



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: Nations at Civilizational Crossroads

Name of Session Convener(s): Edward A. Tiryakian and Willfried Spohn

University/Organization incl. City: Duke University, Durham, North Carolina (USA), and Free University of Berlin, Germany

E-mail: Durkhm@soc.duke.edu; Spohn@sowi.uni-goettingen.de

Comments: abstracts should be sent to Durkhm@soc.duke.edu, and copies to Spohn@sowi.uni-goettingen.de.

Session Abstract:

This session is an application of the general theme of the Congress, Sociology at the Crossroads. It draws on the theoretical legacies of Ernest Renan's seminal "what is a nation?" (1882), the comparative civilizational analyses of Max Weber and Benjamin Nelson, and more recent conceptualizations in Said Arjomand and Edward Tiryakian, *Rethinking Civilizational Analysis* (2004).

Papers will be accepted that either deal with countries whose identities have been marked by being at the intersection (or encounters) of civilizations, such as Armenia, Turkey, Iran and, Hungary, or in the era of globalization with large-scale immigrations, with countries and regions which have become hosts to an influx of civilizations, with corresponding emergent changes in national identity.

It is anticipated that the diversity of the papers will provide significant comparative materials for all three announced broad foci of the Congress, with the stress on civilizational encounters as a creative matrix for the international order of the 21st Century.

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.