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Congress of the  
International Institute  
of Sociology  
Yerevan, Armenia

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

### **SPECIAL SESSION INFORMATION**

**Title of Session:** Methodological Challenges in XXI Century Sociology

**Name of Session Convener(s):** Maria I. Zaslavskaya, Marina Shapira, Gohar Tadevosyan

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**Comments:**

**Session Abstract:** The problem of reliable and trustworthy social knowledge has been always an important issue in the sociological discourse.

It is clear today that traditional social research approaches to the social reality do not always succeed to describe and analyze contemporary social phenomena let alone make future projections. Knowledge obtained from the social research is sometimes incomplete, context-based and inconsistent. Such knowledge can hardly become a basis for a real policy and social interventions. In current conditions of growing importance of various policies based on the research knowledge and growing significance of the knowledge transfer between social scientists and policy practitioners, a development of reliable research methods gets a crucial issue.

At this session we expect a wide discussion on new approaches to the design, implementation, analysis and interpretation of the social research.

In particular, we would like to launch discussion on methodological issues which arise when social research is conducted in situation of social and/or political conflict.

In addition, we anticipate that discussion in the proposed session will be made around such fundamental issues as

- quality, applicability and ethics of comparative studies,
- quantitative and qualitative research methodologies

- participatory research  
as well as other relevant issues.

We particularly welcome contributions which discuss new approaches to the analysis, interpretations and comparability of sociological data obtained from different sources, in different contexts, by various methods. We also welcome contributions which discuss new methods for reliable social modelling.

### **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.