The 39th World
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of Sociology
Yerevan, Armenia

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www.iisoc.org/iis2009

REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Social exclusion and social capital - a Southern perspective

Name of Session Convener(s): Tina Uys

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Comments: Session linked to RC42

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): When actors in the developing world mobilise in order to overcome social exclusion, networks are often an unintended consequence. Patel (2007) argues that social exclusion operates by means of persons prohibited from earning a decent livelihood, accessing services, accruing the benefits of formal and informal citizenship, often on the basis of their group identity. In identifying these factors, or dimensions, of social exclusion, researchers have become aware that persons living in the global South often mobilise in order to attain greater inclusion. In so doing, organic networks are formed which are fairly unique in that they constitute a form of grass-roots 'social capital' that cannot be seen as a placatory mechanism of ruling class power groups (Harriss, 1999). Power operates along, across and within these networks at more localised levels. It is the nature, and content, of both power flows and networks that needs further exploration in seeking to understand ways of combating social exclusion. This ushers in a much needed return to Bourdieu's (1979, 1986) understanding of 'social capital' networks, while augmenting it with a more nuanced understanding of the excluded as agents. While social exclusion may be seen to be a universally acute challenge in the global South, this operates in tandem with localised exclusion dynamics and inclusion driven networks. Papers shedding light on these aspects of exclusion-inclusion related social capital (Daly & Silver, 2008) are, therefore, welcomed in this session.

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.