Research Committee 51
on Sociocybernetics
ISA International Sociological Association

**17th Conference of Sociocybernetics
Reflection on Global Challenges
and Local Answers to Sustainability**

**University of Zaragoza, Spain.
June 20-22, 2022
(hybrid format)**

information and abstract submission: https://sociocybernetics.org/conference2022

Organizers:

Collaborates:

Internet Society Capítulo Aragón · ODS Rural Labs · Cátedra de Cooperación para el Desarrollo Universidad Zaragoza · DIPUTACIÓN Đ ZARAGOZA

ZARAGOZA, Spain June 20-22, 2022

Presentation

The Research Committee 51 on Sociocybernetics (RC51) of the International Sociological Association (ISA) invites you to participate in its 17th conference focusing on contributions that systemic science and thinking can make to address global and local challenges. Particular attention will be given to processes that reinforce social innovation and collective knowledge to address local and global -glocal- challenges in correspondence to the Sustainable Development Goals as stated by the UN. The key to tangible change lies in social reflexivity.

The Sustainable Development Goals are broad and interdependent. However, one of their biggest challenges is to reach the local level. Therefore, the objective is to identify, discuss, and showcase the most recent conceptual and practical developments in systems thinking (particularly sociocybernetics) applied to the advancement of such goals connecting the local with the global. This includes the dialogue with related perspectives and projects that address glocal challenges through open innovation, citizen science, and/or applied systems thinking.

How is society orienting interventions to address glocal challenges in a more systemic way? Sociocybernetics or second order cybernetics incorporate key concepts that are useful to address social innovation processes such as: reflexivity, adaptation, emergence, self-organization, pro-action (feedforward), among others.

Taking the expression "Think globally, act locally" as a reference to glocal interactions, sociocybernetics promotes making explicit such interrelations by analysing the drivers

and barriers for connecting both levels with a second order perspective. From a systemic perspective, those interactions refer to relations that bring together characteristics of both realities. As the sociologist Roland Roberson stated, that means the simultaneity – the co-presence – of both universalizing and particularizing tendencies.

Glocalization has been theorized by social scientists as a process that combines the concerns of localism with the forces of globalization, or a local adaptation and interpretation of global forces. It gives important attention to digitization processes, advancing computer and media understanding enabling more distributed, multidisciplinary, trans-border, cross-institutional, and inter-temporal innovation processes connecting both areas.

Global challenges are highly heterogeneous, from the dynamics that threaten the Earth as a whole, such as climate change, to other social processes that affect in an unequal way the effects of COVID19, systemic violence, insecurity, negative effects of the globalized markets, the deterioration of the quality of life in cities and towns. In addition, all these phenomena are experienced by social groups with uneven access to information and reliable knowledge in an era of wide disinformation, fake news, and new online "metaverses".

The goal of this conference is therefore to bring scholars together to explore, within a sociocybernetic approach, the issues at stake. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:
- Systemic views on globalization and regional effects on local dynamics
- Global Challenges and Local Answers to Sustainability
- Local strategies for global challenges
- Social innovation and Sustainable Development Goals
- Democratic participation and digital governance
- Social reflexivity and environmental crisis (from responsible consumption to climate action)
- Glocal strategies to monitor quality of life and sustainability in rural and urban areas
- Social reflexivity on communication, disinformation, fake news, online communities, social media platforms
- Social reflexivity related to gender, migration, ethnicity, and disability
- COVID19 effects and local answers to sustainability
- Education on sustainability in local contexts
- Social reflexivity and art, cultural practices and/or cultural heritage.

Other topics (conceptual, methodological, practical) related to Sociocybernetics are also welcomed.

About the format

Traditionally, the RC51 Research Committee on Sociocybernetics meets yearly in a special place somewhere on the globe. In these meetings we have interesting discussions about the theory, practice, and application of sociocybernetics and its ability to observe, understand, and try to overcome pressing needs of society.

Due to COVID 19, the 16th RC51 Conference and the ISA 2020 FORUM were organised as virtual conferences with a three-day programme of online sessions. In 2022 we want to give the first choice to a hybrid meeting, while carefully monitoring official recommendations regarding the COVID-19 situation for the health and well-being of our participants attending the conference personally in Zaragoza. Those who prefer online participation will be able to present live online and to get involved in the program through different online tools. This hybrid organisation of the conference will allow to maintain dialogues between people around the world, in-place and online, also giving the opportunity to our scientific community to meet personally.

You can participate with:

> SESSION PROPOSALS, related to any of the previous topics.

> PAPER presentations related to the topics above, that will be oriented to sessions with a topic related

> ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS of activities either online or on-site. It requires an explicit orientation to sociocybernetics (also including innovative formats that go beyond traditional papers).

Important dates

February 15th, 2022	Registration opens for abstract submission
February 15th, 2022	Registration opens for special session proposals
March 10th, 2022	Registration closes for special sessions
March 15th	Notification of acceptance for special session proposals
April 15th, 2022	**Deadline for abstract submission**
May 1st, 2022	Notification of acceptance for abstract
June 1st, 2022	Registration closes
June 20-22, 2022	17th International Conference of Sociocybernetics

Submission guidelines

For Special Sessions:
Please submit an Abstract of 500 words to include purpose of the session, scope, type of papers to be presented and if is part of an ongoing work (seminar, research, program, etc). Special sessions require at least 4 papers to be included in the program. Please provide a name for the chair of the special session. Send your special sessions proposals to pescrich@unizar.es and almaguer@unizar.es.

For Abstracts:
Please submit an Abstract of 500-750 words. It should include purpose of the work, scope, method, results, recommendations and/or conclusions together with the essential bibliographic references. We suggest include Sociocybernetics in your materials. The abstracts booklet will be made available to conference participants and will be published as part of the conference programme on the RC51 website. The final communication will have a minimum length of 4000 words and a maximum of 6000 words, to be considered. Selected papers will be proposed for the Journal of Sociocybernetics. Submit at: **tinyurl.com/2022RC51abstract**

Participation fees
- RC51 non members: 100 EUR
- Student fee RC51 non members: 50 EUR
- RC51 regular members in good standing (ISA and RC51): No fee.
- Interested in becoming an ISA RC51 member? Find information in: https://sociocybernetics.org/how-to-join
- For academic registration a student ID is needed to obtain the discount.

Venue
University of Zaragoza, Facultad de Economía y Empresa, Doctor Cerrada, 1-3. 50005 Zaragoza, Spain. Founded in 1542, the University of Zaragoza is one of the oldest universities in Spain. The Faculty of Economics and Business Administration constitutes an important centre of the university to enhance communication between the university and society.

Accommodation
Zaragoza has a wide range of tourist accommodation. The organizers will provide you with information on hotels near the venue, in the logistics and accommodation section.

How to reach Zaragoza
Zaragoza is located at an interesting crossroads. A range of airlines operate from the airport, offering services to Spanish and European cities. You can also access it via high speed train (AVE) and national highways from Madrid, Barcelona, Valencia, Bilbao or Pamplona".

Contacts and information

For conference information and updates please check the official website:
https://sociocybernetics.org/conference2022

For specific questions you may directly contact the members of the Local Organizing Committee: Pedro J. Escriche Bueno (pescrich@unizar.es) (Chair), Chaime Marcuello Servós (chaime@unizar.es) and/or RC51 President Patricia E. Almaguer Kalixto (almaguer@unizar.es).

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More information:
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