

## Award of Excellence in World Society Research 2008

### World Society Foundation Award Program for Research Papers

On the topic of

### **Inequality Beyond Globalization: Economic Changes and the Dynamics of Inequality**

The award program for 2008 will be organized jointly with the ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference (International Sociological Association, Research Committee 2 – Economy and Society), to be held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, June 26-28, 2008.

#### **Call for paper proposals**

Interested scholars are kindly invited to submit their paper proposals before **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008** (see detailed instructions for application below). The Foundation's Board of Members will, together with the Scientific Board of the ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference, evaluate these proposals and ask successful applicants to elaborate their proposals into full papers of 25-30 pages (in good English language). The deadline for delivering the papers is **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

Each paper meeting the typical quality standards of the leading scholarly journals will be honored with a prize of US\$ 1.000. The papers will be published as World Society Focus Papers on the Foundation's website. The most outstanding papers will be published in a forthcoming volume (2009) of *World Society Studies*, the Foundation's edited book series.

The authors of the five most outstanding papers become candidates for the Foundation's **Award of Excellence in World Society Research** (2008). The prize money for the Award will be US\$ 10.000 (First Prize) and US\$ 5.000 (Second Prize). The five candidates will be invited to the ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference to be held in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, June 26-28, 2008, where the award will be presented. The Foundation's Board of Members and the Scientific Advisory Board of the Conference will act as the jury for this evaluation.

## Topics and research questions

In sociological research on inequality, globalization has been a central focus for over a decade now. Nevertheless, globalization's effects on intra-national, international, and interregional social inequality remain highly contested. At the upcoming ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference in Neuchâtel, researchers will have the opportunity to discuss the current state of the debates and to contrast them with recent research on the distributional effects of economic change in general. The conference is intended to both create an open forum for current economic sociology and condense the findings of this discipline.

Research papers should deal with the following topics:

- **Influence of economic transformations and related institutional changes on inequality**

How is the production and reproduction of inequality influenced by economic transformations and related institutional changes?

- o Is globalization the sole cause for rises in social inequality, or are there other concepts of similar centrality that may explain the contribution of current economic change to social inequality?
- o How and to what extent are the restructuring of firms and the increasing demands for flexibility, induced by economic change, contributing to social inequalities?
- o Are the current processes unique in history or can similar patterns be found in historical comparison?

- **Change and persistence of inequality structures**

How and why do patterns of inequality change? Which dimensions of and cleavages related to inequality are persistent (income, wealth, educational and occupational status, gender, ethnicity, region, class, etc.)? What new socially relevant goods emerge, and to what extent do they constitute new dimensions of inequality or reinforce existing ones?

- o To what extent, for example, is the rising influence of networks related to economic change, and to what extent does uneven access to networks affect changing social inequalities?
- o Can we observe changes or persistence in the centrality of specific dimensions of inequality or in the relations between them?
- o How do inequality dynamics and their causes differ between and within world regions – for example, Asia and Latin America?

- **Actors and evolving institutional reactions**

How do social actors (individuals, institutions, movements) and systems behave with regard to economic change and social inequality?

- o Which actors drive economic change, and how do they do it?
- o How do states, international organizations, civil society actors and individuals oppose and counterbalance inequalities?
- o Have either nation-states or international organizations regained any control over the impact of economic change on inequalities (e.g., by reshaping the welfare state)?
- o What roles do local governance or social institutions such as educational and health systems play in this field?

## **Instructions for applicants**

The World Society Foundation will only accept proposals for research **papers** – research proposals will not be accepted.

Applicants are invited to present proposals for their papers giving the following information:

- \* Title of the paper
- \* Abstract of no more than 500 words (longer abstracts will be disqualified)
- \* Name of the author(s), present address (including e-mail address), and name of the institution to which the author is affiliated (if applicable)

Proposals must be sent by e-mail ([iNEquality08@unine.ch](mailto:iNEquality08@unine.ch)) before **January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

Acceptance or refusal of abstracts will be notified before **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

Complete papers must be sent before **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

Notification of selected papers, receiving the prize of US\$ 1.000, will be given before **June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**.

The two awards of US\$ 10.000 and 5.000 will be announced during the ISA-RC02 conference in Neuchâtel, Switzerland (June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008).

Proposed papers, of no more than 8.000 words, should present a general theoretical discussion of the topics mentioned above. The jury will give highest priority, however, to papers that combine a general theoretical discussion with new empirical findings. These findings may be based on comparative research as well as single-case studies, and on qualitative as well as quantitative research methods.

## **ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference**

For all conference issues visit the ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference website at <http://www2.unine.ch/iNEquality08>.