



March, 2013

Welcome to the 41st World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology

The 41st World Congress of the International Institute of Sociology (IIS) will take place in Uppsala, Sweden on June 9-10, 2013. The theme of the Congress is:

Sociology in Its Global Contexts: International Institute of Sociology at 120

Congresses of the IIS have highlighted dilemmas of human existence and societal institutions in the contemporary world. They have examined problems of social existence amidst processes of globalization, cooperation and violent conflict. They have been conducted in the spirit which guided the formation of the IIS, namely that of an engagement and encounter between a variety of theoretical positions among members of a truly international community of scholars.

The 41st Congress of IIS will reaffirm that spirit. It will also look at the commitments and the role of sociology in shifting global contexts. This year IIS will celebrate 120 years of scholarly work in societal and global contexts that have changed profoundly as have conceptions of sociology and social science. Even if the 41st Congress has the adoption of a new constitution as its major focus, this event should not be looked upon as a formal or purely organizational matter. It reflects the achievements of the Institute but also its shifting role in the scholarly and societal contexts in which it has had to carry out its mission.

The Congress will highlight cutting-edge advances in problem-oriented as well as in theoretical sociology while simultaneously maintaining a focus on the historical and epistemic concerns that have helped to shape these practices.

We hope and believe that the 2013 Congress will thus help to strengthen and renew the standing of the Institute and its basic commitment to serve as a true community of concerned scholars.

As a community of scholars, not a union of professional associations, the IIS plays a complementary rather than a competitive role relative to its younger but larger sister institution, the International Sociological Association (ISA), of which IIS itself is a member and with which IIS is engaged in close and friendly interaction. We hope and believe that this spirit will be reflected at the 41st Congress as well.

The Congress will open on Sunday, June 9, with two plenary sessions and the IIS Business meeting. The morning of Monday, June 10, will be devoted to sessions proposed and organized by participants themselves.

The Congress is organized by **Rajeev Bhargava** (Director, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, Delhi); **Craig Calhoun** (Director, London School of Economics); **Peter Hedström** (Director, Institute for Futures Studies, Stockholm), and **Björn Wittrock** (Principal, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS) and President of the IIS).

The Congress is organized and sponsored by Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (SCAS).

You are warmly welcome to Uppsala this summer,

Björn Wittrock,

President of the International Institute of Sociology (IIS)