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of Sociology  
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[www.iisoc.org/iis2009](http://www.iisoc.org/iis2009)

### SPECIAL SESSION INFORMATION

**Title of Session:** Modernity and the Futures of Capitalism in Eurasia: Challenges for Inquiry and Teaching.

**Name of Session Convener(s):** Göran Therborn, Andrey V. Rezaev

**University/Organization incl. City:** 1) Sociology, Cambridge University, UK; 2) Faculty of Sociology, St. Petersburg State University, Russia

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**Comments:** We plan to organize two 90 minutes sessions:

Session 1.

“Theoretical Framework and Field Research on Modernity and Futures of Capitalism in Eurasia”

With an Introductory paper fundamentally theoretical and methodological in scope, the other papers of the Session will be oriented to identify patterns and underlying causes of success and failure in market making of the Newly Independent States in Eurasia on the basis of socio-economic and political analysis of Modernity, current economic sociology and international relations theories.

Two-three papers to deal with European countries/cases and two-three papers to concentrate on Aisa.

Session 2.

“Bringing Research on Modernity and Capitalism to the University Classrooms: a Practice of Modernizing Academia.”

For the Second Session the idea is to invite papers that will discuss issues of Academic Capitalism in Eurasian countries as an example of modernization processes in the region.

**Session Abstract:** The overall objective of this Session is to highlight the role of theory in studying concepts of modernization, modernity, and to review social, economic and political processes in the former Communist countries of Eurasia from the modernity point of view as well as to develop an advanced understanding of theoretical approaches to capitalism of the XXI century.

The Session is envisaged as a blend of positive and comparative analysis of modernity, capitalism and societies on its way to build capitalism in the XXI century.

The idea of modernization has weathered many storms and changed its appearance, but it seems that it still offers an indispensable clue to the historical and sociological analysis of long-term changes in society and culture.

The recent dramatic changes also generated new interpretations of economic modernization in non-Western countries, such as the study of the new political economy and the comparative analysis of cultures, with particular attention to the newly industrialized countries of East Asia and to Chinese modernization, one of the most significant phenomena of our time. Finally, they stimulated monographic studies on individual societies' pathways to modernization, and introduced the concept of multiple modernities.

Today, the study of modernization and modernity is a very vital and promising field of study in sociology that offers indispensable tools for analyzing the routes taken by developed countries and rapid transformations of many Asian countries, as well as the transition of the post-Communist countries of Europe.

### **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 should contact the session convener 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.