



RC10 NEWSLETTER

30 June 2024

Edited and Compiled by:
Dasarath Chetty

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1. A Message from the RC10 President

Dear Colleagues

The V ISA Forum of Sociology will take place in Rabat, Morocco on July 6-11, 2025. This is the first ISA Forum to be held in the region and specifically in a country that is known for being at the crossroads of civilizations spanning the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Africa. RC 10 members are encouraged to participate in this in-person only conference under the theme of "Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene." Ten sessions have already been proposed, relating to contested knowledges and new understandings of justice for the Anthropocene as they relate to RC 10's broad focus areas viz. participation, organisational democracy and self-management.

For more information, visit:

<https://www.isasociology.org/en/conferences/forum/rabat-2025> or contact the Programme Coordinators:

Sheetal Bhoola: sheetalbhoola@gmail.com

Michela Freddano: michela.freddano@invalsi.it

Dasarath Chetty: chettytd@gmail.com

RC 10 Members are hereby invited to submit conference/workshop or seminar proposals that we could consider hosting over the next 3 years either as RC 10 events or collaborative events with appropriate social actors.

Your Board is also eager to hear of your research, collaborations, publications, and events that may be of interest to RC 10 members so please feel free to submit such information that you would like published in the forthcoming Newsletters.

Sincerely

Dasarath Chetty



الرباط
RABAT

ISA International
Sociological
Association

V ISA Forum of Sociology
6-11 July, 2025

#ISAforum25 #Morocco

2. RC 10 Board Elections Report

RC 10 Board members were elected at the Business Meeting in Melbourne on 29 June 2023 for the period 2023 to 2027. The Office Bearers were thereafter elected by the Board as per the RC 10 Statutes. The results were as follows:

POSITION	NAME	COUNTRY
President	Dasarath Chetty	South Africa
Vice-President	Michela Freddano	Italy
Vice-President	Eleni Nina-Pazarzi	Sweden
Vice-President	Stefan Luecking	Germany
Secretary	Sheetal Bhoola	South Africa
Treasurer	Volkmar Kreissig	Germany
Online Communication Manager	Manoj Teotia	India
Board Members	P.P Balan	India
	Catherine Casey	UK
	Katrinell Davis	USA
	Jurate Imbrasaite	Lithuania
	Manoj Kumar Teotia	India
Alternates	Simangele Costance Cele	South Africa
	Nagender Tadepally	India

3. Overview of the ISA World Congress Melbourne (25 June – 1 July 2023)

Sheetal Bhoola, Michela Freddano, Dasarath Chetty (Programme Coordinators)

RC10 successfully held a total of 16 academic sessions of which some were joint with other Research Committees or Working Groups at the ISA selected venues (The Melbourne Convention Centre and The Crown).

On Monday (26 June) There were 3 sessions held. The titles were as follows:

Participant Resurgent Authoritarianism: African and International Perspectives and Experiences, Resurgent Authoritarianism in the context of SDG1 on No Poverty, SDG2 on Zero Hunger and SDG 17 on Partnerships of the Goals. Sociology of New Entanglements of Religions, Politics and Economics (Joint session with WG 05) and The Corporate Governance and Corporate Social Responsibility Under Conditions of International Globalization and Growing Nationalism as Driver of Wars. These 3 sessions included 10 presentations.

On Tuesday (27 June) There were 3 sessions held. The titles were as follows:

Transformative Research, Education and World Social Forum (Joint session with RC 26), Digital Futures between Domination and Participation. Part I (Joint session with RC 14, RC 07, RC 23, TG 10) and Political Socialization in Changing Times: Generations and Agents. (Joint session with RC 18). There was a total of 13 presenters on this day.

Wednesday (28 June) The 3 sessions were as follows: Urban Collective Action (Joint with RC 48), People-Centric Governance, Society, and Sustainable Development (Joint with WG 05) and Digital Futures between Domination and Participation Part III: Digital Discourse and Democracy. These 3 sessions had a total of 13 presentations.

Thursday (29 June) The 3 sessions were as follows:

Challenges and International Perspectives of Participatory Evaluation in the Era of Resurgent Authoritarianism, Social Economy Enterprises and Organizations as a Challenge to Disseminate Participatory Democracy at Work and To Participate or Not to Participate? Social Movements 4.0 and the Return of Dichotomies (Joint session with RC 34 and RC 48).

Friday (30 June) RC 10 hosted 2 sessions on this day. They were as follows:

Networking, Collaborative Dialogue, Shared Governance: Practical Cases for Sustaining Participatory Democracy in Education and Organizing Against Authoritarianism in the Platform and on-Demand Economy. Both these sessions attracted a total of 10 presenters.

Saturday (1 July) RC 10 hosted 4 sessions. They are as follows:

Action-Research for Participation and Empowerment, Democratic Participation and Self-Management Vs Authoritarianism: Theoretical Reflections and Propositions, Civic Participation and the Process of Local Community Revitalization. Multinational Perspective and Experience and Latin American Social Movements, Collective Actions and Democracy. There was a total of 14 presentations.

General:

The RC 10 sessions attracted some young scholars who have a keen interest in this area of study. In person attendance at each session was less than expected due the high costs of travel to Australia and a lack of funding. Scholars from the global south in particular indicated in conversation that local travel, accommodation and meals were expensive in Melbourne. ■

4. South African-German Workshop on Democratic Participation

By Stefan Leucking at the Hans Boeckler Foundation in Düsseldorf



L-R: Stefan Leucking, György Széll, Heinz Sünker, Volkmar Kreißig, Dasarath Chetty

On 3 June 2024, during a visit of Dasarath Chetty, Sheetal Bhoola and Sma Cele to Germany, we met for a German-South African workshop at the Hans Böckler Foundation in Düsseldorf. The common topic was the prospect of democratic participation in both countries.

In the first part of the workshop Heinz Sünker and György Széll, both former presidents of RC 10, discussed the current challenges for democratic participation in Germany looking back on a long history of political struggles and theoretical debates. Starting from the antagonism between democracy and capitalism, Heinz Sünker recalled Adorno's reflections on education after Auschwitz and concluded with a passionate plea for a democratic education that does not reproduce social inequalities but aims to overcome them. Taking up the call for democratic education in the spirit of the Enlightenment, György Széll emphasised the importance of civil society. Particularly in view of the rise of right-wing populism and authoritarianism, democratic participation requires the strengthening of civil society organisations such as universities and trade unions.

In the second part on South Africa, Dasarath Chetty, Sheetal Bhoola and Simangele

Cele drew conclusions from the recent general elections in which the ANC lost the parliamentary majority it had held since the first post-apartheid elections in 1994. Although the ANC is still the largest party, it must now look for a partner to form a government. This is a particular challenge, as South Africa has no tradition of multi-party governments.

One obvious reason for the decline of the ANC majority is corruption in the government. However, Jacob Zuma, who was particularly responsible for corruption during his time in office, has come third with his new party in this year's elections. More important might be the failure to properly implement the economic programme from Mandel's government after 1994, in particular the Reconstruction and Development Programme that has already been replaced in 1996.

Another reason could be the top-down approach of government policy. The ANC now needs a bottom-up renewal, which is not easy when it has to organise a coalition government with another party at the same time.

The workshop concluded with a reflection by Volkmar Kreißig on the failures of transition in East Germany and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. ■

5. RC10 / University of Wuppertal Seminars



L-R: Heinz Sünker, Sma Cele, Volkmar Kreißig, Sheetal Bhoola, Dasarath Chetty

Hans Böckler
Stiftung 
Mitbestimmung · Forschung · Stipendien

SOUTH AFRICAN-GERMAN WORKSHOP ON DEMOCRATIC PARTICIPATION

by the Hans-Böckler Foundation, Düsseldorf
in cooperation with
RC 10 'Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management'
of the International Sociological Association

3 June 2024

- 12.00 h Lunch
Casita Mexicana Golzheim, Uerdinger Str. 25, 40474 Düsseldorf
- 13.00 h Workshop and Business meeting ISA/RC 10
Hans-Böckler-Stiftung, Georg-Glock-Str.18, 40474 Düsseldorf
- 13.00 h Opening and introduction by Stefan Lücking
- 13.30 h Prof. Dr. Heinz Sünker: Democratic participation in times of crisis
- 14.00 h Prof. Dr. György Széll: Democratic participation revisited
- 14:30 h Coffee break
- 15.00 h Prof. Dr. Dasarath Chetty, Durban University of Technology/ZA (President of the Research Committee 10 'Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management' of the International Sociological Association): Democratic participation in the world
- 15.30 h Dr. Sheetal Bhoola, University of Zululand (Secretary of the Research Committee 10 'Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management' of the International Sociological Association): Democratic participation in South Africa
- 16.00 h Prof. Dr. Volkmar Kreißig, Taita Taveta University College/Kenya (Treasurer of the Research Committee 10 'Participation, Organizational Democracy and Self-Management' of the International Sociological Association): Democratic participation in Kenya and Eastern Europe
- 16.30 h Coffee break
- 16.45 h Business meeting ISA/RC 10
- 18.00 h Dinner
Füchschen, Ratinger Str. 28, 40213 Düsseldorf

NEUES PROGRAMM
Sommersemester 2024

VORTRAGSREIHE

FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM KINDHEITEN.GESELLSCHAFTEN

04. Juni 2024 (12-14h) - Raum O.12.20

Children's Lives and Well-Being in South Africa
Dr. Sheetal Bhoola und Dr. Simangele Cele (University of Zululand, Südafrika)

04. Juni 2024 (18-20h)

Childhood Studies and Politics for Children in South Africa
Prof. Dr. Dasarath Chetty (Durban University of Technology South Africa)

16. Juli 2024 (18-20h)

Kindheitsforschung und die Analyse sexueller Gewalt gegen Kinder.
Ein Plädoyer für Differenzierung.
Prof. Dr. Michael Winkler (Universität Jena)

Dienstags
18 - 20 Uhr c.t.

Raum: O.11.35

Beachten Sie bitte die Hinweise auf der Website des Forschungszentrums Kindheiten.Gesellschaften:
www.izkg.uni-wuppertal.de

Erziehungswissenschaft
Fakultät 2 - Human- und Sozialwissenschaften

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6. Tributes to Litsa Nicolaou-Smokoviti and Erik Lindhult

Prof. Litsa Nicolaou-Smokoviti

By Volkmar Kreissig



RC10 Meeting, ISA World Congress, Montreal, 1998.

Seated L-R: Antonio Lucas Marin, Alain Chouraqui, Dasarath Chetty, **Litsa Nicolaou-Smokoviti**

Standing L-R: Vladimir Gerchikov, Wiking Ehlert, Leslie Brown, Ake Sandberg, Ann Westenholz, Heinz Sünker, Volkmar Kreißig

Prof. Eleni informed me that one of my best friends in RC 10, Prof. Litsa Nicolaou-Smokoviti had passed away. She was Vice President of RC10 (2006-2010 and 2010-2014, and Treasurer 2002-2006) I remember her for first hosting in Athens, at a scientific conference, after the fall of the Berlin Wall and the enthusiastic celebrating of this event at the ISA 1990 World Congress in Madrid, where I also met my friend Dasarath Chetty a young anti-apartheid activist from South Africa. Both of us became lifelong friends in RC 10 where we collaborated with Litsa, Gyoergy Szell, Heinz Suenker, Ake Sandberg and others.

After the world congress I travelled with a grant from German Hans Boeckler Foundation with my East German - GDR - passport to Athens. This voyage filled one of my dreams since a young scholar to visit Athens as the symbol of democracy in reality. Till the fall of the wall there was no chance for me to travel as to Athens. Normally East Germans had to go, before visiting Greece as a member of NATO, to West Berlin for an application to the so called international travel board – an instrument of cold war used by NATO states against citizens of eastern bloc states. I forgot to do this and was worried when I did remember this permit during the flight. Maybe the Greek airport control would not let me pass the border, I thought. But the policeman had seen my East German passport and just said “German,” gave me a stamp and let me pass.

The conference venue was on the top of a hotel straight in front of Acropolis – symbol of Athenian democracy. We were invited by Litsa Nicolaou to a Greek Marriage during conference and were cordially hosted there and danced Sirtaki the Greek national dance. We felt the “wind of change” and believed these “winds will change the world to another paradigm”. Litsa gave a reception in her house and garden in presence of the Russian consul. There was friendly relations between Greece as a NATO member and Russia, still a Warsaw treaty member, and there were high hopes for the future. I met Litsa’s husband – a former Greek General and member of ISA RC of military sociology. His habits were of a real General. His speeches and presentations were every short

and military but he was a friendly man. But it seemed in the house Litsa was the commander of the family. She always took care of me as her own child. When I visited the ILO headquarter in Geneva/Switzerland and told the Greek staff there I am a friend of Litsa Nicolaou-Smokoviti, I felt they respected her greatly. Litsa hosted me in her house, when I visited the 100 years anniversary of Olympic Games in Athens. In Athens I met very good friends of RC 10 as Ake Sandberg, Emanuel Kamdem and Heinz Suenker – we had to learn and respect each other as Germans from East and West, which is not normally so in unified Germany even today. I wrote an article in 2002 to honour Litsa when she retired from university. I met Michal Palgi, who hosted me with her husband in the Kibbutz Nir David and have shown me the problems and life there.

Litsa was as vice-president of RC 10 at St. Petersburg university where I have taught from 1996-2000. She was chairing the conference “New forms of management, privatization and participation” I organized under difficult conditions in the era of President Yeltsin and during the collapse of Russian Ruble and finance markets straight during time of conference. All prices doubled during conference. But nevertheless we organized a river cruise on the Newa River, a nice reception and an opera visit in the former opera house of the Tsar. We shared all the expenses between participants in a solidarity way among people from rich and poorer countries, using the grant of German Volkswagen foundation. So much reminds me personally of Litsa Nicolaou-Smikoviti.

And when I regard the situation today with
· *the seemingly unsolvable migrant problem in Greece*

- *the growing poverty and insecurity there*
- *the pressures from German banks on the Greek economy to pay back all the credits with excessive interest rates*
- *pressing the former left wing government despite the unsolved problems with the debts of Germany after 2nd world war in front of Greece*
- *the insecurities between Greece and Turkey as Nato partners at the eastern flank of the common “defense organization”*
- *the ongoing armament course especially with higher rates of nuclear weapons after so much hope at the time of Berlin Wall’s fall?*

Friends from RC 10 are now, like me, getting older or some passed away. Akihiro Ishikawa, Veljko Rus, Alain Chouraqui, Gerard Kester, Cornellius Lammers, Michal Palgi, Rusty Russel, Georgy Szell, Heinz Suenker, Isabel de Costa, Vera Vratusa, Azril Bacal are just some of them but the spirit of participation and democracy is still alive in RC 10. We shall in the spirit and in memoriam of Litsa and others find new and young fighters for the “dream” and prolong our quest for participation, organizational democracy and peace as the basic of the realization of this more than 60 years living spirits laid down by scientific results. I still have a picture of RC 10 members beside the monument of Karl Marx in my hometown –former Chemnitz, since 1953 till 1990 named Karl Marx- Stadt. Chemnitz was where we organized the Conference “Return of work, production and administration to Capitalism”. Chemnitz is today European cultural capital. It’s the legacy of the spirit of Prof. Nicolaou-Smokoviti and all our members to fight for our dreams also in the memoriam of Litsa and all the others members, researchers, teachers and friends. ■

Erik Lindhult

By Azril Bacal Rojj



Erik Lindhult was an outstanding human being, as well as a board member of RC-10 for many years. While we are each and all unique persons, he was unique in many special ways. One does not often meet during one's lifetime many persons like Erik, who incarnated the best of humankind: openness, warmth, curiosity, joy to communicate, friendship, and deep commitment to dialogue and democracy. One neighbor and friend summarized his remembrance of Erik in a few words, at the funeral where close relatives, friends and colleagues had gathered to share grief and honor his memory: "those who met Erik won't ever forget him." The words in his obituary convey the deep sense of personal loss felt by his wife, children and grandchildren: "you are loved and missed by us all" and "you are in our hearts and somewhere inside us we are always together."

Having read many of the condolences written by many neighbors, friends, colleagues, and students, there emerges the enormous human stature of this dearest of friends and colleague, also appreciated by all who met him at RC-10 (and RC-26) board meetings, and at the many sessions we co-organized and chaired at ISA World Congress of Sociology.

I personally feel the passing away of Erik Lindhult with an unabashed sense of deep grief. Our friendship and collaborative academic journey spans over four decades, and is traced in time to the Salzburg Seminar dealing with the Consequences of Technical Innovations on Social Relations. We both benefitted at this encounter from the lessons and inspiration received from Einar Thorsrud (in the realms of socio-techniques and organizational development from a participatory democratic perspective), as well as from Berth Jönsson, in his innovative approach to human relations and the social dimension of the Swedish enterprise concerned with the quality of working life.

With the passage of time, we met and befriended some of the most important thinkers associated with the construction of the Nordic Model of Democratic Organization and Social Welfare, like Hans van Beinum and Rudolf Meidner, one of the key architects of the Swedish Popular Model, at the Swedish Center for the Study of Working Life (Arbetslivscentrum). The most important international research center for the study of working life, along with the Instituto di Lavoro, both of them closed by the Swedish and Italian governments, respectively, in the early stages of neo-liberalism dominance in Europe. In terms of our participation in scientific and academic organizations, he introduced me as a member to the Swedish Participatory Action-Research Community (SPARC), the Scandinavian Interactive Research Association (SIRA), and ALARA, while I introduced him as a member to ISA, RC10 and RC26.

Erik Lindhult was born in Sala, 23 November 1956, and died 28 November 2023 in a hospital in Stockholm, at the young age of 67 years of age, the same age as my father when he died in Lima, Perú, my home country. In the evening prior to his death, Monica Gidmark, his widow, told me by WhatsApp, that Erik wanted to wave his hand at me. We both knew that it was his way to bid farewell. He published several books and numerous articles and papers, was revered by his students, while remaining an "academic activist." In his doctoral thesis on industrial economy and management at KTH, the Royal Institute of Technology, was presented in 2005, entitled "Management by Freedom," which included collected his "essays in moving from Machiavellian (manipulative) to Rousseauian (democratic and dialogic) approaches to innovation and inquiry." In the abstract of his doctoral dissertation, he wrote: "In managing innovation and development, a crucial issue is the participation of concerned people in order to attain efficiency, as well as consideration of the interests of those affected." By the way of closure, I just finished writing the article we had been working together for some years on "Dialogue as a Social Research Orientation, Method and Social Practice: Looking at Participatory Action-Research and Beyond," presented at as power-point at a joined session of RC-10 and RC-26 at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne 2023.

Which is to be published in a special issue of ALARA to honor the valuable contributions made by Erik Lindhult to various disciplines, study-fields, Participatory Action-Research, participatory democracy, social innovations, the co-production of scientific and practitioner's knowledge, and to knowledge-democracy, one of his latest academic interests and research focus. Readers interested in Erik Lindhult own narrative of his fascinating intellectual and academic story and journey, from the time he was a child in rural Sweden, endowed with an enormous intellectual and human curiosity, to becoming an internationally known and respected scholar, my suggestion is for you to read the preface of his doctoral thesis. ■

