



The 39th World
Congress of the
International Institute
of Sociology
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REGULAR SESSION INFORMATION

Title of Session: Migration and Development: Sociological Perspectives on Transformation and Social Change

Name of Session Convener(s): Petra Dannecker, Eva Gerharz

University/Organization incl. City: University of Vienna, University of Bielefeld

E-mail: petra.dannecker@univie.ac.at, eva.gerharz@uni-bielefeld.de

Comments:

Session Abstract (up to 250 words): Recent debates about transnationalisation have led to an increased interest in the relationship between migration and development. The debate was initially inspired by new theories on transnational migration entailing enormous potentials for development in the countries of migrant's origin. Subsequent research and policy formulation focuses on migrants and their organisations as development actors and on how migrants' contributions could be used more effectively for development processes. This is an important new perspective, taking up the changes in a globalised world and enriching both migration research and development studies.

Nevertheless, the debates hardly focus on social changes on national and local levels in the sending countries resulting from the political and social development activities or visions of migrants. Whereas a broad literature is dealing with societal processes initiated by migrants in receiving (industrial) countries, hardly any insight into the transformation in the sending countries is given. Development, as a multidimensional process of social, economic, political, cultural and religious change may contradict or lead to negotiations of given societal structures and norms, or the concept of development itself. The age of migration is characterised by new patterns such as feminisation, return instigated by the enormous increase in temporary labour migration within the South, transnational relations, circular migration or diasporisation. New approaches and methodologies, therefore, are essential for a conceptualisation of translocal or

transcultural perspectives on possible transformation processes . We seek contributions which might enrich the current debate on migration and development with sociological concepts, methodologies and innovative approaches to conceptualising societal transformation in the countries of origin.

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.