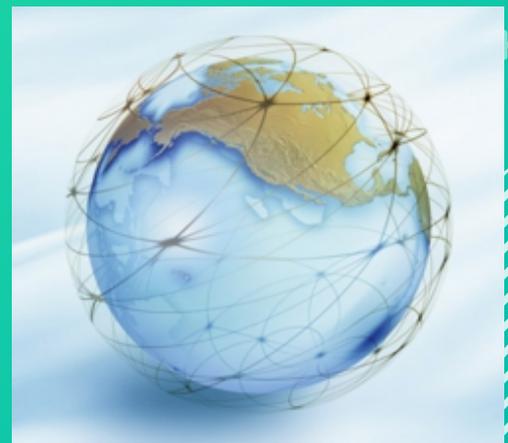


RC23 NEWSLETTER

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RC23 President's Introduction

June 2020

by Nadia Asheulova

Dear RC23 members,

As President of RC23, I welcome you to the Summer Issue of the RC23 Newsletter!

In this publication, in addition to the traditional sections, we included a special interview with Alice Abreu, our Vice President, about science and technology in Brazil. As everyone has been following, the situation in Brazil, the site of our next ISA Forum, has drawn world wide attention due to political crises, and the impacts suffered by the country's science and technology system. In this interview, Alice presents the main characteristics of the Brazilian S&T system, highlighting the current challenges.

A second article, written by Prof. Dr. Martin Reinhart, presents information about the opening ceremony of [The Robert Merton Center for Science Studies](#) of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. The Center was opened on 11 September 2019.

As a RC23 President, I visited the new interdisciplinary academic center on 7 October, 2019 and discussed with the main organizer of the centre, Prof. Dr. Martin Reinhart, the future fruitful cooperation in our study "The Role of the International Sociological Association for Boosting Academic Career and Building Global Networks" in 2020-2022.

This issue also provides information about RC23 members activities and publications. The ISA Executive Committee has decided to postpone the IV ISA Forum of Sociology in Porto Alegre until February 23-27, 2021.

All activities that were prepared will be maintained and the abstracts selected for the Forum in July 2020 remain valid for the Forum in February 2021. We have set a new calendar that allows Research Committees and Working and Thematic Groups to update and re-open some of their panels. The following are the dates for the new call for abstracts.

October 16-25, 2020: RC/WG/
TG publish calls for new abstracts
October 26 – November 12, 2020:
Submission of new abstracts via
online platform
December 15, 2020: Presenters
final registration deadline

We look forward to having a strong presence at the IV ISA Forum Sociology (February 23-27, 2021) to be held in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Best regards,
Nadia Asheulova

The STI system in Brazil: two steps backwards?¹

Alice Abreu

Professor Emerita

Federal University of Rio de Janeiro

Vice-president of RC23



In 2015, as part of my contribution to the book *Advancing Women in Science. An International Perspective*², I wrote two vignettes, Focus on Brazil (Vignette 3.1, p 81-84) and Enabling Policies: Capacity Building in Science and Technology in Brazil (Vignette 10.3, p 337-340), where I explained how the Brazilian STI system was built and the results of a strong capacity building effort in science, with a special focus on gender. I argued that the case of Brazil was worth looking at since:

[...] Women have been the majority of M.Sc. graduates since 1998 and the majority of Ph.D. graduates since 2004, making the famous scissors diagram change direction. As discussed in Vignette 10.3, this was the result of a consistent universal policy of support for graduate training. In 2008 women accounted for 53.9 M.Sc. graduates and 51% of Ph.D. graduates.

Between 1996 and 2008 there were 87,000 Ph.D.s graduated in all scientific areas CGEE (2010)³. The number of Ph.D.s conferred increased 278% between 1996 and 2008, a yearly rate of 11.9%. The large majority of the Ph.D.s graduated from public universities, either from the state system of São Paulo, or the Federal Universities. In fact, five universities, including

three of São Paulo, accounted for about 60% of total Ph.D.s conferred in Brazil between 1996 and 2008. Having women as the majority of Ph.D.s graduates puts Brazil among the very few countries, which includes Portugal and Italy, where women represent the majority at this level of training. Across the EU, women earn, on average, 46% of Ph.D.s European Commission (2013)⁴ and in the United States women earned 49% of Ph.D.s in 2011.

In Brazil, as in other countries, there are considerable differences in women's participation between the scientific disciplines. In 2008 women represented a very strong majority of Ph.D. graduates in Health Science (59%) and Biological Sciences (63%), which is similar to the high rates of participation in these areas in the United States and many European nations. However, unlike the United States and some European nations, Brazilian women are more highly represented in Engineering (33%) and Exact Sciences (38%). [...] (p 81)

This strong increase in the number of women in the entry levels of a scientific career was the result of more than 60 years

¹ This text was received for publication in November 2019.

² W. Pearson Jr.; L. M. Frehill; C. L. McNeely (eds) 2015. *Advancing Women in Science. An International Perspective*. Cham, Heidelberg, New York, Dordrecht, London: Springer.

³ CGEE. 2010. *Doutores 2010: estudos da demografia da base técnico-científica brasileira (Ph.D.s 2010: Study of the Demography of the Brazilian Techno-Scientific Base)*. Brasília: Centro de Gestão e Estudos Estratégicos.

⁴ CNPq. 2013. *Diretório dos grupos de pesquisa no Brasil. Censos a partir de 2000 e base corrente (Directory of Research Groups of Brazil. Census from year 2000 and current base)*.

of investment in an increasingly robust and complex STI system, which focused heavily on capacity building.

[...] The creation in 1951 of CNPq (National Council for Scientific and Technological Development) and of CAPES (Coordinating Agency for Training of Higher Education Personnel) was crucial to this process. The former aimed at financing research and supporting individual researchers, and the latter sought to promote and enhance capacity among university teachers. The late 1970s saw the establishment of the first graduate level courses in the country, and CAPES also assumed an important function related to the evaluation and quality control of the postgraduate system.

The Brazilian S&T system grew significantly throughout the 1980s and, in 1985, the Ministry of Science and Technology was created. Today, it sponsors the highest national body for science and technology, the National Council for Science and Technology, an advisory consultative board presided over by the President of Brazil. Also, a related Special Secretary for Policy for Women was created with Ministerial status in 2003, replacing the National Council for the Rights of Women, which existed since 1985. The S&T system today is quite strong (Abreu 2010⁵; Cruz & Chaimovich 2010⁶), with the highest investment to gross domestic product ratio in Latin America, a well-funded Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation, and a significant presence on the international scene, ranking 13th worldwide in refereed publications.

Brazil currently has 3,343 graduate programs across scientific areas, of which 1,664 are Ph.D. programs. In 2012 alone, M.Sc. graduates numbered 42,000 and Ph.D. graduates numbered 12,000. Moreover, since 1998, women have represented the majority of M.Sc. graduates and the majority of Ph.D.s since 2004. ⁷ Available figures show that, in 2008, women accounted for 54% of M.Sc. and 51% of Ph.D. degree attainment. Note that education in federal and state universities in Brazil is free of charges, at both undergraduate and graduate levels. These universities represent approximately 35% of higher education institutions but incorporate almost the whole research community of Brazil.

The Brazilian capacity building effort has increased and diversified substantially from its starting point in the early 1950s. Between CNPq and CAPES at the federal level and agencies at the state level, several different support mechanisms have been put in place. They have ranged from research funding granted through competitive calls for projects, to a wide range of scholarships and fellowships supporting students and researchers at different points in their careers. For example, the Scientific Initiation scholarships are granted to provide support for undergraduate students to work on projects under the supervision of researchers. The scholarships actually are awarded to the researchers, who then select students to enroll in their projects. Also, masters and doctoral scholarship awards are made through graduate programs; in those programs that have been deemed centers of excellence,

⁵ Abreu, Alice. 2010. Women for Science in Brazil. ISA E - Bulletin 16 (June): 64–89.

⁶ Cruz, Carlos Henrique de Brito, and Hernan Chaimovich. 2010. Brazil. In UNESCO Science Report 2010. The Current Status of Science Around the World, 103–121. UNESCO, <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/natural-sciences/science-technology/prospective-studies/unesco-science-report>

scholarships are available for all accepted students. Postdoctoral scholarships are granted at the national level. Finally, as a crowning support for the best scientists in the country, CNPq awards Senior Research Fellowships on a highly competitive basis. [...] p 337-338

Besides the Ministry, and the two main supporting federal agencies which relate to the graduate studies and research programs, the Brazilian STI system had many other important players. Since the late 1990s a network of very high-level scientific institutes in different areas added a solid research base to the system. At the state level, the Foundations for the Support of Research led to important actions at local level and added substantial additional funding in some states, such as São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. The Brazilian Academy of Sciences, now 100 years old, played an increasingly relevant role of advocating for science, together with the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC). The many disciplinary associations and societies were also important in framing different scientific disciplines and promoting national and international collaborative networks.

All this was possible because Brazil had been investing more than 1% of GDP in Science and Technology over the last 20 years. It was the only country in the region that had that level of investment in STI. This had very positive results in the recruitment of women, although their numbers decrease steadily as one ascends to the leadership and decision-making positions.

[...] It is clear that the last decade has seen a very significant growth of the S&T system in Brazil, and women have profited from it. The system is now complex and robust, with a steady source of funding involving different types of institutions and organizations. Systematic efforts for capacity building have effectively included women, who are now the majority of university students at all levels.

This strong presence of women in university enrollments and in scientific research arguably is related to the fact that the public sector offers free education and that governmental agency scholarship programs are based on a transparent decentralized and merit-based system. Women can compete on an equal basis and have been very successful in doing so.

However, in regard to scientific careers in both education and research areas, it is important to understand the mechanisms of advancement, which keep women as a minority at the higher levels. [...] p 339

Today, we understand more fully how the mechanisms of advancement work, and it is increasingly recognized that in order to increase gender equality it is necessary to make fundamental structural changes in scientific institutions.

Unfortunately, however, many of the positive features of the Brazilian STI system are being corroded, first by the terrible economic crisis in 2015-2017, and in the last year by some governmental decisions that are affecting the core of the system. The Ministry of Science and Technology was merged with the Ministry of Telecommunications, and the budget significantly reduced. This affected the CNPq funding capacity and research groups are being strangled. The same budget reduction was suffered by the Ministry of Education and this in turn has affected the CAPES capacity for supporting graduate programs.

The system is still in place, but recent proposals for institutional changes could have a significant destabilizing impact with devastating consequences. The hope is that the strong and robust system put in place in the last six decades might be able to resist and continue to put Brazil among the science producing countries of the world.

A short postscript after COVID-19

Since the writing of the text above, the world has changed dramatically. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected all countries and led to the largest economic slowdown in recent years. One of the differences of this pandemic to that of the Spanish flu in the beginning of the 20th century is perhaps that this crisis is followed worldwide in real-time, with information flowing from all kinds of media and channels every day, every hour. Even with many countries imposing strict lockdowns, the flow of information keeps everyone in the center of the pandemic where science is in the focus of the discussion. I have no doubt of the importance of the social sciences as a part of this discussion and many colleagues have already given important contributions to the debate. With this very short postscript, however, I want to make some additional comments regarding science in Brazil after COVID-19.

The negative impacts are inescapable. The pandemic caught the Brazilian S&T system in an extremely fragile moment. As mentioned in my text above, since the economic recession of 2015/2016 the S&T budget has decreased steadily, with important cuts after the election of the present government. Data indicates that by 2020 the budget was down 50% compared to the beginning of the decade. This negatively affected not only on-going research, but also the graduate system, with cuts in MSc and Ph.D. scholarships. With the pandemic still running its course in Brazil, not yet reaching its climax, the estimates are that Brazil GDP will have a 6% decrease in 2020, which will certainly again have a very negative impact on the S&T budget of the subsequent years.

The pandemic has brought, however, a contradictory aspect which we still need to study and better understand the consequences. For the first time in many years, science is in the center of a national discussion and present in all the national channels of television, radio, and electronic media (blogs, podcasts, social media). Brazilian scientists, both men and women, are constantly present in the news

and the production of scientific knowledge is being valued as the basis for public policies and decisions. Science is used to counter all sorts of fake news and scientific research is recognized as the only possible avenue to finally confront and conquer the virus. The discovery of a vaccine, and the scientific method and processes necessary to produce a vaccine available for the global population, is now being explained and hopefully understood by the public and will counter the anti-vaccine movement that was spreading in many countries. The strength of Brazilian science is apparent daily and not only of the health sciences. An interesting aspect of the pandemic reports are that they involve many scientific disciplines, health sciences for sure, with their many specialties described (virology, epidemiology, and many others), but also mathematics, statistics, physics, computing, biology, veterinary, chemistry, engineering, economics, and social sciences.

What the consequences of this public exposure of science after COVID-19 is still to be seen. However, some glimpses of positive developments are present. Movements that had started before the pandemic have strengthened, such as the increased dialogue with Congress of the main scientific organizations, such as the Brazilian Academy of Sciences and the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science and the creation of web portals consolidating sound scientific information. Their work will not be easy. In Brazil today there is a growing anti-science movement that, however, is hopefully being challenged by this pandemic. Let's hope that the solid and robust science and technology system we have in Brazil will rise to the occasion and use its now public recognition to counter and surpass the downward trend of recent years.

(Rio de Janeiro, April 22nd, 2020)

Opening of The Robert Merton Center for Science Studies of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

by Prof. Dr. Martin Reinhart

The Robert Merton Center for Science Studies of Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin was opened on September 11, 2019 at the Tieranatomisches Theater in Berlin.



The Robert K. Merton Center for Science Studies (RMZ) serves as an interdisciplinary platform for research and teaching in Science Studies in its broadest sense. It provides a place for exchange and cooperation for researchers interested in how science works. Specifically, this includes Science and Technology Studies, Sociology of Science, Library and Information Science, Higher Education Research, History of Science, Meta-Research and others. At Humboldt-Universität and within the Berlin research environment such expertise is spread across different disciplines and institutions. Furthermore, the diversity of the Berlin research environment, with its universities, non-university research institutions, museums, collections and their cooperations with industry, politics and civil society, provides a wide range of possibilities to work collaboratively and empirically on relevant research questions.

The Berlin metropolitan area and its research activities are of specific importance for research at the RMZ. Incorporating forms of institutional research, the region will be the first to benefit from the work realized by the RMZ. Its initial focus will be on the following topics: quality and integrity of research, young researchers and academic careers, higher education

governance, knowledge translation, data infrastructures and indicators. The RMZ strives for a collaborative form of Science Studies which includes its object of research within the research process itself and thereby produces knowledge not only exclusively for Science Studies but also for universities, disciplines, individual researchers, politics, industry or civil society.



Peter Frensch, VPF

Following the welcoming words of the Humboldt-Universität's Vice President for Research, Peter Frensch, and the official opening by Martin Reinhart, director of the Merton Center, the esteemed scholars Harriet Zuckerman (Columbia University), John Ioannidis (Stanford University) and Steven Shapin (Harvard University) addressed in their talks the event's guiding question: Quality and Truth – Quo Vadis Science?



From left to right: Martin Reinhart, Stefan Hornbostel, Harriet Zuckerman, John Ioannidis, Steven Shapin

The ensuing reception offered ample opportunity for networking and continued discussions among the guests and speakers.

RC23 and Global Connection

Middle-Term Conference of RC04 Sociology of Education

Culture and Education: Social Transformations and Multicultural Communication

Leandro Raizer, RC23 Secretary, attended the Middle-Term Conference of RC04 Sociology of Education – *Culture and Education: Social Transformations and Multicultural Communication*, at Institute of Foreign Languages RUDN University, 24-26 July 2019, Moscow.

Leandro met the RC04 president, Marios Vryonides, and other RC members to present the activities of RC23 and to propose the possibility of joint endeavors. The event was attended by about 200 participants from various countries, consolidating the activities of RC04, one of the largest and most important of ISA. The local organizing committee did an excellent job, welcoming ISA colleagues with great attention and cordiality.



Tien-Hui CHIANG, Zhengzhou University, China (RC04 vice-president); Marios Vryonides, European University Cyprus, Cyprus (RC04 president); Yingyi Ma, Syracuse University, USA (RC04 member); Leandro Raizer, Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (RC23 secretary).

Cooperation with Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

Nadia Asheulova, RC23 President, visited the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences in Baku City, Azerbaijan in July 2019.

During the visit, Nadia discussed the possibility of exchanging and conducting joint research in the field of history of science and technology and STS.



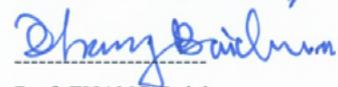
Maryam Gasan gizi Seyidbeyli (Director of the Institute for the History of Science of NANA); Isa Akbar oglu Habibbayli (Vice President of NANA); and Nadia Asheulova (RC23 president).

International Academic Collaboration: Germany, China, and Russia

In 2019, three well-known academic organizations in the history of science and technology in Germany, China, and Russia signed an agreement for research collaboration.

The Agreement among CAS Institute for the History of Natural Sciences, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, and St. Petersburg Branch of the Institute for the History of Science and Technology of the Russian Academy of Sciences focuses on comparative study of Academies of Sciences in China and Russia, and the Max Planck Society post WWII. This study advances our understanding of the current challenges of national science systems and comparative perspectives on the three institutions.

Specific questions to be pursued in this study are: Which national science systems and institutions served as a model in other countries? What has in fact been taken over or adapted in the respective cases and in which cases did the appeal to foreign models primarily serve a discursive and legitimizing function? To what extent have internationalization and globalization processes eroded national traditions and structures, overriding local practices and concerns?

Date: 02. Oct. 2019


Prof. ZHANG Baichun
Director
Institute for the History of Natural Sciences,
CAS

Date: 1 Oct 2019



Prof. Dágmár Schäfer
Managing Director
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science

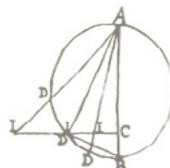
Date: 10 Oct. 2019


Prof. Nadia Asheulova
Director
St. Petersburg Branch of Institute for the
History of Science and Technology, RAS

This study will be a powerful tool for obtaining information on the transition and reform processes of the science system in the three countries.



INSTITUTE FOR THE HISTORY OF NATURAL SCIENCES
CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTSGESCHICHTE
Max Planck Institute for the History of Science



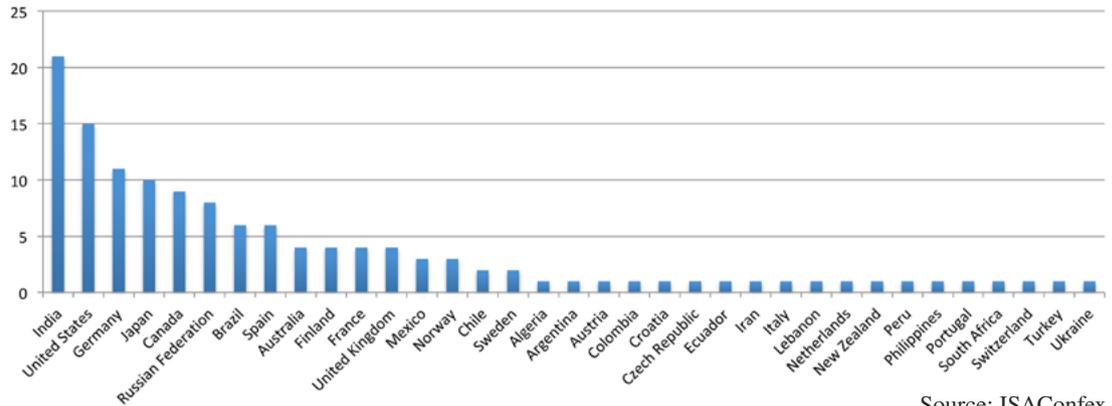
RC23 in Numbers

Identifying ways to increase membership in RC23, especially from unrepresented countries, has been a challenge for both RC23 and ISA itself.

Research Committee 23 (RC23) has a total of 135 active members (April / 2020), representing a total of 35 countries. The

countries with the largest number of members are: India (21) United States (15), Germany (11), Japan (10), Canada (9), Russia (8), Brazil (6), Spain (6). The number of RC23 members according to each country, as well the number members of each ISA RC or Group, is detailed in the following charts.

Chart 1 – RC23 Active Members by Country, April 2019



Source: ISAConfex

Chart 2 – Number of Members by RCs, Working or Thematic Group, ISA October 2018

2020 ISA Forum of Sociology, Porto Alegre, Brazil							
Registration grants allocated to Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups							
N° ISA members October 2018	250 +	200-249	150-199	100-149	75-99	50-74	< 50
Amount US\$	2.500 \$	2.300 \$	2.000 \$	1.700 \$	1.500 \$	1.500 \$	1.250 \$
RC16	RC02	RC01	RC07	RC08	RC03	RC36	
RC28	RC04	RC05	RC18	RC13	RC10	RC50	
RC31	RC06	RC09	RC23	RC17	RC12	TG07	
RC32	RC24	RC11	RC33	RC20	RC26		
RC48	RC34	RC14	RC39	RC35	RC27		
		RC15	RC40	RC37	RC29		
		RC19	RC41	RC38	RC42		
		RC21	RC44	RC53	RC43		
		RC22	RC46	RC54	RC45		
		RC25	RC51	RC55	RC49		
		RC30	RC52		WG01		
		RC47	RC56		WG05		
		TG03	RC57		TG06		
			TG04		TG08		

Source: ISA

In comparison to other ISA RCs and Thematic Groups, RC23 is average in terms of its number of members. Therefore, we have a challenge to expand the number of members as well the countries represented. In some cases, such as Latin American, African and Asian countries, there is still a long way to go in terms of membership and

the inclusion of new countries. The new Board, when elected, pledged to help the RC with this matter and we hope that the great success in the number of proposals presented to our sessions at the Forum of Porto Alegre represents a step in the right direction.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022 AWARD

Research Committee 23 (Sociology of Science and Technology) of the International Sociological Association is seeking nominations for **The Robert K. Merton Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociology of Science and Technology** to be awarded at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, Australia, July 24-31, 2022.

Eligibility

The award will be granted to a living scholar who is internationally recognized for significant contributions to the Sociology of Science and Technology that have been made over a period of at least two decades. Thus, the award is intended to recognize and showcase the outstanding, long-term achievements of an individual scholar to the field rather than the excellence of specific papers or books.

Currently serving members of the RC23 Board or the Award Committee are not eligible to receive the award.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any member of ISA (excluding members of the Award Committee) and must be supported by at least two other members of RC23 and/or ISA in good standing.

Nominations must include the name of the nominee, a CV, the list of publications on which the nomination is based, and a cover letter that provides a rationale for the nomination.

Nominations should be sent by **July 31st, 2020** to the Chair of the Awards Committee, Jaime Jiménez Guzmán, at jjimen@unam.mx.

Award Committee

Jaime Jiménez Guzmán – Chair
Alice Abreu
Gary Bowden
Ralph Matthews
António Brandão Moniz

The Robert K. Merton Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociology of Science and Technology

Purpose

In honour and memory of Robert K. Merton, the social scientist known for founding the sociology of science and co-founder and first President of the Research Committee on Sociology of Science and Technology (RC23), the RC23 Committee has established The Robert K. Merton Award for Distinguished Contributions to the Sociology of Science and Technology. The award is intended to recognize and showcase the outstanding, long-term achievements of an individual scholar to the field rather than the excellence of specific papers or books.

Eligibility

The award will be granted every four years to a living scholar who is internationally

recognized for significant contributions to the sociology of science and technology that have been made over a period of at least two decades.

Currently serving members of the RC23 Board or the Award Committee are not eligible to receive the award.

Recognition

The award is non-remunerated and consists of an honorary citation and lifetime membership in RC23. The award will be announced at the next World Congress of Sociology and the recipient will be asked to deliver a speech related to her/his work or to any topic in S&T, in an RC23 sponsored event at the World Congress. RC23 will report the recipient's

name to the ISA Executive Committee and announce it in the RC23 Newsletter.

RC23 is not responsible for the travel and accommodation costs of the award recipient.

Nominations

Nominations can be made by any member of ISA (excluding members of the Award Committee) and must be supported by at least two other members of RC23 and/or ISA in good standing. Nominations must include the name of the nominee, a CV, the list of publications on which the nomination is based, and a cover letter that provides a rationale for the nomination.

The Award Committee will actively solicit nominations and will encourage RC23 members and other ISA members to nominate scholars. Award Committee members may not nominate, support, or solicit specific candidates.

Selection process

The Award Committee will be responsible for the selection of the award recipient. Every four years, at the Business Meeting held at the corresponding World Congress

of Sociology, the newly elected Board of RC23 will establish an Award Committee. The Award Committee will consist of five recognized scholars nominated by the RC23 Board, preferably representing different regions of the world. The Chairperson of the Award Committee must be a member of the Board of RC23.

Nominations will be sought and accepted until the Business Meeting at the interim meeting of RC23, at least two years prior to the next World Congress of Sociology. All nominations will be reviewed by the Award Committee, which will inform the RC23 Board of its decision in a report sent at least 8 months before the World Congress of Sociology takes place. The selection process will be completed in time for the winner to undertake early registration for the World Congress.

The Board of RC23 must approve the winner of the Award but will consider only the adequacy of the procedures and their conformity with ISA and RC23 policies. A summary of the Award Committee report will be available on the RC23 website and published in its Newsletter.

RC23 MEMBERS ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

Prizes and mentions

Alice Abreu, RC23 Vice President, receives Honorable Mention at the first edition of the “**Carolina Bori Ciência & Mulher**” Award of the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (São Paulo, February 11, 2020).



Photo SBPC – Maria do Carmo Guedes (PUC-SP), Fernanda Sobral (SBPC) Alice Abreu (UFRJ), Adriana Tonini (CNPq), Helena Nader (UNIFESP), Vanderlan Bolozani (UNESP), Zaira Turchi (MCTIC)

The Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science (SBPC) announced the winners of the 1st Edition of the “Carolina Bori Ciência & Mulher” Award. Helena Bonciani Nader, Full Professor at the Federal University of São Paulo (EPM-Unifesp), received the award in the category “Women Scientists”, and Alice Rangel de Paiva Abreu, Professor Emerita at UFRJ, received the “Honorable Mention”.

The awards ceremony was held on February 11, 2020, in São Paulo, during the 2nd Women and Girls Symposium in Science, in celebration of international women and girls’ day in science, established by UNESCO. Launched in 2019, the award is a tribute from SBPC to prominent Brazilian scientists and future Brazilian scientists of exceptional talent and bears

the name of the first female president of SBPC, Carolina Martuscelli Bori.

The awards ceremony will take place annually, alternating two categories – “Women Scientists” and “Girls in Science”. This year’s edition honored the first category, dedicated to renowned Brazilian scientists, nominated by national institutions, who have provided significant contributions to science, scientific management, and actions for the benefit of national science and technology. After a nomination process in which 25 Scientific Societies affiliated with SBPC participated, a list of 29 Brazilian scientists was achieved. An evaluation committee met on December 4 to deliberate and select the winner and honorable mention of this first edition of the award.

Scientific Meetings

Jorge Gallardo Cochifas organized the VII Meeting of CTS Chile 2020: “Alteridades: Intervenciones, y Ecologías del Cuidado en Mundos Cambiantes” (Alterities: Interventions, and Ecologies of Care in Changing World). In Chile, we have a small group of researchers from different universities and disciplines who work on the STS field. And every year we meet to share and discuss our research and define the future of our network, called “CTS Chile” (Science, Technology and Society in English).

This year, together with a group of colleagues from the Catholic University of Chile, we organized the VII Meeting of our network. Despite difficulties we encountered along the way as a result of the social uprisings, we decided to continue with the meeting, since we found it necessary to analyze how our research could contribute. Thus, the VII Meeting of CTS Chile 2020, was held in Santiago de Chile, on January 15, 16 and 17, 2020. More than 200 researchers from Chile and other countries in the region attended. And among our international guests were Celia Lury (University of Warwick), Sophie Day, Goldsmiths (University of London), Eduardo Gudynas, CLAES (Uruguay) and Mario Blaser, Memorial University (Canada).



Research Projects

From **C. Raghava Reddy**, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Hyderabad, Gachibowli, Hyderabad – 500046, Telangana, India.

Contesting crop sciences in the emerging agrarian social structure in India: A social constructivist understanding of knowledge production in agriculture

Critical examination of scientific practices in agricultural sciences and the institutional priorities involved in agricultural research has been attempted by social scientists before. However, this attempt was largely from a ‘technological deterministic’ perspective. These attempts were essentially aimed at understanding the implications of the scientific advances in agriculture on society. Attempts at problematizing the scientific practices, methodologies, priorities, assumptions, of crop sciences have been missing. The research project through a social constructivist approach (MacKenzie and Wajcman 1999), attempted at delineating the practices, processes, procedures in crop sciences in regard to research. Data were collected from 193 respondents (agricultural scientists, including senior professors) located in 16 agricultural universities across India during 2017-19. The study finds that: the positivist assumptions of modern science block scientists from pursuing research agendas of farmers’ benefit; the modern science framework also hinders scientists from recognizing social structural factors (like caste) in setting research goals thus

Contesting crop sciences in the emerging agrarian social structure in India: A social constructivist understanding of knowledge production in agriculture

Project report submitted to the University Grants Commission, New Delhi



C. RAGHAVA REDDY

Department of Sociology
University of Hyderabad
2015-18

making the research irrelevant at the poor ‘dalit’ (who are at the lower rung of the caste hierarchy) farmers’ level.

[Final report](#)

From **Giuseppe Pellegrini**, Ph.D. Lecturer on Innovation, Technology and Society, Trento Digital University

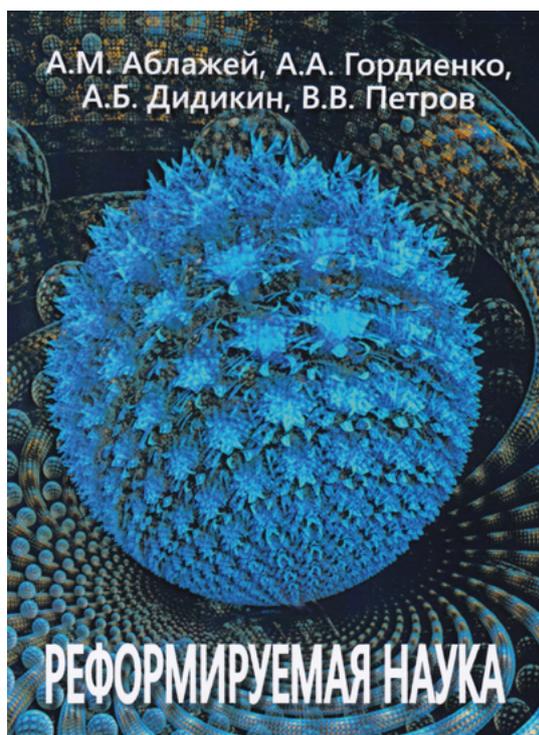
Italian Citizens and Covid-19 – April 2020

Survey results: [1](#) | [2](#)

“One fifth still underplays the threat, in particular young people and those who use social media for information on the pandemic”

BY Massimiano Bucchi and Barbara Saracino

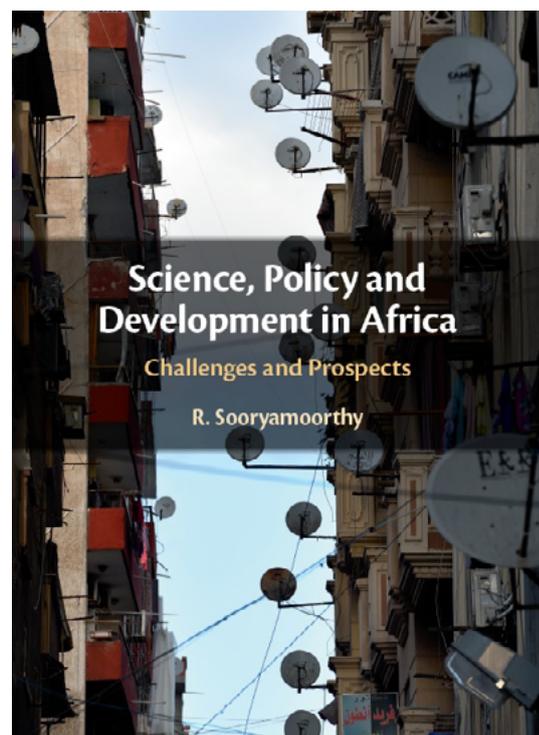
Books



The Reformable Science

**A. Ablazhey, A. Gordienko,
A. Dydikin, V. Petrov**

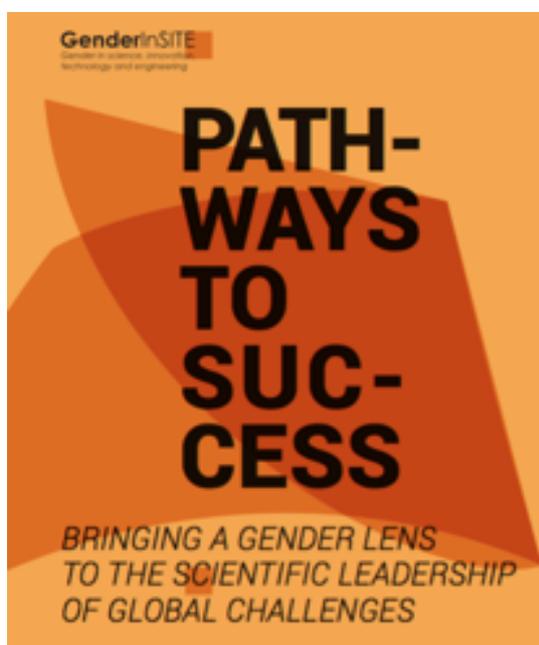
Novosibirsk, 2018



Science, Policy and Development in Africa

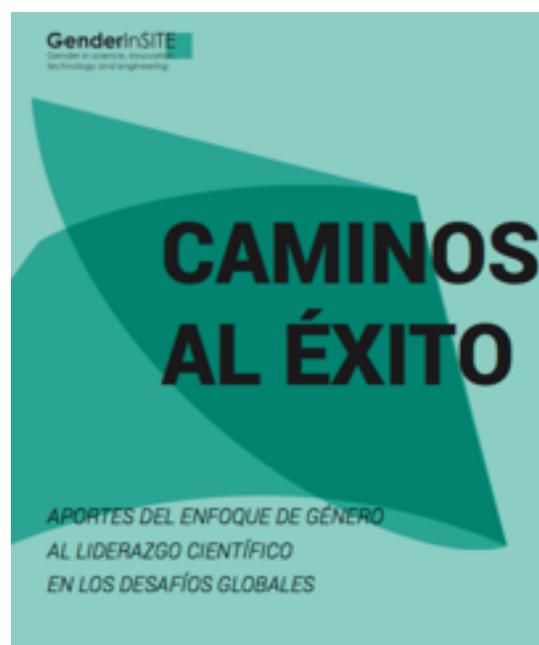
R. Sooryamoorthy

Cambridge University Press, 2020



Pathways to Success: Bringing a Gender Lens to the Scientific Leadership of Global Challenges

**Report prepared by L.
Waldman, (coord); A. Abreu;
B. Faith; T. Hrynicky;**



Caminos al éxito: Aportes del enfoque de género al liderazgo científico en los desafíos globales

**Informe preparado por
L. Waldman, (coord);
A. Abreu; B. Faith; T. Hrynicky;**

I. Sánchez de Madariaga; L. Spini

Trieste: GenderInSITE, 2018

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The GenderInSITE report, *Pathways to Success: Bringing a Gender Lens to the Scientific Leadership of Global Challenges*, published in English and Spanish, explores the issue of women's leadership in science and brings to the discussion some related issues not usually taken into consideration. The initial motivation was to look at the career trajectories of women in positions of scientific leadership to show how power and knowledge can cohere in institutions to create and maintain dominant pathways. Through interviews with women and men who lead international science and technology projects, the document highlights different pathways to success and how institutional change is so elusive and hard to achieve. However, when the authors looked at respondents' individual pathways, they decided to enlarge their perspective and look at other levels of analysis. By highlighting alternative perspectives on how systems of scientific production operate, this report promotes alternative narratives and pathways in science. In these narratives, gender is recognized as an important factor in the career and leadership trajectories of individual scientists and in how science for sustainable development is done. This has implications for the pathways pursued both by individual women scientists, and by organizations involved in science governance and practice at multiple levels.

Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World: Towards the Futures We Want

Edited by Markus S. Schulz

London, New York: Sage, 2019 (print, ebook forthcoming 2020)

This is the third volume related to the ISA Forum & WebForum on the *The Futures We Want*. The monograph brings together the expertise of leading authors from around the world, including Akosua Adomako Ampofo, Asef Bayat, Nora Garita Bonilla, Todd Gitlin, Stephan Lessenich, Jan Nederveen Pieterse, Saskia Sassen, Alain Touraine, and Michel Wieviorka. It is based on revised papers of the Forum's Opening and Closing Plenaries. The papers address

how the mounting pressures of social and ecological problems are met by a confluence of intellectual trends that allow the questioning of entrenched assumptions and the unleashing of a forward-oriented sociological imagination. They explore contemporary trends, alternative visions, and new directions for sociological research, raising issues that reflect the complexity of challenges facing future projects on a shared planet.

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SOCIOLOGIA NAUKI I TEHNOLOGIJ – SOCIOLOGY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



RC23 ISA is organizing the Special Issue, based on full papers of RC23 Sessions during the 2021 ISA Forum, Brazil.

The deadline is **July 15, 2020**.

[Author Guidelines](#)

Nadia Asheulova,
President of RC23 ISA,
Editor-in-chief of *Sociology
of Science and Technology*

The Role of Sociology in Evaluating the Impact of Scientific Production

The journal **Frontiers in Sociology/ Sociological Theory** is preparing a special issue on the above mentioned topic.

The formal research funding system is critical in the promotion of scientific research. Today, and ever more so in the future, predicting and measuring the impact of scientific production, particularly in its social, economic and technological dimensions, is an increasingly crucial factor for success in the research funding system.

In general, traditional scholarly impact no longer suffices for research funding applications. Dimensions such as economic, social and technological innovation are now central to the success of such applications. The evaluation of research needs to consider its impact at different levels, which has implications for success in obtaining grants and funds from public and non-public entities.

Assessing the (potential) impact of research is crucial. However, both researchers themselves as well as those who assess funding applications attribute limited value to the strategic importance of sociology and the other social sciences. Little appeal is made to insights from

these disciplines, which are considered to operate on the periphery of scientific investigation in general. Furthermore, this state of affairs has a negative impact on the professionalism, application processes, autonomy and capacity of social science professionals.

Considering that sociology and the other social sciences could play a significant role both in assessing and enhancing the (ultimate and ongoing) impact of research projects, this Research Topic aims to contribute to a better understanding of this potential role, in order to help change this situation and increase the relevance ascribed to sociology and the other social sciences. These are, after all, essential to the heuristic apprehension of any reality, since this is necessarily also a social reality.

This Research Topic on the role of sociology in evaluating the impact of scientific production welcomes the submission of original manuscripts (articles, reviews, conceptual papers, perspective papers, etc.), whichever sociological paradigm and methodology they employ, concerning the specific and unique contribution of sociology and the other social sciences in evaluating scientific impact.

We invite manuscripts about, but not limited to:

- The representation of sociology and the other social sciences in research funding systems
- The relevance attributed to sociology and other social sciences by professionals and academics in evaluating the impact of scientific research
- The role of sociology in interdisciplinary research projects
- The relationship between sociology and the other sciences in scientific research funding applications
- The potential contribution of sociology and the social sciences in evaluating research impact
- Comparisons of the importance attributed to sociology and the other social sciences in several national and international framework funding research programs

Keywords: sociology, impact research, evaluating scientific impact, funding scientific research, interdisciplinary

Important Note: All contributions to this Research Topic must be within the scope of the section and journal to which they are submitted, as defined in their mission statements. Frontiers reserves the right to guide an out-of-scope manuscript to a more suitable section or journal at any stage of peer review.

Submission Deadline:
16 August 2020

Topic editors:

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We are looking forward to your proposals.



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