



The 39th World
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International Institute
of Sociology
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REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: War and Society

Name of Session Convener(s): Masahiro Ogino, Ralf Futselaar

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Comments: Contributions from any area of research are welcomed

Session Abstract (up to 250 words):

Wars in the 20th century, notably but not exclusively the two World Wars, caused mass death and destruction. Today, conflicts involving weapons of mass destruction take place in many parts of the world, and even the outbreak of another World War remains undeniably possible. War is a major contemporary problem, and as social scientists we cannot assess the remainder of the 21st century without addressing it. Investigating war from various academic disciplines, and utilizing and developing up-to-date methods to do so, is both urgent and relevant to the understanding of the modern world.

Among the social and human sciences, history has thus far taken the lead in researching war. However, it is not enough to investigate past war experiences, and the related memories of various people concerned, as historians have done. Henri Lefebvre claimed, in his *The Production of Space*, that European society was essentially the product of wars. But how important, and especially how lasting is the impact of armed conflict in modern societies around the world? In order to understand the social meanings of war, we must study the processes of social transformation it has provoked, and continues to provoke, in belligerent, non-belligerent and post-belligerent societies.

In this session, we want to discuss especially the following points:

- Mobility and migration during war- and post-war periods
- Recovery and reconstruction after war
- The impact of conflict on social space, and the consequent impact on human relations
- Other topics concerning the relationship between war and society

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.

Starting in mid-December, calls for papers to participate in approved sessions will be posted on the website. Interested participants will contact the session convener (you) directly with an abstract no later than February 28, 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.