



International Sociological Association Research Committee 21:
Sociology of Urban and Regional Development
ISA - RC21

2009 ISA-RC21 Sao Paulo Conference

Inequality, Inclusion and the Sense of Belonging

Time: August 23-25, 2009

Place: Sao Paulo, Brazil

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Rationale: Cities have experienced considerable cultural, political and economic change during the past few decades. The roles performed by social actors and by the state have diversified rather than weakened, as was predicted by some in academic debates. Spatial segregation has changed less than was forecast in the literature but the social meaning of segregation varies depending upon demographic and social structure. The idea of polarization remains strong but it is now clear that this is too simple a concept to grasp the diversity of urban situations.

Nevertheless, inequality remains a central feature of societies, although inequality is now more fragmented, and more associated with specific groups. Class identities have also changed, and in a broader sense, so too has the way people understand their participation in society. Social inclusion remains a key material, symbolic and political issue in a variety of national situations, although also marked by local features in each case. In countries where the issue of inclusion was considered to be resolved, at least politically, some social groups have experienced a declining sense of involvement in society, reposing the problem of social belongingness.

Social configurations have become significantly more heterogeneous, combining local historical, spatial and political factors with economic and political elements of broader amplitude. This Conference intends to address these issues in a transdisciplinary way, focusing mainly on their association with social inequalities and with the identities that mark contemporary cities.

The Call for Session Proposals:

We'd like to solicit session proposals related to the conference theme. We also welcome other urban themes. Followings are some examples. Please send your session proposals with its title and short description (within 150 words) to the Sao Paulo conference committee (isasp2009@cebrap.org.br) with a copy to Eduardo Marques (ecmarq@uol.com.br) by November 20th, 2008. We'll start the call for papers on

January 10th and ends on April 30th, 2009

1. The new direction in urban inequality and poverty
2. The new interpretation of urban inequality
3. Comparative perspective on poverty
4. The sense of belonging to neighborhoods and cities
5. The state and urban inequality and poverty
6. Urban mixed policies
7. Comparative urban policies on inequality and poverty
8. Urban justice and public policies
9. Urban environment
10. Urbanism and urbanization in history
11. Configuration of urban spaces
12. Territory, culture and identities
13. Actors and political conflicts
14. Space, networks and scales

The organizing committee:

- Eduardo Marques (Department of Political Science/University of São Paulo-DGP/USP);
- Ana Fernandes (Faculty of Architecture/ Federal University of Bahia – FAU/UFBA);
- Ana Cristina Fernandes (Geography Department/Federal University of Pernambuco (DG/UFPE);
- Cristina Leme (Faculty of Architecture/University of São Paulo – FAU/USP);
- Heloisa Costa (Geography Department/Federal University of Minas Gerais (IGC/UFMG);
- Ilse Scherren-Warren (Sociology Department/Federal University of Santa Catarina – DS/UFSC);
- Leila Dias (Geosciences Department/Federal University of Santa Catarina (DG/UFSC);
- Adalberto Cardoso (Sociology/IUPERJ);
- Marcio Valenca (Geography Department/ Federal University of Rio Grande do Norte – DGE/UFRN);
- Carlos Vainer (Urban and Regional Planning Institute/ Federal University of Rio de Janeiro – IPPUR/UFRJ).