

International Sociological Association
Research Committee 34: Sociology of Youth
Barcelona, 1st ISA Forum of Sociology

Executive Board meeting
Saturday 6th September 2008

Present: Ngan-pun Ngai (President), Lynne Chisholm (AB – former President), James Cote (VP North America), Helena Helve (immediate past President), Carles Feixa (VP Europe and the Russian Federation), Carmen Leccardi (VP Europe and the Russian Federation), Silvia Trnka (AB), Natalia Waechter (Treasurer), Ani Wierenga (VP Australia, New Zealand and Oceania), Howard Williamson (Organisational Secretary)

1. Minutes of previous meeting held in Durban, South Africa 28th July 2006

These were confirmed as being an accurate record. Proposed by Ani Wierenga; seconded by Carles Feixa.

2. Matters arising

- Item 2 (Planning Timetable): only two regional visions/plans had been submitted to the President by VPs; no overarching strategy had therefore been produced. CL suggested that it would still be useful to know what is taking place and what more we would like done.
- Item 3 (Specific co-operation): collaboration with rc53 (Childhood) had been established (cf Lucknow conference and joint session in Barcelona); there had been no reply from the UNESCO to the President's email concerning opportunities for collaboration
- Item 5 (Alteration of Statutes): HW had notified the ISA regarding these decisions
- Item 7 (Young researcher's award): on agenda item 7
- Item 8 (Leaflet, logo and letterhead): actions had been effected
- Item 10 (IBYR): action had been effected

Actions:

- 1. VPs to reflect on forthcoming direct and indirect rc34 activity in their region, up until the World Congress in July 2010, and on other intentions and aspirations. To forward a single page on these matters to the President [copied to HW] By end October 2008**
- 2. The President to consider collaborative development priorities with other RCs (or further consolidation with rc53 and rc13)**

3. President's biennial Activity Progress Report of rc34

This had been produced, disseminated to the membership and sent to the ISA.

4. To receive the VP's biennial reports

Most VPs had submitted activity reports to the President in his preparation of his progress report. Some had not. Ngai asked if there were any additional items of information that needed to be tabled.

AW (Oceania):

- felt there was a need to connect more strongly with New Zealand
- reflected on the Australian national youth conference in May 2007 where rc34 had had a presence in a number of ways
- recorded the development of a youth action research network (involving NZ, UK and Australia) that had emerged from the conference above
- commended the success of the Asian youth and childhoods conference held in Lucknow, India, in November 2007 (collaboratively organised by rc34 and rc53). Thanks expressed to Vinod Chandra (VP Asia)
- hoping to have further collaboration with rc53, around the Singapore region, on ethics in youth research

CL and CF (Europe):

- IARD has split into the IARD institute and the IARD foundation
- registered a need to keep watch on a 'new generation' of youth policies in Europe
- recognised that rc34 members had (unsurprisingly) a significant presence in the emergence and development of the proposed Masters degree in European Youth Studies (MA EYS) [**The Executive Board formally recorded its support for this initiative**]

There was then an extended discussion of the nature of rc34 'engagement' with relevant and related youth initiatives (notably, but not exclusively, conferences). It was suggested that rc34's possible links rested on a continuum from direct organisation and responsibility, to loose affiliation and co-operation. Within this continuum was also the possibility of 'sponsorship' (the use of the rc34 name). It was felt that the VP's reports to the President (see Action 1 above) should endeavour to distinguish between *core* and '*linked*' rc34 activity.

5. To receive the biennial reports of the Organisational Secretary, Treasurer and IBYR Newsletter Editor

HW (Organisational Secretary) reported a current membership of 163, from approaching 50 different countries. This was a current success story and further increases in membership could be anticipated, given our evolving skill at blending scholarship, support and sociability.

NW (Treasurer) reported a financial balance of 4450 Euros, most of which had accrued from membership fees, but there had also been a 1000 Euro grant from the ISA towards the development of the IBYR website.

Apologies had been received from Clarence Batan (IBYR Editor), who is not well. The Executive Board wished him a speedy recovery and registered its appreciation of his contribution to the 'new look' website *rc34youth.org*

A discussion took place regarding the membership status of some members of the Advisory Board. It was clarified that, at the time of being requested by the President to join the Advisory Board, individuals had to be members of rc34. Should their membership lapse, so does their role on the Advisory Board. There could be the possibility of an honorary rc34 membership in exceptional circumstances, though this would be little more than an expedient measure.

6. To note the Junior Scholar(s) in Youth Sociology and Youth Research Competition (2006-2010)

The Executive Board noted the need to encourage submissions and establish a process for evaluating submitted papers. It was agreed that the President should ask two members of the Advisory Board to constitute an independent judging panel, with a third member from the AB in 'reserve' should there be a difference of opinion within the judging panel.

Action:

- 3. The President to identify and approach three members of the Advisory Panel to take responsibility for deciding on the Junior Scholar: two to constitute the judging panel and a third to mediate in the event of differing views.**

7. To discuss the feasibility of organising rc34 online publication on youth research series or abstracts

There was a discussion of the IBYR website, which mooted the concept of establishing a web journal, especially to provide an avenue for non-European and non-English speaking (writing) youth researchers. The feasibility of developing a robust approach to publishing in this way was, however, questioned. The Executive Board decided to defer the idea of a web journal but to pursue the posting of conference abstracts (that had been 'cleared' by the conference in question) on the website and ensuring that appropriate internet links were provided for other publishing (and communication) possibilities.

8. To consider launching one or two book projects on youth research

Ultimately this is an individual decision or product of collaboration between researchers: the best one can ask is that their involvement or role with rc34 is mentioned in authorship or biographical notes.

- (a) JC raised the idea of setting up a WIKI [What I know is] on the Sociology of Youth. An editorial board would be needed but the initiative could invite the sharing of ideas that ultimately might go towards the production of a textbook or Handbook on Youth Sociology.
- (b) CL and CF said that they were discussing a book on Generations and Youth Theories
- (c) The President argued for the need to have some key writing translated into Chinese. There was some discussion about this, not least regarding questions of copyright, who would produce such hypothetical papers and the fact that former VP Songxing Su had already done some such work.
- (d) There was strong support for encouraging rc34 members (and particularly EB members) to identify one of their own publications and to place it (or a synopsis) on the IBYR website. This would constitute a bridge between scholarship and public relations – communicating the diversity, depth and debate that is rc34.
- (e) any other ideas to the President (and copied to HW).

Action:

- 4. JC to elaborate on his proposals for a WIKI and to consult with the membership**
- 5. The President to explore further his proposals for the translation of some essential academic literature into Chinese**

9. Collaborative activity

An ongoing project

10. To discuss matters related to the XVII World Congress of Sociology in Sweden in 2010

The Congress is scheduled for 11-17 July 2010. Its theme is *Sociology on the Move*. HH noted that the next NYRI symposium will take place in Sweden and may be planned for the week before Gothenberg. No decision has been made on this yet, but the idea was for people to be able to participate in both events sequentially. The EB expressed some concern about this, though it was recognised there were also benefits to it. HH would take back the EB's views to the NYRI 2010 planning group when it meets for the first time.

There was also discussion of the extent to which rc34 members should, in some way, be prioritised in the acceptance of papers. A balance needed to be struck between over-exclusivity and endeavouring to avoid sessions that were just absurdly packed. It was anticipated that there would be a significant number of applications to participate through rc34 at the World Congress given the location of the event. Some

‘filtering’ would almost certainly be required; the question to be resolved is on what criteria (beyond the quality of abstract submissions) might be applied and the extent to which rc34 membership should be a factor. Executive Board members were asked to give this some fairly urgent consideration and convey their views to the President.

The five themes of the World Congress are as follows:

- Violence and War
- Sustainability
- Worlds of Difference
- Action and Imagination
- Religion and Power

Relatively urgently these need to be ‘converted’ or ‘translated’ into themes for rc34 sessions. The following thoughts represented a start to this process: mediation, methodologies, theory and practice, ‘belonging’, trust, belief.

CL felt that there should be a conference in 2009 in eastern Europe which could also be a planning platform for the World Congress. LC reported her appointment as Adjunct Professor at the University of Oslo (congratulations) and felt there might be some possibility of organising support for the doctoral school in eastern Europe as one mechanism for making the conference/seminar happen (reflecting the approach adopted by HH for the young researchers’ seminar in Moscow exactly eight years ago). It was noted that there was already a youth studies conference planned in Ireland in the summer of 2009, under the auspices of rc34 member Maurice Devlin. [Approval to use the rc34 name was given]

To think about immediate needs in relation to the World Congress, a further meeting was scheduled for Sunday, 7th September at 1330.

Action:

- 6. Views on the extent to which, if at all, rc34 members should be given some level of priority in the acceptance of abstracts for rc34 sessions at the World Congress**

11. Other forthcoming activities

The youth conference in Ireland.

12. Any other business

ST noted that there were vacancies on the ISA Executive and that it might be politic for rc34 to seek a place.

Supplementary meeting, Sunday, 7th September – preparation for the World Congress

The preparation for the WC had to start **now**.

HW outlined the timetable from 2004 up to Durban in 2006, and extrapolated a current timetable from that:

Oct/Nov 2008 – Topics/Themes and session organisers to have been decided
April 2009 – Call for papers (abstract to be received by November 2009)
Sept 2009 – Integrative Session to have been agreed
Jan 2010 – adjustment of the number of sessions give to rc34
Jan 2009 – submission of programme of sessions
May 2010 – last minute changes.....

Very soon the ISA would be issuing the precise timetable.

There were a number of youth research activities in 2009 which had to be taken into account as both prospective diversions from the planning cycle and opportunities to reflect on progress. These included:

- Australian Sociological Association December 2008 (with rc34 strand)
- Young People and Societies in Europe and the Mediterranean, Forli, Italy (March 26-28)
- China (May)
- Ireland (summer)
- Salerno – Youth Policies in Europe (December 2009 or early 2010)

It was agreed that the EB and AB should be consulted immediately on potential themes and to ask for expressions of willingness to be a lead session organiser. The President would then have to nominate/appoint the requisite number from this pool of volunteers. They would then take responsibility for setting out the framework to be used in the Call for Papers.

Action:

7. HW to circulate a note to EB and AB asking for ideas regarding the themes for sessions at the World Congress.

It was anticipated that rc34 would be allocated sixteen sessions (the same as Durban) but that this could change in the light of the membership count in January 2010. Given that there are usually four sessions outside of the core thematic framework (opening, business, host country, and ‘special’) this would leave 12 sessions for the thematic focus: perhaps 2 themes with three sessions and three with two, or some other combination. Thought also needs to be given about any prospective Integrative Session.

Howard Williamson

Organisational Secretary rc34
Barcelona, 8th September 2008