

## Call for Papers

# Inequality Beyond Globalization: Economic Changes and the Dynamics of Inequality

June 26-28, 2008

University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Midterm Conference of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Economy and Society

In sociological research on inequality, globalization has been a central focus for over a decade now. Nevertheless, globalization's effects on intra-national, international, and interregional social inequality remain highly contested. At the upcoming ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference in Neuchâtel, researchers will have the opportunity to discuss the current state of the debates and to contrast them with recent research on the distributional effects of economic change in general. The conference is intended to both create an open forum for current economic sociology and condense the findings of this discipline.

The conference organizers invite abstracts related to the following topics:

- **Influence of economic transformations and related institutional changes on inequality**  
How is the production and reproduction of inequality influenced by economic transformations and related institutional changes?
  - o Is globalization the sole cause for rises in social inequality, or are there other concepts of similar centrality that may explain the contribution of current economic change to social inequality?
  - o How and to what extent are the restructuring of firms and the increasing demands for flexibility, induced by economic change, contributing to social inequalities?
  - o Are the current processes unique in history or can similar patterns be found in historical comparison?
- **Change and persistence of inequality structures**  
How and why do patterns of inequality change? Which dimensions of and cleavages related to inequality are persistent (income, wealth, educational and occupational status, gender, ethnicity, region, class, etc.)? What new socially relevant goods emerge, and to what extent do they constitute new dimensions of inequality or reinforce existing ones?
  - o To what extent, for example, is the rising influence of networks related to economic change, and to what extent does uneven access to networks affect changing social inequalities?
  - o Can we observe changes or persistence in the centrality of specific dimensions of inequality or in the relations between them?
  - o How do inequality dynamics and their causes differ between and within world regions – for example, Asia and Latin America?

- **Actors and evolving institutional reactions**

How do social actors (individuals, institutions, movements) and systems behave with regard to economic change and social inequality?

- o Which actors drive economic change, and how do they do it?
- o How do states, international organizations, civil society actors and individuals oppose and counterbalance inequalities?
- o Have either nation-states or international organizations regained any control over the impact of economic change on inequalities (e.g., by reshaping the welfare state)?
- o What roles do local governance or social institutions such as educational and health systems play in this field?

**Deadline and form of proposals:** Participants are invited to present abstract proposals of no more than 300 words.

Proposals must be sent by e-mail ([iNEquality08@unine.ch](mailto:iNEquality08@unine.ch)) before **January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2008**.

Notification of acceptance or refusal of abstracts will be given before **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**.

**Conference proceedings and deadline for conference papers:** The most outstanding conference contributions will be published in a forthcoming volume of *World Society Studies*. Complete papers of no more than 8.000 words sent before **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008** will be considered for publication in this volume.

**Award of Excellence in World Society Research 2008:** The 2008 World Society Foundation award program will be organized jointly with the Conference. For more information, see <http://www.uzh.ch/wsf/> or <http://www.worldsociety.ch>.

**Travel grants:** The ISA-RC02 Midterm Conference budget allows for a small number of travel grants for students and participants from Africa, Asia, Latin-America and Eastern Europe (ISA country categories B and C). Travel grants will be allocated on the basis of a competitive assessment of papers submitted. Deadline for submission of papers for travel grants is **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. Applicants receiving travel grants will be notified before **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008**.

**Conference registration:** Please register before **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008** (for more information, see the conference website at <http://www2.unine.ch/iNEquality08>). Registration fees include the conference program and access to all conference sessions, coffee, conference aperitif and conference dinner.

Early registration fees (before **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**): 35 Euros (ISA-RC02 members from ISA country category A and non ISA-RC02 members from ISA country categories B and C), 20 Euros (Students and ISA-RC02 members from ISA country categories B and C), 50 Euros (non ISA-RC02 members from ISA country category A).

Late registration fees (after **April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**): 50 Euros (ISA-RC02 members from ISA country category A and non ISA-RC02 members from ISA country categories B and C), 30 Euros (Students and ISA-RC02 members from ISA country categories B and C), 70 Euros (non ISA-RC02 members from ISA country category A).

**Conference language:** The working language of the conference is English.

**Venue:** The conference will be located at the Faculty of Humanities of the University of Neuchâtel, directly at the shore of Lake Neuchâtel, the largest lake of Switzerland. About 4.000 students (of which 500 are doctoral students) are currently studying at the University of Neuchâtel. With its 75.000 inhabitants, Neuchâtel is a lovely little city located at the language border of German- and French-speaking Switzerland. The waterfront city is situated at the foot of the Jura mountains (with a height of 1.500 meters) and surrounded, at the east and west, by small

wine-growing villages. Neuchâtel is not only known for its famous watchmaking industry (e.g., the Neuchâtel pendulum clock), but also for its precision and microtechnical industries and its local wine and food specialities (e.g., chocolate).

**Social events and post conference tours:** Beach aperitif (Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008), Conference dinner sponsored by the World Society Foundation (Friday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008). Two post conference tours will be organized by the Local Organizing Committee on Saturday and Sunday (June 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008). They include a half day tour on the three lakes and a city walking tour in Neuchâtel.

**Travel/accommodation:** The most convenient airports are Geneva (approximately one hour by train) and Zurich (one and a half hours by train). From both places there are trains every hour to Neuchâtel; a train station is situated in both airports. You can click on this link <http://www.sbb.ch/en/index.htm> for information on the timetable and prices.

Participants requiring accommodation are invited to book their own rooms. The Department of Sociology of the University of Neuchâtel has block-booked 80 rooms in various categories, but reservations should be made before **March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2008**. Accommodation is based on a first-come, first-serve basis. While booking, you need to mention the conference organizer (University of Neuchâtel, Department of Sociology).

In addition to the listing below, all hotel addresses are available on the Neuchâtel tourism office website at <http://www.neuchatel tourisme.ch/e/accommodation/#>.

<p>Hôtel des Arts (approximate price 98CHF/66 €) Rue Pourtalès 3 Case postale 1772 CH-2001 Neuchâtel Téléphone +41 (0) 32 727 61 61 <a href="http://www.hotel-des-arts.ch/index.php?item=presentation&amp;lang=en&amp;a=neuchatel">http://www.hotel-des-arts.ch/index.php?item=presentation&amp;lang=en&amp;a=neuchatel</a> (3 minutes walking distance from conference venue)</p>	<p>Hôtel Touring au Lac (approx. price 120CHF/75€) Place Numa-Droz 1 CH-2000 Neuchâtel Téléphone +41 (0) 32 725 55 01 <a href="http://www.hotels-and-more.ch/en/neuchatel/neuchatel/hotel_touring_a_u_lac.php">http://www.hotels-and-more.ch/en/neuchatel/neuchatel/hotel_touring_a_u_lac.php</a> (10 minutes walking distance from conference venue)</p>
<p>Hôtel Alpes et Lac (approx. price 130CHF/88€) Place de la gare 2 CH-2002 Neuchâtel Téléphone : +41 (0) 32 723 19 19 <a href="http://www.alpesetlac.ch/contacts.en.shtml">http://www.alpesetlac.ch/contacts.en.shtml</a> (10 minutes walking distance from conference venue)</p>	<p>Hôtel Beaulac (approximate price 220CHF/137€) Esplanade Léopold Robert 2 CH- 2000 Neuchâtel Téléphone : +41 (0) 32 723 11 11 <a href="http://www.beaulac.ch/">http://www.beaulac.ch/</a> (5 minutes walking distance from conference venue)</p>
<p>Cité Universitaire (approximate price 60CHF/37€) Clos-Brochet 10 CH-2000 Neuchâtel Téléphone +41 (0) 32 727 68 51 <a href="http://www.citeu.ch/CiteU_acceuil.htm">http://www.citeu.ch/CiteU_acceuil.htm</a> (5 minutes walking distance from conference venue)</p>	<p><i>Note:</i> The Cité Universitaire provides accommodation facilities mainly for students. Only a few will be available for conference participants (5 to 8). Be aware that the online reservation will be confirmed relatively late.</p>

**Local Organizing Committee:** Jean-Michel Bonvin (University of Applied Sciences, Western Switzerland), Michael Nollert (University of Fribourg), Hanno Scholtz (University of Zurich), Christian Suter (University of Neuchâtel), Ionela Vlase (University of Neuchâtel).

**Scientific Advisory Board:** Local organizing committee and Christopher Chase-Dunn (University of California-Riverside), Alberto Martinelli (University of Milan), Sylvia Walby (Lancaster University).

**Conference Sponsorship:** The main sponsor of the conference is the World Society Foundation (Zurich). In addition the conference is supported by the International Sociological Association's Research Committee 02 on Economy and Society, the Swiss Sociological Association's Research Committee on Economic Sociology, and the Swiss Sociological Association.

**International Sociological Association:** More information on the International Sociological Association can be obtained from the ISA website at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/>. For information on ISA membership visit the membership site at [http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb\\_i/index.htm](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm).

**ISA Research Committee Economy and Society:** For information on the ISA RC02 visit the RC02 website at <http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc02.htm>.

**University of Neuchâtel:** For information on the University of Neuchâtel and the Department of Sociology visit their websites at <http://www.unine.ch> and <http://www.unine.ch/socio/>.

**Contact:** For all conference issues visit our website at <http://www2.unine.ch/iNEquality08>.