

RC33 Business Meeting (July 17th, 2018, Toronto, Canada)

During the XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology (Toronto, Canada), the RC33 Business Meeting was held on July 17th, 2018. During the Business Meeting, the outgoing board members reported on past activities, and the candidates for the future offices reported on their future activities. Finally, Nina Baur reported on the upcoming elections.

Past Activities

Membership

There are two ways of becoming an RC33 member: via the website or via ISA. This makes handling the membership list especially complicated, as the systems are currently incompatible. All in all, RC33 is growing again: In summer 2018, RC33 had about 236 members (please note that numbers are not exact as there is always a time lag between membership renewal and the time the names are added to the lists).

Emanuela Sala (who had been RC33 Vice President of Membership for many years) wanted to retire from her office, and with Inga Gaižauskaitė, RC33 has found a good replacement as good candidate for her succession.

In this context, RC33 expressed their thanks to Emanuela Sala for her good work and dedication both to RC33 and the office. As most members know from experience, work concerning membership is one of the less visible but one of the most important tasks in all academic communities, and RC33 is one of the few communities which never has had any trouble concerning membership lists, although the RC33 administrative system is comparably complicated – this is all thanks to Emanuela's work. In addition, during her time as an RC33 board member, Emanuela was an important and active voice in the board who always aimed at finding a good balance between different positions as well as practical and workable solutions to problems – she will definitively leave a gap.

Finances

The Vice President for Finances (Wander van der Vaart) reported on the finances, and they are all in good order.

Communication

Concerning Communication, there have been several changes:

1. *Electronic Newsletter*: As the Vice President for Information (Karl M. van Meter) reported, the editorship journal BMS (including the printed newsletter) and the electronic newsletter have been distributed. Karl M. van Meter remains responsible for the RC33 Electronic Newsletter (BMS-RC33 and AIMS! Internet distribution lists).
2. *Printed Newsletter and Journal*: The new editors of the BMS and RC33 printed newsletter (twice a year in the journal) are Viviane Le Hay (v.le.hay@sciencespobordeaux.fr) and Sophie Duchesne (s.duchesne@sciencespobordeaux.fr). The process of adaption of editorships and working both with Karl van Meter and Sage Publications is still on-going,

but everything is going rather well. The slight modifications are still in the process of stabilization and they include increasing the “volume” of each oriented “RC33 Newsletter” to include the former eight sections that we prepared separately; that is to say sections on “Centres”, “Books”, “Journals”, “Articles”, “Computers/Internet”, “Past Meetings”, “Coming Meetings” and “Calls”. These sections only appear twice per year in the “BMS”

3. *Website*: In addition, during the last election period, RC33 has introduced a “Vice President for Online Communication” (Claire Wagner) who has completely re-organized and modernized the website which is now online and in the future will also include a blog. Claire Wagner reported on the organization of and plans for the new website.

Conferences

During 2014 and 2018, RC33 has participated in altogether four conferences, namely two ISA-organized conferences – the 3rd *ISA Forum of Sociology*, Vienna, Austria, 2016 (RC33 sessions coordinated by Martin Weichbold and Nina Baur) and the *XIX ISA World Congress*, Toronto, Canada, 2018 (RC33 sessions coordinated by Vera Toepoel) – and two RC33-organized Conferences – the 9th *International Conference on Social Science Methodology*, 2016 (“RC33 Conference”), Leicester, UK (organized by John Goodwin with help from the whole board) and the 1st *RC33 Regional Conference: Asia*, Taipei, Taiwan, 2017 (organized by Pei-shan Liao with help from Fumiya Onaka and Nina Baur). The respective organizers gave short summaries on these conferences – the respective conference reports can be found in earlier versions of the RC33 newsletter.

Future Activities

Participating in ISA Conferences

Of course, RC33 will also participate in the *Fourth ISA Forum of Sociology* (Porto Alegre, Brazil, July 14th – 18th, 2020) as well as in the *XX ISA World Congress* which will take place in Melbourne, Australia, in 2022. RC33 has complained at the ISA Research Council for always selecting places for conferences that are extremely expensive both in travel costs, and in accommodation and living expenses and in conference fees, thus implicitly excluding participants from the Global South. RC33 has also complained at the Research Council that one of the reasons might be the very restrictive rules for conference bidders. Saying that, it would be important for other places participating in the next bids (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/call-for-bids>).

2nd RC33 Regional Conference: Asia (2019 or 2021)

Building on the good experiences concerning the “1st RC33 Regional Conference: Asia”, there will be a “2nd RC33 Regional Conference: Asia” in Tokyo (Japan) in 2019 or 2020, organized with Vice President at Large Fumiya Onaka (who helped organizing the last regional conference) with the aid of Vice President at Large Pei-shan Liao (who was the main organizer of the last regional conference).

10th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, September 2020 (“RC33 Conference”)

The main RC33 Conference in the next election period will be the “10th International Conference on Social Science Methodology” in September 2020. There were two bids: one by Katja L. Manfreda and Samo Kropivnik for the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), and one by Iasonas Lamprianou for Nicosia (Cyprus). After discussing the proposals, the members attending the Business Meeting voted for Nicosia. Therefore, according to the statutes, Iasonas Lamprianou automatically was nominated as next Vice President for Conferences.

Awards and other plans

The next RC33 President, Vera Toepoel, reported on other plans for the next four years. This includes installing a blog on the RC33 website and introducing a new RC33 Award. In order to move this forward, a new office, the “Vice President for Awards” was created, and Henrik Andersen was nominated for this office. Details will follow in the next newsletters.

Further, it was discussed how to include more researchers from the Global South, especially Africa, Latin America and India. Members from these world regions who want to organize a “RC33 Regional Conference”, are invited to contact Vera Toepoel as soon as possible.

Upcoming Elections

As outgoing RC33 President and RC33 Representative for the World Congress, Nina Baur reported on the upcoming elections for the election period 2018 – 2020.

The elections for the RC 33 Board were announced to take place by online ballot – for nominees and results, see separate report on RC33 elections.

Nina Baur also introduced the nominees for ISA offices, and the members discussed whom to vote for. The results of the elections can be seen on the ISA website (<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/about-isa/executive-committee/executive-committee-2018-2022>).

Nina Baur

(RC33 Past President)