



EUROPEAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

RESEARCH NETWORK ON 'SOUTHERN EUROPEAN SOCIETIES'

ESA/RN27 MID-TERM CONFERENCE 2017

The Uses of Sociological Knowledge: Challenges and Dilemmas for Southern European Sociology

Córdoba (Spain), 19-21 April 2017

*Co-organized by the Spanish Sociological Federation (FES)
and the Institute for Advanced Social Studies*

Venue: Institute for Advanced Social Studies (IESA),
Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Europe is facing new and radical challenges that demand extraordinary resilience from EU members, especially those from southern European societies, because of their outlying position and specific social problems in comparison with their EU neighbours. The difficulties of building a united Europe in the wake of the economic, financial and political crisis have exposed divergences in EU governance. In this context, sociology is an important tool to inform public policies and to provide the general public with an understanding of current challenges. The uses of sociology have significant social, political and practical implications in fields that are especially significant for southern European societies, such as welfare, work and employment, education, migration, social cohesion, political participation and other social phenomena.

However, the usual tensions in the organization of scientific research are now particularly intense in terms of how the utility of sociological knowledge is understood and communicated. The trend toward internationalization in current research systems forces research communities to compete in a global market of scientific production, where English is the dominant language, and to publish sound results for an academic audience. There is also a pressing need to find sociological knowledge that is relevant and applicable to regional and local problems; to overcome the difficulties of conveying applied research to an international audience; and to legitimate problem-oriented research within science policies and academic organizations.

This conference will discuss the challenges and dilemmas of different orientations of sociology in order to complement internationalization and academic research with the uses of sociology aimed at solving social problems in specific territorial contexts. Participants are invited to discuss the relevance of sociological knowledge in recent years as a means to understanding southern European societies, at a local, regional and international level.

Although other proposals will be welcome, we especially invite papers on the following topics:

- Sociological research and the development of civil society, public policies and democracy in Europe;

- Uses and applications of sociology with special implications for social European societies (including applications to important areas, such as welfare, employment, education, migration, poverty, political participation and other social phenomena);
- Knowledge transfer in sociology: conceptual approaches, organizational modes and research;
- The combination of applied social research and internationalization;
- The role of research centres and professional associations in the use and development of sociological knowledge;
- Sociology in EU and National science policies: interdisciplinarity, knowledge transfer, evaluation and funding;
- Public sociology and the audiences of sociology;
- Open science in sociology and its contribution to language diversity and social inclusion;
- The communication and diffusion of sociological knowledge.

Deadlines

Abstract submission: **20 March (extended deadline: 30 March)**

Notification of acceptance: **31 March**

Registration: **10 April**

Abstracts, Format of Papers and Language

The organizers invite theoretical or empirical papers, whether quantitative, qualitative or case studies, on the above (or related) topics. Special consideration will be given to empirically grounded papers, whether comparative or country-based.

The languages of the abstracts, papers and conference will be English, French or Spanish. An English translation of the abstracts and PowerPoint presentations is recommended.

Abstracts should be around 500-600 words, and should be accompanied by the name(s) of the author(s), his/her/their affiliation(s) and E-mail(s).

Abstracts should be submitted to difusion@fes-sociologia.com, on copy to Manuel Fernandez Esquinas (Coordinator of the Mid-term conference) (mfernandez@iesa.csic.es) and Luís Baptista (Coordinator of ESA RN27) (luisv.baptista@fcsh.unl.pt).

Conference Fees

Members of the European Sociological Association (ESA) and the Spanish Sociological Association (FES-Federación Española de Sociología): 60 euros for non-students and 30 euros for students. Others participants: 80 euros for non-students and 40 euros for students.

Registration fees will cover organization costs, conference materials for participants, coffee breaks and lunches. An optional farewell dinner and a sightseeing tour of Córdoba will be arranged.

Publication Options

A selection of papers subject to peer review will be published in special issues of journals edited by the sociology associations of Spain, southern European countries and international publishers.

Other papers will be part of a book agreement with a major international publisher.

Scientific Committee

Ana Romão, Portugal
Andrea Vargiu, Italy

Eleni Nina-Pazarzi, Greece
Luís Baptista, Portugal
Manuel Carlos Silva, Portugal
Manuel Fernandez Esquinas, Spain
Sylvie Mazzella, France
Lucila Fikel, Spain
Arturo Rodriguez Morató, Spain
Apostolis Papakostas, Greece
Luís Ayuso, Spain
Consuelo Corradi, Italy
Dan Ferrand-Bechmann, France
Ana López-Sala, Spain

Organizing Committee

Manuel Fernández Esquinas (FES coordinator)
Lucila Finkel (FES coordinator)
Diana Iturrate Meras
Sandro Giachi
Thierry Desrues
Luís Navarro Ardoy
Manuel Pérez Yruela
Matilde Massó Lago
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Marian Ispizua Uribarri
Màrius Domínguez i Amorós
Rodolfo Gutiérrez Palacios
Cecilia Díaz Méndez
José Antonio Gómez Yáñez

Registration and Secretariat

Instructions for registration will be available after the notification of acceptance
FES Secretariat: María García, Charo Llera. E-mail: info@fes-sociologia.com

About the Organizers

The RN 27 – Regional Research Network on Southern European Societies is one of the 37 research groups of the European Sociological Association. By organizing regular meetings, the RN27 brings together research experience and critical views of the different ways in which research is being conducted, along with perspectives concerning social trends and socio-politics operating in southern Europe.

The FES (Spanish Sociological Federation) is the sociological association of Spain at country level. It is organized in research committees relating to different specialties of sociology and themed working groups. Membership includes individuals affiliated to research committees, as well as collective members. Collective members are the regional associations of sociology, university departments, research centres, and professional institutions. The FES organizes the Spanish Congress of Sociology every three years and publishes the peer-reviewed journal RES (Revista Española de Sociología), in English and Spanish.

The IESA (Institute for Advanced Social Studies) is an official research centre of the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC). The primary mission of the IESA is to advance our understanding of processes of change in contemporary societies and the basic features of social structures using relevant theoretical approaches and comparative analysis. The IESA produces public knowledge and also plays an important role in the transfer of results to the local environment, with a view to contributing to public debate and solving problems affecting today's societies. The main areas of research are welfare and quality of life, sociology of innovation, environment and territory, political sociology, and area studies focussing especially on the Maghreb and the Mediterranean.

Practical information

Córdoba is an ancient city located in Andalucía (southern Spain), well-known for its multi-cultural history and the coexistence of Christians, Muslims and Jews. In 1986, the historic centre was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The mid-term conference will be held at the IESA building located in the old town of Córdoba.

Nearest international airports are located in Seville, Málaga and Madrid. High speed trains (AVE) connect Córdoba with all three cities (Seville: 35 minutes. Málaga: 50 minutes. Madrid: 1 hour and 40 minutes).

Address:

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