This issue of our Newsletter serves two purposes: to give you some recent information on our common research topics and to open up a dialogue on social transformations and development. We encourage the submission of short responses for the next Newsletter issue. Please send your comments to Nina Bandelj, the RC09 Secretary at nbandelj@uci.edu.
We are glad to inform our members that RC 09 now has a second publication on a topic of interest to our Research Committee. Ulrike Schuerkens edited a special issue of *Current Sociology* (published in July 2005) with the title *Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations*. Several papers that had been prepared for the 2004 Beijing Congress were edited for this outstanding volume:

- “Transnational Migrations and Social Transformations: A Theoretical Perspective”, by Ulrike Schuerkens, École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France
- “Emerging Transnational Migration from Romanian Villages”, by Dumitru Sandu, University of Bucharest, Romania
- “Labor Immigration into Russia: Response of the State and the Society”, by Tatiana Ioudina, Moscow State Social University, Russian Federation
- “Refugees as a Particular Form of Trans-national Migrations and Social Transformations: Socio-anthropological and Gender Aspects”, by Susanne Binder and Jelena Tosic, Austrian Academy of Sciences, Austria
- “The Spatially Ruptured Practices of Migrant Families: A Comparison of Immigrants from El Salvador and the People’s Republic of China”, by Patricia Landolt and Wei Wei Da, University of Toronto, Canada
- “Transnational Female Migrations and the Transformation of Gender Relations”, by Petra Dannecker, University of Bielefeld, Germany
- “The Emergence of Pan-Mayan Ethnicity in the Guatemalan Transnational Community Linking Santa Eulalia and Los Angeles”, by Eric Popkin, Colorado College, USA
- “The Transnationalization of Social Inequality”, by Anja Weiss, University of the Bundeswehr, Munich, Germany

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We invite our members to order this *Current Sociology* monograph. We hope that you will find it of interest. We would be delighted to receive your comments.
Conference Activities

The second midterm conference of ISA, RC 09 "Social Transformations and Sociology of Development" was held in Stockholm, Sweden, from July 5 to 9, 2005 during the 37th World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology organized by the Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences, titled “Frontiers of Sociology”.

The following two RC09 sessions were organized:

- “Global Modernity, Civilizations and Local Life-Worlds”
  Chaired by Ulrike Schuerkens (École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, France)

- “Global Governance, Multiple Modernities and Local Politics”
  Chaired by Willfried Spohn (Free University Berlin, Germany)
Call for Papers

XVI ISA World Congress of Sociology
Durban, South Africa, 23-29 July, 2006
The Quality of Social Existence in a Globalising World

http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/

Please consider submitting your paper to one of the sessions organized by RC09:

- **Social transformations in Central and Eastern Europe: Developments after 1989.** Organizer: Nina Bandelj, University California, Irvine, USA, nbandelj@uci.edu

- **The state and hunger in an uneven world.** Organizers: Mustafa Koc, Ryerson University, Canada, mkoc@ryerson.ca and Habibul H. Khondker, National University of Singapore, Singapore, habib@nus.edu.sg

- **Transnational migration and development in the global South.** Organizer: Eric Popkin, Colorado College, USA, epopkin@coloradocollege.edu

- **Social transformations, gender and migration.** Organizer: Ulrike Schuerkens, EHESS, Paris, France, ulrike.schuerkens@caramail.com

- **Global modernity, civilisations and local life-worlds.** Organizers: Ulrike Schuerkens, EHESS, Paris, France, ulrike.schuerkens@caramail.com and Willfried Spohn, Free University Berlin, Germany, willfried.spohn@iue.it

- **Global governance, multiple modernities and local politics: Perspectives from the post-colonial world.** Organizer: Willfried Spohn, Free University Berlin, Germany, willfried.spohn@iue.it

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For more details on individual sessions, check:
http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/congress2006/rc/rc09_durban.htm

Interested presenters should send paper proposals, and abstract of about 300 words, directly to session chairs via e-mail before **October 1, 2005.**
Book Reviews of Interest to RC 09 Members

We assembled four reviews which were prepared by PhD students at the ÉHÉSS (Paris). If you want to comment on a publication in the area of social transformations and sociology of development, please send us a short review.

“Diasporas, développements et mondialisation”, Review Autrepart, n°22, 2002
Reviewed by Mathilde Gauvain

This volume is a compilation of ten articles that try to relate the notion of development that takes its roots in the modernist project with the concepts of diasporas and globalization that on the contrary are inscribed in postmodern theories. Currently, globalization is the phenomenon of generalizing the relations of people all over the globe, and diasporas contribute to these transnational relationships.

The origin of the concept of diasporas seems to be the Jewish exodus of the first century. But sociology and its analysis of network relations create a new sense to a situation traditionally linked to loss and misery. As a matter of fact, people living in diasporas are able to link separate worlds and networks. They participate in these different networks and they take an advantage of their situation, according to the theory of the “strength of weak ties” (Granovetter, 1974). In addition, being in diasporas is an opportunity of being confronted to culturally different worlds, that gives new competences which can be used to help new migrants from the same country, or people having stayed in the country of origin.

Diasporas linking transnational flows of migrants of more than one country constitute transnational communities. With the example of the Chilean migration following September 11th 1973, Claudio Bolzman explains how they passed from a situation of exile to a situation of diasporas, that is to say from a situation seen as reversible, characterized by the common idea to do everything to go back to the country of origin, where the links among different communities are based on ideological affinities and a political project, to a situation where the existence of a Chilean community abroad is normal, where migrants claim to go back but are recognized as a community in the country of residence, and where the networks that are
built claim to become the official interlocutors of the society of origin.

As a matter of fact, diasporas are seen as an active and positive factor. The idea of going back home is abandoned in favor of distant cooperation and adhesion of the individual to the network. The community is not only based on common cultural patterns, but on common interests and solidarity.

These diasporas can be linked to development programs. In this sense, the article of Guillaume Lanly on the Mexican migrants in the US shows how the association of migrants takes an essential part in development programs in Mexico, thanks to the collaboration of Mexican state governments and migrants from the different federal states. For example, the program “3 por 1” receives $1 from the federal state, $1 from the nation-state, and $1 from the municipality, when an association of migrants invests $1 in a local development project. Nevertheless, these associations function mainly thanks to leaders who invest their time in these activities, they are most of the time, entrepreneurs who have an interest in these development programs.

The different articles are rather important in order to understand the transformation in the conditions of migrants. Diasporas are no longer synonymous with desperate people, but on the contrary they create networks. Thus, they constitute a kind of “transnational group” who acquire competences in each country, and who are able to use these networks to promote the development of their country of origin, and, at the same time, their own economic development because their situation offers them a privileged position to create plants that can help to develop their country of residence.

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Reviewed by Omar Ameur

The book suggests an analysis of development according to an anthropological perspective. The author, Massimo Tommasoli, divides his essay into three parts:
1. Theoretical problems linked to economical, political and social changes;
2. The management of the cycle of the project by the World Bank and social development professionals in Great Britain and in the United States;
3. The vision of popular participation in development policy in Ethiopia.
First, development is shaped by practices, social and cultural relations, values and norms. It is a phenomenon that should be based on empirical anthropological research. That’s why development is commonly considered an anthropological object.

The author highlights the social dimension of development. According to him, the aim of development activities should be the improvement of people’s welfare. Consequently, those who evaluate and choose the development plans must consider all dimensions of development. They have to avoid the traditional pitfall of those who only consider technological and economical aspects of development. Tommasoli also wishes to redefine the concept of rationality.

The anthropology of development does not refuse logic of planning. Critics of anthropology stress the stiff planning (top-down approach). They propose a new flexible and participating approach (bottom–up). Considering the failures of development theories during the last fifty years, the author argues that social and cultural dimensions of development had already been introduced in development planning. Nowadays, there is an institutionalization of social analysis: social dimensions take part in the project cycle, for instance, in Great Britain, Italia or the United States.

The institutionalization of social dimensions needs a redefinition of policies and strategies, and the adoption of new tools, such as “social efficiency” in order to evaluate projects. However, it appears necessary to define a new development model with a “bottom” plinth, not only in order to get a better understanding of social mechanisms, but also of national contexts where development policies are applied. Thus, social development experts are like mediators between local inhabitants who suffer from poverty and experts who plan a development policy. Accordingly, they have got a double role: first, to elaborate and to control development projects, and second, to evaluate the social impact and the problems that actors cope with. Due to social analyses, development projects have changed and cooperation focuses now anthropological aspects, despite bureaucratic and political restraints.

In the last part of his book, Tommasoli analyses the international cooperation projects and the participative dimension of development. He compares policies adopted in under-developed countries (e.g. the case of Ethiopia) and co-operation strategies. Local development and decentralization processes are considered as essential points of participation projects.

To conclude, this book appears to be important for those who wish to understand
the failures of development projects in the “Third World”. Participation in development is flexible and allows us to understand the dynamics of social actors. These actors are really important in development planning processes. Tommasoli wants to open up new communication networks among the actors of development projects in order to share knowledge on social and cultural dimensions and to improve the understanding of complex processes of social change.

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The book of the well-known Senegalese sociologist Momar Coumba Diop gives an overview of the Senegalese society at the end of the XXth century. The common interest of the problematics of the 40 authors who collaborated with M.C. Diop, is how Senegalese society reacts under the pressures of local (the role of the state, the rise of new actors, new problematics such as urbanization or environment, regional problems (Casamance)) and global forces (the globalization of the economy). Thus, the book analyses the change of the Senegalese society with sociological, economical, anthropological and political science approaches.

M.C. Diop’s book is divided in five sections: The first one introduces the main topic of the transformation process by explaining the constraints of the Senegalese society. A macro dimension is privileged. The authors offer a global vision of economical (Senegal in the economic world system, from integration to exclusion), political (the building process of the national territories: conflicts with Mauritania, Casamance, Gambia and Guinea Conakry) and sociological (urbanization).

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1 We have to note that there are not only university researchers (Agnès ADJAMAGBO, Gaye DAFFE) who collaborated with M.C. DIOP, but there are also actors of NGOs (Cheikh GUEYE), the public sector (Mamadou Lamine SONKO) and journalists (Moussa PAYE). Moreover, it seems to be important to notice that these 40 authors come from different research fields (sociology, economy and political sciences), different countries (mainly Senegal and France) and are not members of the same generation.

2 We refer here to the article of Gaye DAFFE “The difficult reinsertion of Senegal in global trade”, pp. 65-85.

3 We refer here to the article of Ahmadou Fadel KANE “Senegal border formation”, pp. 163-186.

4 We mention here the article of Jérome LOMBARD and Olivier NINOT “Blind alley and challenges in road network”, pp. 108-161.
environmental management\textsuperscript{5} problems that the Senegalese society has to cope with.

The second part tackles the relation of the Senegalese state and local actors’ initiatives (public and private sector), using a territorial prism. Accordingly, topics such as agricultural trends\textsuperscript{6}, local power in the countryside\textsuperscript{7}, peasant movements\textsuperscript{8} and the Casamance case\textsuperscript{9} (territorial and land property stakes) are tackled. The third part focuses on Senegalese social movements related to the state, in other words, the relation between the state and civil society. Therefore, the authors tackle topics such as student movements\textsuperscript{10}, social relations\textsuperscript{11} and trade unions\textsuperscript{12}. The fourth part is based on a demographic approach: It studies the evolution of the Senegalese population structure\textsuperscript{13}, and the problematics of emigration\textsuperscript{14}. Eventually, the fifth part gives an overview of urbanization processes in Senegal, focusing on urban centres between cities of dreams and the nightmare of what is sometimes called “urban wild world”. Accordingly, the authors discuss the case of Touba\textsuperscript{15}, the transport network in Dakar\textsuperscript{16} and, finally, the topic of the rise of young people in the management of urban trends\textsuperscript{17}.

Due to the plurality of the analyses, this book gives us the opportunity to understand the main dynamics of the transformations of the Senegalese society, torn between local and global pressures. According to M.C. Diop, this research is “the first tentative of Senegalese economical and social history on such a large scale”\textsuperscript{18}. We can also underline that some topics are “classical”, for instance, Senegalese trade, the

\textsuperscript{5} We refer here to the article of Paul NDIAYE “Environment in Senegal. Management perspective”, pp. 87-108.

\textsuperscript{6} See the article of H. Sydou Nourou TOURE “Agricultural trends and persepctives”, pp. 189-226.

\textsuperscript{7} See the article of Tarik DAHOU “From Framing to Liberalization. Local Power reappropriate rural development”, pp. 227-256.

\textsuperscript{8} See the article of Cheikh Oumar BA, Ousmane NDIAYE and Mamadou Lamine SONKO “Peasant movement (1960 – 2000)”, pp. 257-284.

\textsuperscript{9} We refer here to the article of Sylvie FANCHETTE “The North of Casamance: Time to regionalization. Territorial and Landed property stakes”, pp. 307-357.

\textsuperscript{10} We mention here the article of Pascal BIANCHINI “The Senegalese student movement. An Essay of interpretation”, pp. 359-396.

\textsuperscript{11} We refer here to the article of Alfred Inis NDIAYE “Social partnership questioned. Towards new labour relations? ”, pp. 397-440.

\textsuperscript{12} See the article of Kalidou Diallo “Trade Union movement. Crisis and recomposition”, pp. 441-464.

\textsuperscript{13} We refer here to the article of Agnès ADJAMAGBO and Philippe ANTOINE “Senegal facing demographical challenge”, pp. 511-548.

\textsuperscript{14} We refer to the articles of Serigne Mansour TALL “Senegalese international emigration, from yesterday to tomorrow”, pp. 549-578 and the article of Sophie BAVA “Between Marseille and Touba: Mourid migrant”, pp. 579-595.

\textsuperscript{15} We refer here to the article of Cheikh GUEYE “Touba, the result and the product of a brotherhood in mutation”, pp. 597-636.

\textsuperscript{16} We refer here to the article of David MORGANT “Dakar’s transport system: Toward a slow integration”, pp. 657-686.

\textsuperscript{17} We refer here to the article of Momar Coumba DIOP and Ousseynou FAYE “The Young and City governance”, pp. 687-720.

\textsuperscript{18} M.C. DIOP, 2002: 10.
formation of borders or trade unions; others are “new”, for example, environmental management, emigration and the rise of young people as a political group.

To conclude, it is important to insist on the particularities of this book. As we have already said, the main point of the book is the large perspective of the topics around the transformation processes of Senegalese society: The 22 articles allow a general understanding of global and local forces that have got an influence in Senegalese society. The second point is linked to the multi-disciplinary approach (anthropology, economy, political sciences and sociology) and to the diversity of the authors that contribute to unravel the complex dynamics of Senegalese society. The third point is based on the problematics adopted by M.C. Diop that is, as we have already mentioned, the interaction between local and global pressures and the answers developed by Senegalese society. This problematics is adapted to the new research efforts on globalization in sociology and anthropology. It implies analyses that are deeply rooted in the reactions of the state and in the answers of the local actors to the new world system.

In sum, this book appears to be very helpful for those who wish to understand the transformation processes of the Senegalese society at the dawn of the XXIst century. Nowadays, the complexity of globalization needs intensive efforts from the social sciences. We hope that the path opened by M.C. Diop’s book will find followers.

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Reviewed by Jia Chen

What on earth does globalization bring to different cultures? Will it be a straightforward promise, or as many people worry, a threat to the uniqueness of an individual culture, if it does exist at all? Is an “emerging global culture, most of it of Western and indeed American provenance, penetrating the rest of the world on both elite and popular level?” (p. 2) These questions interest many sociological scholars from different sub-fields and are asked and answered in this book on “Many Globalizations” edited by Berger and Huntington.
By scrutinizing the impact of globalization on different nations and their national culture\textsuperscript{19}, the book tries to show readers a picture of great diversity. The authors underline that the impact of globalization was drastically reshaped in the process of localization, especially on the level of culture\textsuperscript{20}. Although from different perspectives, most articles in this book deny a “‘mindless global homogenization’ as it greatly underestimates the capacity of human beings to be creative and innovative in the face of cultural changes”.

Berger and Huntington use three starting definitions.
1. Globalization is used as a term to describe a trend towards a borderless global society, one in which the significance of national borders diminishes as ideas, information, people and money crisscross the globe with increasing freedom. Included in this definition are attempts to standardize environmental and educational management, as well as health, especially concerning rapidly spreading diseases such as BSE (Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy), SARS, etc.
2. Also implied in this definition is the secondary notion that there may be global standards in such elements as trade, financial management, quality of industrial standards and so on. The scope of this review does not allow such a wide-ranging definition, so the focus here will be on educational concerns of globalization as they affect convergent and divergent thinking: thinking globally, acting locally.
3. Globalization is seen as a term that includes globalism. As an operational term, the concept globalism (e.g. Toyota, Hollywood, the Internet) stands alongside regionalism (e.g. ASEAN, APEC), nationalism (e.g. Japan) and localism. Differing definitions of the term globalization exist, and these launch into a discussion of various interpretations, approaches and understandings of the term globalization.

One could begin by linking globalization to other themes of recent history, such as modernism, colonialism, neo-liberalism, cultural imperialism, American hegemony, and so on. Another way of approaching the concept of globalization would be to speak of various secular waves of globalization, such as economic Free Trade Agreements, feminism, environmentalism, and this would open up ample opportunities to discuss a multitude of secular ideologies, currents and forces at work in globalization today. To summarize, globalization contains multiple elements: culture, economics, finance, environmental considerations, technology, politics, terrorism, and so on.

\textsuperscript{19} In most of the selected articles, culture refers to the anthropological definition of human lives.
\textsuperscript{20} Culture refers more to the humanistic culture defined as the spiritual and traditional level.
This book is divided in four parts: In the first part, four contributors examine the thrust and counterthrust, the challenge and response, the action and reaction, the cause and effect of forces of globalization in the countries of China, Taiwan, Japan and India. Globalization is described as a search for modernization that counters tradition. It is too simple to suggest that modernization is similar to progress and light, while tradition is equal to conservatism and darkness. Yet, the coexistence and blending of the best ingredients of each side form the most viable progress. Thus the book suggests: be open to change, but keep your values.

The second part of the book examines the phenomenon of sub-globalizations using the country case studies of Germany and Hungary. The third part looks at peripheral globalizations using the cases of South Africa, Chile and Turkey. The last part examines the conflicting vanguard of globalization as it is practiced by America.

In the book, sub-globalizations are mentioned in such geo-political and economic units as the European Union, Latin America, the Hispanic United States, South East Asian economic consortiums (ASEAN) and South Africa. Individual corporate examples within these sub-globalizations are Adidas, MacDonald, MTV, Disney, as well as Sony, Shiseido and Hello Kitty, and, of course, Japanese car plants such as Toyota, Honda and Nissan.

According to Berger's theory, there are four main carriers of cultural globalization: business elites, intellectual elites, mass culture and popular movements. Moreover, the response of the societies that are affected by globalization can be ranged along a scale from acceptance to rejection, with synthesis and co-existence at intermediate positions.

In sum, Many Globalizations: Cultural Diversity in the Contemporary World gives a picture of the globalization process that contradicts the popular image of an emerging global culture that is mostly western, English speaking, and elitist. The collective message in the studies published in this book is that there is an emerging global culture, and the elites—who are predominantly functional in the areas of business, global trade, academic environments, and missionary religious groups—are the vehicles for its diffusion. Cultural globalization is neither a threat nor an idea that some people have imagined in a homogenized world. Instead, we are facing an era in which indigenous globalizing movements are counterbalancing the forces of western cultural hegemony and, most importantly, are producing many hybrid cultural innovations.
The authors believe that the shape of globalization is complex and must be dealt with in conjunction with the plans and changes aimed at by each country’s global actors (elites and local governments). These actors are more likely to be hybrid products of local cultures, actors who are accountable to a localized process of globalization. Their western training or encounters necessitates acting according to duties based on assumptions, principles, and theories that are rooted in foreign (western) cultures. Nevertheless, research in Many Globalizations uncovers a paradoxical behavioral tendency of these actors that reflects, on the one hand, a combination of national-cultural pride and patriotism, and on the other, western education and training. Hence the overall discussion in this volume shows that cultural globalization is even more difficult to control than economic globalization.

In general, I agree with this perspective on the phenomenon of globalization. Concerning the case of China, I don’t share the opinions of Yan, one of the contributing authors to the Berger and Huntington volume, whose chapter is titled "Managed Globalization: State Power and Cultural Transition in China." To put it simply, I think the article overrates the importance of the state in the process of localization, even though the Chinese government tries by all means to obtain a maximum effect. Yan mentions several strategies that the Chinese government employed in controlling the outcomes of globalization. First, “ideological campaigns against the increased influence of foreign culture, mostly from the West, remain its main weapons.” Though the article is based on data collected in the late 1990s, Yan obviously mentions the political strategies used before and shortly after 1989’s Tian’anmen events. Ideologically, the Communist ideology conspicuously bankrupted, as “having lost its way politically in Tiananmen Square, China has had to embrace capitalism in order to save socialism, particularly after 1992.” Economically, the national economy developed at an unexpected high speed despite the global economic sag from late 1990s to early 2000. Economic development intensifies the “national yearning to cross the threshold into the elite power club, but it does not come harmoniously with an international recognition of China’s role and position in global politics. And above all, for the Chinese, the alternative is obvious: Capitalist globalization that used to stop at the doorsteps of the communist world, has pushed its frontier to the borders of the few remaining communist strongholds, forcing them to adapt to the changing environment and the rising expectations of their citizens who have seen the comparative advantages of capitalism.” Even if the Chinese government
did take some political strategy to maintain its control over ideological impact from the
West, it was definitely not what Yan named “campaign against ‘spiritual pollution’ and
‘bourgeois liberalization’.”

In the official rhetoric, nationalism and patriotism are considered the ideological
weapons in China’s anti-western campaign or better anti-globalization campaign. But
they do not only belong to the sphere of public activity as Yan described in his article.
It was brewed in such an ideological vacuum and was further fueled through
mainstream media’s construction and official endorsement. Nationalism was inherently
beneficial to the regime that used it as an effective factor to reinforce legitimacy.

Scholars detected two kinds of nationalism in the China of the 1990s. One is
conservatively expressed in official rhetoric to promote political legitimacy and the
other is “popular nationalism” that is more aggressive against the West and criticizes
foreign policy. And quite often, the state-inculcated nationalism and populist reactive
nationalism are mixed to blur the boundaries between nation and state while exhibiting
“a high propensity toward aggression” when national sovereignty is at stake.

After 1989, the CCP regime difficultly adjusted its official discourse to adapt to
the changed political situation. A pragmatic discourse was constructed with a
“patriotism-nationalism” ideology and economic reform achievements. The legitimacy
of CCP changed from realizing communism to leading Chinese to realize a great
nation’s revive.

The second and third strategies, Yan put forward tackle the governmental control
over cultural affairs, actually mass media and media workers. They realize the first
strategy: ideological control. In his conclusion, Yan says “The Chinese case
demonstrates a new type of cultural globalization: a managed process in which the state
plays a leading role, and the elite and the populace work together to actively claim
ownership of the emerging global culture.” In my opinion, the effect of globalization
on Chinese society is hardly managed, especially not by the government. It is an
objective outcome of the cooperation of various interest groups and social forces. The
word “manage” overstresses the subjective power of the party-state, who has been
trying to manage but has not yet achieved the expected outcomes of a “managed
globalization”.

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New and Recent Titles


Call for References to be Published on RC09 Website

We ask our members to suggest interesting books or their own publications to be included in a list of references to be published on our website. This would provide nice exposure and permit interested scholars to have a quick overview of our research topics. We also expect the list to be a useful reference for teaching and research in the field of Social Transformations and Sociology of Development. Please e-mail your contributions to nbandelj@uci.edu.
News from our Members

In 2005/2006, Nina Bandelj (University of California, Irvine) will hold a Visiting Fellowship at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany, and after that a Jean Monet Fellowship at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies at the European University Institute, Florence, Italy.

Habibul Haque Khondker will be leaving the Department of Sociology, National University of Singapore to join Zayed University at Abu Dhabi, U.A.E. from January 2006 as Professor in the Department of Social Behavioral Sciences.

After having been appointed Guest Professor at the Free University Berlin (Germany) for 2004/2005, Willfried Spohn will hold a guest professorship at the New School of Social Research at New York in 2005/2006.

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Send us your news! We would be delighted to receive more information on your current research projects, recent publications and teaching experiences in order to inform other members of RC 09 and to encourage collaborations among our members.

RC09 Membership

We are happy to report that RC09 membership is growing steadily. Please encourage your colleagues and friends to join as well! The membership fee for a four year period is 10 $ US for countries of category C, 25 $ US for countries of category A and B and thus really low in comparison to some other RCs. One can pay for two or four years. Members receive RC09 Newsletter and can participate in the committee’s activities during conferences. Furthermore, RC09 members benefit from the network on scholars interested in the topic of Social Transformations and Sociology of Development.

The application form can be found on the International Sociological Association website: http://www.ucm.es/info/isa/memb_i/index.htm
Important announcement: Scholars whose membership will expire at the end of 2005, please, remember to renew your ISA and RC09 membership. The activities that the committee can organize mostly depend on the size of our membership. Please keep your membership current and invite your colleagues and students to join as well!

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If this Newsletter was of interest to you and if you wish to contribute to our activities, please send us some information about yourself, such as your scholarly interests, your university affiliation and titles of recent publications. E-mail to nbandelj@uci.edu.

We wish to all of you an enjoyable end of summer and a productive beginning of a new academic year. We look forward to reading you soon!

This Newsletter was prepared by Ulrike Schuerkens and Nina Bandelj, August 2005.