that interrogate power, exclusion, and agency. Only then can artistic and musical worlds be imagined as more plural, just, and attentive to inequalities.

Speakers

David Inglis (University of Helsinki, Finland)

David Inglis is Professor of Sociology at the University of Helsinki. Before that, he was Professor of Sociology at the University of Exeter and the University of Aberdeen. He holds degrees in sociology from the Universities of Cambridge and York. He writes in the areas of cultural sociology, the sociology of globalization, historical sociology, the sociology of food and drink, and social theory, both modern and classical. He has written and edited various books in these areas, most recently *An Invitation to Social Theory* (2nd edition), *The Sage Handbook of Cultural Sociology*, *The Routledge International Handbook of Veils and Veiling Practices*, and *The Globalization of Wine* (with Anna-Mari Almila). He is founding editor of the Sage/BSA journal *Cultural Sociology*. His current research concerns the sociological analysis of wine, considered historically and globally. david.inglis@helsinki.fi

Paula Guerra (University of Porto, Portugal)

Paula Guerra is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Porto and Researcher at the Institute of Sociology of the same University. Paula is Adjunct Associate Professor of the Griffith Centre for Social and Cultural Research in Australia. She is founder/coordinator of the Network All the Arts: Luso-Afro-Brazilian Network of the Sociology of Culture and the Arts. Paula is the founder/coordinator of the KISMIF (kismifconference.com and kismifcommunity.com). Paula is co-

coordinator of the Research Network of Sociology of Art of ESA. She is a member of the editorial council of several national and international journals, as well as editor and reviewer of several articles and books on a national and international level. Paula is editor-in-chief (with Andy Bennett) of SAGE journal DIY, Alternative Cultures and Society and the Bloomsbury Academic Series Critical Studies in Do-it Yourself Cultures by Bloomsbury Publishing Inc. mariadeguerra@gmail.com + pguerra@letras.up.pt.

MD4 - Health and Medical Sociology in Europe: An interpretive map of the extent of institutionalisation and professionalisation

26 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | E2 A3 | SGGW

Organised by RN16 Sociology of Health and Medicine in collaboration with the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS)

Coordinator: Guido Giarelli (University 'Magna Græcia' of Catanzaro, Italy)

The presentation explores the development of Health and Medical Sociology (HMS) in Europe over the past few decades, aiming to fill the lack of an updated, systematic, and Europe-wide overview of HMS as organised collective activity, questioning the existence of a fully unified European discipline.

Drawing on a cross-sectional survey conducted between May and August 2023 across Europe by a research group of 14 coordinators and members of the two disciplinary associations of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS) and the RN16 on Sociology of Health and Medicine of the European Sociological Association (ESA) with the support of national reference persons, the results explore by a comparative macro-regional approach the degree of institutionalisation and levels of professionalisation of the sub-discipline to identify and characterize both HMS formal associations and informal groups in Europe. Moving beyond a simple descriptive account, it provides an interpretive mapping of the organisational landscape of HMS across Europe, showing that the results indicate that the current status of European HMS is characterised by varying degrees of institutionalisation and professionalisation across the 8 European macro-regions: producing a mosaic of configurations ranging from highly consolidated settings to contexts where the sub-discipline remains weakly organised or largely invisible, with limited impact and recognition due to its relatively low professional status compared to other more established disciplines.

Rather than merely signalling fragmentation, however, this plurality of HMS across European contexts may also represent a source of intellectual diversity and adaptability and may foster innovation and enable HMS to respond flexibly to evolving health challenges.

Speakers

Guido Giarelli (University ‘Magna Græcia’ of Catanzaro, Italy)

GUIDO GIARELLI, Department of Health Sciences, University ‘Magna Græcia’ of Catanzaro, Italy, is full professor of General Sociology at the University ‘Magna Græcia’ of Catanzaro (Italy). He was a member of the board (2004-2006) and then elected president (2006-2010) of the European Society for Health and Medical Sociology (ESHMS); member of the Board (2010-2014) and then elected vice-president (2014-2018) of the Research Committee 15 (Sociology of Health) of the International Sociological Association (ISA); member of the Board (2019-2021) and then elected coordinator (2022-2024) of the board of the Research Network 16 – Sociology of Health and Medicine of the European Sociological Association (ESA).

Among his last publications, Giarelli G., M. Saks, *National Health Services of Western Europe. Challenges, Reforms and Future Perspectives*, Routledge, London and New York, 2024.

Hillary Collins (University of Glasgow, UK)

HILLARY COLLINS, PhD in Social and Public Health Sciences at the University of Glasgow in 2022. Her work and interests span over the fields of medical sociology, parenting culture studies, social history, and health services research. Hillary was a committee member of the British Sociological Association’s Medical Sociology Group between 2018 and 2025, co-convening the group from 2023 to 2025.

Jaroslava Hasmanová Marhánková (Charles University, Czech Republic)

JAROSLAVA HASMANOVÁ MARHÁNKOVÁ is a senior researcher at the Institute of Sociological Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University (Czech Republic). Her research focuses on the sociology of health, medicine, and ageing, with particular expertise in dementia, vaccine hesitancy, and antibiotic resistance.

Valeria Quaglia (University of Bologna, Italy)

VALERIA QUAGLIA is a medical sociologist and tenure-track researcher in general sociology at the University of Bologna, Department of Education Studies. She teaches Sociology of Education and Sociology of Welfare and Social Policies. Her research focuses on chronic illness, illness narratives, aging, digital health, health professions, and gender perspectives on health. She authored *Wounded Masculinities* (Palgrave, 2023) and published in journals such as *Sociology of Health and Illness*, *BMC Public Health*, and *International Migration*.

Beatriz Xavier (Nova University Lisbon, Portugal)

BEATRIZ XAVIER, PhD in Sociology of Education, Culture and Knowledge at the Faculty of Social and Human Sciences (Nova University Lisbon), is professor at the

Nursing School of Coimbra (Scientific Area – Public Health Family and Community Nursing). Works in the areas of Social Sciences with an emphasis on Sociology and Anthropology of Health and Medicine. Has research interests in language, communication, and values, as well as the environment and collective causes. Researcher at the Health Sciences Research Unit: Nursing (UICISA: E/ESEnfC) and Centre for Functional Ecology - Science for People & the Planet (CFE-UC).

MD5 - Strengthening Democracies: The Legacy of Jürgen Habermas

26 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | E2 A4 | SGW

Organised by RN29 Social Theory

Coordination: Kornelia Hahn (University of Salzburg, Austria)

Jürgen Habermas passed away in March of this year, aged 96, following a highly successful career spanning seven decades. Following the publication of his seminal work, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, in 1962, he became one of the most distinguished and influential thinkers in academia and politics worldwide. His work and public contributions dominated theoretical debates for many years, inspiring generations of scholars.

This session celebrates Jürgen Habermas's long-standing scholarly influence by reflecting on strengthening democracies — a topic pivotal to Habermas and the subject of the 2026 ESA conference.

The commemorative session aims to bring the sociological community together to, obviously, communicate. In line with Habermas's strong belief in open debate from a variety of perspectives, we invite the audience to consider how his theory can provide insight into crucial issues. Moving beyond the traditional presentation format, this session will feature three diverse contributions to stimulate a lively debate.

The first, by Arthur Bueno, analyses *Habermas and the Demos: Diagnosing the New Public Sphere*. The second contribution, by Frank Welz, asks whether *Habermas should primarily be understood as a thinker of the democratic welfare state*, given that his Kantian-inflected foundational categories remain tied to the historical conditions of Keynesian economic management and welfare-state integration. The third contribution, *Habermasian utopia or the last hope for mankind?* by Krešimir Žažar, discusses deliberation and communicative reasoning in times of polarisation, populist authoritarianism, and technocratic leadership.

Speakers

Arthur Oliveira Bueno (University of Passau, Germany)

Arthur Oliveira Bueno is an Assistant Professor at the University of Passau and an Associate Researcher at the Centre Marc Bloch in Berlin and the Brazilian Centre for Analysis and Planning (Cebap). He is the author and editor of *The Return of the Authoritarian Character? Neoliberalism's Aftermath* (with S. Gurisch, forthcoming with Bloomsbury), *Critical Theory and New Materialisms* (with H. Rosa and C. Henning), and *De-Centring Global Sociology: The Peripheral Turn in Social Theory and Research* (with M. Teixeira and D. Strecker).

Frank Welz (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Frank Welz (University of Innsbruck) has published work on Habermas, including *Law in the Theory of Communicative Action*, and Critical Theory has inspired his work throughout. He coordinated ESA's RN29 on social theory, served as chair of the Social Theory Centre at the University of Innsbruck, and was ESA president from 2015 to 2017.

Krešimir Žažar (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

Krešimir Žažar (University of Zagreb) is an Associate Professor and a member of the Presidency of the Croatian Sociological Association and the Executive Committee of the European Sociological Association (ESA). He is also Vice-President of the Balkan Sociological Forum and a member of the steering committee of the International Social Theory Consortium. From 2026, he will become an external associate of the Centre for Social Theory at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. His research focuses on the epistemology of the social sciences and social/sociological theories.

MD6 - Iván Szelényi and Contemporary Society

26 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | F1 A1 | SGW

Organised by Hungarian Sociological Association

Chair: Beata Nagy (Corvinus University of Budapest / Hungarian Sociological Association)

Iván Szelényi passed away on the third of August this year. He was one of the last doyens of classical sociology and left a lasting legacy in numerous fields. His problems, questions, and findings continue to shape global sociology to this day. In the areas of the intelligentsia, the new class, socialist market society, variants of capitalism, welfare as a social problem, and migration, it is difficult to make relevant statements without reference to him. In this program, we will discuss these topics and interpret Szelényi's incredibly rich legacy.

Speakers

Attila Melegh (Corvinus University of Budapest)

Attila Melegh is a sociologist, economist and historian. Attila Melegh studied economics and sociology at Karl Marx University of Economics and social history at Oxford University. He has a PhD in history from Debrecen University. He received DSc from the Hungarian Academy. He is a habilitated full professor at Corvinus University, Budapest, and a scientific adviser at the Demographic Research Institute. Editor of *Eszmélet* and *Demográfia* English Edition journal. He was the founding director of Karl Polányi Research Center at Corvinus University between 2014-22. He has been a Vienna Karl Polanyi Visiting Professor at Vienna University of Economics, University of Vienna and Central European University. He is the president of the Demographic Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He is a member of the European Academy. He is the winner of the Hungarian Academy prize in 2025. He is the author of the book 'On the East/West Slope, Globalization, Nationalism, Racism and Discourses on Central and Eastern Europe. His new, 2023 book at Palgrave-Macmillan is: *The Migration Turn and Eastern Europe: A Global Historical Sociological Analysis*.

Olga Kutsenko (Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine / Technische Universität Berlin)

Olga Kutsenko is a Professor and Doctor of Sciences (Sociology), currently serving as Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and as a Humboldt Research Fellow under the Philipp Schwartz Initiative at the Technical University of Berlin (Germany). She is also Vice-President of the Sociological Association of Ukraine. Her research centers on societal transformation, political culture, social inequality, class analysis, and democratic resilience. She has led numerous international research projects supported by institutions such as the World Bank, NATO, OSI/HESP, and INTAS, and is the author of over 200 academic publications. She is guest co-editor of the special issue *Resilience, Resistance, Responsibility: Exploring Ukrainian Society Before and During the War* (*Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research*, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2025).

WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 26TH
AFTERNOON

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN03_RN35_T02	Memory, Recognition and Resistance in Diasporic Lives	B0 04 SGGW
JS_RN12_RN24_T02	Session I: Enacted and Contested Futures of the Ocean: Sea Societies, Marine Technologies, and Maritime Spaces	F3 01 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN23_T02	Queering Healthcare: Inclusion, Exclusion and Resistance in LGBTQ+ Health	B1 06 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN33_T02	Obstetric Violence, Childbirth Norms and Vulnerability in Maternity Care	D2 09 SGGW
JS_RN20_RN21_RN29_T02	Ties That Bind: Migration, Belonging, and the Social Bond	B0 05 SGGW
JS_RN23_RN25_T02	Not so easy bedfellows? Varieties of alliances and convergences within anti-gender mobilizations	D3 01 SGGW
RN01_T02_01	Civic engagement of older people in communities and societies 2	B1 04 SGGW
RN01_T02_02	Transformations in eldercare policies, caregiving and care work 1	B2 02 SGGW
RN01_T02_03	Social justice and ageism at work, in policies and in policymaking 2	B0 02 SGGW
RN02_T02_01	Art Markets & Consumption	B1 07 SGGW
RN04_T02_01	Children, Learning and Knowing II	B2 03 SGGW
RN05_T02_01	Cultural consumption 2	F2 03 SGGW
RN05_T02_02	Food: Democracy	F2 05 SGGW
RN05_T02_03	Housing 2	F0 02 SGGW
RN06_T02_01	Materiality, capitalism, resources	B1 03 SGGW
RN07_T02_01	On Cultural Politics	C0 A2 SGGW
RN07_T02_02	On Literature	C0 A1 SGGW
RN09_T02_01	Digital Monetary Infrastructures and Financial Inclusion	B0 03 SGGW
RN09_T02_02	Housing, Mortgages, and Affordability	B1 02 SGGW
RN09_T02_03	Geoeconomics, Inflation, and Market Security	B1 08 SGGW
RN10_T02_01	Sociology of Education 1a	D1 A2 SGGW
RN10_T02_02	Sociology of Education 2a	D1 A3 SGGW

RN10_T02_03	Sociology of Education 3a	D0 A1 SGGW
RN10_T02_04	Sociology of Education 4	D2 08 SGGW
RN11_T02_01	Emotions, Legitimacy and the State	E1 06 SGGW
RN11_T02_02	Theoretical Considerations of Affects, Feelings and Emotions	E1 04 SGGW
RN11_T02_03	Displacement, Refuge and Transnational Care	E1 03 SGGW
RN12_T02_01	Climate Policy, Inequality; Migration	F1 A2 SGGW
RN12_T02_02	Climate Risk, Class and Vulnerability	F1 A1 SGGW
RN12_T02_03	Environmental Attitudes	F1 A3 SGGW
RN12_T02_04	Communication and Policy Design	F3 A4 SGGW
RN13_T02_01	Families and Crisis	E0 01 SGGW
RN13_T02_02	Reproductive Trajectories I	E1 02 SGGW
RN13_T02_03	Parent–Child Relationships in LGBTQ+ Families	E2 01 SGGW
RN14_T02_01	Gender, Feminism and Academia	B0 06 SGGW
RN16_T02_01	Social Inequalities and the Determinants of Health and Well-Being	D2 06 SGGW
RN16_T02_02	Assistive technologies and disability: benefits, challenges and democracy effects	D2 04 SGGW
RN16_T02_03	Stigma, Health, and the Politics of Recognition I	D2 03 SGGW
RN17_T02_01	Digital I	D0 01 SGGW
RN17_T02_02	Contestation & Employment Quality	D0 02 SGGW
RN18_T02_01	Digital dependencies	D3 04 SGGW
RN18_T02_02	Media practices and AI	D3 02 SGGW
RN19_T02_01	Health Professions, Care, and Institutional Change	E1 05 SGGW
RN20_T02_01	Relations in qualitativ research	D2 01 SGGW
RN21_T02_01	From Estimation to Interpretation: Modeling and Visualization	D3 03 SGGW
RN22_T02_01	War, Conflict and Geopolitical Uncertainty	D2 02 SGGW
RN23_T02_01	Consensual Non-Monogamy and Couple-Defiant Intimacies	D1 02 SGGW
RN23_T02_02	Queer (In)Visibility and Belonging	D1 03 SGGW

RN24_T02_01	AI, Democracy and Political Communication	F1 02 SGGW
RN24_T02_02	Health, Care and Biomedical Futures	F1 01 SGGW
RN25_T02_01	Social movements and collective alliances #1	D1 01 SGGW
RN26_T02_01	Conceptual and Methodological Developments in Social Policy	G0 01 SGGW
RN27_T02_01	Education, Youth and Social Mobility	F0 01 SGGW
RN28_T02_01	Sport and Social Transformation	F-1 02 SGGW
RN29_T02_01	Reflections on Theorising	G3 01 SGGW
RN30_T02_01	Young Generations, Polycrisis and Solidarity	F2 01 SGGW
RN30_T02_02	Young People and Transitions	F2 02 SGGW
RN31_T02_01	Antisemitism and the (New) Far Right	F2 04 SGGW
RN31_T02_02	Quantifying Discrimination and Integration	F-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T02_01	The sociology of war from Eastern Europe to East Asia	G3 A3 SGGW
RN32_T02_02	Mechanisms of democratic regression (2)	G3 A4 SGGW
RN33_T02_01	Women & Politics	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN33_T02_02	Gender Identities	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN33_T02_03	Technology, Media & Arts	B2 01 SGGW
RN34_T02_01	Ecospiritualities, new ecologies, and urban environments	G1 01 SGGW
RN34_T02_02	Transformations of Catholicism	G2 01 SGGW
RN35_T02_01	Higher Education and Student Migration 1	E-1 02 SGGW
RN35_T02_02	Attitudes towards Migrants and Migration	E2 A3 SGGW
RN35_T02_03	Higher Education and Student Migration 2	E2 A4 SGGW
RN35_T02_04	Ukrainian Migrants 2. (Un)Belonging in Time of War	E1 01 SGGW
RN36_T02_01	Memories and Heritage in Transformations	G2 02 SGGW
RN37_T02_01	Housing Precarity, Tenant Mobilisation and Legal Ambiguity	G3 03 SGGW
RN37_T02_02	Roma Communities, Homelessness and Labour Migrants in Housing Exclusion	G3 04 SGGW

RN37_T02_03	Urban Poverty, Deprivation, Stigma and Territorial Inequality	G3 06 SGGW
RN38_T02_01	New Images and Functions of the Rural	F3 03 SGGW
RN38_T02_02	Conflicts, Tensions and Alternatives in Agriculture	F1 03 SGGW
RS01_T02	Animals and Society 02	B2 04 SGGW
RS03_T02	Interactions in Institutions	B1 05 SGGW
RS05_T02	Social Trauma in Times of Polycrisis: Social Trauma and Resilience from Wars and Conflicts II	D2 07 SGGW
RS06_T02	Intimate lives, reproductive choices and planetary crises	E2 03 SGGW
RS07_T02	Children's Digital Lifeworlds: Navigating the Conflicts Between Agency and Protection	E0 02 SGGW
RS08_T02	Men and masculinities through the generations	B0 01 SGGW
RS09_T02	Reproductive gifts: egg donation and surrogacy	G3 02 SGGW
RS10_T02	People processing in organizations	D2 10 SGGW
RS12_T02	Temporalities of precariousness	C0 01 SGGW
RS13_T02	Migrants, refugees and humanitarian protections in a digitalized world	B1 01 SGGW
RS15_T02	Politics of formats and engagements	C0 02 SGGW
RS16_T02	Governance and Transformation in Times of Multiple Crises – Local Scale (II)	G2 04 SGGW
RS17_T02	Knowledge Production under Conditions of War, Terrorism, and Institutional Control	F3 02 SGGW
RS18_T02	Institutional Ethnography: Ontological and Methodological Considerations	F3 04 SGGW
RS19_T02	'Pet' Keeping & Food Politics	D2 05 SGGW
RS20_T02	Politicization of environmental issues: symbols, narratives, conflicts	E-1 03 SGGW

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN03_RN35_T03	Mobility, Employment and Biographical Trajectories	B0 04 SGGW
JS_RN07_RN29_T03	Experienced Liminality	E1 03 SGGW
JS_RN12_RN24_T03	Session II: Enacted and Contested Futures of the Ocean: Sea Societies, Marine Technologies, and Maritime Spaces	F3 01 SGGW
JS_RN20_RN21_RN29_T03	Generative Frictions: When Theoretical Frameworks Remake Method	B0 05 SGGW
RN01_T03_01	Civic engagement of older people in communities and societies 3	B1 04 SGGW
RN01_T03_02	Social equality, inclusion and recognition of diversity and marginalised identities	B2 02 SGGW
RN01_T03_03	Social justice and ageism at work, in policies and in policymaking 3	B0 02 SGGW
RN02_T03_01	Comunities, identities & belonging	B1 07 SGGW
RN02_T03_02	Urban Space(s)	B1 05 SGGW
RN03_T03_01	Application of traditional biographical methods and methodological innovations	B1 06 SGGW
RN04_T03_01	Children In and Of Their Worlds	B2 03 SGGW
RN05_T03_01	Technologies in households	F2 03 SGGW
RN05_T03_02	Food: Futures	F2 05 SGGW
RN05_T03_03	Sustainable lifestyles	F0 02 SGGW
RN06_T03_01	Critical global political economy: the handbook in the making	B1 03 SGGW
RN07_T03_01	On the Digital	C0 A2 SGGW
RN07_T03_02	On Music	C0 A1 SGGW
RN09_T03_01	Platform Capitalism at the Margins	B0 03 SGGW
RN09_T03_02	AI, Consulting, and Digital Institutional Transformation	B1 02 SGGW
RN10_T03_01	Sociology of Education 1b	D1 A2 SGGW
RN10_T03_02	Sociology of Education 2b	D1 A3 SGGW
RN10_T03_03	Sociology of Education 3b	D0 A1 SGGW

RN10_T03_04	Sociology of Education 4b	D2 08 SGGW
RN11_T03_01	Collective Emotions, Belonging and Acts of Solidarity	E1 06 SGGW
RN11_T03_02	Political Emotions, Fear and Social Order	E1 04 SGGW
RN12_T03_01	Media, Narratives, Climate Politics	F1 A2 SGGW
RN12_T03_02	Culture, Sustainability, Polarisation	F1 A1 SGGW
RN12_T03_03	Political ecology, participation , code sign	F1 A3 SGGW
RN12_T03_04	Environmental Democracy	F3 A4 SGGW
RN13_T03_01	Fertility Intentions and Meaning of Children	E0 01 SGGW
RN13_T03_02	Partnering	E1 02 SGGW
RN13_T03_03	Ideas about Family and Gender Roles	E2 01 SGGW
RN14_T03_01	Safety, violence and workplace environment	B0 06 SGGW
RN15_T03_01	International migration and translocal lives	E0 02 SGGW
RN16_T03_01	Health Self-Management in the Digital Age: Between Empowerment, Uncertainty and Inequity	D2 06 SGGW
RN16_T03_02	Sociology of Healthcare Professions	D2 04 SGGW
RN16_T03_03	Stigma, Health, and the Politics of Recognition II	D2 03 SGGW
RN17_T03_01	Negotiation & Politics	D0 01 SGGW
RN17_T03_02	Digital & Power	D0 02 SGGW
RN18_T03_01	Gender and the media 2	D3 04 SGGW
RN18_T03_02	Non-Western media	D3 02 SGGW
RN19_T03_01	Beyond Deprofessionalisation? Reconfiguring Jurisdiction And Expertise Under Green And Digital Transitions: The Case Of Oenologists And Oenotechnicians Miriana Bucalossi Region of Tuscany, Italy Professionalization, Recognition, and Identity Redefini	E1 05 SGGW
RN20_T03_01	Complexities in qualitative research	D2 01 UW
RN21_T03_01	Surveys Under Pressure: Modes, Costs, and Respondents	D3 03 SGGW
RN22_T03_01	Uncertain Futures and Mobility	D2 09 SGGW
RN22_T03_02	Health Risks, Pandemic Governance and Public Trust	D2 02 SGGW

RN23_T03_01	Gender, Sex, Intimacy - Perceptions and Subjectivities	D1 02 SGGW
RN23_T03_02	(Counter-)hegemonic Genders, Sexualities and Eroticism	D1 03 SGGW
RN24_T03_01	AI, Democracy and Digital Futures	F1 02 SGGW
RN25_T03_01	Social movements and collective alliances #2	D1 01 SGGW
RN25_T03_02	Environmental and climate movements #1	D3 01 SGGW
RN26_T03_01	New Developments in Social Policy	G0 01 SGGW
RN26_T03_02	Welfare Attitudes	G0 02 SGGW
RN27_T03_01	Social Change, Citizenship and Contemporary Challenges	F0 01 SGGW
RN28_T03_01	Sport, Community and Social Inclusion	F-1 02 SGGW
RN29_T03_01	Theorising Crises	G3 01 SGGW
RN30_T03_01	Young People, Meanings of Work and Path to Independence	F2 01 SGGW
RN30_T03_02	Youth, Neoliberalism and Political-Economic Discourses	F2 02 SGGW
RN31_T03_01	Israel-Related Antisemitism after October 7	F2 04 SGGW
RN31_T03_02	Ethnic Identity, Boundaries and Belonging	F-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T03_01	Multiple perspectives on politics, immigration, and migrants	G3 A4 SGGW
RN32_T03_02	Culture, polarisation, and public space	G-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T03_03	Political spaces and party systems	G3 02 SGGW
RN32_T03_04	The politics of knowledge and information	G3 A3 SGGW
RN33_T03_01	Gender Based Violence I	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN33_T03_02	Gender Based Violence II	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN33_T03_03	Gender: Backlash & Politics	B2 01 SGGW
RN34_T03_01	Religion, minorities and migrant communities	G1 01 SGGW
RN34_T03_02	Religion vis a vis secularities	G2 01 SGGW
RN35_T03_01	Ukrainian Migrants 3. Shifting Political Imaginaries	E-1 02 SGGW
RN35_T03_02	Labour Market 1. Trajectories, Discrimination, and Professional Incorporation	E2 A3 SGGW

RN35_T03_03	Labour Market 2. Migration Regimes, Labour Mobility, and the Political Economy of Migration	E2 A4 SGGW
RN35_T03_04	Ukrainian Migrants 4. Activism and Agency	E1 01 SGGW
RN36_T03_01	Democracy and Political Transformations	G2 02 SGGW
RN37_T03_01	Segregation and Socio-spatial Differentiation	G3 03 SGGW
RN37_T03_02	Migration, Belonging and Residential Strategies	G3 04 SGGW
RN37_T03_03	Place Identity, Home and Neighbourhood Belonging	G3 06 SGGW
RN38_T03_01	Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Rural Resilience	F3 03 SGGW
RN38_T03_02	Migrants and Social Mobility in Rural Areas	F1 03 SGGW
RS01_T03	Animals and Society 03	B2 04 SGGW
RS05_T03	Social Trauma in Times of Polycrisis: Social and Cultural Trauma from Displacement, Transformation, and Transnational Repression	D2 07 SGGW
RS06_T03	Reproductive desires, concerns and preferences in the era of climate change	E2 03 SGGW
RS08_T03	Radicalisation and digital masculinities	B0 01 SGGW
RS10_T03	Organizing academia	D2 10 SGGW
RS12_T03	Practicing alternatives in precarious conditions: frictions and failures	C0 01 SGGW
RS15_T03	Democratic practices of the public sphere	C0 02 SGGW
RS16_T03	Governance and Transformation in Times of Multiple Crises – Approaching the Future (III)	G2 04 SGGW
RS17_T03	Communicative constructivism and the Refiguration of Knowledge	F3 02 SGGW
RS18_T03	Institutional Ethnography of Education	F3 04 SGGW
RS19_T03	Multispecies Care & Kinship	D2 05 SGGW
RS20_T03	Climate and Populism	E-1 03 SGGW

THURSDAY
AUGUST 27TH
MORNING

**SP5 - Beyond Access: Open Science, Publishing Power, and Knowledge
Governance — Implications for Sociology**

27 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | C1 A1

Organised by: Kaja Gadowska (ESA President 2024-26), Loukia-Maria Fratsea (Vice-President 2024-26, Chair of the Conference Committee), Teresa Sorde (Vice-President 2024-26, Chair of Publications Committee)
Chair: Teresa Sorde (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

Open access to scientific knowledge has become one of the defining issues shaping contemporary scholarly communication. Increasingly understood as both a public good and a condition for socially relevant research, open science has moved to the centre of debates about the future of academic knowledge, research governance, and the public role of universities, raising particularly important questions for sociology as a discipline committed both to scientific inquiry and to public engagement. Building on these debates, this semi-plenary session moves beyond questions of access alone to critically examine the broader political, institutional, and epistemic implications of contemporary transformations in the production, governance, and communication of knowledge. In recent years, open science has increasingly been institutionalised through funders' mandates, national policies, and university strategies. At the same time, the global publishing ecosystem remains marked by significant inequalities in resources, visibility, editorial power, and authorship opportunities. The transition of ESA journals to Diamond Open Access under MIT Press provides a valuable opportunity to reflect on evolving models of scholarly publishing and their broader implications.

This semi-plenary session examines how contemporary reforms of scholarly communication reshape the production, circulation, and evaluation of knowledge. It asks whether open access can foster greater epistemic equality and academic autonomy, and how scholarly societies, journals, editorial collectives, and science policy actors contribute to shaping research agendas, intellectual hierarchies, and knowledge infrastructures. The discussion will also situate open science within the wider European research policy landscape, considering how sociology and the wider social sciences and humanities can strengthen their visibility and influence in research funding and policy-making processes. Particular attention will be paid to the implications of rapidly developing artificial intelligence technologies for research and publishing, including questions of authorship, expertise, transparency, and academic responsibility. By bringing together expertise from scholarly publishing, editorial practice, open science advocacy, research

governance, and science policy, the session invites critical reflection on how sociology can help shape more open, equitable, and sustainable conditions for research and publishing, and thereby strengthen its intellectual autonomy and its contribution to public understanding.

Speakers

Nick Lindsay (Director for Journals and Institutional Partnerships, The MIT Press)

Trust, Attribution, and Accountability in AI-Mediated Publishing

As large language models increasingly mediate how research is produced, discovered, summarized, and interpreted, the core functions of publishing—authorship, attribution, verification, and trust—are being fundamentally challenged. This talk will situate AI within a broader crisis in the knowledge ecosystem: declining reading, rising censorship, weakened research integrity, paper mills, fraudulent publications, hallucinated citations, and the commercial consolidation of scholarly infrastructure. The talk also explores the shift from human-centered discovery to AI-mediated and agentic research workflows, in which researchers increasingly encounter scholarly content through AI tools rather than publisher platforms or traditional search.

Biography



Nick Lindsay is Director of Journals and Institutional Partnerships at the MIT Press, where for nearly 20 years he has led MITP's journals program and supported several scholarly publishing partnerships. He works across strategy, operations, editorial collaboration, acquisitions, and financial sustainability to support high-quality books and journals. He oversees the strategic and day-to-day operations of a group that produces over 40 journals across the arts, humanities and STM fields and he is also responsible for the strategic development of the Press' burgeoning open access book and journal programs. With Shift+OPEN, he created the initiative that brought the journals of the European Sociological Association to the MIT Press and helped develop new open publishing models and infrastructure for more sustainable, mission-driven scholarly communication. Prior to MIT Press, Nick was in the journals division of the University of California Press.

Birgit Schmidt (University of Göttingen)

Open as default. Will it survive the AI age?

Open access as a key pillar of open science has become a mainstream expectation and modus operandi for the communication of knowledge. The desire to make research equitable and open, and to recognize all contributions, is situated in a variety of contexts, policies and reform movements. Libraries facilitate open science as stewards of trustworthy scientific information and data, and provide essential infrastructure and support. Knowledge and sharing practices vary across disciplines and evolve over time, with different drivers and challenges.

Over the last few years, equitable scholarly publishing models, supported by shared infrastructures and open licensing, without fees for readers or authors have gained attention – and regional support structures are under development across Europe. However, research community-owned communication and publication infrastructures and commercial publishers and databases complement each other but also compete for submissions and resources. Moreover, the sustainability and long-term availability of open publishing infrastructures and content remain fragile and can come under pressure when research policy priorities shift.

Advances in AI technologies present new opportunities for the discovery and use of information and data. However, high-quality datasets in libraries and open repositories are faced with aggressive harvesters and have adapted their access rules for humans and machines. Researchers increasingly apply AI in research and publication processes but are also confronted with errors and misconduct such as the misattribution of AI-generated references and works.

Overall, trust in research and researchers depend more than ever on research integrity and responsible openness, and the collaborative curation and preservation of the scholarly record.

Biography



Dr Birgit Schmidt leads the Knowledge Commons group at Göttingen State and University Library, and coordinates international and national Open Science activities and projects. Her work focuses on policies, infrastructures and training in support of the implementation of Open Science. She engages in several international committees and working groups (e. g. OpenAIRE Executive Board, The Guild Open Science Working Group, LIBER Data Science in Libraries Working Group). In the context of the ENLIGHT university alliance,

she leads an expert group on Open Science, and engages in teaching data and information literacy skills.

At the University of Göttingen, she co-initiated the Open Science Göttingen Meet-ups and is a member of committees on e-research, research integrity and data science.

Since 2025, she holds an Honorary Professorship in Library Science at the Applied University Potsdam. She holds a Mathematics and Philosophy degree from the University of Bielefeld, and studied Library and Information Science at Humboldt University Berlin.

Jonathan Deer (Board Member European Alliance Social Science and Humanities (EASSH))

Does greater visibility of SSH through Open Publication strengthen the case for investing in SSH Research

Open science and open publication is reshaping our appreciation of the possibilities for increasing the reach and influence of social science and humanities (SSH) research and scholarship. Who reads, uses, and cites SSH research is changing since more work of SSH scholars came out from behind the paywall. Increasing evidence is starting to show open access publications are downloaded more than the subscription equivalents and that OA outputs are disproportionately cited in government policy papers and parliamentary briefings.

While this ‘OA effect’ is also true across many scientific field this session will look at why this is particularly consequential for SSH and particularly in the science policy debate that shapes the EU funding programmes like Horizon Europe and its successor FP10. The increasing visibility and use of SSH research in policy making and the demonstrable reach of open SSH scholarship into policymaking and professional practice provides a concrete, evidence-based argument for investment in SSH scholarship in EU framework programmes. The session will look at this through the perspective of the European Alliance for Social Science and Humanities, Europe’s largest association advocating for sustained investment in SSH research across the EU.

Biography

Jon Deer is a board member of EASSH, Europe’s largest association advocating for a space for humanities and social science research in the EU and member state science programmes. Since its foundation he has been a contributor to the studies that underpin EASSH’s position papers on research policy. In particular he has expertise in using data and bibliometric approaches to understand the



implementation of EU science and innovation policy. His current interests relate to the discoverability of academic research and its influence on policy making. In 2016 he was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science, which is the UK's national academy for social sciences. Jon is also

Director of Research and Innovation at City St. Georges, University of London.

SP6 - Public Sociology in Europe and the Mediterranean

27 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | E0 A1 / E0 A2

Organised by RN27 Southern European Societies, RN24 Science and Technology,
RN36 Sociology of Transformations: East and West

Coordinators: Inês Vieira (Lusófona University, Portugal), Melissa Sessa (National
Research Council – CNR IRPI, Italy) and Matej Makarovič (Faculty of Information Studies,
Novo Mesto, Slovenia)

Chair: Olga Salido Cortés (Complutense University of Madrid, Spain)

Michael Burawoy's call for public sociology reignited debates on the civic and moral engagement of the discipline beyond the academy. Building on this legacy, Sari Hanafi's notion of dialogical sociology offers a crucial rethinking of how sociologists can speak *with*—and not only *for*—publics, especially in contested or fragile contexts. This semi-plenary explores how public sociology is shaped by Europe's regional diversities, with particular attention to Eastern and Southern Europe and the broader Mediterranean space. It invites a reflection on the epistemic foundations of public sociology in regions marked by political transformation, social fragmentation, and enduring inequalities.

As Kolasa-Nowak's work shows, Eastern European sociologists have long operated at the intersection of political projects and civic engagement—from legitimizing state-socialist regimes to supporting democratization. This legacy has generated both opportunities for public involvement and critical debates about the discipline's complicity in post-communist neoliberal reforms. At the same time, Southern Europe and the Mediterranean have developed distinctive modes of public engagement, often shaped by activism, intellectual mediation, and struggles for social justice under conditions of crisis and marginality.

Bringing these perspectives together, the session asks: How do regional histories shape contemporary forms of sociological engagement? What are the risks and responsibilities of speaking publicly in polarized or transitional societies? And how can sociology foster solidarity, resilience, and openness while remaining attentive to local specificities? By juxtaposing dialogical and locally embedded traditions of public sociology, the session offers a comparative and reflexive conversation on the discipline's role in strengthening democracies and sustaining public reason.

Speakers

Sari Hanafi (American University of Beirut, Lebanon)

Dialogical Sociology: Problematizing Commitment to Civil Society

In an era of deepening polarization, I examine how many sociologists often reproduce the very injustices they seek to challenge, taking entrenched positions while dismissing alternative perspectives. I introduce the concept of symbolic liberalism – a contradiction in which individuals espouse classical liberal principles, yet act in politically illiberal ways.

In response to that, I propose a Dialogical Sociology. Sociology will be dialogical when it disentangles its commitment to civil society at two levels: the level of mediation, or soft normativity, and the level of strong normativity. At the first level, sociology provides scientific research that is important for public reason debates and social movements. It entails the possibility of providing knowledge to governments or organizations whose actions we don't always agree with. This sociology believes that despite the incommensurability of some modes of reasoning and political, cultural and religious traditions, actors can engage with each other through a dialogue and reach sometimes overlapping consensus.

The second level is strong normativity, where sociology not only engages with civil society and the civil sphere but also takes a position in favor of marginalized groups against hegemonic power, and defends those values dear to sociology.

This talk will bring examples of when sociology analytically conflates the two levels or offers no distinction between providing scientific knowledge/critical thinking and position-taking or policy formulation – or worse, neglects the first level and becomes incapable of engaging with all strata of society.

Biography



Sari Hanafi is Professor of Sociology, Director of the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, and Chair of the Islamic Studies Program at the American University of Beirut. He served as President of the International Sociological Association (2018–2023)

and was editor of *Idafat: The Arab Journal of Sociology* (2007–2022). His research spans the sociology of religion, moral philosophy and the social sciences, forced migration—particularly Palestinian refugees—and the politics of scientific research. He has published widely in leading journals and co-edited *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of the Middle East*. His work has been recognized with the Abdelhamid Shouman Award (2014), the Kuwait Award for Social Science (2015), and an Honorary Doctorate from the National University of San Marcos (2019). In 2022, he was elected International Fellow of the British Academy. His recent book, *Against Symbolic Liberalism: A Plea for Dialogical Sociology* (Liverpool University Press), has been published in multiple languages, with further translations forthcoming.

Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak (Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Poland)

Public Sociology in a Local Context: Historical Frameworks and the Autonomy of Knowledge in Eastern Europe

This analysis draws upon the work of Michael Burawoy, whose contributions have revitalized contemporary debates on public sociology. My aim is to explore the specific characteristics of public sociology within the Eastern European context. Rather than addressing global universals or proposing solutions to disciplinary dilemmas, the focus is placed on understanding the evolving social functions of sociology in the region.

The historical background – specifically the close relationship between Eastern European sociology and state projects or dominant ideologies, spanning both the communist era and the post-communist transformation – serves as a case study to illustrate broader issues regarding how the discipline functions within its external environment. By examining how sociologists have identified with, distanced themselves from, or criticized these frameworks, I highlight the structural conditions that shape sociological work.

Furthermore, the presentation considers the increasingly precarious role of science in delivering high-quality, reliable knowledge to the public. In an era marked by a fragmented media landscape and the weakening of scientific authority, sociological interpretations are frequently subject to instrumental appropriation by various actors. In this context, defending the core cognitive function of sociology becomes a paramount challenge for the discipline's public mission.

Finally, I address the specific tension found in Eastern Europe – notably in Poland – between the institutional pressure to internationalize research and the enduring importance of national public debates. Sociologists must find ways to incorporate findings rooted in local contexts into global narratives, while simultaneously navigating the tradition of civic sociology, which remains a vital source of professional and social recognition.

Biography

Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak is Professor of Sociology and Head of the Department of Sociology of Social Change at the Institute of Sociology, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin. She specializes in historical sociology and the sociology of science, with a focus on how Eastern Europe's peripheral position shapes the circulation of ideas, innovation, and academic relationships within the global field. She serves as Chair of the Sociology of Science Section of the Polish Sociological Association and as Vice-Coordinator of ESA RN36, Sociology of Transformations: East and West. Her recent publications include *Historical Sociology in Poland: Transformations of the Uses of the Past* (with M. Bucholc, 2023), *Polish Sociology and the Post-Socialist Transformation* (2024), and *Polish Sociologists on the Transformation* (2025). Her forthcoming monograph *Czasoczułość. Socjologia historyczna w Polsce* (2026) examines the temporal sensibilities shaping historical sociology in Poland.



SP7 - Between Solidarity and Repression: Protesting for Palestine in Intense Times

27 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | B0 A1 / B0 A2

Organised by RN25 Social Movements and RN32 Political Sociology

Coordinators and Chairs: Elena Pavan (University of Trento), Louisa Parks (University of Trento)

This Semi-Plenary event addresses the complex nexus between continuous collective mobilizations and the urgency of reinstating principles, practices, and socio-political systems that are genuinely and intersectionally democratic. It does so by directing attention towards a new wave of global protest which started in October 2023 calling for a ceasefire in Gaza and subsequently evolved into a clear demand to halt the genocide of the Palestinian people. The collective protest in solidarity with the Palestinian people provides a clear signal of the enduring capacity to organize and sustain over time transversal projects and intersectional solidarities — something that had seemed almost impossible after the end of protests of the alter-global movement at the end of the last century. This mobilization is sustained by different generations of activists and the dynamic intertwining of protests in physical and digital spaces; it is fueled by incredibly diverse and creative repertoires of action, and embraced by other collective struggles against all forms of oppression. At the same time, collective solidarity with Palestine is faced with multiple lines of opposition, both online and offline. A variety of repertoires of repression is engaged against the protest, which combines the use of extreme police violence with a constant renegotiation of historical memory and the instruments of propaganda and public condemnation. In this process, legitimate forms of participation are reframed and delegitimated as “terrorist” and “extremist.” At the intersection of solidarity and repression, protests in support of the Palestinian cause and people reveal much about the “intense times” (della Porta 2025) we are living as well as about the decline of contemporary democracies and the imperative of reimagining them in radically different ways.

Speakers

Donatella Della Porta (Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy)

Intensification in action. Weaving eventful protests for a Free Palestine

Since 2023, all over the world millions have taken to the streets with demands going from ceasefire to the end of Israeli-imposed famine and from a free Palestine to the end of settler colonial occupation. The coalitions mobilized on those claims have been broad and heterogeneous, involving, in different countries, various constellations diaspora associations and religious communities, students and workers, feminists and environmentalists, pacifists and anti-racists, older and new generations on the Left, anti-imperialist and anti-colonial groups, large civil society organizations and squatted centers, lay and religious solidarity organizations. These mobilisations have been characterised by a multifarious repertoire of actions. Large numbers of activists have participated in marches; boycotting of Israeli entities have been campaigned for in academia, arts and sports as well as with reference to companies with high investment in Israel; hunger strikes have mobilized specific professions; knowledge has been built in university encampments and spread by artists and intellectuals. More recently, civil disobedience has emerged as a central form of protest which is able to directly achieve the aim through the blocking of ships carrying weapons to Israel and the Flottillas trying to force the Israeli blockades to bring food to Gaza. In these keynote, I will reflect on the emerging repertoires of contention, reflecting on how relational affective and cognitive mechanisms are activated during the protests themselves, as ties between very different groups are built, emotional shock fuels participation and shared narrative emerges bringing existing and new organizations in the streets but also mobilizing long-term activists together with new generations that are socialized to the protest for the first time. Building upon a comparative research addressing the Italian, French, Spanish and UK cases, I will reflect in particular on the process of time intensification by looking at how a global social movement for a Free Palestine has emerged, expanded, and transformed across different settings.

Biography

Donatella Della Porta is professor of political science, founding dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences and Director of the PhD program in Political Science and Sociology at the Scuola Normale Superiore in Florence, where she also leads the Center on Social Movement Studies (Cosmos). Among the main topics of her research: social movements, political violence, terrorism, corruption, the police and protest policing. She has directed a major ERC project Mobilizing for Democracy, on civil society participation in democratization processes in Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Latin America. In 2011, she was the recipient of the Mattei Dogan Prize for distinguished achievements in the field of political sociology; in



2021, she received the Research Awards of the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung in recognition of her lifetime's research activities. In 2022, she has been nominated International Honorary Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and, in 2023, member of the Accademia dei Lincei. In 2024, she has received the John D. McCarthy Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Scholarship of Social Movements and Collective Behavior. She is Honorary Doctor of the universities of Lausanne, Bucharest, Goteborg, Jyvaskyla, Cyprus and the University of

Peloponnese. She has edited, with Giada Bonu Rosenkranz, *Feminist Movements in Time and Space: A European Perspective*, Palgrave, 2024. Among her other recent books are: *The contentious politics of global health movements* (Cambridge University Press, 2025); *Guerra all'antisemitismo? Il panico morale come strumento di repressione politica* (Altreconomia, 2024); *Partecipare e comunicare durante una pandemia* (Il Mulino, 2024); *Contentious Politics in Emergency Critical Junctures* (Cambridge University Press, 2022); *Regressive movements in times of emergency* (Oxford University Press, 2023); *Labour conflicts in the digital age* (Bristol University Press 2022, with R. Chesta and L. Cini); *Resisting the Backlash: Street Protest in Italy* (Routledge, 2022); *Social Movements: An introduction*, 3rd edition (Blackwell, 2020); *Can Social Movements Save Democracy?* (Polity, 2020); *Contesting Higher Education* (Bristol University Press, 2020); *Discursive Turns and Critical Junctures*, Oxford University Press, 2020).

Graeme Hayes (Aston University, UK)

Palestine Action and the Dialectical Dynamics of Silencing

In the UK, recent public order legislation has responded to the current wave of direct action by redefining disruptive protest as social harm. This harm is simultaneously underdetermined, treated as ordinary criminality, and overdetermined, treated as a threat to democratic life and the public sphere. Overdetermination is particularly reserved for Palestine solidarity actions: liberatory speech is cast in hegemonic state-media discourse as hate speech; collective movement through urban space is cast as a specific targeting of Jewish religious observance; vigils for Article 10 and 11 rights are cast as 'un-British', and framed within anti-semitic acts of terrorism. Palestine Action has been proscribed; over 3000 arrests have been made for expressing support for a proscribed organisation; state authorities place arbitrary conditions on Palestine solidarity marches; actionists have been sentenced to long prison terms; others have been held in remand for extended periods. Here, I explore

the trials of Palestine Action activists as dialectical spaces of repression and resistance. The extension of state power has been accompanied by a steady constriction of the courtroom as a space for legal legitimation and justificatory speech, an act of silencing. Nonetheless, silencing is not a totalising process; it is rather a reordering of speech, always in search of closure, always seeking dispossession, but not (or not quite) achieving it. Drawing on a series of trial observations, I argue that the courtroom remains a critical arena of struggle, where resistant voices of and for Palestinian solidarity continue to articulate democratic challenge, even under conditions of dispossession.

Biography



Graeme Hayes is Reader in Political Sociology at Aston University in the UK. His teaching and research focus primarily on direct action protest and the criminal trials of activists for their participation in such protest. He is a former joint Editor of *Environmental Politics* and former Editor-in-Chief of *Social Movement Studies*. His most recent book is *Breaking Laws: Violence and Civil Disobedience in Protest* (Amsterdam UP, 2019, with Isabelle Sommier and Sylvie Ollitrault). With Steven Cammiss and Joanna Gilmore, he is currently completing *Defending Protest: The Criminal Trials of Social Movement Activists*, to be published by Bristol University Press in 2027.

SP8 - Democratic Erosion in Times of Polycrisis: Politics, Migration, and National Identity

27 Aug 2026 | 9:00 am - 10:30am | Auditorium SGGW

Organised by Local Organising Committee and Polish Sociological Association

Coordination: Mirosława Grabowska (University of Warsaw)

Chair: Izabela Bukalska (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw)

Recent years have been marked by a convergence of crises—including economic instability, political polarization, large-scale migration, climate change, and technological transformation. This condition of polycrisis has placed significant pressure on democratic governance, contributing to democratic erosion, institutional delegitimization, and the rise of populism.

At the same time, migration and cross-border mobility have become key arenas in which national identities, the boundaries of political communities, and democratic

values are negotiated and contested. These dynamics have moved questions of belonging to the forefront of political and public debate, often serving as drivers of political mobilization.

This session brings these dynamics together by focusing on the intersection of democratic change, migration, and national identity. We will offer both theoretical and empirical contributions that explore how these processes shape governance, political competition, and inclusionary or exclusionary practices. We focus on Poland as an important empirical case that offers insights into broader regional and global dynamics.

Speakers

Mikołaj Czeńnik (SWPS University in Warsaw)

Democracy, Symbolic Class and Political Conflict in Contemporary Poland

The presentation examines the relationship between democracy, class identities, and political conflict in contemporary Poland. It argues that current democratic tensions cannot be understood solely through institutions, party competition, or economic inequalities. Instead, they are deeply connected to symbolic forms of class identification, inherited social dispositions, and historically rooted social divisions. The argument draws on a symbolic-structural approach to class developed in recent research on Polish society. This perspective treats class not only as a structural position defined by occupation, income, or education, but also as a symbolic and intergenerational identity shaped by family memory, habitus, and cultural narratives. Particular attention is devoted to the concept of declared social origin — individuals' self-identified class ancestry — understood as a proxy for inherited dispositions and symbolic class belonging. The presentation also engages with debates on populism and democratic legitimacy in post-transformational societies. It argues that contemporary political conflict in Poland reflects tensions between liberal models of procedural democracy and demands for recognition, dignity, and symbolic inclusion articulated by different social groups. In this perspective, populism can be understood not only as an anti-democratic phenomenon, but also as a reaction to the social and symbolic exclusions produced during the post-1989 transformation. Using findings from the Polish National Election Study (POLNES), the presentation shows that symbolic class origins remain strongly associated with political preferences and democratic orientations.

Biography



political conflict in post-transformational societies.

Mikołaj Cześnik is Professor of Political Sociology at SWPS University in Warsaw and Director of the Institute of Social Sciences. His research focuses on democracy, elections, political behavior, inequalities, and social class in contemporary Poland and Central and Eastern Europe. He is the principal investigator of the Polish National Election Study (POLNES). His recent work develops a symbolic-structural approach to class, focusing on the class-voting nexus, inherited class identities, symbolic boundaries, and the social foundations of

Joanna Konieczna-Sałamatin (University of Warsaw)

Is National Identity Right-wing and European Identity Left-wing? Political Meanings of Collective Identities in Poland and Central Europe

This presentation examines the relationship between national and European identities and their political meanings in Poland, situated within the broader context of Central Europe. Focusing on Poland, but referring also to Czechia, Hungary, and Slovakia, it explores how attachments to the nation and to Europe intersect with ideological orientations.

The analysis is grounded in the assumption that the meanings of both “national identity” and “Europeanness” are historically and politically contested, and that the left–right divide in Central Europe does not reflect directly it’s Western European patterns. In post-communist societies, national identity may be associated simultaneously with conservative, liberal, democratic, or sovereigntist orientations, while European identity may evoke cosmopolitanism, liberal democracy, modernisation, or external dependence. The presentation therefore investigates whether “Polishness” and “Europeanness” function as politically polarised symbolic categories, and to what extent similar patterns can be observed across the Visegrád countries.

Drawing on data from the European Values Study and the European Social Survey, the study analyses the links between collective identities and value orientations, including attitudes towards cultural change, redistribution, democracy, and social order. By examining the political dimension of identity, the presentation contributes

to broader debates on ideological cleavages, symbolic boundaries, and the sociopolitical foundations of European integration in Central Europe.

Biography



Joanna Konieczna-Sałamatin is a sociologist and university professor at the Faculty of Sociology, University of Warsaw. Her research focuses on value changes and social change in Central and Eastern Europe, with a particular focus on Ukraine. She has been involved for many years in the international European Values Study project and, since 2021, serves as its national program director in Poland. She also collaborates with the Institute of Political Studies of the Polish

Academy of Sciences on projects examining the teaching of history in Poland and Ukraine – an area she sees as deeply connected to the broader study of values and the formation of national identity in East-Central Europe.

Grzegorz Demel (Institute of Political Studies Polish Academy of Science)

Ukrainian collectivities in Poland: relations and discourses

Poland is home to diverse Ukrainian collectivities. Its distinctive feature, also compared to other Central and Eastern European countries, is that the numerous migrants from Ukraine arriving, especially after 2014, encounter representatives of the autochthonous Ukrainian national minority of non-migrant origin. In turn, after February 24, 2024, Poland welcomed people migrating due to the war in Ukraine – a third Ukrainian collective actor, on whose behalf there was an unprecedented mobilization of Ukrainian collectivities and whose presence has significantly reshaped the quantitative and symbolic relations between the Ukrainian national minority, Ukrainian citizens who arrived before 2022, and Polish society. Furthermore, while earlier migration from Ukraine to Poland was largely circular, an increasing number of persons are choosing to stay in Poland permanently. In this context, new, previously unknown challenges have emerged, both in pragmatic and symbolic meaning. Relations between representatives of various Ukrainian collectivities in Poland are based on multiple axes of differentiation, on establishing internal borders, and community-building processes. They are also conditioned by mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion, as well as frameworks of migrantization and exclusivization of mobile individuals employed by the state apparatus and

present in public discourses. Representatives of these collectivities participate in diverse power relations and are subject to practices of racialization, classism, sexism, and others. They also have varying access to symbolic, political, and economic resources, stemming from differing entitlements and varying social positionalities.

Biography



Grzegorz Demel, Ph.D., cultural anthropologist (Jagiellonian University), sociologist (University of Warsaw), and Ukrainian studies specialist (Jagiellonian University), currently an assistant professor at the Institute of Political Studies, Polish Academy of Sciences. His research focuses on ethnicity, migration and diasporas, identity discourses in Poland and Ukraine, as well as the ethics and methodology of anthropological fieldwork. He has conducted research in Poland, Ukraine, and Canada. He

studies the relations of Ukrainian communities in Poland and transnational forms of mobilization of the Polish national minority in Ukraine in wartime.

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN02_RN07_T04	Art, AI, and Other Discontents	B0 04 SGGW
JS_RN03_RN35_T04	Biographical Research Methods on Migration	B0 01 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN24_I_T04	AI, Digital Health, and the Transformation of Medical Practice	G2 04 SGGW
RN01_T04_01	Digitalisation and older people 2	B1 04 SGGW
RN01_T04_02	Transformations in eldercare policies, caregiving and care work 2	B2 02 SGGW
RN01_T04_03	Representations and materiality of age and ageing 1: New sociology of ageing	B0 02 SGGW
RN02_T04_01	Participation, inclusion & diversity	B1 07 SGGW
RN02_T04_02	Digital Transformations in the Arts	B1 05 SGGW
RN03_T04_01	Creative and participatory practices	B1 06 SGGW
RN04_T04_01	Children Online and Engaged	B2 03 SGGW
RN05_T04_01	Digital consumption 1: Young people and AI	F2 05 SGGW
RN05_T04_02	Food: Security	F0 02 SGGW
RN05_T04_03	Sustainable consumption	F-1 02 SGGW
RN06_T04_01	Development, discipline, agency, and organic intellectuals in contemporary capitalism	B1 03 SGGW
RN07_T04_01	On Visualities	C0 A2 SGGW
RN07_T04_02	On Beauty	C0 A1 SGGW
RN09_T04_01	Digital Governance, Skills, and Worker Voice	B1 02 SGGW
RN09_T04_02	Class, Education, and Democratic Inequality	B1 08 SGGW
RN10_T04_01	Sociology of Education 1c	D1 A2 SGGW
RN10_T04_02	Sociology of Education 2c	D1 A3 SGGW
RN10_T04_03	Sociology of Education 3c	D0 A1 SGGW

RN10_T04_04	Sociology of Education 4c	D2 08 SGGW
RN11_T04_01	Difference and Emotional Othering	E1 06 SGGW
RN11_T04_02	Emotion, Reason and Law	E1 04 SGGW
RN12_T04_01	Wind energy	F1 A2 SGGW
RN12_T04_02	Food system, Sustainable Supply Chains	F1 A1 SGGW
RN12_T04_03	Forest, Wildlife	F1 A3 SGGW
RN12_T04_04	Nuclear energy	F3 A4 SGGW
RN12_T04_05	Land, Resistance, Environmental Justice	F3 01 SGGW
RN13_T04_01	Divorce and Unequal Power Dynamics in the Family	E0 01 SGGW
RN13_T04_02	Transnational Families I	E2 03 SGGW
RN13_T04_03	Fatherhood I	E2 01 SGGW
RN14_T04_01	Diversity, Inclusion and Intersectionality	B0 06 SGGW
RN15_T04_01	Social challenges, exogenous shocks, and conflicts: Global dynamics and impacts	E0 02 SGGW
RN16_T04_01	Sociology of Mental Health and Illness	D2 06 SGGW
RN16_T04_02	Doctors as Cultural Agents: Exploring How Doctors Shape Societal Understandings of Long-Term Care and Its Provision	D2 04 SGGW
RN16_T04_03	Moral Economies in Healthcare	D2 03 SGGW
RN17_T04_01	Precarious lifecourses	D0 01 SGGW
RN17_T04_02	Societal Transitions	D0 02 SGGW
RN18_T04_01	Future of journalism 1	D3 04 SGGW
RN18_T04_02	Disinformation, health and democracy	D3 02 SGGW
RN19_T04_01	Educational and Social Professions in Transformation	E1 05 SGGW
RN20_T04_01	Dilemmas of qualitative research	D2 01 SGGW
RN21_T04_01	Attitudes Under Scrutiny: Influence, Prejudice, and Measurement	D3 03 SGGW

RN21_T04_02	Mining Meaning: Computational Analysis of Digital Data	D1 03 SGGW
RN22_T04_01	Healthcare Practices and Risk Governance	D2 09 SGGW
RN22_T04_02	Floods, Climate Risks and Environmental Vulnerability	D2 02 SGGW
RN23_T04_01	Non-Normative Families in Anti-Gender Times	D1 02 SGGW
RN24_T04_01	Science, Technology and Society	F1 01 SGGW
RN25_T04_01	Social movements in liberal democracies	D1 01 SGGW
RN26_T04_01	Welfare Experiences	G0 01 SGGW
RN26_T04_02	Decentralisation in Social Policy	G0 02 SGGW
RN27_T04_01	Care, Vulnerability and Social Support in Times of Crisis	F0 03 SGGW
RN28_T04_01	Sport, Violence and Extremism	F3 04 SGGW
RN29_T04_01	Concepts of Crises	G3 01 SGGW
RN30_T04_01	Youth, Economic Insecurity and Class Perspectives	F2 01 SGGW
RN30_T04_02	Youth, Education and Aspirations	F2 02 SGGW
RN31_T04_01	The Left, Anti-Zionism and October 7	F2 04 SGGW
RN31_T04_02	Space, Housing and Social Cohesion	F-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T04_01	Architectures of trust	G3 A4 SGGW
RN32_T04_02	Building the 'Other' - perspectives on the construction of political subjects	G-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T04_03	Democratic innovation and local politics	G3 02 SGGW
RN32_T04_04	Shrinking spaces for civil society (1)	G3 A3 SGGW
RN33_T04_01	Education, Migration & Diasporas	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN33_T04_02	Maternity & Obstetric Violence	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN33_T04_03	Gender & the Academy	B2 01 SGGW

RN34_T04_01	Religions shaping attitudes and policies	G1 01 SGGW
RN34_T04_02	Religion and political and social engagements	G2 01 SGGW
RN35_T04_01	Migration Policy, Gender, and Agency	E-1 02 SGGW
RN35_T04_02	Immigrants descendants 1. Belonging, Identity and intergenerational Attachment	E2 A3 SGGW
RN35_T04_03	Language & Migration	E2 A4 SGGW
RN35_T04_04	Migration Discourses and Counter-Discourses	E1 01 SGGW
RN36_T04_01	Value Change, Religion, and Secularisation	G2 02 SGGW
RN37_T04_01	Neighbourhood Social Relations, Cohesion and Community Life	G3 03 SGGW
RN37_T04_02	Public Space: Controversy, Protest and Everyday Practices	G3 04 SGGW
RN37_T04_03	Participation, Regeneration and Urban Democracy	G3 06 SGGW
RN38_T04_01	Women's Movements and Rural Spaces	F3 03 SGGW
RN38_T04_02	Migrant Labour Regimes and Transitions	F1 03 SGGW
RS01_T04	Animals and Society 04	B2 04 SGGW
RS03_T04	Culture and Mediated Interaction	F2 03 SGGW
RS07_T04	Children and Youth in Transformation: Methodological and Contextual Challenges	E2 04 SGGW
RS08_T04	Men, environment and bodies trans(formations)	F1 02 SGGW
RS09_T04	Child and Mother's Gifts: breastmilk, cord-blood and paediatric organ donation	G2 03 SGGW
RS11_T04	Internal Migration, Residential Mobility and Housing	B1 01 SGGW
RS12_T04	Agency under constraint: organising practices in contexts of precariousness	D2 10 SGGW
RS14_T04	Maritime Sociology II	B0 05 SGGW
RS15_T04	Environmental valuations	C0 02 SGGW
RS17_T04	Epistemic Injustice, Recognition, and Political Power	F3 02 SGGW
RS19_T04	Vegan Animal Rights Activism	D2 05 SGGW

RS20_T04

**Conflicts and protests in climate politics:
sociological perspectives**

**E1 03 |
SGGW**

THURSDAY
AUGUST 27TH
MIDDAY

RN01	C0 A1 SGGW
RN02	B1 03 SGGW
RN03	B1 06 SGGW
RN04	B2 04 SGGW
RN05	F1 A2 SGGW
RN06	B2 02 SGGW
RN07	C0 A2 SGGW
RN09	B2 01 SGGW
RN10	F3 A4 SGGW
RN11	E-1 02 SGGW
RN12	F1 A1 SGGW
RN13	E2 A4 SGGW
RN14	B2 03 SGGW
RN15	E0 01 SGGW
RN16	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN17	D1 A2 SGGW
RN18	D0 A1 SGGW
RN19	E1 05 SGGW
RN20	F1 A2 / F1 A3 SGGW
RN21	E1 01 SGGW
RN22	E0 02 SGGW
RN23	E1 02 SGGW
RN24	F3 03 SGGW
RN25	D1 A3 SGGW
RN26	F3 04 SGGW
RN27	F1 02 SGGW
RN28	F2 05 SGGW
RN29	F1 A3 SGGW
RN30	F3 01 SGGW
RN31	F0 03 SGGW
RN32	G3 A4 SGGW
RN33	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN34	G3 01 SGGW
RN35	E2 A3 SGGW
RN36	G0 01 SGGW
RN37	G3 A3 SGGW
RN38	F1 03 SGGW
RN39	F0 01 SGGW
RN40	G0 02 SGGW
RN41	B0 05 SGGW
RN42	B0 01 SGGW

Beyond the Bin: A European Dialogue on Preventing Food Waste

27 Aug 2026 | 13:00-14:00 | E0 A1 / E0 A2 | SGGW

Session Chair: Aleksandra Hebda, Parlament Europejski

With Bartosz Zambrzycki (Team Leader, Food Waste Team, Directorate General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission), Joanna Trybus (Director of the Department of Agricultural Markets and Energy at the Polish Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development), Krystyna Gutkowska (Director of the Institute of Human Nutrition Sciences, Warsaw University of Life Sciences) and Anna Wolska (Director of the SOS Food Bank in Warsaw).

Organised by the European Parliament Office in Poland (EPLO) and University of Life Sciences in Warsaw (SGGW), the session creates a dialogue between policymakers and the scientific and educational communities working on food waste prevention. It will bring together the European Commission Bartosz Zambrzycki - team leader responsible for food waste prevention from Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, Ms Joanna Trybus - Director from the Polish Ministry of Agriculture responsible for the implementation of relevant legislation in Poland, and researcher Prof. Krystyna Gutkowska from a life sciences university involved in the Junior Food Education programme, who will share practical experience from working with young people. Followed by presentation from Food Bank director Anna Wolska.

The session will present the EU Waste Directive and its food waste prevention requirements in an accessible, practical way, helping participants understand what the legislation means beyond the legal text and how it translates into action at national and local level.

It will highlight the importance of translating scientific knowledge and policy objectives into practical solutions that can engage citizens, institutions, and future generations.

The session offers an opportunity for an open European dialogue on how legislation, science, education, and practice can work together to make food waste prevention a shared responsibility. Food is a strategic resource. Food waste concerns everyone because it affects our environment, economy, food security; while wasting valuable resources that are needed to produce the food we eat.

THURSDAY
AUGUST 27TH
AFTERNOON

JS_RN07_RN29_T05	Applied Liminality Approaches	B0 04 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN24_I_T05	AI, Digital Health, and the Transformation of Medical Practice	G2 04 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN33_T05	Informal, Digital and Community-Based Reproductive Care	G3 05 SGGW
JS_RN21_RN24_T05	Digitalizing societies I	D2 08 SGGW
JS_RN23_RN29_II_T05	Digital Intimacies	B0 02 SGGW
JS_RN35_RN10_T05	Joint Session	E2 04 SGGW
RN01_T05_01	Digitalisation and older people 3	B1 04 SGGW
RN01_T05_02	Socio-spatial approach to inequalities and discrimination	B2 02 SGGW
RN02_T05_01	Professional Value in the Arts	B1 07 SGGW
RN02_T05_02	Artistic Practices	B1 05 SGGW
RN03_T05_01	Ethics and digital challenges	B1 06 SGGW
RN04_T05_01	Children, Family and Futures	B2 03 SGGW
RN05_T05_01	Digital consumption 2: Inequalities	F2 05 SGGW
RN05_T05_02	Food waste	F0 02 SGGW
RN05_T05_03	Money, credit and gambling	F-1 02 SGGW
RN06_T05_01	Militarism and imperialism by and against humans and nature: what future?	B1 03 SGGW
RN07_T05_01	On Fashion	C0 A2 SGGW
RN07_T05_02	On Cultural Participation	C0 A1 SGGW
RN09_T05_01	Regional Development, Industrial Policy, and Productive Futures	B1 02 SGGW
RN09_T05_02	Sustainability Governance, CSR, and Social Impact	B1 08 SGGW
RN10_T05_01	Sociology of Education 1d	D1 A2 SGGW

RN10_T05_02	Sociology of Education 2d	D1 A3 SGGW
RN10_T05_03	Sociology of Education 3d	D0 A1 SGGW
RN11_T05_01	Emotions in the Green Transition and Environmental Resistance	E1 06 SGGW
RN11_T05_02	Emotions in Family, Friendship and Intimate Lives	E1 04 SGGW
RN11_T05_03	Solidarity in Times of Crisis	E1 03 SGGW
RN12_T05_01	Beekeeping and Environmental Knowledge	F1 A2 SGGW
RN12_T05_02	Nature Based Solutions	F1 A1 SGGW
RN12_T05_03	Energy and Society	F1 A3 SGGW
RN12_T05_04	Urban Mobility, Participation, Inequality	F3 A4 SGGW
RN12_T05_05	More-than-human relations	F3 01 SGGW
RN13_T05_01	Subjective Well-being and Disagreement	E0 01 SGGW
RN13_T05_02	Transnational Families II	E2 03 SGGW
RN13_T05_03	Fatherhood II	E2 01 SGGW
RN14_T05_01	Care work	B0 06 SGGW
RN15_T05_01	Discourses and practices of governance and influence	E0 02 SGGW
RN16_T05_01	Innovative and Creative Methods in the Sociology of Health and Medicine	D2 06 SGGW
RN16_T05_02	Rethinking Long-Term Care: Gender, Inequalities, and the Future of Care Systems	D2 04 SGGW
RN16_T05_03	Ageing, Health, and Emerging Technologies I	D2 03 SGGW
RN17_T05_01	Institutions & Employment	D0 01 SGGW
RN17_T05_02	Digital & Democracy	D0 02 SGGW
RN17_T05_03	Crises	D3 01 SGGW
RN18_T05_01	Media regulation and democracy	D3 04 SGGW
RN18_T05_02	Political economies of the media	D3 02 SGGW

RN19_T05_01	Professions, Trust, and Emerging Technologies	E1 05 SGGW
RN20_T05_01	Performative qualitative research	D2 01 SGGW
RN20_T05_02	Qualitative developments	D1 03 SGGW
RN21_T05_01	Network Models of Social Life	D3 03 SGGW
RN22_T05_01	Climate Governance, Energy and Environmental Decision-Making	D2 09 SGGW
RN22_T05_02	Crisis Governance, Resilience and Public Policy	D2 02 SGGW
RN23_T05_01	Queer Spaces	D1 02 SGGW
RN24_T05_01	Digital Society, Networks and Online Practices	F1 01 SGGW
RN25_T05_01	Organization and reconfiguration of protest fields	D1 01 SGGW
RN25_T05_02	Social movements, digital media and AI	D2 05 SGGW
RN26_T05_01	Children and Young People	G0 01 SGGW
RN26_T05_02	Migration and Social Policy	G0 02 SGGW
RN27_T05_01	Work, Family and Social Reproduction	F0 03 SGGW
RN28_T05_01	Football, Communities and Social Change	F3 04 SGGW
RN29_T05_01	Communication and Media	G3 01 SGGW
RN30_T05_01	Youth and Gender Dimensions	F2 01 SGGW
RN30_T05_02	Youth, Politics and Crises	F2 02 SGGW
RN30_T05_03	Structural Inequalities and Young People's Opportunities	F0 01 SGGW
RN31_T05_01	Conspiracy, Gender and Antisemitism	F2 04 SGGW
RN31_T05_02	Antiracism, Indigeneity and Intervention	F-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T05_01	New perspectives on voting behaviour	G3 A4 SGGW
RN32_T05_02	Citizen attitudes and state violence	G-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T05_03	Charisma, Morality, and Democratic Crisis: New Forms of Political Legitimation	G3 02 SGGW

RN32_T05_04	Shrinking spaces for civil society (2)	G3 A3 SGGW
RN33_T05_01	Women & the Environment	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN33_T05_02	Gender Based Violence III	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN33_T05_03	Gender Regimes, Institutions & Governance	B2 01 SGGW
RN34_T05_01	Religion and values	G1 01 SGGW
RN34_T05_02	Alternative, holistic and new spiritualities	G2 01 SGGW
RN35_T05_01	Immigrant Descendants: Intergenerational Attachment 2	E-1 02 SGGW
RN35_T05_02	Labour Market 3. Borders. Work, and Welfare	E2 A3 SGGW
RN35_T05_03	Migration & Digital Environments	E2 A4 SGGW
RN35_T05_04	Borders Governed and Contested	E1 01 SGGW
RN35_T05_05	Migrant Political Participation	E1 02 SGGW
RN36_T05_01	Science, Knowledge, and Resilience in Transformations	G2 02 SGGW
RN37_T05_01	Transition, Urban Environmental Change and Acceptability	G3 03 SGGW
RN37_T05_02	Climate Governance, Resilience and Environmental Transitions	G3 04 SGGW
RN37_T05_03	Welfare, Civic Relations and Urban Governance	G3 06 SGGW
RN38_T05_01	Reshaping Rural Peripheries	F3 03 SGGW
RN38_T05_02	Institutions and Rural Futures	F1 03 SGGW
RS01_T05	Animals and Society 05	B2 04 SGGW
RS03_T05	(Non)understanding in Interaction	F2 03 SGGW
RS08_T05	War, militarisation & consequences for men and masculinities	F1 02 SGGW
RS11_T05	Commuting, Mode Choice and Travel Satisfaction	B1 01 SGGW
RS12_T05_01	Investigating precariousness beyond the employment condition	D2 10 SGGW
RS12_T05_02	Precarious biographies	D2 07 SGGW

RS14_T05	Maritime Sociology III	B0 05 SGGW
RS15_T05_01	Agency in Arts	C0 02 SGGW
RS15_T05_02	Democracy, youth and generational values	C0 01 SGGW
RS17_T05	Scientific Knowledge Under Tension	F3 02 SGGW

Time Slot 6 - RN, JS and RS regular sessions

27 Aug 2026 | 16:30-18:00

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN03_RN16_T06	Collective and Participatory Approaches to Evolving and Embodied Lives	B0 04 SGGW
JS_RN16_RN33_T06	Gendered Medical Institutions, Spaces and Invisible Care Work	G3 05 SGGW
JS_RN21_RN24_T06	Digitalizing societies II	D2 08 SGGW
JS_RN22_RN12_T06	Environmental risk perception	B0 03 SGGW
JS_RN23_RN29_II_T06	Intimacy in AI-generated Relationships	B0 02 SGGW
RN01_T06_01	Changing family formations and generational contract 1	B1 04 SGGW
RN01_T06_02	Transformations in eldercare policies, caregiving and care work 3	B2 02 SGGW
RN02_T06_01	Artivism	B1 07 SGGW
RN03_T06_01	EUROBORDERWALK	B1 06 SGGW
RN04_T06_01	Children As Objects and Subjects: Policy and Practice	B2 03 SGGW
RN05_T06_01	Markets and consumer cultures	F-1 02 SGGW
RN05_T06_02	Food: Eating out	F2 05 SGGW
RN05_T06_03	Body and health	F0 02 SGGW
RN05_T06_04	Futures	F3 01 SGGW
RN06_T06_01	Labour, production, ideas, and ideology	B1 03 SGGW
RN07_T06_01	On Identities	C0 A2 SGGW
RN07_T06_02	On Rethinking: Methods and Analyses	C0 A1 SGGW
RN09_T06_01	Energy, Prosumerism, and Democratic Low-Carbon Transitions	B1 02 SGGW
RN09_T06_02	Green Regulation, Just Transition, and Decarbonization	B1 08 SGGW
RN10_T06_01	Sociology of Education 1e	D1 A2 SGGW
RN10_T06_02	Sociology of Education 2e	D1 A3 SGGW
RN10_T06_03	Sociology of Education 3e	D0 A1 SGGW
RN11_T06_01	Emotions, Populism and Grievance Politics	E1 06 SGGW

RN11_T06_02	Emotions in Practice: Research, Reflexivity and Everyday Life	E1 04 SGGW
RN11_T06_03	Climate Emotions: Anxiety, Hope and Responsibility	E1 03 SGGW
RN12_T06_01	Bridging the Gender Gap in Energy Research	F1 A2 SGGW
RN12_T06_02	Everyday practices and climate awareness	F1 A1 SGGW
RN12_T06_03	Movie:Herring Stories of the Scottish Minch: Exploring the Future of Marine Environmental Health Through Film Co-creation and Storytelling	F1 A3 SGGW
RN13_T06_01	Doing Family in Digital Times	E0 01 SGGW
RN13_T06_02	Care	E2 03 SGGW
RN13_T06_03	Gender Inequalities	E2 01 SGGW
RN14_T06_01	Gender segregation	B0 06 SGGW
RN15_T06_01	Values and institutions under conditions of global change	E0 02 SGGW
RN16_T06_01	Promoting equity in access to health care in Europe: Involving socially disadvantaged communities in designing and implementing health interventions	D2 06 SGGW
RN16_T06_02	Varieties of Citizenship in Healthcare	D2 04 SGGW
RN16_T06_03	Ageing, Health, and Emerging Technologies II	D2 03 SGGW
RN17_T06_01	Working conditions & Transitions	D0 01 SGGW
RN17_T06_02	Work & Employment	D0 02 SGGW
RN17_T06_03	Digit & Social Conditions	D3 01 SGGW
RN18_T06_01	Future of journalism 2	D3 04 SGGW
RN18_T06_02	Media framing	D3 02 SGGW
RN19_T06_01	Professional Work across Borders and Contexts	E1 05 SGGW
RN20_T06_01	Qualitative analysis II	D2 01 SGGW
RN20_T06_02	Reflexivity in qualitative research	D1 03 SGGW
RN21_T06_01	Who Counts? Coverage, Participation, and Retention	D3 03 SGGW
RN22_T06_01	Narrating and Framing Risk	D2 09 SGGW
RN22_T06_02	Knowledge, Expertise and Anticipation	D2 02 SGGW

RN23_T06_01	Sexuality and Aging	D1 02 SGGW
RN23_T06_02	Love, Sex and Intimacy	D2 07 SGGW
RN24_T06_01	Governance, Standards and Public Policy	F1 02 SGGW
RN24_T06_02	Organizations, Innovation and Research Systems	F1 01 SGGW
RN25_T06_01	Environmental and climate movements #2	D1 01 SGGW
RN25_T06_02	Social movement as processes	D2 05 SGGW
RN26_T06_01	Social Services I	G0 01 SGGW
RN26_T06_02	Social Services II	G0 02 SGGW
RN28_T06_01	Sport, Body Politics and Health	F3 04 SGGW
RN29_T06_01	Crises in Politics	G3 01 SGGW
RN30_T06_01	Young People, Political Participation and Social Media	F2 01 SGGW
RN30_T06_02	Young People, Wellbeing and Coping Strategies	F2 02 SGGW
RN30_T06_03	Generations and Intergenerational Relationships	F0 01 SGGW
RN31_T06_01	Cold War and (Post)Colonial Legacies of Antisemitism	F2 04 SGGW
RN31_T06_02	Antisemitism and Racism: Online, Extremism and Everyday Life	F-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T06_01	Weaponizing Demography: Radical Right Populism and the Politics of Existential Threat	G3 A4 SGGW
RN32_T06_02	Politics and discourses of gender	G-1 01 SGGW
RN32_T06_03	The politics and negotiation of identity	G3 02 SGGW
RN32_T06_04	Critical perspectives on law, rights, justice, and democracy	G3 A3 SGGW
RN33_T06_01	Work, Care & Everyday Life	B1 A3 / B2 A3 SGGW
RN33_T06_02	Gendered lives, Precarity & Social Inequalities	B1 A4 / B2 A4 SGGW
RN34_T06_01	Rituals and religious practices	G1 01 SGGW
RN34_T06_02	Religion and inequalities	G2 01 SGGW
RN35_T06_01	Labour Market 4. Work, Rights and Crises	E-1 02 SGGW
RN35_T06_02	Migrant Political Participation 2	E2 A3 SGGW
RN35_T06_03	Socio-Legal Perspectives to Migration	E2 A4 SGGW

RN35_T06_04	Gender, Race and Resistance	E1 01 SGGW
RN35_T06_05	Migrantization & Post-Migration	E1 02 SGGW
RN36_T06_01	Social Inequality, Solidarity, and Identity	G2 02 SGGW
RN37_T06_01	Territorial Governance in Fragmented Metropolis: from Security to Inequality Challenges	G3 03 SGGW
RN37_T06_02	Post-socialist Cities, Populism and Urban Conflict	G3 04 SGGW
RN37_T06_03	Democracy, Political Segregation and Urban Social Structures	G3 06 SGGW
RN38_T06_01	Rural-Urban Relations and Transformations	F3 03 SGGW
RN38_T06_02	Governability of Rural Areas	F1 03 SGGW
RS01_T06	Animals and Society 06	B2 04 SGGW
RS09_T06	The Body as an Identity Project: Between Solidarity and Self-Determination	G2 03 SGGW
RS10_T06	Beyond the organization	B1 05 SGGW
RS11_T06	Everyday Experience of Mobility and Immobility	B1 01 SGGW
RS12_T06	Platform work, algorithmic management, and precarious labour	D2 10 SGGW
RS14_T06	Maritime Sociology VI	B0 05 SGGW
RS15_T06_01	Politics of legality	C0 02 SGGW
RS15_T06_02	Processes of inclusion and exclusion	C0 01 SGGW
RS17_T06_01	Public and Political Knowledge: Calculation, Mediation, and Verification	F3 02 SGGW
RS17_T06_02	Universities: Knowledge Infrastructures and Academic Freedom	F2 03 SGGW

Social Dinner

27 Aug 2026 | 20:00 | Palace of Culture

Cap off the conference with our unforgettable dinner! This is the perfect opportunity to relax, enjoy good food and celebrate with fellow attendees, speakers, and the organizing committee. The evening will feature networking opportunities, and a taste of Warsaw's renowned culinary delights. The conference Dinner will be at Palace of Culture. Don't forget to bring your name badge!



FRIDAY
AUGUST 28TH
MORNING

**SP9 - Sociology at War: Understanding Violence, Survival, and Social Change
in a New Era of Conflict**

28 Aug 2026 | 9:00 - 10:30 | D1 A1

Organisation: Kaja Gadowska (President 2024-2026)

Chair: Kaja Gadowska, Jagiellonian University, Poland

Contemporary wars – most visibly the Russia’s military aggression against Ukraine, Israel’s assault on the Palestinian territories and the escalating conflicts across the Middle East – demand renewed sociological engagement with the structural forces, collective identities, and organizational dynamics that sustain large-scale violence. Building on the sociology of war this session examines how modern warfare is simultaneously shaped by state power, ideological mobilization, digital propaganda, transnational networks, and civilian resistance. The current conflicts expose not only escalating militarization but also widening social inequalities, mass displacement, and the reshaping of everyday life under conditions of chronic insecurity.

Furthermore, wars increasingly intersect with climate change, producing overlapping crises of resource scarcity, environmental degradation, and forced mobility. These entanglements challenge established sociological theories of nationalism, legitimacy, and social order, calling for new analytical frameworks capable of addressing hybrid violence, resilient communities, and the global circulation of trauma.

This semi-plenary brings together leading scholars to explore how sociology can contribute to understanding war’s evolving forms and to shaping policy interventions that foster peace, justice, and democratic accountability. It highlights the essential role of sociological organizations in supporting critical inquiry and promoting international cooperation in times of intensifying conflict.

Speakers

Horng-luen Wang and Chih-Jou Jay Chen (Academia Sinica, Taiwan)

War as a Structure-Transforming Event: An Event-Frame Approach

In the wake of the renewed impact of war on global affairs in recent years—including Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, the Israel– Hamas war, and the United States’ military strikes against Iran, to name just a few—scholarly interest in war has grown across

the social sciences, sociology in particular. Synthesizing theoretical insights from the works of William Sewell Jr., Michael Mann, and Siniša Malešević, among others, this paper proposes a comprehensive theoretical model for analyzing both the causes and consequences of war by conceptualizing it as a structure-transforming event that leaves enduring imprints on societies, both internally and externally. The model is then applied to the analysis of a series of wars in modern East Asia since the late nineteenth century. The paper argues that, although these wars ostensibly ended long ago, their legacies continue to haunt nationalist politics in contemporary East Asia and, in turn, may contribute to the conditions that make future warfare possible.

Biography

Horng-luen Wang is a research fellow/professor and the deputy director at the Institute of Sociology, Academia Sinica, Taiwan. His research interests include historical sociology, cultural sociology and social theory. He edited *War and Society: Theory, History and Subjective Experience* (in Chinese) and coedited (with Paul Jobin and Olga Kutsenko) *War Frames: Insights from Eastern Europe and East*

Asia. His recent research examines war and modernity in East Asia, particularly in Taiwan, China, Japan and Korea.



Chih-Jou Jay Chen is the director and professor at the Institute of Sociology at Academia Sinica in Taiwan. He also holds joint appointments as a professor at National Tsing-Hua University and National Taiwan University. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association. His research focuses on popular protests and changing state-society relations in China, and China's growing impacts on Taiwanese society.

Olga Kutsenko (National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Ukraine)

Epistemic Inversion from the Borderlands: Rethinking Democratic Resilience under War

This presentation challenges the entrenched sociological framing of Eastern Europe as a peripheral recipient of democratic norms by examining the rearticulation of democracy under conditions of total war. Drawing upon recent research on the social architecture of democratic support and wartime societal transformations in Ukraine, I argue that existential threat does not merely erode democratic structures

but exposes a generative tension between institutional fragility and socially embedded resilience.

Empirically, the Ukrainian case reveals a distinctive configuration: while satisfaction with democratic performance remains conditional, normative commitment to democracy persists and intensifies. This phenomenon highlights a ‘simultaneous embeddedness’, where democratic life is sustained through dense infrastructures of civic mobilization, distributed governance, and transnational networks that bypass traditional institutional bottlenecks.

Building on these findings, I introduce the concept of epistemic inversion to capture a shift in which a society historically categorized as ‘in transition’ emerges as a source of normative authority. In this inversion, ‘Europeanness’ is redefined as performative democratic capacity - the ability to maintain pluralism and civic agency under extreme constraint - rather than mere institutional approximation. By analyzing these mechanisms of dual agency, this presentation explores how the Ukrainian experience destabilizes center-periphery hierarchies and demands a decentered sociological understanding of social order and legitimacy in a new era of global conflict.

Biography



Olga Kutsenko is a Professor and Doctor of Sciences (Sociology), currently serving as Principal Research Fellow at the Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, and as a Humboldt Research Fellow under the Philipp Schwartz Initiative at the Technical University of Berlin (Germany). She is also Vice-President of the Sociological Association of Ukraine. Her research centers on societal transformation, political culture, social inequality, class analysis, and democratic resilience. She has led numerous international research projects supported by institutions such as the World Bank, NATO, OSI/HESP, and INTAS, and is the

author of over 200 academic publications. She is guest co-editor of the special issue *Resilience, Resistance, Responsibility: Exploring Ukrainian Society Before and During the War* (Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research, Vol. 38, No. 1, 2025).

Nazanin Shahrokni (Simon Fraser University, Canada)

The Social Life of War: Violence, Memory, and Everyday Life in Iran

How do sociologists study war in societies where violence is neither exceptional nor confined to the battlefield? Drawing on the Iranian case, this presentation examines the social life of war and the ways military conflict becomes entangled with other forms of violence, insecurity, and social transformation.

Iran's contemporary experience has been shaped by multiple and overlapping histories of conflict: the Iran-Iraq War (1980–1988), decades of economic sanctions and geopolitical pressure, recurrent episodes of state violence, and, most recently, the Israeli attacks of June 2025 and the coordinated U.S.-Israeli strikes of early 2026. Rather than approaching these developments as discrete events, the presentation explores how they are experienced, interpreted, and connected in everyday life and sociological inquiry.

What happens when war is situated within broader histories of state violence, economic hardship, political repression, and collective memory? How do these layered experiences shape social relations, public discourse, and perceptions of the present? By reflecting on recent developments in Iran, the presentation considers how wartime conditions reshape not only everyday life but also sociological inquiry itself. How have recent conflicts altered the questions sociologists ask, the forms of violence they foreground, and the ways they understand the relationship between war, sanctions, state violence, and social change?

Biography



Nazanin Shahrokni is a sociologist and Associate Professor in the School for International Studies at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver, Canada. Working primarily on Iran and the Middle East, her research examines how gender, power, and political authority are negotiated in contexts shaped by authoritarian rule, geopolitical contestation, and competing projects of governance and belonging. Her work explores these dynamics across bodies, spaces, institutions, and transnational political formations.

She is the author of the award-winning book *Women in Place: The Politics of Gender Segregation in Iran* (University of California Press, 2020), and has co-edited several scholarly volumes and special issues, including *The SAGE Handbook of Gender Theory*; the *Gender & Development* special double issue “Gender and Public Space”; the *Jadaliyya* dossier “Reflections on the June 2025 War: On Crisis and the Search for Political Grammar in Iran”; and the *Global Dialogue* dossier “Rethinking Iranian Sociology.” Her scholarship has appeared in peer-reviewed journals such as *Globalizations*, *Current Sociology*, *Humanity*, and the *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography*, among others. Her 2024 article, “Depleted Households: Domesticating Economic Sanctions,” received Honorable Mention for the Arlene Kaplan Daniels Paper Award from the Society for the Study of Social Problems. She currently serves on the Executive Committee of the International Sociological Association, where she chairs the Statutes Committee.

Abeer Musleh (Bethlehem University)

De/silencing the Palestinian Academy: Scholocide, Coloniality, and the Fight for Academic Freedom through teaching social Sciences.

Since the onset of the war on Gaza, the repression of Palestinian voices and institutions has intensified dramatically. Scholars advocating for Palestinian rights face systemic targeting, censorship, and punitive measures—a phenomenon increasingly recognized as the “Palestine Exception” to academic freedom. This silencing manifests through “scholocide,” the arrest of academics, and the legalization of punitive actions, creating a “politics of silence” that forces faculty to navigate severely constrained environments. The targeting of Palestinian academia is a long-standing practice by the colonial power, and it escalated during the genocidal war on Gaza. This contribution examines the mechanisms through which colonial policies attempt to silence the Palestinian academy, analyzing the “coloniality of academic freedom” and structural erasure. Furthermore, it explores how the Palestinian Academia creates spaces of *sumud* and fosters livability, and spaces for academic freedom.

Biography



The Chairperson of the department of social sciences at Bethlehem University, VP for RC34 for MENA region in ISA. A researcher in youth engagement and development. Her research interest is focused on youth engagement and community development within the Arab countries, with a special focus on youth

collective agency, alternative models of action, and mobilization for change with special focus on young women and youth in colonized contexts. Her research focus on young women mobilization and action, and youth agriculture cooperatives as an alternatives space for building agency and activism. Her latest publication focused on the concept of Lamlamah with young people which explain how the youth individually and collective create spaces to strengthen and survive the Genocide.

Rima Majed (American University of Beirut)

Sociology in a Time of Genocide: War, Empire, and the Responsibilities of the Discipline

The wars in Palestine and Lebanon constitute more than another episode of regional violence. They represent a critical conjuncture in the reorganization of the global order and a profound challenge to sociology's analytical frameworks, normative commitments, and public responsibilities. This talk argues that contemporary warfare must be understood not simply as military confrontation but as a systematic assault on society itself: on the infrastructures of social reproduction, the conditions of collective life, and the possibility of social futures. Drawing on reflections from Lebanon during Israel's wars on Gaza and Lebanon, it situates these wars within broader transformations of empire, settler colonialism, racialized capitalism, and shifting global hegemonies. Rather than treating Palestine and Lebanon as exceptional cases, the talk argues that they offer a vantage point from which to theorize the rise of fascism and the changing nature of war in the twenty-first century. The talk advances three interconnected arguments. First, it conceptualizes contemporary war as a project of societal destruction that extends beyond territorial conquest to encompass the dismantling of the material, ecological, and institutional conditions that sustain life. Second, it examines the multiple forms of resistance that emerge under such conditions, from everyday practices of care and social reproduction to intellectual labor and knowledge production. Finally, it turns the analytical lens toward sociology itself, arguing that the uneven responses of academic institutions and scholarly communities to the genocide in Gaza reveal enduring colonial hierarchies within global knowledge production. The talk concludes by arguing that this historical conjuncture demands not only new theories of war and empire but also a reconsideration of sociology's responsibilities as a discipline in times of genocide.

Biography



Rima Majed is an Associate Professor of Sociology in the Department of Sociology, Anthropology and Media Studies at the American University of Beirut (AUB). Her research examines social movements, revolutions and uprisings, sectarianism, conflict, and political violence, with a particular focus on the Middle East. She is especially interested in the intersections of neoliberalism, identity politics, and contentious politics. Dr. Majed was a Visiting Fellow at Princeton University (2018–2019) and a Research Fellow at Harvard University (2022–2023). Her scholarship has been published in leading academic journals and edited volumes, including the *American Political Science Review*, *Social Forces*, *British Journal of Sociology*, the *Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of the Middle East*, the *Middle East Law and Governance Journal*, *Global Dialogue*, *Idafat: The Arab Journal of Sociology* and the *Routledge Handbook on the Politics of the Middle East*. Her work has also appeared in national and international public-facing outlets such as *OpenDemocracy*, *Middle East Eye*, *CNN*, *Al Jazeera English*, *Jacobin*, and others. She is the co-editor of *The Lebanon Uprising of 2019: Voices from the Revolution* (I.B. Tauris, 2022) and the Principal Investigator of the "Critical Approaches to Development Studies in the Middle East and North Africa" project at the American University of Beirut. Dr. Majed is currently completing a manuscript under contract with Stanford University Press.

SP10 - Sociological research in times of Artificial Intelligence

28 Aug 2026 | 9:00 - 10:30 | BALL ROOM

Organised by RN21 Quantitative methods and RN24 Science and Technology

Coordination: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen (LUT University, Finland), Stefania Capogna (Link University, Italy), Yves Jeanrenaud (University of Applied Sciences Osnabrück, Germany),

Melissa Sessa (National Research Center, Italy), Aaro Tupasela (University of Helsinki, Finland), Jussara Rowland (INESC-ID, Portugal)

Chair: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen (LUT University, Finland)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is changing our societies, and sociological research with it. AI denotes the capability of machines to carry out tasks of a human-made quality. While sociology has explored AI for decades, its interest in this topic has exponentially increased over the last years. The reason is the public release of generative AI technologies, which can create new text and images. This capability restructures labour markets, our private lives, education, policymaking, and

consumption. It also shapes social imaginaries, influencing how we envision knowledge, creativity, and human-machine interaction. It also suggests the modification of empirical methods for sociologists. Moreover, it raises serious concerns about data security, ethics, stereotyping, and social exclusion. While companies push for a quick and extensive introduction of this technology, some policymakers try to ensure a responsible use of it. During this period of far-reaching social change, sociologists highlight concerns and opportunities. This session presents sociological reflections on the increasing use of Artificial Intelligence in society.

Speakers

Ryder Gillespie (Université de Montréal, Canada)

Can Artificial Intelligence Renew The Sociological Perspective ?

In a world in crisis, sociology appears to be the most relevant discipline for responding to the challenges that arise. However, the knowledge it produces still struggles to influence political decisions. I propose that the reason for this situation lies in the social logics that have shaped sociology since its emergence into modernity. These logics have limited the ability of its members to produce explanatory knowledge, but future developments could help resolve this situation. Among these developments, T. Kuhn and, more specifically, F. J. Dyson, through the notion of ‘tool-driven revolution,’ supported the idea that technologies could contribute to scientific progress. I aim to bring about a possible renewal of sociological theory and, more broadly, of our way of viewing social phenomena, by using artificial intelligence to simulate the social logics that run through sociology. Based on a case study of the scientific stance defended by P. Bourdieu, I will defend the hypothesis that, with these tools, it is possible to grasp the scope and limitations of a social position. The founding proposals put forward by E. Durkheim, M. Weber and G. H. Mead, as well as more contemporary proposals by P. Bourdieu and B. Lahire are used to defend the idea that, as a tool, artificial intelligence is capable of producing the effects of distancing and reflexivity that are necessary for sociology to claim its legitimacy as a science and, more generally, to meet the expectations of public decision-making in modern societies.

Biography



Born in Scotland and raised in France, Ryder Gillespie first developed an interest in volcanology and media criticism, before pursuing a career in special effects production; he then returned to academia and obtained his PhD in sociology from the University of Montreal in 2025. Concerned by the ongoing debates regarding the discipline's status, his doctoral research seeks to address the epistemological challenges facing sociology whilst attempting to overcome the inherent contradiction in applying a

sociology of sociology to address this issue. His areas of interest therefore fall within the broader field of the sociology of science and knowledge, seeking, more specifically, to address the question of sociology as a science. Currently a lecturer at the University of Montreal in the interdisciplinary psychology-sociology programme, he hopes to soon begin a postdoctoral research at the Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM) to develop a scientific theory of knowledge based on a study of theoretical production in sociology. To this end, he intends to utilise language models (LLMs) to test their potential as tools for sociologists.

Paula Urze (New University of Lisbon, Portugal) and Emilia Araújo (University of Minho, Portugal)

Saving Time for What? An Exploratory Look about Generative Artificial Intelligence and Sociological Knowledge Production

This paper examines how AI is mobilized in sociological research training and academic supervision in Portugal. It approaches AI as a sociotechnical tool that actively intervenes in the production of sociological knowledge. The analysis focuses on four critical moments of the research process: the definition of research objectives; the analysis of qualitative and quantitative information; the written presentation of interpretations; and the formulation of conclusions and research outcomes. The study draws on a qualitative analysis of assessment assignments produced by undergraduate and graduate Sociology students enrolled in courses taught by the authors. These materials are examined to identify how students mobilize concepts, methods, and disciplinary references, and how AI-assisted practices shape analytical categories, argumentative structures, and interpretative depth. Moreover, it incorporates the results of a survey of supervisors of research projects, master's theses, and doctoral dissertations in Sociology programs in

Portugal. It explores supervisors' assessments of AI use, perceived benefits and risks, and its effects on students' analytical autonomy and epistemic responsibility. Special attention is given to the typology and nature of the conclusions presented in students' work and to the challenges they might represent to supervisors and teachers. The analysis determines whether conclusions are descriptive, generic, or analytically grounded, and how AI-assisted writing may contribute to the production of apparently coherent but weakly situated results. The paper also explores how these conclusions shape the vision of social reality conveyed by the research, as well as the implied scope, relevance, and potential impact of the social science knowledge produced.

Speakers

Biographies



Paula Urze is an Associate Professor at NOVA School of Science and Technology and an integrated researcher at CIUHCT - Interuniversity Centre for the History of Science and Technology. Her research focuses on knowledge, science, technology, innovation, and work. She coordinates and participates in several national and international research projects and has authored and co-authored numerous scientific publications in these fields. Her recent work has addressed the social implications of artificial intelligence and the projectification of work. She also coordinates the PhD Programme in History, Philosophy and Heritage of Science and Technology.



Emília Araújo is an Associate Professor at the University of Minho and a researcher at the Communication and Society Research Centre. Her work is situated within the fields of the sociology of time, culture, and technology, areas in which she has developed significant academic research throughout her career. She is the author of several scientific publications in these domains and has accumulated extensive experience in the management of Sociology degree programmes, with particular involvement in doctoral education. In recent years, she has been actively engaged in research projects addressing the social

uses and perceptions of time, as well as the cultural and social implications of artificial intelligence.

SP11 - Queer(y)in the State. Sexuality, Gender and Social Movement Politics

28 Aug 2026 | 9:00- 10:30 | COLUMN HALL

Organised by RN23 Sexuality

Coordinators and Chairs: Christian Klesse (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK) and Tanja Vuckovic Juros (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

The success of nationalist and right-wing political parties across the world, including Europe, has reinforced the precarity of women's and LGBTQA+ rights (Kuhar and Paternotte 2018). Heteroactivist movements have led an assault on the allegedly manipulative usage of 'gender-ideology' by liberal establishments and the morality-eroding effects of sexual diversity (Nash and Brown 2020). Anti-gender politics and heterosexual family values are closely entangled with right-wing political agendas, but they are not limited to those. Yet the targeted attack on women's or LGBTQI+ rights in countries where such parties have come to determine or influence government politics demonstrate the urgent need for novel theorization of the *significance of the state* in (re)producing heteronormative policies and reasserting gender binaries and biologicistic sex classifications. Queer-feminist and transgender theorists have critically reworked neo-Marxist, feminist, and poststructuralist state theories to account for the *uneven and contradictory investment* of states into certain gender and sexual imaginaries (Cooper 1995, Castro Varela et al. 2016, Ludwig 2011, Currah 2022). Likewise, postcolonial or decolonial scholars have shown that the gender and sexual political agendas assumed by states need to be understood against the backdrop of a *transnational field of political and economic power* (Stoler 1995, Puri 2016, Graff and Korulczuk 2021). Much of the work has gone largely unnoticed within the main currents of the discipline. In this semi-plenary we wish to give voice to *distinctive positions* within the recent theorization of gender/sexuality/state nexus to foster debate on the wider conference themes of social action, solidarity, and sustainable futures.

Speakers

Elżbieta Korolczuk (University of Warsaw, Poland and Södertörn University, Sweden)

Governing Gender, Producing Ignorance: Anti-Gender Politics and Epistemic Power

Feminist and queer state theory have demonstrated that states are not impartial frameworks that merely administer rights or enforce laws; rather, they actively produce, regulate, and normalize gender and sexuality. These processes encompass interventions within the legal framework, welfare policies, educational systems, and knowledge production. Thus, it is not a coincidence that the anti-gender movements that have gained prominence in recent years have targeted these domains of state activity to advance their patriarchal, heteronormative, and racist agenda. Rather than approaching anti-gender mobilization primarily as cultural backlash or populist rhetoric, the paper argues that contemporary states actively participate in anti-gender politics through practices of epistemic statecraft: the authorization, marginalization, and restructuring of knowledge about gender, sexuality, and social order. These practices play a crucial role in narrowing democratic pluralism and reshaping the conditions of political participation.

The paper examines how feminist and LGBTQIA+ knowledge is delegitimized through claims of ideological bias, lack of scientific rigor, or foreign imposition, and how alternative knowledge on gender and sexuality is being legitimized and promoted by both state and non-state actors. Empirically, the analysis draws on comparative insights from Horizon Europe CCINDLE project, which examined anti-gender politics in 7 European contexts. I will focus specifically on Poland and Sweden to show that attacks on gender knowledge are rarely isolated; they are embedded in broader efforts to reorganize democratic knowledge infrastructures in ways that privilege biologicistic, heteronormative, white and nationalist understandings of social reality.

Biography

Elżbieta Korolczuk is an Associate professor in sociology working at Södertörn University in Stockholm and American Studies Center at Warsaw University. Her research interests involve social movements, politics of reproduction, right-wing populism and mobilizations against “gender”. Korolczuk is an author of several



books, over 50 articles and chapters, including two volumes on social movements and civil society in Central Eastern Europe: *Civil Society Revisited: Lessons from Poland* co-edited with Kerstin Jacobsson (Berghahn Books, 2017), *Rebellious Parents. Parental Movements in Central-Eastern Europe and Russia* co-edited with Katalin Fábián (Indiana University Press, 2017), and a book *Bunt kobiet. Czarne Protesty i Strajki Kobiet [Women's Rebellion. Black Protests and Women's Strikes]* co-authored with Beata Kowalska, Jennifer Ramme and Claudia Snochowska-Gonzalez (European Solidarity Centre, 2019). Her most recent book is a monograph *Anti-gender Politics in the Populist Moment* written with Agnieszka Graff (2021,

Routledge), which received The Bronislaw Malinowski Award in the Social Sciences from the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences of America in 2022. Korolczuk is currently involved in two international research projects: the Horizon Europe project CCINDLE (Co-Creating Inclusive Intersectional Democratic Spaces Across Europe) and SUSTAIN ACTION financed by the Baltic Sea Foundation. She is also a long-time women's and human rights activist.

Szalma Ivett (ELTE Center for Social Sciences, Hungary and Corvinus University of Budapest)

Who Is Allowed to Reproduce? Reproductive Governance in Hungary

Over the past decade, Hungary has become a particularly illustrative case for understanding how nationalist and illiberal state projects reorganise reproduction as a central site of moral and political struggle. Drawing on five years of coordinated research conducted within the Reproductive Sociology Research Group in Hungary, this presentation examines how reproductive decision-making is shaped by the intersecting regimes of gender, sexuality, and state power.

While our empirical research initially focused on individual and macro-level factors influencing reproductive decisions such as socio-demographic position, economic insecurity, and climate-related concerns, we repeatedly encountered the limits of approaches that treat reproduction as a private or apolitical choice. Across studies on access to assisted reproduction, contraception, adoption by same-sex couples, single-mother-by-choice pathways, and age-differentiated family policy instruments, reproductive decisions emerged as deeply embedded in a system of

reproductive governance structured by heteronormative, nationalist, and biologically deterministic state logics.

This governance regime not only explicitly excludes LGBTQ+ people from full reproductive citizenship but also produces cross-cutting and stratified forms of exclusion affecting single individuals, specific age groups, and other marginalised social categories. These exclusions operate not only through formal legal restrictions, but also through policy design, moralised public discourse, and the selective recognition of certain family forms as socially valuable and oriented towards the future.

Based on these empirical findings, the presentation conceptualises reproductive governance as a contradictory and uneven field in which the state simultaneously promotes reproduction as a national imperative while defining whose reproduction is considered legitimate.

Biography



Ivett Szalma is a research professor at the ELTE Centre for Social Sciences in Hungary and a habilitated associate professor at Corvinus University of Budapest. Her research focuses on childbearing, childlessness - including voluntary childlessness - and family policy, with particular attention to reproductive decision-making in Central and Eastern Europe. She also examines immigration-related attitudes and the measurement of homophobia.

She has authored and co-authored numerous peer-reviewed articles and book chapters published in leading international journals. Her recent publications include Szalma and Takács (2025) The impact of political-demographic considerations on attitudes toward parenting and adoption by same-sex couples (*European Journal of Politics and Gender*), and Szalma and Herke (2025) Interconnections between anti-immigration and pronatalist family policy discourse in Hungary (*European Societies*).

She has also served as guest editor of several thematic issues focusing on Central and Eastern Europe, including the *Social Inclusion* special issue “Fragile Pronatalism? Barriers to Parenthood, One-Child Families, and Childlessness in European Post-Socialist Countries.” (with Hana Hašková, Livia Oláh, Judit Takács).

In 2021, she was awarded the Momentum Grant of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, within the framework of which she established the “Reproductive

Decision-Making” Research Group. Her research within this project addresses key contemporary issues, including access to fertility treatments, contraceptive practices, and attitudes toward adoption by same-sex couples, as well as single motherhood by choice and pet parenting.

SP12 - The double paradox of work and care in times of transformation

28 Aug 2026 | 9:00 - 10:30 | D0 A2

Organised by RN13 Sociology of Family and Intimate Lives and RN26 Sociology of Social Policy and Social Welfare

Coordination and Chairs: Martin Gurin (Bar-Ilan University, Israel), Pedro Manuel Romero Balsas (Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain), Katarzyna Suwada (Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Poland)

One of the central tensions in contemporary gender relations is a “double paradox.” Women’s mass entry into the labour market marks a profound social shift, yet their disproportionate care responsibilities continue to push many into part-time or temporary withdrawal—an exit normalized but still devalued. Meanwhile, ideals of involved fatherhood have gained legitimacy, with more men wishing to take leave or reduce hours, yet their withdrawal from paid work is blocked by workplace norms, economic pressures and policy design. Thus, gender inequality persists on both fronts: women remain penalized in employment, while men’s care involvement remains exceptional rather than routine.

This paradox is unfolding against a backdrop of broader societal transformations that may reconfigure its contours. Digitalisation, automation or remote work could open new avenues for paternal involvement but also threaten to displace women into precarious forms of employment. Demographic ageing intensifies the demand for care, potentially normalising men’s role while simultaneously compounding women’s cumulative burden. Ecological transitions may alter work rhythms in ways that redistribute family time, while global migration regimes displace inequalities onto migrant care workers.

This plenary will explore how sociology can critically engage with these developments. *How do current transformations in technology, demography, ecology and migration reshape the contradictions of work, care and gender? How prepared welfare states are to deal with the implications of these broader transformations?* By engaging these issues, this plenary invites reflection on the futures of work, care and gender equality in times of transformation.



Judy Wajcman (London School of Economics)

The Automation Charade: Work, Care, and Connectivity

At the core of every technological transformation is the promise that automation will save time. And temporality is, after all, key to discussions of work-life balance. Indeed, many economists and sociologists have argued that it is precisely the time-saving properties of domestic technologies that freed women to enter the labour force. Advances in technology have transformed the work that goes on in the household as well as the world of paid work. In both spheres, considerable optimism has attached to the possibility that technology will provide the solution to time-consuming drudgery.

While digitalisation has not delivered, will AI and robotics finally solve this dilemma? In this talk I will examine the cultural imaginaries around the digital home and the workplace, showing how they reflect the mindset of their designers for whom technology is the solution to all social problems. I will argue that software developers treat time as an individual resource that must be optimised, valorising efficiency over care, connectivity and other measures of impact.

As a result, matters of care and the affective tasks related to communication and the production of sociability are systematically excluded as forms of ‘unproductive’ work. This is not meant to imply that we should reject technology; but rather to acknowledge that the ‘ethic’ of care as performed in everyday embodied practices cannot be codified into procedural algorithms. The promise of AI assistants providing us all with a personalised servant-butler that solves work-life pressures is an automation charade.

Biography

Judy Wajcman is an Emeritus Professor at the London School of Economics, where she held the Anthony Giddens Chair in Sociology. At the Alan Turing Institute (2019-

2025) she led the Women in Data Science and Artificial Intelligence research project. Professor Wajcman's scholarly interests encompass the sociology of work and employment, science and technology studies, gender theory, temporality, and organisational analysis. She has held numerous visiting fellowships, including the 1212Mellon Fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. For the 2025-2026 academic year she was a Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Study, Princeton. Her books include *The Social Shaping of Technology*, *TechnoFeminism*, and *Pressed for Time: The Acceleration of Life in Digital Capitalism*, which was awarded Ludwik Fleck prize by the Society for the Social Studies of Science. Her most recent article is entitled: 'Venture capital as male-lens investing', *Cambridge Journal of Economics*, 2026.

Anna Matysiak (University of Warsaw)

The Care Paradox for Men: Fatherhood, Gender and Career Penalties

The “gender revolution” framework posited that rising female labour force participation would be followed by increasing male involvement in unpaid care, ultimately fostering gender equality both in the labour market and within the household. While the first phase has largely materialised, the second remains incomplete. Men’s participation in childcare and housework has increased only slowly and unevenly, and recent evidence even suggests stagnation, or even a retraditionalisation of attitudes toward men’s caregiving roles among younger cohorts.

In this talk, I argue that men’s greater involvement in care remains low because it clashes with deeply ingrained social norms regarding gender-appropriate behaviours. These normative expectations make behavioural change difficult, even when policies formally encourage it. Drawing on recent experimental evidence, I demonstrate that men are penalised for even short care-related career interruptions. These penalties are not driven by human capital depreciation as the economic theory would predict; rather, they result from violations of the “ideal worker” norm and gender norms that demand uninterrupted availability and continue to frame care as primarily feminine.

This evidence reveals a critical paradox: while increased paternal involvement could reduce the “motherhood penalty” and eliminate barriers to childbearing by easing women’s work-family conflict, it simultaneously exposes men to significant career penalties. I conclude by discussing how stigma and deeply ingrained norms—which diverge from the rational decision-making and human capital assumptions of

standard economic theory—suppress fertility and curtail opportunities for fathers' meaningful involvement in their children's lives.

Biography



Anna Matysiak is a family demographer and economist whose research focuses on family and fertility change, gender relations, and the interconnections between family dynamics and labour market transformations. Her work examines how the transformations in the labour market affect family behaviours, including childbearing, and how they are moderated by gender norms and family policies. She has also extensively studied gender inequalities in the labour market and how they are shaped by technological

change. She is Full Professor at the Faculty of Economic Sciences, University of Warsaw, where she founded the Interdisciplinary Centre for Labour Market and Family Dynamics (LABFAM). She is currently Principal Investigator of the ERC Consolidator Grant Globalization- and Technology-Driven Labour Market Change and Fertility (LABFER), Vice-President of the European Association for Population Studies, and Editor-in-Chief of *Demographic Research*. Anna received her PhD in Economics in 2009 from the Warsaw School of Economics. She was also trained in demography at the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and previously held research positions at the Warsaw School of Economics and the Vienna Institute of Demography. Her work has been recognised with the Dirk J. van de Kaa Award for Social Demography from the European Association for Population Studies in 2018 and the main Award of the Foundation for Polish Science in 2025.

Time Slot 7 - RN, JS and RS regular sessions
28 August 2026 | 11:00-12:30

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN01_RN21_T07	Labour Markets, Life Courses, and the Experience of Ageing	D1 48 UW
JS_RN07_RN02_III_T07	Dangerous Books: Reading, Censorship and Resistance	D1 37 UW
JS_RN07_RN37_T07	Cultural Commoning in the City - Panel 1	D2 14 UW
JS_RN11_RN13_T07	Unspoken Emotions of (Non)Parenthood	D2 07 UW
JS_RN11_RN32_T07	Emotional Dynamics of Grievance Politics	D2 16 UW
JS_RN16_RN10_T07	Crossroads of Health and Education in Democratic Societies: Challenges and Transformations	D3 16 UW
JS_RN16_RN19_T07	Healthcare Encounters in Transition: Rethinking Professional-Patient Interactions I	D3 09 UW
JS_RN21_RN24_T07	A responsible use of digital methods in sociology	D3 15 UW
JS_RN22_RN02_T07	Arts, Culture and Creative Responses to Risk and Uncertainty	D-1 03 UW
JS_RN27_RN33_T07	Migration and Gender in Southern European Societies I	D0 13 UW
RN01_T07_01	Changing family formations and generational contract 2	D1 26 UW
RN01_T07_02	Transformations in eldercare policies, caregiving and care work 4	D2 18 UW
RN01_T07_03	Representations and materiality of age and ageing 2: Actions and practices	D2 12 UW
RN02_T07_01	Sociology of Music	D-1 11 UW
RN03_T07_01	Biographical research in Poland	D1 23 UW
RN04_T07_01	Thinking About Children and Childhood Studies	D2 15 UW
RN05_T07_01	Circular economy 1	D0 10 UW
RN05_T07_02	Food: Meat	D1 07 UW
RN05_T07_03	Leisure	D3 02 UW
RN06_T07_01	Understanding labour: class, struggle, hope	D0 06 UW
RN07_T07_01	On Regimes of Worth and Justice	D0 A1 UW
RN07_T07_02	On Cultural Fields: Art and Food	D1 14 UW
RN07_T07_03	On Conflict and Consensus	D3 11 UW
RN09_T07_01	Ownership, Commons, and Economic Democracy	D0 09 UW
RN09_T07_02	Local Production, Authenticity, and Material Economies	D1 35 UW
RN10_T07_01	Sociology of Education 1f	D2 05 UW
RN10_T07_02	Sociology of Education 2f	D2 10 UW
RN10_T07_03	Sociology of Education 3f	D-1 10 UW

RN11_T07_01	Migration, Mobility and Belonging	D2 02 UW
RN11_T07_02	Intimacy, Attachment and Digital Closeness	D1 21 UW
RN11_T07_03	Emotional Inequalities, Class and Belonging	D3 14 UW
RN12_T07_01	Environmental Governance	D3 A1 UW
RN12_T07_02	Socio-material configurations	D2 06 UW
RN12_T07_03	Waste and Pollution	D3 17 UW
RN12_T07_04	Industry, Health,Urban Change	D1 09 UW
RN13_T07_01	Work-Family (Im)Balance	D3 03 UW
RN13_T07_02	Family Relations and Genetic Ties	D1 02 UW
RN13_T07_03	Family Relations	D1 03 UW
RN14_T07_01	Working from home and working less	D0 14 UW
RN14_T07_02	Equal pay and money	D0 07 UW
RN15_T07_01	Culture, identity, and patterns of affiliation: Global and transnational perspective	D3 13 UW
RN16_T07_01	Social Inequalities and Health: Institutions, Environment, and Well-Being	D1 06 UW
RN16_T07_02	Trust and Its Discontents in Public Health Crises	D1 13 UW
RN16_T07_03	Reproductive and Maternity Care: Access, Practices, and Experiences	D1 18 UW
RN17_T07_01	Societal Transitions II	D1 47 UW
RN17_T07_02	Technology & Labour markets	D1 52 UW
RN17_T07_03	Digit III	D1 19 UW
RN18_T07_01	Right wing extremism and the media	D1 27 UW
RN18_T07_02	Media, participation and democracy	D2 13 UW
RN18_T07_03	Local, regional media and journalism	D2 09 UW
RN19_T07_01	Professional Authority, Governance, and Democratic Futures.	D1 41 UW
RN20_T07_01	Qualitative methods and reflexivity	D2 17 UW
RN21_T07_01	Minding the Measurement: Data Quality and Validity	D3 06 UW
RN22_T07_01	Everyday Risk, Social Change and Life Trajectories	D-1 08 UW
RN23_T07_01	Struggles and Resistances amidst Anti-Gender Mobilisations	D1 16 UW
RN23_T07_02	Recognition and Exclusion	D3 05 UW
RN24_T07_01	Technology, Inclusion and Social Justice	D2 04 UW
RN24_T07_02	AI, Labour and Automation	D3 01 UW
RN25_T07_01	Social movements between memory and imagined futures	D1 05 UW
RN25_T07_02	Solidarities in and through social movements	D1 04 UW
RN26_T07_01	Social Policy in Europe	D3 07 UW
RN26_T07_02	Voluntary Sector and Community Involvement	D3 10 UW
RN28_T07_01	Sport, Democracy, and Authoritarianism	D1 24 UW
RN29_T07_01	Reflections on Theories	D-1 09 UW

RN30_T07_01	Youth in School and Out-of-School Environments	D-1 07 UW
RN30_T07_02	Youth Political Participation and Political Values	D-1 13 UW
RN30_T07_03	Young Generations, Migration and Racialization	D-1 14 UW
RN31_T07_01	Antisemitic Meaning-Making, Holocaust Memory and Education	D0 05 UW
RN31_T07_02	Antisemitism in Academia and Higher Education	D3 20 UW
RN31_T07_03	Race, Work and the History of Racial Knowledge	D-1 02 UW
RN32_T07_01	Mapping Political Sociology. Ambiguities and Complexities for Unpredictable Futures.	D1 10 UW
RN32_T07_02	Strengthening democracy to tackle crises. How cooperation between local authorities and collective action initiatives can help to challenge climate degradation and mounting authoritarianism in Europe	D1 01 UW
RN32_T07_03	Sites of political sociology: perspectives on where politics is built	D2 11 UW
RN32_T07_04	Exploring inclusion and exclusion in right-wing populism and the far right	D1 46 UW
RN33_T07_01	Gender Based Violence IV	D1 A1 UW
RN33_T07_02	Religion & Agency	D-1 05 UW
RN33_T07_03	Gender diversity & Racism	D-1 01 UW
RN34_T07_01	Religion and public discourses	D1 22 UW
RN34_T07_02	Transformations of religious institutions	D1 12 UW
RN35_T07_01	Migration, Discrimination & Exclusion	D-1 15 UW
RN35_T07_02	Social Mobility in Migration	D-1 12 UW
RN35_T07_03	City and Migration	D3 18 UW
RN35_T07_04	Integration Revisited	D0 A2 UW
RN35_T07_05	Migration & Identity-Making	D3 08 UW
RN36_T07_01	Collaboration, Local Communities, and Social Capital	D1 36 UW
RN37_T07_01	Housing Crisis, Suburbanisation and Urban Land Markets	D1 28 UW
RN37_T07_02	Cultural Governance, Festivals and Marketplaces	D1 17 UW
RN37_T07_03	Heritage, Urban Memory and Divided Cities	D1 20 UW
RN38_T07_01	Return to the Rural	D3 04 UW
RN38_T07_02	Participation and Governance in Rural Areas	D3 12 UW
RS01_T07	Animals and Society 07	D1 51 UW

RS02_T07	Sociology of Celebration: Lived Experiences and Methodological Reflections	D0 04 UW
RS11_T07	International Migration and Mobility Decisions Across the Life Course	D0 03 UW
RS15_T07_01	Conflict, dialogue and critical capacity	D1 39 UW
RS15_T07_02	Contest, protest, and resistance	D1 40 UW
RS17_T07_01	Sociological Knowledge in Historical and Transnational Perspective	D1 42 UW
RS17_T07_02	Experts, Expertise, and Political Knowledge	D1 50 UW

FRIDAY

AUGUST 28TH

MIDDAY

MD7 - Theorising democracy in consumption

28 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | A2 | UW

Organised by RN05 Sociology of Consumption and RN29 Social Theory

Coordinators: Mikko Laamanen (Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway) and Kornelia Hahn (University of Salzburg, Austria)

In an era where democratic institutions are strained by populism, polarisation and waning engagement, it is urgent to examine how ***how everyday practices may shape political life***. Consumption is a powerful but fragmented site of social change. The sociological study of consumption treats it a cultural and political act beyond mere economic implications – a space where values are expressed, identities formed and collective imaginaries negotiated. Through sustainable living, boycotts and buycotts, people enact political agency in their citizenship, via what, how and where they consume.

This midday session rethinks the relationship between consumership and citizenship. When political power is channelled primarily through consumer choice, market transactions can displace democratic deliberation, narrowing democracy to an individualised, transactional model with only a shade of malleable collectivism. Yet pressing dilemmas, such as platform interventions in public discourse and escalating environmental degradation driven by unsustainable consumption, demand sociological theories that balances individual freedoms with collective responsibility. We invite approaches that illuminate the interplay between consumption and democratic life, and foreground the promises of collective action and the limits of marketised politics.

Francesca Forno argues that collective consumption practices – such as community-supported agriculture and digital food platforms – can move beyond choice to cultivate new forms of democratic participation. She will discuss their capacity to relocalise citizenship, alongside risks of depoliticisation amid ecological crisis and post-digital transformations. Jörn Lamla examines debates on post-digital lifestyles, focusing on how existing democratic institutions shape them. From a political-ontological perspective on consumption and digitality, he asks what democratic responses can address conflicts emerging from our complex and contradictory relations to the world in post-digital consumption.

Speakers:

Francesca Forno (University of Trento, Italy)

Francesca Forno is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Trento (<https://webapps.unitn.it/du/en/Persona/PER0043124/Curriculum>) and one of the founding members of the CoACT – Collective Action Change and Transition research

unit (<https://sites.google.com/unitn.it/coact/coact>) which brings together scholars interested in the role of civil society in ecological transitions and social innovation. She collaborates with various public administrations and civil society organizations to promote inclusive and participatory forms of urban and territorial governance. Her research focuses on civic participation, social change, and emerging forms of active citizenship, with particular attention to sustainable consumption, social movements, food governance, and eco-social innovations promoted by civil society. She currently serves as the co-coordinator of RN05 Sociology of Consumption within the European Sociological Association (ESA).

Jörn Lamla (University of Kassel, Germany)

Jörn Lamla is Professor of Sociological Theory at the University of Kassel (<https://uni-kassel.de/go/soztheo>) and Director of the Scientific Centre for Information System Design (ITeG, <https://www.uni-kassel.de/forschung/en/iteg/home.html>). He is spokesperson for the coordinating committee of the interdisciplinary Federal Network for Consumer Research, which is supported by the Federal Ministry of Justice and Consumer Protection. In 2012, he habilitated with a monograph on the political sociology of consumer society (Verbraucherdemokratie, Suhrkamp 2013). His research focuses on challenges and experimental extensions of democracy in digital and everyday economic contexts and covers areas such as digital journalism, fair business models and the future of privacy and self-determination.

MD8 - Tackling inequality, harassment and discrimination in higher education and scientific institutions: policies and ethics of care in practice

28 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | A3 | UW

Organised by ESA Ethic Committee

Coordinators: Ilenia Picardi (University of Naples Federico II, Italy) and Ana Vidu (Blanquerna. University of Ramon Llull, Spain)

In the past few years, the European Sociological Association (ESA) has strengthened its position against harassment and discrimination, promoting ethical commitment to building more equalitarian, inclusive and caring research environments.

This session aims to open a dialogue around policies and practices developed to combat discriminations, inequalities and harassment in academia and scientific institutions, to reflect on the broader challenges these efforts address: the persistence of sexual harassment, unethical conduct, and structural inequalities in higher education and research institutions, as well as the urgent need to cultivate practices of care, solidarity and support in scientific associations.

While decades of feminist and critical research have exposed the multiple mechanisms of exclusion, harassment, and inequality that persist in academia and scientific institutions, everyday practices of care and institutional support policies often remain undervalued or invisible. This session aims to address these gaps by asking:

- How can research ethics be translated into practices of care, responsibility, and cooperation within academia and scientific institutions?
- How can institutions implement protocols and policies against harassment and discrimination to create a supportive and equalitarian environment?

Speakers

Elina Oinas (University of Helsinki, Finland)

Elina Oinas is Vice President of Membership and Finance of the International Sociological Association 2023-2027. Elina has worked as professor in Sociology at the Swedish School of Social Science at the University of Helsinki, Finland, since 2015. She has been visiting scholar in Addis Ababa, Cambridge, Berkeley, Witwatersrand and Western Cape (SA); and as staff member in Global Development Studies in Helsinki, Sociology in University of Turku, Gender Studies in Åbo Akademi, Finland, and the Nordic Africa Institute in Uppsala. Her long-term research interests are gender, the body, health, expert - activist knowledges, feminist science studies, global sociology, development, and critical studies of the Nordic welfare state. Her current research deals with ideals for relevance and epistemic diversity among academics in biosciences and feminist research.

Ester Cois (University of Cagliari, Italy)

Ester Cois, PhD in Gender and Family Studies, is an Associate Professor in Environmental and Territorial Sociology at the University of Cagliari (Italy). Since 2024 she's President of the National Conference of Equality Bodies of Italian Universities (Counipar) and since 2021 she's Rector's Delegate for Gender Equality, President of the Guarantee Act Committee for Social Inclusion and Equal Opportunities and Scientific Director of the Inter-departmental Center for Research and Gender Studies (CEING) at the University of Cagliari. She's a member of the National Conference of Italian Rectors (CRUI), sub-commission for Gender Equality Plans in Academia, a member of the Working Group TIER (Towards an Inclusive Evaluation of Research) within the International Universities Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), and since 2024 she has been involved as Leader of the European National Authorities' Circle in the EU-funded GenderSAFE project "Ending Gender-based Violence in Academia".

MD9 - Midday Special on the ESA Best Article Awards and ESA Early Career Scholar Award

28 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | D0 A2 | UW

Convened by Krešimir Žažar and Teresa Sorde on behalf of the Awards Selection Committees.

Organisation: ESA 2026 Best *European Societies* Journal Paper Selection Committee, ESA 2026 Best *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* Journal Paper, Selection Committee, ESA 2026 Best *Early Career* Paper Selection Committee

Coordinators: Krešimir Žažar (University of Zagreb, Croatia) and Teresa Sordé-Martí (Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain)

Chair: Krešimir Žažar (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

After its inception at the 15th ESA Barcelona Conference in 2021, and its second edition in Porto 2024, this is the third edition of both: *ESA Best Article Awards* and *ESA Early Career Scholar Award*. Whereas the former refers to best articles published in the two ESA's journals *European Societies* and *European Journal of Cultural and Political Sociology* in the 2 preceding years (2024-2025), *Early Career Scholar Award* is assigned to the best yet unpublished papers stemming from a Ph.D. dissertation defended within the two last years (since 2024). In this very special session, winners within the 3 denoted categories will present their valuable works, while also vibrant responses from the audience is expected, as best articles will certainly ignite vivid discussion.

The winners will be announced during the session.

MD10 - A Not-so-Radiant Future? Work and Democracy in Central Eastern Europe

28 Aug 2026 | 13:00 – 14:00 | D1 A1 (+ D1 A2) | UW

Organised by RN17 Work, Employment and Industrial Relations and RN9 Economic Sociology

Coordinators: Valeria Pulignano (KU Leuven, Belgium), Guglielmo Meardi (Scuola Normale Superiore, Italy) and Alberto Veira-Ramos (Universidad Carlos III, Spain)

Sociologists have long stressed how work is crucial for democracy: by fostering collective identities, socialization and solidarity; inspiring associations, participation and representation; causing conflicts that call for negotiations and policy intervention. Over the XX Century 'industrial democracy' developed in dialectic with liberal democracy, and political actors were often defined by their position about work.

The fragmentation of work, combined with globalization and ecological breakdown, has challenged the social identities and structures around work. At the same time,

disaffection with political democracy has grown, with real risks of democratic backsliding. A resentful working class is often seen as central in this. Hence, this Midday session's aim to investigate the links between contemporary crises of work and democracy.

Central Eastern Europe is a privileged observatory. Since 1989, it witnessed a transformation of work relations and the economy, abandoning what Burawoy and Lukács had called 'The Radiant Past' (1992) and created liberal democracies. The result is a paradox: fast economic growth and political-economic convergence with the West has not resulted in a celebration of democracy, but in deep frustration with it. Examples like Euro-sceptical, illiberal governments in Poland and Hungary, formerly 'model pupils' of transformation, await sociological explanations that consider the role of new inequalities (by gender, age, education and ethnicity) and of workers' insecurities.

The Midday session will capitalise on the location of the ESA Conference to reflect on the Central European experience and to foster dialogue among sociologists on the future of democracy in politics and at work.

Speakers

Mihai Varga (Freie Universität Berlin, Germany)

Mihai Varga is a senior research fellow in sociology at the Eastern Europe Institute, Freie Universität Berlin. His research focuses on economic crises and their political and socio-economic consequences.

Julia Kubisa (University of Warsaw, Poland)

Julia Kubisa is full professor at the University of Warsaw. Her research focuses on industrial relations, strikes, and gender relations at work.

FRIDAY
AUGUST 28TH
AFTERNOON

Time Slot 8 - RN, JS and RS regular sessions

28 Aug 2026 | 14:30-16:00

Session	Title	Room
JS_RN01_RN21_T08	Loneliness, Meaning, and Place: New Approaches to Ageing Research	D1 48 UW
JS_RN07_RN37_T08	Cultural Commoning in the City - Panel 2	D2 14 UW
JS_RN11_RN12_T08	Human-Environment Relations and Emotions in Times of Crisis	D1 37 UW
JS_RN11_RN13_T08	The emotional Work of Parents	D2 07 UW
JS_RN16_RN19_T08	Healthcare Encounters in Transition: Rethinking Professional-Patient Interactions II	D3 09 UW
JS_RN16_RN37_T08	Beyond Commodification: Urban Health and the Politics of Space and Care	D2 16 UW
JS_RN21_RN12_T08	Methodological Landscapes of Quantitative Environmental Sociology	D3 16 UW
JS_RN21_RN24_T08	Attitudes towards Artificial Intelligence	D3 15 UW
JS_RN22_RN02_T08	JS_RN22_RN02: Risks and Uncertainties: The Arts as Social Response	D-1 03 UW
JS_RN27_RN33_T08	Migration and Gender in Southern European Societies II	D0 13 UW
RN01_T08_01	Changing family formations and generational contract 3	D1 26 UW
RN01_T08_02	Representations and materiality of age and ageing 3: Reframing active ageing	D2 18 UW
RN03_T08_01	Biographical experiences and social transformations	D1 23 UW
RN04_T08_01	Researching Children and Childhood: Knowing Children's Worlds	D2 15 UW
RN05_T08_01	Circular economy 2	D0 10 UW
RN05_T08_02	Food: Provisioning	D1 07 UW
RN05_T08_03	Resources and waste	D3 02 UW
RN06_T08_01	Resisting capitalism, imagining a better future, making a revolution?	D0 06 UW
RN07_T08_01	On Resistance	D0 A1 UW
RN07_T08_02	On Environments and Ecologies	D1 14 UW

RN09_T08_01	Gender, Work Meanings, and Career Inequalities	D0 09 UW
RN09_T08_02	Innovation, Making, and Assetized Futures	D1 35 UW
RN10_T08_01	Sociology of Education 1g	D2 05 UW
RN10_T08_02	Sociology of Education 2g	D2 10 UW
RN10_T08_03	Sociology of Education 3g	D-1 10 UW
RN11_T08_01	Class, Status and Political Economy	D2 02 UW
RN11_T08_02	Emotion, Protest and Social Movements	D1 21 UW
RN12_T08_01	Industrial Waste	D3 A1 UW
RN12_T08_02	Nature and Public Engagement	D2 06 UW
RN12_T08_03	Participation , sustainable Future	D3 17 UW
RN12_T08_04	Technology adoption for sustainable future	D1 09 UW
RN13_T08_01	Experiences of Motherhood	D3 03 UW
RN13_T08_02	(Grand)Parenting	D1 02 UW
RN13_T08_03	Research on Family Life	D1 03 UW
RN14_T08_01	Families, policies and working life	D0 14 UW
RN14_T08_02	Gender and Professions	D0 07 UW
RN15_T08_01	Social movements and networks reshaping societies: Global and transnational perspective	D3 13 UW
RN16_T08_01	Health Literacy in the Digital Age: Building Democratic Resilience through Informed Citizenship	D1 06 UW
RN16_T08_02	Social Networks in Health and Illness	D1 13 UW
RN16_T08_03	Reconfiguring Medicine: Practices, Spaces, and Social Meanings	D1 18 UW
RN17_T08_01	Ecosystem & Transformations	D1 47 UW
RN17_T08_02	Transformations & Organising	D1 52 UW

RN17_T08_03	Labour & labour markets	D1 19 UW
RN18_T08_01	Media literacy	D1 27 UW
RN18_T08_02	Media cultures	D2 13 UW
RN18_T08_03	Media and the environment	D2 09 UW
RN23_T08_01	Gender, Sexuality and Othering - Migration and Poverty	D1 16 UW
RN23_T08_02	Sexuality and Education	D3 05 UW
RN24_T08_01	Trust, Ethics and Human–AI Relations	D2 04 UW
RN24_T08_02	Digital Infrastructures, Data and Governance	D3 01 UW
RN25_T08_01	Youth and social movements	D1 05 UW
RN26_T08_01	Social In/Exclusion I	D3 07 UW
RN26_T08_02	Social In/Exclusion II	D3 10 UW
RN29_T08_01	Governing Crises	D-1 09 UW
RN29_T08_02	Theorising Contemporary Societies	D2 17 UW
RN30_T08_01	Youth, Peer Relationships and Social Cohesion	D-1 07 UW
RN30_T08_02	Youth Political Participation and Activism	D-1 13 UW
RN31_T08_01	Measuring Antisemitism: Surveys and Attitudes	D0 05 UW
RN31_T08_02	Culture, Heritage and Critical Perspectives on Antisemitism and Racism	D3 20 UW
RN32_T08_01	Political attitudes and new perspectives on class	D1 10 UW
RN32_T08_02	Political attitudes and current democracies	D1 01 UW
RN32_T08_03	Action and discourse in environmental politics	D2 11 UW
RN32_T08_04	Enemy construction and state legitimization	D1 46 UW
RN33_T08_01	Solidarity chains & Feminism	D1 A1 UW

RN33_T08_02	Gender Perspectives II	D3 08 UW
RN33_T08_03	Gender Based Violence V	D-1 05 UW
RN34_T08_01	Changes of religious belonging and constellations of religious actors	D1 22 UW
RN34_T08_02	Non-religion	D1 12 UW
RN35_T08_01	Knowledge Production 2	D0 A2 UW
RN35_T08_02	Migration, Care & Control	D-1 12 UW
RN36_T08_01	Technology, Education, and Social Divisions	D1 36 UW
RN37_T08_01	Care, Mobility, Liveability and Everyday Urban Support	D1 28 UW
RN37_T08_02	Urban Citizenship, Informality and Political Subjectivation	D1 17 UW
RN37_T08_03	Valuation Regimes, Temporal Regimes and Controversies	D1 20 UW
RN38_T08_01	Class Identities and Spatial Transformations	D3 04 UW
RN38_T08_02	How the Rural Persists	D3 12 UW
RS02_T08	Sociology of Celebration: National Rites, Political Reconfigurations, and Urban Spaces	D0 04 UW
RS11_T08	(En)forced International Migration and Return	D0 03 UW
RS15_T08_01	Politics of crossing borders	D1 39 UW
RS15_T08_02	Practices of urban engagements	D1 40 UW
RS17_T08_01	Knowledge at the Margins: Cohesion, Exclusion, Radicalization, and Conspiracy	D1 42 UW
RS17_T08_02	Disciplinary Formations, Interdisciplinarity, and Epistemic Boundaries	D1 50 UW

ESA General Assembly

28 Aug 2026 | 16:30 | Auditorium Maximum, University of Warsaw

The General Assembly of the European Sociological Association (ESA) will take place on Friday, August 28th, at 16:30 in Auditorium Maximum, University of Warsaw. This assembly, convened by ESA President Kaja Gadowska following Article 5 of the ESA Statutes, is a pivotal event where all ESA members gather to discuss and shape the future of the association.

The agenda for the General Assembly includes:

- 1. Opening and President's Report**
- 2. Executive Committee Report (including reports from the ESA Committees and Councils)**
- 3. Treasurer's Report**
- 4. ESA Governance and Future Development: Members' Perspectives**
- 5. Results of the ESA Elections**
- 6. Announcement of the 18th ESA Conference**

Plenary 2

Embedding Democracy in Times of Accelerated Transformation: Knowledge, Rights and Sustainable Futures

28 Aug 2026 | 16:30 | Auditorium Maximum, University of Warsaw

With: Joyeeta Gupta, Bandana Purkayastha, Rolf Lidskog

Chair: Loukia - Maria Fratsea, ESA Vice-President (2024-2026), Chair of the Conference

Contemporary societies are experiencing accelerated transformations that challenge established understandings of democracy, rights, knowledge and sustainability. Environmental and climate crises, widening inequalities, migration and displacement, technological change, and shifting configurations of power are unfolding across national borders and at multiple scales. These transformations raise fundamental questions about how democratic institutions and practices can respond to complex, interconnected challenges while safeguarding rights, addressing inequalities and enabling more just and sustainable futures.

Responding to these challenges requires more than identifying problems or proposing technical solutions. It calls for critical reflection on how knowledge is produced and mobilised, whose voices and experiences are recognised, how rights and freedoms are protected, and how the benefits and burdens of social and environmental transformations are distributed. Scientific and sociological expertise has an important role to play, but its contribution must remain attentive to power, inequality, participation and the social conditions that enable or constrain transformative change.

This plenary invites us to consider what it means to embed democracy within transformation processes themselves: in the production and use of knowledge, in the protection and extension of rights, in responses to environmental and social change, and in decisions about possible futures.

In dialogue with the conference theme, it explores how critical knowledge, inclusive governance, social action and solidarity can strengthen democratic capacities and contribute to more just and sustainable futures.

Joyeeta Gupta, Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South, University of Amsterdam; IHE-Delft Institute for Water Education

The Environment, Democracy and Global Constitutionalism

Any effort to maintain our environment in such a way that it continues to provide us with the ecosystem services of clean air and water, a stable climate, a healthy biodiversity and fertile soils implies restrictions on how much we extract and pollute our Earth nationally and globally. As we cross safe and just Earth System Boundaries, action to reduce pressures on the environment becomes more urgent.

Such action/restrictions may be seen as constraints on individual freedom and markets; on GDP as we currently calculate it; on the use of new and ever more resource-demanding technologies. Such restrictions may lead to neo-liberal capitalists to call for deregulation and demand that markets solve the problem, may lead to hegemonists to protect and expand on national interests at all costs, and may lead to tech giants demanding more and more resources through the lure of more and more smart tech that will make money for some, at the cost of the rest. It may even lead to the breakdown of democracy within countries as individuals fight constraints and vote in governments that do not want to take action on environmental issues, and as governments walk out of multilateral (environmental) agreements. For example, the climate change negotiations reveal the shortcomings of democracy and multilateral decision-making as currently designed. In this context, the presentation will focus on the need for a counter-hegemonic understanding of democracy at local to global level calling for a global Constitution. It will present the reasons for and potential content of such a Constitution and the conditions under which such a Constitution could become a reality. It will invite the audience to participate as a contributing author in such a Constitution by writing a 500-1000 word essay on what they would like to see in a global Constitution.

Biography

Joyeeta Gupta is professor of environment and development in the global south at the Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research of the University of Amsterdam and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in Delft. She is also a member of the Amsterdam Global Change Institute.

She is editor-in-chief of *International Environmental Agreements: Politics, Law and Economics* (IF 2.0) and is on the editorial board of journals like *Carbon and Law Review*, *International*



Journal on Sustainable Development, *Environmental Science and Policy*, *Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability*, *Catalan Environmental Law Journal*, *Review of European Community and International Environmental Law* and the new *International Journal of Water Governance*.

Joyeeta Gupta was and continues to be lead author in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change which shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore and of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment which won the Zayed Second Prize. She has published extensively. She is on the scientific steering committees of many different

international programmes including the Global Water Systems Project and Earth System Governance.

Bandana Purkayastha, Distinguished Professor of Sociology, University of Connecticut, USA.

Resilience during Turbulent Times: Reflections on Sociological Knowledge and Action.

Global and transnational processes, driven by rapid technological changes and contemporary reweaving of power, have generated constant turbulence in 21st century socio-political worlds. At the same time there is a rapid fragmentation of rights with new trends defining who is allowed substantive access to rights and in which spatio-temporal contexts. This presentation will touch on two broad, interrelated themes. Drawing on my research on migrants, migration and human securities, I will discuss some of the emerging trends in profiting from the control of human beings at the expense of their freedom and rights. I will touch on the ways in which the tools to control migrants are expanded to groups of citizens, blurring the boundaries between these groups. The second, interrelated theme is about resilience, and the contours of resilience that are emphasized by different streams of sociological discussions. Resilience has been discussed as resistance, as remembrance, as reclamation and as survival. I will discuss resilience in turbulent times by reflecting on the stocks of knowledge we need to transcend in order to build adequate theories and methodologies to study constantly-churning geographic and digital worlds.

Biography



Bandana Purkayastha is Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Sociology at the University of Connecticut, USA. She currently serves as the Associate Dean for Social Sciences. Passionate about moving away from Euro-America-centric sociological frameworks, her prolific scholarship on migration, human rights, knowledge hierarchies, and intersectionality bridges knowledge from many parts of the world. She is the current Vice President for National Associations and has initiated a podcast series, *Sociology In...* to interrupt the knowledge gaps about sociologies in different parts of the world. Her research

appears in over 100 publications including books, peer reviewed journal articles, and chapters in many countries, including in translation. She has won multiple awards for her scholarship, within the university and in the profession, including the

Gordon Hirabayashi book award from American Sociological Association's (ASA) Human Rights section (2013) for the co-edited book on *Human Rights in Our Own Backyard*, and the Association for Asian American Studies best paper award (2026) for *Why Don't South Asians in the U.S. Count As "Asian"?: Global and Local Factors Shaping Anti-South Asian Racism in the United States**. Her scholarly excellence has been recognized through two career awards, including, ASA's *Jessie Bernard award*, "which recognizes significant contributions to improving the lives of women" and ASA's Asian American sections, *Contributions to the Field* award.. Her outstanding teaching and mentoring have been recognized through several awards within her university and in the profession, including Sociologists for Women in Society's prestigious Feminist Mentoring award. Her service contributions across the university, state, and profession have also been recognized formally through awards. She served in many professional leadership positions, including as President of the feminist organization, Sociologists for Women in Society. She currently serves as the Vice President for National Associations, International Sociological Association. <https://sociology.uconn.edu/person/bandana-purkayastha/>

Rolf Lidskog, Environmental Sociology Section, School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden

Facing Crisis, Envisioning Change: Sociological Expertise in Transformative Times

Scientific evidence demonstrates that society is facing an acute environmental crisis. The widening gap between scientific communities' urgent calls for profound societal transformation and the limited political response raises critical questions about the relationship between science and society, including the role of the social sciences. This forms the background for this keynote address, which is organized into four parts: the current environmental crisis, proposed solutions, societal transformation, and the role of sociological expertise.

First, the current environmental situation is outlined, drawing on global environmental assessments from intergovernmental expert bodies such as the IPCC and IPBES. These assessments describe an escalating environmental crisis, driven by diverse human activities. Although many consequences are global in scale, they affect societies and social groups unevenly.

Second, the proposed solutions are analyzed. It is found that, despite robust assessments of the situation, the solutions are often abstract, vague, and sweeping. Moreover, even though the assessments rely on similar methodologies, share a thematic focus on environmental degradation, and underline the need for transformative change, they nevertheless offer partly divergent recommendations.

Third, although these assessments aim to develop societal solutions, social science is often underutilized. This leads to proposals that may be unrealistic or

inattentive to the social conditions that enable or constrain transformation. Without such insights, there is a considerable risk that proposed solutions will only work on paper or produce serious unintended consequences.

Fourth, the role of social science expertise in promoting a just transformation is discussed. Regardless of the expert position one adopts, it is crucial to critically reflect on the power exercised and the broader consequences of such engagement. Maintaining a stance that is both critical and constructive is essential, acknowledging not only the challenges involved in transforming society but also the opportunities for moving society toward sustainability.

Biography

Rolf Lidskog holds PhDs in Sociology and Ethics and is Professor of Sociology at Örebro University, Sweden. His research interests include environmental sociology, risk sociology, and science and technology studies. Currently, he is investigating the epistemic and social conditions for expertise and its role in international environmental governance, with a focus on climate change, biodiversity loss, and chemical pollution. He has published more than 100 articles in journals such as *Current*



Sociology, *Environmental Sociology*, *Global Environmental Politics*, *Journal of Risk Research* and *Nature Climate Change*. His latest books are *Environmental Sociology and Social Transformation* (Routledge, 2024, co-authored with Magnus Boström) and *Rethinking Environmental Expertise* (Elgar, forthcoming in fall 2026, co-authored with Göran Sundqvist).

He served as Vice-President of Research Committee 24 Environment and Society at the International Sociological Association (2018–2023), is a member of the Senior Advisory Board of Research Network 12 Environment and Society at the European Sociological Association, and sits on the national committee for global environmental change at the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. In addition to his involvement in scientific associations, Lidskog has served on the boards of four Swedish public agencies, including the Swedish Forest Agency.

Closing Ceremony

28 Aug 2026 | 18:00 | Auditorium Maximum, University of Warsaw

The closing ceremony will be held at Auditorium Maximum after the Plenary 2.

Kaja Gadowska, ESA President 2024-2026

Loukia Maria-Fratsea, ESA Vice-President and Conference Committee Chair

Prof. Mirosława Grabowska, Chair of the Local Organizing Committee

Prof. Julia Kubisa, Vice-Chair of the LOC

Prof. Joanna Wyleżatek, Vice-Chair of the LOC

Dr Izabela Bukalska, Vice-Chair of the LOC



**CANDIDATES FOR THE PRESIDENCY
AND THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

ESA ELECTIONS

2026-2028

Candidates for the Presidency

Loukia-Maria Fratsea | Harokopio University of Athens | Greece

Curriculum Vitae

Loukia-Maria Fratsea is a Senior Researcher and Lecturer in the Department of Geography at Harokopio University of Athens (Greece). She studied Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, Rural Sociology, and Social Geography. Her research is at the intersection of rural sociology and social geography, focusing on social relations, socio-spatial mobility, qualitative research, and the inequalities shaping rural and rural–urban spaces. Since 2007, she has participated in several research projects on rural development, social integration of migrants, and social stratification and mobility. In addition to Greek, she is fluent in English, French, and Romanian.



She has been a committed member of the European Sociological Association (ESA) since 2017 and is member of RN27, RN35, and RN38. She served as General Secretary of ESA (2021–2024) and currently serves as Vice-President and Chair of the Conference Committee (2024–2026). Through these roles, she has contributed to key areas of the association's governance and core activities, and has been actively involved in several ESA committees, including Finance, Publications, Research Networks, Postgraduate, Public Sociology, Diversity and Sustainability, and has represented ESA in the European Alliance for Social Sciences and Humanities (EASSH).

Her research interests include social transformation, sustainability, migration, and social stratification and mobility.

Program

In a period of rapid transformation across Europe and beyond, sociology remains essential for understanding social change, strengthening public dialogue, and contributing to more just, inclusive, and sustainable societies. The European Sociological Association offers a unique space for exchange, collaboration, solidarity, and dialogue across generations, regions, and research traditions.

I have been actively involved in ESA for almost a decade and have served on the Executive Committee over the last five years. Working closely with colleagues from across Europe has strengthened my commitment to collaborative leadership, open dialogue, participation, and consensus-building.

I am committed to transparent governance, ethical leadership, academic deontology, civic responsibility, financial sustainability, and respect for ESA's statutes. I will support a strong ESA office and foster a culture of trust, collegiality, openness, and inclusive participation across the Association.

I will work to strengthen connections between Research Networks, national and international associations, and broader sociological communities across Europe and beyond.

Supporting early-career scholars remains central. I will expand mentoring initiatives, encourage networking opportunities, and foster supportive environments in a context of growing academic precarity.

ESA's conferences, journals, and commitment to open access are at the heart of its vitality. I will support their quality, accessibility, visibility, and impact.

I am committed to strengthening diversity, inclusion, and participation across ESA's activities and structures, while supporting the visibility and engagement of underrepresented and vulnerable groups.

I will also promote public sociology, strengthen engagement with societal debates, and support sustainable and environmentally responsible practices across ESA activities and events.

Ana-Cristina Santos | University of Coimbra | Portugal

Curriculum Vitae



After working in Birkbeck, University of London, Prof. Ana-Cristina Santos holds a tenured position as Full Professor Director of Research at the Centre for Social Studies, University of Coimbra, where she is Director of the Feminist and Queer Studies PhD Programme and heads the Research Group on Democracy, Justice and Human Rights. In 2013-2022 she founded and co-Directed the ongoing International PhD Human Rights in Contemporary Societies. Awarded twice by the European Research Council (2013, 2022), Prof. Santos leads TRACE, an ERC-funded project centred on ageing, memory and diversity in Greece, Slovenia, Malta, Italy and Portugal.

Member of the ESA since 2001, Prof. Santos co-chaired RN23 (2008-2012) and was elected member of the ESA Executive Committee in 2021, working in *The European Sociologist* and co-directing the ESA Postgraduate School, amongst other roles. In 2024, she was re-elected for the ESA Executive Board, chairing the Committee on Public Sociology, Diversity and Sustainability, alongside her work in Communication, International Relations and Postgraduate Studies. She is a member of RN01, 23 and 33.

Recent books: *The SAGE Handbook of Global Sexualities*; *The Tenacity of the Couple Norm* (UCL Press); *LGBTQ+ Intimacies in Southern Europe: Citizenship, Care and Choice* (Palgrave); *A Research Agenda for Queer Aging* (Edward Elgar Pub).

Program

I am running for ESA Presidency to wield my experience as an engaged scholar at a time when sociology and academic freedom face fierce attacks. Social scientists carry the

crucial responsibility of producing rigorous knowledge whilst inspiring students and professionals to be proactive. ESA is not only part of a legacy of renowned intellectuals who challenged the canon but also represents a collective future of hope and audacity shaping academic worlds and beyond.

My candidacy is grounded in 30 years of academic experience spanning many areas of intersectional sociological work – research, teaching, outreach, policy-making, evaluation committees and scientific management – engaged in a vast network of sociologists across the globe. I have served ESA since 2011— first coordinating RN23 (2011-2015), then as a twice-elected member of the ESA Executive Board (2021, 2024), chairing and working on several Committees. As such, I am fully prepared to putting my skills at ESA's service.

At a time of democratic fragility and polarization, ESA must remain a beacon of justice, diversity, sustainability, and dignity, fostering critical thought, community engagement, and public scholarship, stimulating sociologists regardless of age, identity or location. We need a committed and resolute ESA, based on evidence-based knowledge, outreach engagement, policy networking, and international solidarity. We need it to defend plural debate, challenge hate and affirm Sociology as a vital democratic force. ESA can, must and will make a difference. With elected colleagues across Europe, this is my commitment for ESA 2026-28, should you grant me your trust – because Sociology matters.

Krešimir Žažar | University of Zagreb | Croatia

Curriculum Vitae

Krešimir Žažar PhD, associate professor, is since 2008 affiliated with the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences of the University of Zagreb (Croatia). His scientific interests encompass



area of general sociology, epistemology of social sciences and social/sociological theories, social dynamics, and more recently sociology of borders as conducting qualitative research of external EU borders at EUROBORDERWALKS project. He has co-published 3 books and around 30 scientific articles and presented at approx. 50 conferences. Since 2019 he has become the member of the board of ESA's RN29 – Social Theory and the member of steering committee of International Social Theory Consortium. From 2021 he is senior research fellow at Next Society Institute of the

Kazimieras Simonavičius University in Vilnius (Lithuania) and in 2026 becomes external associate of Centre for Social Theory at University of Tennessee, Knoxville (US). Since 2025 he is associate editor of “Kybernetes” peer-reviewed scientific journal (ISSN: 0368-492X eISSN: 1758-7883), a member of Presidency of Croatian Sociological Association, as well as the vice-president of Balkan Sociological Forum for the term 2025-2027. From 2021 to 2024, and 2024 to 2026 he served as a member of the ESA Executive Committee with the key task of chairing Postgraduate Committee.

Program

In times of manipulation, ideologization, cultural wars, fabricated realities, and epistemic cacophony amplified with the expansion of AI, academic community must be a showcase of communicative reasoning, a dialogue based on arguments, and rigorous empirical evidence. To foster sociology's growth of knowledge and to strengthen its public relevance, it is important to emphasize key role of theory as a central element of sociological expertise.

Additional efforts should be directed towards protection of scientific knowledge as a common good, towards defence of academic freedom from external pressures linked with the commodification agenda and censorship imposed from political domain in an ever-growing authoritarian environment of heavily undermined democracies, increasing inequalities, growing anxiety, and jeopardized international law order resembling deterioration towards pre-social conditions. In internal sociological debates, it is urgently needed to avoid a quite fashionable self-imposed censorship, which hinders productive academic discussions.

We need a comprehensive revision of the ESA membership and events participation fee, which would more justly reflect disparities in the income distribution and being more sensitive towards scholars facing growing precarity. The most vulnerable are fellows in the early stages of careers (especially PhD students), but also colleagues whose forced retirement means exclusion from academia.

Coming from European semi-periphery enables clearer observation of disparities, imbalances, organisational constraints, epistemic colonialism and injustice in a wider framework of sociological community. Decent efforts are implemented in that direction, but ESA could be more open, diverse, just, equal, and accessible – a paradigmatic example of viable global future whose emergence sociology should creatively co-shape.

Executive Committee 2026-2028

Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder | Ben-Gurion University of the Negev | Israel

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Sarab Abu-Rabia-Queder is a senior sociologist whose scholarship is grounded in critical feminist and postcolonial approaches to sociology. Her research focuses on



gender, ethnicity, higher education, labor markets, and citizenship, with particular attention to the lived experiences of marginalized and Indigenous communities, especially Arab-Palestinian citizens in Israel.

Her work has been published in leading international sociology and education journals, including *Sociology*, *Current Sociology*, *British Journal of Sociology of Education*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and *Social Politics* among others.

These publications advance theoretical and empirical debates on gendered citizenship, minority employment, educational inequalities, and institutional power under conditions of conflict and colonial legacies.

Prof. Abu-Rabia-Queder has led and collaborated on multiple competitive research projects funded by national and philanthropic foundations, and she is deeply committed to mentoring early-career scholars and fostering interdisciplinary and international collaborations. She currently serves on the editorial board of *Sociology Compass* as editor for the “Ethnicity and Race” section and co-edited the 2024 special issue “Various Shapes of Whiteness” in *Education, Citizenship and Social Justice*.

Through her scholarly, editorial, and mentoring work, she brings a strong Global South perspective and long-standing engagement with issues of inequality, diversity, and social justice to the European Sociological Association.

Pertti Alasuutari | Tampere University | Finland

Curriculum Vitae



Pertti Alasuutari, PhD, is Professor Emeritus at the Tampere University, Faculty of Social Sciences. He is editor of the *Journal of Political Power*, and he has published widely in the areas of social theory, cultural and media studies, global and transnational sociology, and social research methodology. His books include *National Parliaments as a Global Institution: An Institutional View* (Oxford University Press 2025), *Epistemic Governance* (with Ali Qadir, Palgrave Macmillan 2019), *Social Theory and Human Reality* (Sage 2004), *An Invitation to Social Research* (Sage 1998), and *Researching Culture: Qualitative Method and Cultural Studies* (Sage, 1995). He was a member of the ESA Executive Committee 2011-2013, 2013-2015, and 2021-

2024, President of the international Association for Cultural Studies (2002-2004) and President of the Westermarck Society 2008-2012.

Izabela Bukalska | Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University | Poland

Curriculum Vitae



Izabela Bukalska works at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw, at the Institute of Sociological Sciences, within the Department of Sociology of Culture. She received her PhD from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences in 2014. As a sociologist of culture she has conducted research projects funded by the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education in Poland focused on the social responsibility of public cultural institutions (particularly museums), creative social worlds and practices within them (e.g. audio documentary makers), and the cultures of national and ethnic minorities. Her most recent co-authored book is *Audio Documentary. Sociological Perspective* (2025).

She completed Ministry-funded research fellowships, among others at Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest, as well as a teaching fellowship at the University of Porto. Her academic interests include qualitative research methodology, especially grounded theory methodology. She is a member of ESA Research Network 20 (Qualitative Methods). She serves on the boards of the European Society for the Study of Symbolic Interaction and the Polish Sociological Association. She is Vice-Chair of the Local Organising Committee of the 17th ESA Conference in Warsaw in 2026.

Michalis Christodoulou | Aristotle University of Thessaloniki | Greece

Curriculum Vitae



I work at the Department of Primary Education of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, as an Assistant Professor, where I teach courses related to the subject “Educational Research Methodology”. I studied Sociology and Philosophy at the bachelor level, I have postgraduate studies in Sociology of Education, doctoral studies in Sociology of Education, while I have completed postdoctoral research in the field of epistemology of social research. In my doctoral research I applied quantitative research and qualitative methods. I have taught courses on educational research methodology at domestic and foreign universities, at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and have participated in funded research projects in which I

contribute to the organization of their methodological design.

My research interests focus on the analysis of qualitative data obtained from various methods (e.g. thematic analysis, Grounded Theory, biographical research, archival analysis, digital ethnography, diaries, structured/unstructured observation), on building qualitative research tools for use in quantitative research designs, on mixed methods data analysis, and on data analysis using Atlas.ti. At the same time, I am developing ways to analyze qualitative and quantitative data in the same data set, such as Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Social Network Analysis, data collection with Repertory Grids and Q Methodology.

I am a member of the International Association of Critical Realism and reviewer in the Journal of Critical Realism Quality and Quantity. I am also a member of the European Sociological Association (ESA) where I participate in the Research Networks RN 10 (sociology of education), RN 20 (qualitative methods) and RN 29 (social theory) and a member of the Hellenic Sociological Society.

Isabel Crowhurst | University of Essex | United Kingdom

Curriculum Vitae



Isabel Crowhurst is Reader in Sociology at the University of Essex, UK. A longstanding member of the European Sociological Association, she co-chaired the ESA Sexuality Research Network (RN23) from 2019 to 2024. Her research examines how norms are created through the interplay of power, values, and daily practices, with a focus on intimacy, personal life, and the governance of sex work. More recently she has also been exploring how invisible infrastructures, from e-payments to sewage systems, operate to organise social life and reinforce social exclusions. Isabel teaches various undergraduate and postgraduate courses, including on social research methods, and on sociological approaches to crime and criminalisation. Among her recent publications are the co-authored *Third Sector Organizations in Sex Work and*

Prostitution (Routledge, 2021), and *The Tenacity of the Couple Norm* (UCL Press, 2020). International collaborations are central to Isabel's research practice – she has co-edited various special issues and collections, coordinated the COST Action Comparing European Prostitution Policies: Understanding Scales and Cultures of Governance (ProsPol, 2013-2017), and was co-investigator on the GCRF Networking Grant Challenging urban sex workers' multiple exclusions in Brazil (2020-2024).

Roger Campdepadrós Cullell | University of Girona | Spain

Curriculum Vitae

Roger Campdepadrós Cullell is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Girona (Spain). He holds a PhD in Sociology with European Doctorate mention and leads the Interdisciplinary Research Group Social Impact of Businesses and Organizations.



Equal Rights and Competitiveness (IDEO IMPACT). His research focuses on social inequalities, ethnic, cultural and religious minority integration, interreligious dialogue, and preventive socialization of gender-based violence. He has contributed to competitive European and international research such as KIDS4ALL (H2020), SCOSORE (Erasmus+), and AIFORA (Volkswagen Foundation), as well as 9 national R&D projects. He has authored 15 articles in

indexed journals, one book, and 10 book chapters. He serves as Assistant Editor of the Multidisciplinary Journal of Social Sciences (SJR Q1).

The candidate has a sustained record of service to the sociological community. A member of the ESA since 2009, he served as Board Member of ESA RN34 – Sociology of Religion (2019–2024). He has been a Board Member of the Catalan Sociological Association since 2017, serving as Treasurer during two consecutive terms, and currently serves as Treasurer of the Multidisciplinary Educational Research Association. He has coordinated the Catalan Conference of Sociology's organization twice (2020 and 2026).

Daniel Guigui | University of Duisburg-Essen | Germany

Curriculum Vitae

I am a postdoctoral researcher in the Macrosociology and Transnational Processes group



at the University of Duisburg-Essen, led by Prof. Dr. Anja Weiß. Our project develops LLM-supported approaches for examining global inequality structures in narrative data, contributing to transparent, reflexive and accountable AI-assisted qualitative methods for comparative sociology. I completed my PhD at University College Dublin under the supervision of Dr Marta Eichsteller. Based on English- and German-language biographical narrative interviews with Dublin- and Munich-based hosts of displaced Ukrainians, my thesis showed how socio-historical contexts and life-course trajectories shape types of bounded cosmopolitan solidarity.

My engagement in European sociology includes serving as a board member of ESA RN03, Biographical Perspectives on European Societies, where I supported the organisation of the network's 2024 mid-term conference in Ireland. Within the Sociological Association of Ireland, I served as Postgraduate Representative on the Executive Committee, organised annual postgraduate conferences for students across Ireland, and now serve as Membership Secretary. I have presented at ESA and ISA conferences, contributed to projects including GUIDE, Growing Up in Ireland, SWISSCAP, and THREADS, published peer-reviewed articles in *Higher Education* and *Review of Education*, and have written book chapters on feminist biographical research with LLMs and European hospitality narratives.

Lauri Heimo | University of Helsinki | Finland

Curriculum Vitae

I am a postdoctoral researcher in sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki. My research lies at the intersection of global and transnational sociology and public policy analysis, with a substantive focus on social protection in low- and middle-



income countries, as well as knowledge production and policymaking, international organizations, policy diffusion, and the rhetorical use of expertise in public policy reforms. My work draws theoretically from sociology and political science, and I have also collaborated across the fields of social policy, health policy, and media research, as reflected in publications spanning these disciplines. I specialise in qualitative research methods and interpretive policy analysis.

I am the lead editor of the Finnish-language edited collection *Gloaali sosiaalipolitiikka* (Global Social Policy), a regular contributor to *Global Social Policy Digest*, and one of the founders of the Epistemic Governance research group. I have served on the board of ESA Research Network 15 (Global, Transnational and Cosmopolitan Sociology) since 2019.

I have conducted research and collaborated on development projects in Latin America and Africa, and I work in Finnish, English, Spanish, and Portuguese.

Agnieszka Kolasa-Nowak | University in Lublin | Poland

Curriculum Vitae

I am a Professor at Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (Poland), where I head the Department of Sociology of Social Change. My scholarly work focuses on historical



sociology and the sociology of science, with a particular emphasis on the long-term consequences of the communist past for social change and the evolution of sociology in Eastern Europe. I hold leadership roles within the Polish Sociological Association (Chair of the Sociology of Science Section and a Board Member of the Historical Sociology Section) and have been an active member of ESA RN36 for over a decade, currently serving as its Vice-Coordinator. Building on my extensive involvement with the ESA since the 2015 Prague conference, I recently submitted a formal application to launch a new Research Network on Historical Sociology.

Liutauras Kraniauskas | Klaipėda University | Lithuania

Curriculum Vitae

Liutauras Kraniauskas is a Lithuanian sociologist whose work focuses on urban sociology, reflexive sociology of sociology, and subcultural studies. Working within the Chicago



sociological tradition, he has conducted extensive empirical research on urban transformation, socio-spatial dynamics, crime geography, and subcultural formations, with a particular focus on the post-socialist city of Klaipėda. Much of his research has been carried out as R&D in collaboration with municipalities, cultural institutions, and local communities, contributing to evidence-informed public policy and urban development. He has also worked on research evaluation, scholarly publishing, masculinities, drug abuse, ethnic minorities.

Olga Kutsenko | Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences | Ukraine

Curriculum Vitae



Olga Kutsenko is an Ukrainian sociologist, Professor, and Doctor of Sciences. She serves as Vice-President of the Sociological Association of Ukraine and Chief Research Fellow at the Institute of Sociology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. In 2005, she founded the Department of Political Sociology at V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University. From 2007 to 2021, she headed the Department of Social Structures and chaired the Council for Doctor of Sciences dissertation defenses at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

Since 2022, following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, she has been based in Berlin as a Philipp Schwartz Senior Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, affiliated with the Technical University of Berlin. Her current research focuses on wartime societal transformations, democratic resilience, evolving social structures, and the dynamics of civic agency.

She serves as an Associate Editor of *Innovation: The European Journal of Social Science Research* (Routledge, Q1) and *Sociology: Theory, Methods, Marketing* (published by the IS NAS Ukraine). She is the author of more than 200 scholarly publications, including works published by Routledge, SAGE, and Springer. Her recent publications advance theoretical and empirical debates on democratic resilience, social transformation under conditions of war, and the role of sociology in times of profound societal disruption.

Mikko Laamanen | Oslo Metropolitan University | Norway

Curriculum Vitae

My name is Mikko, I am Research Professor of Sociology of Consumption and Head of Research for Technology and Sustainability at Consumption Research Norway (SIFO), Oslo Metropolitan University, Norway.



Bridging various sociologies, my work chiefly examines how markets, digitality and everyday practices are reorganised under conditions of platformisation, sustainability transformation and collective action. I have published widely in sociology and related interdisciplinary fields and I have previously held academic positions in Finland, France, Germany and the United Kingdom.

Within ESA, since 2021 I serve as the coordinator of RN05 Sociology of Consumption. From 2015-2017, I served on the board of RN25 Social Movements. I am also a member of RN09 Economic Sociology, RN24 Science and Technology and RN29 Social Theory. Beyond ESA, I am a member of the Norwegian Sociological Association and co-coordinate an emerging economic sociology research network in the Nordic Sociological Association.

As an international scholar with a strong affinity for networking and collective field-building, I would bring to the ESA Executive Committee proven experience in connecting research networks and advancing interdisciplinary dialogue. Particularly I wish to help in further shaping an ESA that is intellectually plural, outward-looking and publicly relevant across Europe.

Gerben Moerman | University of Amsterdam | Netherlands

Curriculum Vitae



Dr. Gerben Moerman is a sociologist at the University of Amsterdam, currently serving as Programme Director of the Research Master in Sociology and Adjunct Professor at Universitas Hasanuddin and visiting lecturer at Anton de Kom Universiteit van Suriname. His research focuses on qualitative methodology, including interview dynamics, innovative qualitative analysis and participatory interpretation. He has a passion for teaching social research methodology, showing students methodology is a process rather than a blueprint.

As General Secretary of the ESA since 2024, Moerman has reorganised the office, rebuilt the staff team, and stepped in as acting Executive Secretary during a transition period. He has served on the Finance, Conference, Publications, and Research Networks Committees, and contributed to both ESA Summer Schools as instructor. For the next term, he seeks to continue as General Secretary or to take a leading role in the Conference or Postgraduate Committee, building on the organisational foundations laid and strengthening ESA's support for the next generation of European sociologists.

Tiziana Nazio | University of Turin | Italy

Curriculum Vitae

Tiziana Nazio is an associate professor at Turin University and a Fellow of the Collegio Carlo Alberto (Italy) since 2019, following a Marie Curie Fellowship at the WZB Social



Science Centre (Germany) (2017-19). She served as Chair of the Local Organising Committee for the ESA 11th conference (Turin) and Chair of the Conference Committee for the ESA 12th conference (Prague). Was a member of the ESA Executive Committee for the terms 2013-15, 2019-21 and 2021-24, contributing especially to the Publication and Finance Committees and serving the ESA through data collection and analyses to support the Office's work. She completed her PhD in sociology at the University of Bielefeld (Germany), followed by the Centre d'Estudis Demogràfics

and the University Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona (Spain), then Oxford University and Nuffield College (UK) and Turin University (Italy) since 2008. She was an Associate Board member of Work Employment & Society (2017-2019). Her research focuses on how

families structure inequalities along the life course, specifically female employment, family formation and disruption, ageing and intergenerational relations, in a comparative perspective.

Patrícia Pereira | Leiria Polytechnic University | Portugal

Curriculum Vitae



Patrícia Pereira is a tenured Assistant Researcher in Sociology at the Leiria Polytechnic University (Portugal), affiliated with the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences (CICS.NOVA). She has been a member of the ESA Executive Committee since 2024, contributing to the Publications, Ethics, and International Relations Committees, and chaired the Solidarity Fund Committee for the 2026 ESA Conference. A member of the association since 2009, she has been an active member of Research Network 37 – Urban Sociology, serving on its board from 2015 to 2017 and as co-coordinator from 2017 to 2021. In 2025, she was a member of the Local Organising Committee for RN37's Midterm Conference and Summer School “Decentered Cities:

Overlooked Urban Narratives and Shifting Centralities,” held at the University of Coimbra. She teaches sociology, urban studies, and research methods. Her main research interests are urban displacement and eviction, housing, gentrification, public spaces, and everyday life. Her work has been published in *Urban Affairs Review* and *City & Community*, among others. She is editor-in-chief of the journal *Forum Sociológico* and co-coordinator of the international Urban Ethnography Network ETNO.URB. She is a recurring expert evaluator for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon Europe. She has held visiting scholar positions in the United States, Brazil, Sweden, and France.

Ilenia Picardi | University of Naples Federico II (UNINA) | Italy

Curriculum Vitae



Ilenia Picardi is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Naples Federico II (UNINA), where she teaches Methodology for Social Research and Science, Technology and Society. Her research lies within Science and Technology Studies (STS) and the sociology of knowledge, focusing on technoscientific processes, epistemic transformations, and intersectional inequalities in science and society. She works with interdisciplinary and mixed-method approaches integrating qualitative and digital methods, and network analysis.

Since 2016, she has coordinated the STS research area within the Gender Observatory on University and Research at UNINA, promoting research and institutional actions on gender equality, organizational

change, and inclusive academic environments. She has participated in several European and national research projects on sustainability, social inequalities, including the FP7 project GENOVATE and the project PROSOCIAL-CLIMA, for which she is Scientific Coordinator of the UNINA Research Unit.

She has been actively involved in national and international sociological associations, particularly ESA, AIS, and STS Italia, where she serves on the Executive Board.

Since 2024, she has served as member of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Ethics Committee of the ESA. She is also board member of ESA RN27 Southern European Societies and RN33 Women's and Gender Studies.

Olga Salido | Complutense University of Madrid | Spain

Curriculum Vitae

Olga Salido is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Complutense University of Madrid (Spain). Her work analyses social inequality dynamics in Europe from a comparative



perspective, focusing on the intersections between gender, labour markets and welfare states. She combines quantitative and qualitative methods to examine how economic change and public policies shape life chances and income inequality.

She has extensive experience leading research teams and participating in international collaborations, particularly within European networks on inequality and mobility. Her work often bridges academic research and policy debates, contributing to assessments and evidence-based discussions on social change.

Olga also brings a strong record of service and leadership within the sociological community. She has served as Vice-President for International Affairs of the Spanish Sociological Federation (FES) since 2022 (board member since 2018). Within the ESA, she has been active in RN27 Southern European Societies, serving on its board since 2019 and as Co-Coordinator since 2024, strengthening comparative dialogue across Southern European contexts. She is currently co-editing a special issue on AI and Sociology for The European Sociologist.

She is committed to fostering inclusive, collaborative governance within the ESA and to enhancing the visibility of Southern European scholarship in the broader European sociological landscape.

Monica Șerban | Research Institute for Quality of Life (ICCV), Romanian Academy | Romania

Curriculum Vitae

Monica Șerban is a sociologist and senior researcher at the Research Institute for Quality



of Life (ICCV), Romanian Academy. Her research focuses on international migration, contributing to the advancement of the origin-country perspective in relation to migration policies, migration and development, and seasonal migration. Her work has appeared in international peer-reviewed journals, as well as in edited volumes. Over the past 15 years, as a researcher and principal investigator in Romanian teams, she has been involved in several major European projects (FP7, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe). She has taught migration studies at BA and MA levels, contributing to the training of new generations of

sociologists.

Monica Șerban has been consistently active in national and international academic networks. She is a founding member of the Romanian Network for Migration Studies (ROMIG) and has been active within the European Sociological Association since 2009. She co-organised the ESA RN35 Midterm Conference in Bucharest (2016) and served as a member of the network's board from 2019 to 2024. More recently, she has also been a member of RN38 (Space, Society and Rurality). Her most recent publication (co-authored with Laura Moroșanu) is: *Then and Now: Romanian Returnees Contemplating Future Migration* (International Migration Review, 2025).

Viktor Stepanenko | Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences | Ukraine

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Viktor Stepanenko is a Chief Research Fellow at the Institute of Sociology, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Kyiv). Since 2024, he has also taught two Master's-level



courses at the Department of Sociology, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. Since 2019, he has served as Editor-in-Chief of *Sociology: Theory, Methods, Marketing*, Ukraine's leading academic sociology journal (<https://en.stmm.in.ua>).

He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Manchester in 1998 and defended the title of Doctor of Science in Sociology at the Institute of Sociology in Kyiv in 2016. His research interests include the issues of post-authoritarian transformation, democratization and of civil society. He is also studying societal and ethno-political problematics in contemporary social theory.

Dr. Stepanenko's recent publications include editing and contributing to the books *Ukrainian Society During Wartime* (Palgrave, 2026), *Solidarity Social Interactions in Ukraine During the War and in the Post-War Perspective* (IS NASU, 2026), *COVID-19 Pandemic in Ukraine: Social Consequences* (IS NASU, 2021), *Ukraine after Euromaidan: Challenges and Hopes* (Peter Lang, 2015), and *Civil Society: Discourses and Practices* (IS NASU, 2016).

He is also the author of numerous articles published in international and Ukrainian sociological journals.

Judit Takacs | ELTE Centre for Social Sciences | Hungary

Curriculum Vitae

Judit Takács is a Research Professor at the ELTE Centre for Social Sciences, a vice-president of the Sociology Scientific Committee of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences,



and (since 2026) an associate editor of European Societies. She has studied history, cultural anthropology and social sciences in Budapest and Amsterdam (UvA), holds a Ph.D. in sociology, a Diploma Habilitationis, and the Doctor of Science title (awarded by the Hungarian Academy of Sciences). Her main research interests cover family practices, childlessness, caring masculinities, the social history of homosexuality, homophobia and genderphobia; while also having extensive research experience in

HIV/AIDS prevention, community engagement in the context of public health preparedness, and measuring social attitudes. Her research has been published in journals including AIDS; Archives of Sexual Behavior; Big Data & Society; Critical Social Policy; European Journal of Politics and Gender; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion; Families, Relationships & Societies; Gender, Place & Culture; Sexualities; Sexuality Research and Social Policy; Social Politics. Her recent publications include “Involved Fatherhood Ideals and Practices in European Post-Socialist Societies”; “Compromising Priests and Nuns under State Socialism”; “European attitudes towards parenting and adoption by same-sex couples”; “Resisting Genderphobia in Hungary” and a co-edited volume on Paradoxical Right-Wing Sexual Politics in Europe.

Audronė Telešienė | Kaunas University of Technology | Lithuania

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Audrone Telesiene is Full Professor of Sociology and Head of Center for Data Analysis and Archiving at Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania. Her interdisciplinary



research addresses green transition, social dimensions of climate change, environmental attitudes and behaviors, water literacy, risk perception and communication, community resilience to cascading crises, open data and citizen science. She coordinates the development of the Lithuanian open research data infrastructure LiDA (a service provider for CESSDA ERIC), and has contributed to major international research infrastructures, including the European Social Survey (ESS-ERIC) and the International Social Survey Programme (ISSP).

A long-standing member of ESA since 2003, she has been actively involved across several research networks, including RN12 (Environment and Society), RN22 (Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty), and RN21 (Quantitative Methods). She served as Coordinator of RN12 (2019–2024), following earlier roles as Vice-Coordinator and Board Member. As a

member of the ESA Executive Committee (2024–2026), she led the development of sustainability recommendations for ESA events.

Dr. Telesiene is also actively engaged at the science-policy interface, providing expert advice to national and European authorities and served as Convener of the Behavioral, Social, and Cultural Task Group in UNEP's 7th Global Environmental Outlook.

Smiljka Tomanović | University of Belgrade | Serbia

Curriculum Vitae

Smiljka Tomanović is a Full Professor in Sociology at the University of Belgrade - Faculty of Philosophy, where she obtained all her degrees, including Ph.D. Her areas of teaching and research are Sociology of Family Life, Sociology of Youth, Sociology of Childhood and



qualitative methods. She has participated in a large number of national and international research projects in Serbia and the region. From 2014, she has been a member of the European Sociological Association RN30 Youth and Generation and RN13 Families and Intimate Lives. Within the RN30, she has organised the mid-term conference in September 2018, at Silver Lake, Serbia, where she gave the

keynote lecture. She was a member of managing committees of COST Actions: CA17114 YOUNG-IN and CA21143 TraFaDy. She was the first president of Sociological Scientific Society of Serbia (during two mandates, from 2019 – 2023), the academic association that is particularly devoted to establishing and developing international cooperation among sociologists in the region and beyond. She has authored or co-authored ten academic monographs, edited two joint volumes, and contributed numerous articles to scholarly journals and collective books.

Haktan Ural | Ankara University | Türkiye

Curriculum Vitae

Haktan Ural is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at Ankara University, where his research engages with gender and sexualities, media and communications, and the sociology of emotions and affect. He holds a Ph.D. in Sociology



from Middle East Technical University (2016), and has held research fellowships at the University of Brighton (2016) and at the Free University of Berlin (2021). His scholarship combines qualitative and quantitative methodologies with digital research methods. He has published in journals including Feminist Media Studies, Media, Culture & Society and the Journal of Youth Studies. His current research examines anti-gender mobilisations in Turkey, analysing

how conservative actors circulate gendered narratives across media platforms and articulate them with broader political and religious agendas. Since 2024, he has served on the boards of the ESA RN33 Women's and Gender Studies Network and the Turkey Sociological Association.

If elected, he hopes to contribute to ESA as a vibrant transnational platform for sociological inquiry by fostering cross-regional dialogue, supporting early-career

researchers, and amplifying critical perspectives on growing democratic backsliding and authoritarianism across Europe and beyond.

Valerie Visanich | University of Malta | Malta

Curriculum Vitae

Prof. Valerie Visanich, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Malta. Her research focuses on the sociology of the arts, visual sociology, and cultural policy. She is an Associate Editor for the Wiley Blackwell Encyclopaedia of Sociology and co-editor of the Routledge series The Sociology and Management of the Arts. Recent publications include various articles, book chapters and edited books, including *Accomplishing Cultural Policy in Europe* (Routledge, 2022, with Christopher Mathieu).



She is part of the Advisory board of the European Sociological Association's Research Network, Sociology of the Arts (RN02) and previously served as coordinator in this network (2017 - 2019). She led the organisation of the ESA RN02 Midterm Conference in Malta in 2018. Visanich is co-founder of the Malta Sociological Association and served as Chair between 2016 and 2019. She is recognised for promoting public sociology through national cultural projects, including the Arts Strategy for Arts Council Malta 2026–2030 and Malta's National Cultural Policy 2021, as well as through her bi-monthly newspaper column, analysing current affairs from a sociological perspective.

Katarzyna Wojnicka | University of Gothenburg | Sweden

Curriculum Vitae

Katarzyna Wojnicka is an Associate Professor in Sociology at the University of Gothenburg, affiliated with the Department of Sociology and Work Science and the Centre for European Research. She is a leading scholar in the fields of sociology of men and masculinities, migration and integration in Europe, and social movements, with a recognizable voice in contemporary empirical, theoretical, and methodological discussions characteristic of European sociology. She serves as Editor-in-Chief of NORMA: International Journal for Masculinity Studies, where she oversees the full editorial process, manages international editorial teams and peer review, and engages in strategic development, publisher negotiations, and financial



planning, demonstrating strong leadership and organizational skills. Wojnicka can be called a truly European sociologist, with extensive academic experience across Poland, Sweden, Germany, and the United Kingdom, including positions at the Jagiellonian University, University of Leeds, and Humboldt University of Berlin, as well as a Visiting Scholarship at Harvard University. She has been actively involved in multiple EU-funded research projects and collaborations and regularly contributes as an evaluator in European funding schemes (Horizon, CERV, EACEA). Her work combines theoretical

innovation with policy relevance, addressing key European challenges such as migration, gender equality, and social inequalities.

Candidates for the Chair Council of National Associations 2026-2028

Dilek Cindoglu | Yasar University | Türkiye

Curriculum Vitae

Dilek Cindoglu is a professor of sociology at Yasar University in İzmir. Dr. Dilek Cindoğlu's research focuses on the gendered nature of sexuality, health, labor markets, politics, and migration in Türkiye, with broader global implications. She was a Fulbright Senior Scholar



at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of International Migration (ISIM) and the Gender Studies Coordinator for Graduate Studies at Kadir Has University, Istanbul. Before she worked as Chair at HBKU at Doha, Dean at AGU Kayseri, Chair at Mardin Artuklu University and Deputy Chair at Bilkent University. She received her Ph.D. (1991) from SUNY at Buffalo and her BA and MA

from Bogazici University, Istanbul, Türkiye. She has been an ESA member since 2017 and active on the boards of academic associations, serving as an elected member of the Executive Committee of the Turkish Sociological Association (2006-2015), the International Sociological Association (2010-2018), and the European Sociological Association (2019-2021).

John O'Brien | University College Cork | Ireland

Curriculum Vitae



John O'Brien is a Lecturer in the Department of Sociology and Criminology at University College Cork, Ireland, where he also serves as Director of the BA in Criminology.

He has held several significant academic leadership and professional service roles, including Treasurer of the European Sociological Association from 2024 to 2026, active in various ESA committees, President of the Sociological Association of Ireland from 2019 to 2023, and Editor-in-Chief of the Irish Journal of Sociology since 2023. This is part of his ongoing commitment to supporting the associations and institutions that promote sociological

research and that support the discipline. John is a member of RN05 and RN29.

His research and teaching focuses on crime, deviance, leisure and social control. This is always strongly informed by social theory. The particular empirical focus of his research is on alcohol, intoxication, drinking cultures, and their relationship to wider processes of social and historical change.

Candidates for the Chair Council of Research Networks 2026-2028

Michela Franceschelli | University College London (UCL) | United Kingdom

Curriculum Vitae

Michela Franceschelli is an Associate Professor of Sociology at University College London (UCL), in the UCL Social Research Institute, where she served as Programme



Leader of the BSc Sociology and teaches core modules in Social Theory and Research Methods. Michela was trained in Italy and the UK (University of Perugia, LSE, SOAS, UEA). She has been an ESA member since 2017. Between 2019 and 2024, she was Coordinator of RN30 Youth and Generations and, since May 2025, she has served as Chair of the ESA Council of Research Networks.

Her research intersects migration, youth, and cultural sociology, examining how inequalities, racialisation, and colonial legacies shape belonging and transitions to adulthood among migrants and their descendants. She is a mixed-methods researcher with expertise in visual methodologies and social documentary work. Her doctoral thesis, *Identity and Upbringing in South Asian Muslim Families*, was published as a monograph. Her recent work focuses on the mobility of Black and racialised Europeans and appears in journals such as *Sociology*, *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies*, *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, *The British Journal of Sociology*, and *Cultural Sociology*.

Alberto Veira Ramos | Universidad Carlos III de Madrid | Spain

Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Alberto Veira Ramos is an Associate Professor at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid.



Alberto holds a Master on Sociology from the university of Wisconsin-Madison (USA) and a PhD from the UNED (Spain).

Alberto has attended to ESA conferences held in Murcia 2003, Torun 2005, Glasgow, 2007, Lisbon 2009, Prague 2015, Athens 2017, Manchester 2019, Barcelona 2021 and Porto 2024. At Glasgow, Alberto participated at the PhD workshop for young researchers. At Prague, Alberto was elected member of the board of the Research Network on Economic Sociology (RN09). At Athens was elected as one of the two Vice-coordinators of the same Network and reelected for the position in Manchester and Barcelona. At the Porto conference, Alberto was elected as one of the two Coordinators of the Network.

Serving as a Network Vice-coordinator and Coordinator, he has collaborated with the organization of various RN09 Mid-term Conferences, including the 2016 Mid-term where he acted as the local host. Alberto also co-organized a semi-plenary session at the ESA Conference at Athens and various Joint Sessions at the conference of Manchester.

His dedication to the organization culminated in co-editing the landmark volume *Economic Sociology in Europe: Recent Trends and Developments* (Routledge, 2024).



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