APRIL 2026
CLINICAL SOCIOLOGY
THE OFFIICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ISA RC46: CLINICAL SOCIOLOGY

Message From the President

Dear RC46 Members,

The ISA has released information about the XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology, titled Global Sociology in Turbulent Times, taking place July 4 – 10, 2027, in Gwangju, South Korea. Mariam Seedat Khan (University of KwaZulu-Natal, seedatm@ukzn.ac.za) and Tina Uys (University of Johannesburg, tuys@uj.ac.za) are the Program Coordinators for the World Congress. We will be in regular contact to inform you about the deadlines for participating in the Forum.

Information about the **2027 World Congress** is available at the following link: https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/gwangju-2027/xxi-isa-congress-guidelines. Please look at the guidelines to familiarise yourself with what you need to do to participate in the conference. Of particular importance is the process for accessing the conference system, available under the heading "**Access to the Conference System and User Profile**."

We are providing information below about important 2026 congress deadlines and registration grants. We hope to see many of you in Gwangju!

Warm regards,

Tina Uys

tuys@uj.ac.za

Programme Coordinators, Session Organisers and Authors are expected to comply with all deadlines set for the Congress. No extensions will be granted.

Deadlines for Congress Participation

2 May – 25 June 2026: Call for Sessions

The first important deadline is the Call for Sessions, which opens on 2 May and closes on 25 June 2026. Based on our October 2025 membership numbers, RC46 has been allocated 19 sessions at the Congress, including the Business Meeting.

We warmly invite all members to propose a session through the Conference System. Proposals are welcome on any topic within the field of Clinical Sociology, and we especially encourage submissions aligned with the Congress theme, "Global Sociology in Turbulent Times".

When submitting, you will need to select a session type and provide a clear title and description. Please also indicate the language(s) in which your session will be conducted. RC46 is proud to have members across all three official ISA languages — English, French, and Spanish — and we encourage you to consider listing all three. We actively work to bridge language gaps during presentations.

Please note: ISA membership is not required at the time of submission. However, for any accepted session, at least one Session Organiser must hold ISA membership and be a member of the relevant RC/WG/TG by the end of the membership grace period — failing which, the session will be removed from the programme.

Proposals may be revised in the Conference System at any point up to the deadline, after which no further edits will be possible.

💡 Tip: Take care to refine your session title, description, keywords, and language(s) before the deadline. Session proposals are published exactly as submitted — the ISA does not edit or proofread them.

26 June – 22 July 2026: Selecting Sessions

By 22 July, the Program Coordinators must select the sessions that will form the RC46 programme. They will review all proposals submitted to RC46 and accept or exclude them based on quality, relevance to RC46, thematic balance, and the number of allocated session slots.

22 July – 29 July 2026: Notification of Session Organisers

All Session Organisers of pre-selected sessions will be notified on 22 July 2026. From that date, a one-week membership grace period applies. **For each session, at least one Session Organiser must be an ISA member and a member of RC46 by the end of this period.** Session Organisers who are not yet members must fulfil this requirement within this timeframe. If the requirement is not met, the session will be removed from the programme.

30 July – 31 July: 2026 Final Session List

The RC46 Program Coordinators must finalise a list of sessions. The format, titles, descriptions, and language (English, French, or Spanish) of the sessions, as well as the contact details of session organisers (name, affiliation, country, e-mail), will be available on the ISA conference platform run by Confex.

3 August – 14 October 2026: Call for Abstracts

Participants and organisers of invited sessions must submit abstracts online via the Confex platform in English, French, or Spanish. Only abstracts submitted through the Conference System will be considered in the selection process**.**

15 October - 30 November 2026: Abstract Selection and Relocation

Session Organisers and Program Coordinators finalise the allocation of abstracts to sessions.

4 December 2026: Notification letters and Registration Opening

On 4 December, all authors of accepted papers will receive a notification letter confirming their acceptance. Please note that at least one author per paper must register before the registration deadline for the paper to remain in the programme.

23 March 2027: Registration Deadline for Paper Authors Programme

Any paper for which no author has registered by 23 March 2027 will be removed from the programme. Only registered authors will appear in the final programme, and only presentations listed in the programme may be delivered at the Congress. Co-authors who wish to attend the Congress must also register individually.

ISA RC46 Clinical Sociology

Information about Registration Grants

ISA provides registration grants to support participation in the Congress. Each Research Committee (RC), Working Group (WG), and Thematic Group (TG) is responsible for allocating these grants in accordance with ISA guidelines and its own internal procedures.

Types of grants

Each RC/WG/TG receives:

- one registration grant for a Programme Coordinator;
- a limited amount of funds to allocate as registration grants to participants based on their membership.

Eligibility

Registration grants may be allocated only to participants who:

- are active participants in the conference programme;
- are ISA members in good standing;
- are members of the relevant RC/WG/TG.

Applicants may apply for a grant before completing membership. However, grants can only be awarded and activated once membership requirements are fulfilled. Participants may apply to only one RC/WG/TG.

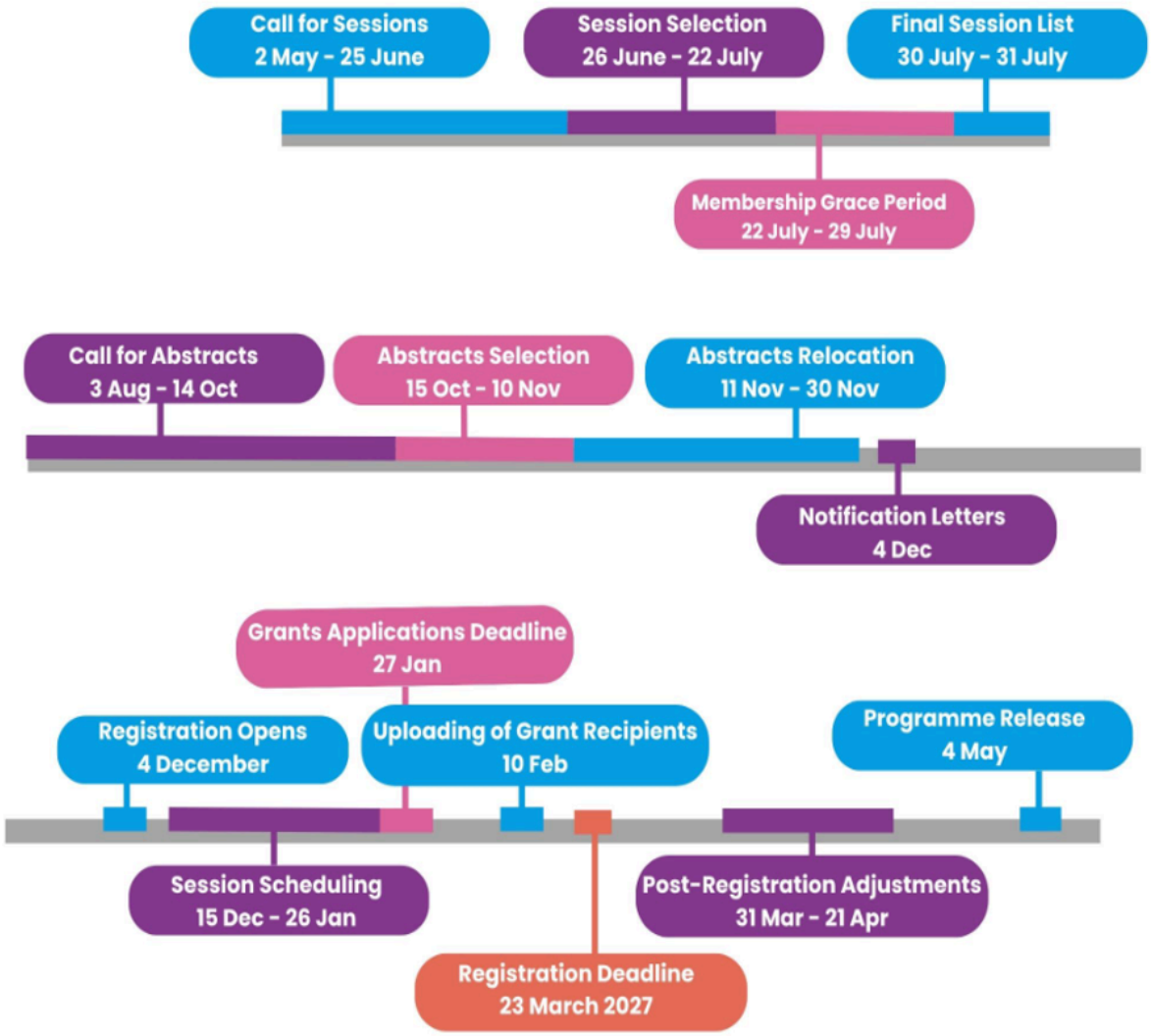
27 January 2027: Deadline for Registration Grant Applications

The final date for submitting registration grant applications to the Programme

Coordinators is 27 January.

The Programme Coordinators must submit the list of selected grantees via the ISA Member Portal for verification and approval by 10 February 2027.

Further details about the conference administration will be provided in later newsletters. A full timeline appears below.



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News From Clinical Sociologists Around the World

News from France

By Agnès Vandevelde-Rougale

The RISC (International Network of Clinical Sociology, https://www.sociologie-clinique.org/en/), founded in France (Paris) and chaired by Prof. Vincent de Gaulejac (Université Paris Cité), celebrated in 2025 its 10th anniversary. During the network's general assembly, on March 9, 2026, it named three clinical sociologists as honorary presidents: Prof. Christiane Girard (Universidade de Brasilia), Prof. Teresa Carreteiro (Universidade Federal Fluminense in Rio de Janeiro), Prof. Jacques Rhéaume (Université du Québec à Montréal). It also welcomed several new members as part of its board of directors, several also members of the RC46. The network carries on with its actions to support the development of clinical sociology in various fields (research, intervention, training, publications) by fostering the links and relations between clinical sociologists (researchers, students, practitioners), as well as contacts with other approaches.

The beginning of 2026 has also been marked by the publication of three books on work and labour: "Travailler fait-il toujours sens?" ("Does working still make sense? https://www.editions-eres.com/ouvrage/5535/travailler-fait-il-toujours-sens) edited by a collective including several clinical sociologists (Marie-Anne Dujarier, Margaux Trarieux, Émilie Veyrat); "Business Aesth/ethics" (https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-032-11367-2) by Jean-Philippe Bouilloud and Ghislain Deslandes; and a new edition of the book first published in 1991 by Nicole Aubert and Vincent de Gaulejac: "Le coût de l'excellence. En finir avec le culte de la performance" ("The Cost of Excellence. Putting an End to the Cult of Performance" https://www.editionspoints.com/ouvrage/le-cout-de-l-excellence-nicole-aubert/9791041427796)

A new book edited by Vincent de Gaulejac will be released in May 2026: "La thérapie

en société. Approches systémiques et sociologie clinique" ("Therapy in Society. Systemic Approaches and Clinical Socioogy" https://www.editions-eres.com/ouvrage/5570/la-therapie-en-societe).

Our colleague, Prof. Fernando de Yzaguirre (Universidad del Atlantico, Columbia), has been invited as a guest researcher to the Laboratoire du Changement Social et Politique (Université Paris Cité) in January and February 2026, where he initiated a participatory and creative event to discuss the question "How can one not lose their mind in a world that is becoming unreasonable?" (https://www.sociologie-clinique.org/france/pot-commun-socioclinique-laboratoire-experientiel-participatif/) and communicated in a seminar on the epistemology of clinical sociology (https://www.sociologie-clinique.org/france/journee-detude-lepistemologie-de-la-sociologie-clinique-une-epistemologie-de-lappropriation-transformatrice/).

The conference cycle organised by ERES Publishing house with authors of the collection "Sociologie clinique" ("Clinical sociology" https://www.editions-eres.com/collection/129/sociologie-clinique) and animated by Vincent de Gaulejac continues, on the theme "Quels accompagnements face aux troubles sociopsychiques?" ("How to address sociopsychological disorders?" https://www.editions-eres.com/eres-formations/formation/quels-accompagnements-face-aux-troubles-sociopsychiques). Intervening authors are: Florence Giust-Desprairies, Ana Massa, Catherine Besse, Agnès Vandevelde-Rougale, Isabelle Seret, Fabienne Hanique, Danièle Linhart, Pascal Fugier, Bénédicte Vidaillet, Christophe Niewiadomsky, Julien Cueille.

Professional trainings are also organised by RISC-Formations (https://sociologie-clinique-formations.com/), L'Atelier des Chemins (https://latelierdeschemins.com/).

University education in Clinical Sociology is provided at Université Paris Cité (https://www.sociologie-clinique.org/france/universite-paris-cite-formation-initiale-ou-continue-sociologie-clinique-et-psychosociologie/) as well as included in the curricula of sociology or psychosociology degrees in other French universities.

Recent publications from RC 46 Members

From Miriam Boeri

Boeri, M.W., Lamonica, A., Whittaker, A. et al. Social justice with harm reduction approaches for mothers who use opioids: an international comparative ethnographic study with community engaged methods. Harm Reduct J 22, 201 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1186/s12954-025-01309-6

Abstract:

Mothers and pregnant women who use opioids are particularly vulnerable. Mothers often fear surveillance, stigma, and loss of custody of their children when seeking treatment. Although opioid agonist therapy (OAT) has been shown to be effective, access varies regionally, and not all mothers can cease using opioids. This study compares outcomes of mothers who use opioids in the UK with universal healthcare and OAT access, and mothers in the U.S. with restricted healthcare and OAT access, focusing on their interactions with services.

Other News and Announcements

From Jan Fritz

ASA Clinical Sociology Community

The American Sociological Association now has an ASA Clinical Sociology Community. Members of the American Sociological Association are able to join without any fee. For information about the community, please contact one of the Executive Committee members of the CS Community who are members of ISA's RC46 - Jan Marie Fritz jan.fritz@uc.edu; Yvonne Vissing yvissing@salemstate.edu; or Marioam Seedat Khan seedatm@ukzn.ac.za

Developing a Book Project?

Springer's Clinical Sociology Book Series is publishing a new book on effective strategies to deal with homelessness, and two books are in the works - one on Bangladesh and one on whistleblowing. If you would like to develop a proposal for a book (as an author or editor), please contact the series editor for information: Jan Marie Fritz at jan.fritz@uc.edu

Will Your Country back a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons?

The UN General Assembly in 2010 mandated a working group to develop - as soon as possible - a draft convention on the rights of older persons. After 15 years and no draft, the working group was thanked for its work... and the project has been moved to the UN Human Rights Council. A draft needs to be developed, and countries need to publicly support the effort. If you support this effort, you might contact an organization in your country that represents the rights of older adults to see how you might be helpful and you could also let your government know that you hope it will be an early and vocal supporter of a convention. To learn more about this topic, visit the website of the Global Alliance of the Rights of Older People https://rightsofolderpeople.org/

UN Special Procedures: Call for Input on Study of Negative Impact of Unilateral

Coercive Measures on the Right to Health of Individuals in Vulnerable Situations (https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2026/call-inputs-study-human-rights-council-advisory-committee-negative-impact)

The UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is gathering information on how unilateral coercive measures (UCMs), like sanctions, negatively impact the right to health of individuals in vulnerable situations, particularly women and children. The information collected will inform a comprehensive study to be presented at the 64th session of the Human Rights Council that will address the broad impacts of UCMs on the right to health and gaps in data collection. Topical areas that the study will explore include: the root causes by which UCMs undermine access to health; human rights consequences for women and children; health, social, and economic costs; and best practice examples in legislative, policy, and remedial measures aimed at mitigating these adverse effects.

- Input can be submitted by any stakeholder by the deadline on Thursday, April 30.
- Read details on submitting input and the full scope of the study at https://www.ohchr.org/en/calls-for-input/2026/call-inputs-study-human-rights-council-advisory-committee-negative-impact
- The Advisory Committee has shared a questionnaire (available in English | Français | Español) to facilitate input submissions from all relevant stakeholders, including civil society organizations, governments, UN entities, and affected communities.
- The UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee notes that the study will be prepared in close cooperation with the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, drawing on existing resources and data collected.

From Carole-Lynne Le Navenec

Invitation to attend AGM and Annual Conference of CURAC: College and University Retirees Association of Canada in metropolitan Vancouver (at Inn at the Quay, Westminister, B.C. Canada) –see info at https://curac.ca/en/conference

Help Dr. Carole-Lynne Le Navenec (PhD-Clinical Sociology, Univ of Toronto), who is now part of the Professors Emeriti group, establish more Intergenerational Programs:

I would like to invite faculty and graduate students to please send me their knowledge of existing programs, OR ideas on how to establish more *intergenerational programs pertaining to teaching/learning/ and research. This* aspect involves how to create programs that involve a retired Professor Emeritus (acting as a volunteer) to be part of the thesis/research/scholarly writing committee of a student who is pursuing research in clinical sociology in the areas of innovative approaches for health promotion and social support of adults experiencing chronic illness/vision loss/ and/or mental health changes due to a range of different causes. While doing my doctoral thesis I learned from those in my study, how families make life meaningful even though the index person (or what others call a patient) in the family had major changes in memory. Using music, visual arts, dance-movement approaches, and related creative arts approaches were what was being employed by them. This finding afforded me knowledge of the importance of obtaining not only clinical evidence, but also Experiential Evidence==which is something that is still very low in the research literature.

Would interested participants please send me an email (cllenave@ucalgary.ca) if they would like to have a zoom or Teams online meeting.

From Joshua Vidal and Emma Porio

SCAP 2026 Regional Dialogue Highlights Dr. Emma Porio's Transformative Climate Education Message

The **Regional Dialogue: Schools Climate Action Project (SCAP) 2026**, held in celebration of Earth Day under the theme **"Our Power, Our Planet™,"** gathered educators, students, and regional presenters to advance evidence-based climate action in schools.

One of the event highlights was the applauded presentation of **Dr. Emma Porio**, who emphasized that schools must become active spaces for transformative climate action—not only places where climate change is taught, but communities where science, justice, resilience, and local action come together.

Her presentation called for climate education to move beyond awareness and become a whole-school and whole-community approach. She highlighted the importance of connecting climate science with social inequality, community resilience, and transformative adaptation.

The event was also guided by **Joshua Vidal**, Executive Advisor of the Regional Dialogue, whose leadership helped frame SCAP 2026 as a platform for turning knowledge into action across schools and institutions.

Overall, Dr. Porio's message strongly captured the spirit of SCAP: empowering schools, teachers, and students to become partners in building a more resilient, sustainable, and just future.

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