



The 39th World Congress
of the
International Institute of Sociology
Yerevan, Armenia

JUNE 11-14, 2009

www.iisoc.org/iis2009

SPECIAL SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Conflict and Society: Sociological Dimensions of Post-conflictual Reality

Name of Session Convener(s): Lyudmila Harutyunyan

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Comments: -

Abstract: The conflicting society and society in conflict; societal, group and interpersonal conflicts; regional, local; internal and external conflicts; economic, political and social conflicts... Human history witness that it cannot be doubted that the society and conflicts are not separable. Moreover conflicts are generating a special type, or modifying the essence and the basic features of the society for a rather long period of time.

Sociology in its traditional boundaries and approaches has shown very little understanding of the peculiarities and developmental paradigms of societies enduring the hardship or surmounting the consequences of conflicts, especially ethno political one. Sociology shows no interest towards already considerable number of non recognized or de-facto states which are originated and stringed up from unresolved ethno political conflicts. How these states do without the political status? What does drive them? What kind of society do they form? What about democracy in these societies? How do the members of these societies feel themselves and operate as a social beings, how do they communicate with the world? These and many other questions remain without answers.

The methodological Irrelevance and unproductiveness of sociological studies in this area have crowned with the fact that such an important sociological and vital argument as a readiness (not readiness) of societies, institutions, structures and people are not taken into account in recant widespread practice of peace and conflict resolution enforcement, forced democratic transformation of these societies.

The session will take aim:

- to present the theoretical, and empirical findings, as well as insight of societies surmounting the consequences of ethno political conflicts;
- to illustrate the opportunities of combination of multi-dimensional and multi-disciplinary approaches;
- to stimulate scholarly interest toward the study of non recognized states and societies surmounting the consequences of ethno political conflicts;

- to attract expert's attention to the necessity of taking into consideration the sociological dimensions, factors and peculiarities during peace and democracy enforcement.

The following four presentations are drafted for proposed Session:

1. Conflictual reality and hope in South Caucasia
2. Existence in country deprived of political status: life of society, groups and people
3. Culture of Violence vs. Culture of Tolerances: political myths in post-conflictual society
4. Metamorphoses of peace and conflict potentials in post-conflictual society

I hope that the list of presentations will be finalized after receiving the applications from the future participants of the Congress. I also hope that the offered themes and presentations, based on findings and scholarly tradition of different disciplines, will stimulate an animated and fruitful discussion.

General Information

During each afternoon of the congress, there will be room for a large number of parallel regular sessions. Each session is 90 minutes long and consists of an oral presentation of 4 to 6 papers. Session conveners are expected to administer and chair their session at the 2009 IIS World Congress.

Interested participants will contact the session convener directly with an abstract no later than January 31, 2009. The session convener should take in all submissions and select the best 4 to 6 papers to be presented and forward this information, including e-mail addresses of accepted authors, to the IIS Secretariat no later than March 15, 2009.