



Sociology of Science
and Technology

IV ISA Forum of Sociology

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Challenges
of the 21st
Century:
Democracy,
Environment,
Inequalities,
Intersectionality

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ISA
International
Sociological
Association

SOCIEDADE
BRASILEIRA DE
SOCIOLOGIA

The Role of the International Sociological Association for Boosting Academic Career and Building Global Networks

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Grant for ISA Research Committees' activities during the period 2019-2022

Purpose of the international comparative study

RC23 is planning to research **the past and modern role** of ISA for boosting an academic career in sociological area, how its activity helps individuals and collective members **to cooperate and build academic networks.**

Theoretical Framework

In 1958 **Robert K. Merton** defined a professional association as **“an organization of practitioners who judge one another as professionally competent and who have banded together to perform social functions which they cannot perform in their separate capacity as individuals”** in his paper **“The Functions of the Professional Associations”**.

THE FUNCTIONS OF THE PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

Robert K. Merton

THE professional association¹ is an organization of practitioners who judge one another as professionally competent and who have banded together to perform social functions which they cannot perform in their separate capacity as individuals. It is typically a voluntary association. The degree to which it is voluntary may, however, differ greatly from case to case. It may range from the extreme in which the option to join is small since the penalties of not belonging are great, as in the case of county medical societies, to the other extreme, in which the option is large since the penalties for not belonging are negligible, as in the case of the more than seventy-five national engineering societies.

Professional associations differ also in their structure. They may be closely controlled from a central office or may allow considerable autonomy to local branches of the association. I do not, however, intend to explore these variations of structure, important as they are, for it is not its structure which most significantly characterizes the professional society, but its functions.

The professional association is as the professional association *does*: its manifest and latent social functions, not the structure designed to put these functions into effect, are its social excuse for being. That is why we can largely neglect, in this short examination, the organizational

structure of the association in order to center upon its functions.

Organizational Aims and Functions

Just as function must be distinguished from structure, so must function be distinguished from the stated objectives of the organization. Professional associations tend to be alike in putting into their statements of purpose a strong affirmation that they are designed, in the first instance, to work through their specialized competences for the welfare of the community in general and of their respective clienteles in particular. The American Medical Association announces as one of its principal aims the steady improvement of health care (1); the American Bar Association, the promotion of the administration of justice (2); the American Nurses' Association, the improvement of nursing care for all the people. And so, similarly, through the roster of the hundreds of professional associations, great and small, in this country.

What the association professes as its aims may coincide with what it actually does—but again, it may not. The statements of public purpose do provide guide lines for gauging the measures to be taken by the association. This is true for declarations designed not only to reach the general (that is, the professionally unstructured) public but also, as

though they are in perpetual danger of becoming so. This is particularly the case when the profession confronts a crisis in which the interests of its members seemingly or actually conflict with the interests of the public.

Nevertheless, it would be too facile and often mistaken to assume that such statements of public purpose merely render lip service to social values. Even when they are being neglected in practice, they afford a potentiality of control over actions contemplated by the association and serve to bring these actions into line with the announced purpose.

Occasional or sometimes sustained departures of a professional association from its declared public purposes can result from the *multiple and not always easily reconcilable* functions of the association. For example, the association is committed to look out for the economic and social welfare of practitioners in the profession, for if the membership organization does not do so, who will? Again, it is typically dedicated also to the objective of raising the standards of professional education, for if the organized body of informed professionals does not take on this task, who else can? Yet sometimes objectives such as these, principled as they are, may collide, or may seem to collide, with the interests of the public. A profession with reason to suppose that its members are not

Sociological Ambivalence

AND OTHER ESSAYS

Robert K. Merton



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Robert K. Merton felt certain that ***professional associations are important for the regulation of the structural influence on professionals. The associations can help to overcome the problems of ambivalence in a professional society, the possible selfish behavior of professionals.***

Theoretical Framework

Professional Associations influence on the formation of the “invisible colleges”

Researchers are embedded in so-called “invisible colleges” - informal collectives of closely interacting scientists, which are significant social and cognitive formations that advance the research fronts of science

Crane, D. (1972). *Invisible colleges, diffusion of knowledge in scientific communities.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

De Solla Price, D. (1986). *Little science, big science...and beyond.* New York: Columbia University Press.

Theoretical Framework

Jennifer Platt wrote about sociological associations: ***“They are playing an important role in the processes of professionalization and the development of disciplines...”***



*“They organize conferences,
promote the professional development of their
members,
create networks and publish journals and books
which are important to the intellectual life of the
discipline;
they also represent the discipline to the outside
world, whether in the large political arena of major
governmental decisions on education and research,
or in the many smaller arenas of governing bodies in
higher education, funding bodies and public
examining boards...”*

Jennifer Platt

Formulate the Hypothesis

Alan Johnson in his brochure “Charting a course for a successful research career. A Guide for Early Career Researchers” (April, 2011) recommended young researchers to participate in all activities of professional associations.

CHARTING A COURSE FOR A SUCCESSFUL RESEARCH CAREER

A Guide for Early Career Researchers
2nd Edition

Professor Alan M Johnson AM
M.A. (Hons), M.Ed.Mgmt., B.App.Sc., Ph.D., D.Sc.



Alan Johnson summarized:

“International societies are very important and obviously work at a much more global level than National societies.

*The award of prizes from these societies and other activities such as invitations to present keynote papers at the International Society meeting are indicators of the high level of your research activity and **will certainly benefit your research career**”.*

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Formulate the Hypothesis

A) *ISA as a professional association certainly boost an academic career*

B) *ISA members are mobile and initiative for the international academic cooperation and it should have a positive effect on individual productivity*

C) *ISA helps to organize an international academic networks, build the professional teams for the creative projects*

Methods for Gathering Data


A) Historical (compare the role of ISA in the past and nowadays), retrospective analysis

B) Sociological (through a questionnaire – database of ISA members; interview with emeritus and young members)

C) Scientometrics (Publons, SCOPUS ID, ORCID, ResearchGate – data about academic mobility, co-authorship, collaboration of individual sociologists members of ISA; GMSSI – Global Mapping of Sociologists for Social Inclusion)

Several steps of the study




Review the literature about academic career/professional associations/academic cooperation/networks in science, international sociological association



International Sociological Association

- ABOUT ISA
- MEMBERSHIP
- RESEARCH NETWORKS
- PUBLICATIONS
- JUNIOR SOCIOLOGISTS
- CONFERENCES
- OPPORTUNITIES

Q SEARCH... CONTACT USER LOGIN EN



The ISA was founded In 1949 under the auspices of UNESCO. The goal of the ISA is to represent sociologists everywhere, regardless of their school of thought, scientific approaches or ideological opinion, and to advance sociological knowledge throughout the world. Its members come from 126 countries.

○ ● ○ ○



HISTORY OF
ISA
1948-1997

Jennifer Platt

Association internationale de sociologie
International Sociological Association
Asociación Internacional de Sociología

50^e anniversaire
50th Anniversary
50^o aniversario

*International
Sociological
Association is fifty
years of age.
This is both very
young and quite old.
It is surely time to take
stock, but we can also
say that
there is a future that
remains to be
constructed.*

Immanuel Wallerstein

Sociological Survey

Online questionnaire

the approbation of the questionnaire begins using the database of RC23 ISA members

Interview with emeritus and young ISA members

It also helps to complete the history of ISA, archive of the ISA's video content

Sociological Survey

Blocks of the questionnaire :

Questions about:

- ISA (personal perception about history, modern role, future perspectives)
- Individual Academic Career /Mobility
- Collaboration/Co-authorship/Grants
- Individual productivity/Citation of the papers/Awards
- ISA Membership, participation in ISA activities, in GMSSI (to understand the impact of ISA membership on individual performance and organizing academic networks)

Scientometrics

(Publons, SCOPUS ID, ORCID, ResearchGate – data about co-authorship, collaboration of individual sociologists members of ISA; GMSSI – Global Mapping of Sociologists for Social Inclusion)




The screenshot shows the 'Private dashboard - Summary' for Nadia Asheulova on the Publons platform. The dashboard includes a navigation bar with 'publons', 'BROWSE', 'COMMUNITY', 'FAQ', and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, there's a 'Private Dashboard' breadcrumb and a 'Summary' link. The main content area features a profile picture of Nadia Asheulova, her name, and a 'Web of Science ResearcherID' (B-9498-2011). The dashboard is divided into several sections: 'Me' (Dashboard summary, Public profile, Export Publons CV, Citation map), 'My records' (Publications, Peer reviews, Editor records), 'Activity' (Notifications, Pending records), and 'Community' (Scored publications). There are four main action cards: 'Track my citations' (Get the Web of Science Core Collection citation counts for your publications), 'Manage my reviews' (Add new or past peer reviews to show your expertise), 'See my profile' (See what your profile looks like to other people on Publons), and 'Export my Publons CV' (Download your records for funding or promotion applications). At the bottom, there's a 'Publication metrics' section with a note: 'These metrics are calculated from the publications you have imported. It may take up to an hour after importing publications for these metrics to be updated.'

The screenshot shows the ResearchGate profile for Nadia Asheulova. The profile includes a navigation bar with 'Home', 'Questions', and 'Jobs', and a search bar. The profile picture of Nadia Asheulova is visible, along with her name and a 'Add your degree' button. The profile is divided into several tabs: 'Overview', 'Research', 'Experience', 'Stats', 'Scores', 'Following', and 'Saved'. The 'Overview' tab is currently selected.



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-  **Support** sociologists who encounter multiple barriers.

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Build a worldwide database of sociologists.

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Help us to build research collaborations across regions and specialties.

Increase visibility of sociologists at the margins by mapping for greater social inclusion.

Draw attention to complex contexts and concerns of our world.



Develop sociological networks.

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Develop topical courses transnationally & globally,.

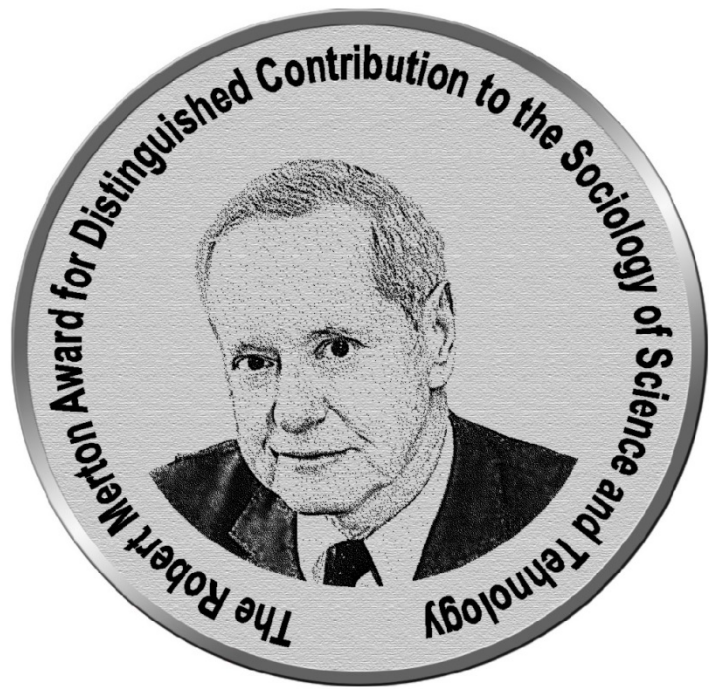
Promote comparative research projects.

Foster synergies between members of national associations and research specialties

Increase participation through secure, user-friendly mapmaking and data access.

RESULTS/DROWING the CONCLUSION

- Results of historical and retrospective analysis
- Results of quantitative/qualitative sociological survey
- Results of Scientometrics Data
- Discussion



Thank you very much!

