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REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Comparative Sociology and Area Studies: How Can Sociology Gain From the Interdisciplinary Knowledge of the World Regions?

Name of Session Convener(s): Kazimierz M. Slomczynski and Irina Tomescu-Dubrow

University/Organization incl. City: OSU, IFiS PAN, and Cross-National Studies: Interdisciplinary Research and Training Program (CONSIRT)

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Comments: -

Session Abstract (up to 250 words):

Over the world, the leading universities comprise the European Study Center, American Study Center, Center of Middle-East Studies, Center of Slavic and East European Studies, Center for South-East Asia, Center for Latin American Studies, and/or other centers focusing on specific territories of the globe. The academic environment acknowledges that large regions remain critical components in the dynamics of the world order. Area studies produce interdisciplinary knowledge of which sociology is not only a giver but also a recipient. The purpose of this session is to examine the linkages between comparative sociology and area studies, focusing on the following question: How can sociology gain from the interdisciplinary knowledge of the world regions? The session will try to answer this question from both substantive and methodological perspectives. Substantively, of interest is to investigate how interdisciplinary knowledge of world-regions helps comparative sociology. Sociologists involved in area studies can share their experience with using interdisciplinary knowledge of the world regions in interpreting their cross-national analyses either within the region or between regions. Methodologically oriented sociologists can reflect on the ways in which the knowledge produced in area studies should be utilized in cross-national analyses. In

particular, it is worth examining whether a major contribution of area studies to comparative sociology rests on qualitative accounts and interpretations, or it could be extended to quantitative analyses. How can one utilize area studies in analyzing the major sets of cross-national survey data such as World Values Survey, International Social Survey Program, and European Social Survey?

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.