



NEWSLETTER 1-2024

OF THE ESA RNO7 SOCIOLOGY OF CULTURE

CONTENTS

Message from the ESA RNo7 Coordinators

New opportunities, calls, invitations

News from our members. Excerpts from the newly published books by

Anna Lisa Tota (2024) *Eco-Words. The Ecology of Conversation*, Routledge: London.

Anna-Mari Almila and Serkan Delice (2024) *Fashion's Transnational Inequalities: Socio-Political, Economic, and Environmental*, Routledge: London.

Editor's Request



Message from the ESA RN07 Coordinators

Dear RN07 members,

We are excited to introduce the first issue of the ESA Sociology of Culture newsletter, which is edited by RN07 Board member Svetlana Hristova. The idea for a newsletter emerged in the course of a successful period for the network during which we have held two significant events and membership has risen to **174** (from 134 in 2022). In 2022, we held our mid-term conference at the University of Portsmouth, UK. Despite the uncertainties of the post-COVID context, the conference attracted 88 delegates, 73 of whom were in-person attendees. A [special issue](#) on the conference theme of 'Culture(s) on the margins' was published on the basis of the contributions of the participants (in *Journal of Cultural Analysis and Social Change*, December 2023). The mandate for us as coordinators was extended from two to three years, due to the postponement of the Porto conference to 2024, and so we wanted to arrange a second mid-term event despite having no remaining budget. Svetlana came forward with the idea of hosting a symposium in Sofia, Bulgaria. With support from the Bulgarian Sociological Association and Sofia University, we joined forces with RN02 (Sociology of the Arts) to host an event that attracted 52 delegates and will form the basis of a special section of articles that will be published in the journal *Sociological Problems* in 2024. The event was titled 'New perspectives and interventions: The state of play in cultural sociology and sociology of the arts'.

We are now preparing for the ESA conference in Porto where we will be hosting a range of panels. The RN07 network has attracted 136 abstract submissions, including 28 abstracts for the joint sessions that we are co-organising with RN02. We are pleased to note that **a prize will be awarded for the best paper by an early-career academic** (those who are within 7 years of the award of the PhD) at this conference. People who wish to enter this contest should be members of RN07, present in one of the RN07 sessions, and submit their paper (max 4000 words) **before the 19th July 2024** to [simon.stewart\[at\]port.ac.uk](mailto:simon.stewart@port.ac.uk) Please indicate the month and year of the award of your PhD upon submission.

We look forward to seeing you in Porto! Please come along to the RN07 business meeting where there will be a chance to join our discussions and elect new Board members and coordinators.

Simon Stewart
Rita Ribeiro
RN07 Coordinators

New professional opportunities, calls, invitations

Assistant Professor in Sociology at Science Po, Paris

The position of Assistant Professor in Sociology (tenure-track) is affiliated to the Sciences Po - CRIS with the aim to reinforce and complement our expertise in the study of social inequality. The successful candidate is expected to play an active role in the center's collective activity. He / she should also engage in responding to national and international calls to fund research projects and will teach in Sciences Po's undergraduate and graduate programs.

Application deadline: March 11th, 2024. Job talks expected in June 2024 (Paris). Position starting on September 1st, 2024.

Further information: [Sciences Po is hiring an Assistant Professor | Sciences Po Centre de recherche sur les inégalités sociales](#)

A research position at University of Bologna, Italy

The Department of Political and Social Sciences at the University of Bologna (IT) seeks to recruit a talented researcher to join for one year the PRIN project "ICTAGE - Social stratification and ICT utilization in later life" (PI: Marco Albertini). The successful candidate will be part of a lively research group, fostering the exchange of ideas and teamwork. The position comes with a competitive salary; a master's degree or equivalent title in a scientific field relevant to the topic of the project is required.

Application deadline: 29th February 2024

Further information: [Research Grants — University of Bologna \(unibo.it\)](#)
https://bandi.unibo.it/ricerca/assegni-ricerca?id_bando=67248

Post-Doctoral Researcher in Sociology of Literature, Prague

The emerging "Literature and Society Laboratory" at the Institute of Czech Literature is looking to appoint a full-time position (40h/week) as Postdoctoral Researcher for the interdisciplinary project "The Sociology of Literature Revisited: Towards Epistemological Symmetry within Literature-and-Society Research". Starting date is April 1, 2024. Employment contract is fixed for a period to December 2028. The work should be carried out in the territory of the Czech Republic (research facilities in Brno or Prague).

Application deadline: 29th February 2024

Further information: <https://www.soziopolis.de/ausschreibungen/stelle/doctoral-researcher-m-f-d-in-sociology-of-literature.html>

Local and Global Impacts of the War in Ukraine, June 6-7, 2024 at Charles University, Prague – Call for Papers

The Institute of Sociological Studies of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University, and the European Academy of Sciences of Ukraine cordially invite you to a Conference held in Prague on 6-7 June, 2024. The conference aims to strengthen the knowledge base on the consequences of the conflict in Ukraine in local and global contexts, to report on how the world is radically changing in response to the war, and to discuss and communicate this enhanced knowledge base to the wider public.

Submission deadline: 29th February 2024

Further Information at: <https://euasu.org/events/local-and-global-impacts-of-the-war-in-ukraine>

Special Issue in Social Indicators Research: The impact of the COVID-19 effects on individuals' subjective well-being – Call for Papers

This Special Issue aims to contribute to this ongoing scientific debate and brings together current findings on medium- and long-term effects of the pandemic on quality of life, heterogeneous consequences of the pandemic, mechanisms explaining why individuals' quality of life changed during and after the COVID-19 pandemic, and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on different measurements of quality of life.

Further information at <https://link.springer.com/collections/dgjeaeijih> .

Contact information: Matthias Collischon (Matthias.Collischon2@iab.de), Jacqueline Kroh (jacqueline.kroh@lifbi.de), & Alexander Patzina (alexander.patzina@uni-bamberg.de)

Submission portal: [Editorial Manager®](https://www.editorialmanager.com/soci)

www.editorialmanager.com/soci

Submission deadline: **June 30th 2024**

Special Issue "Parenting and Child/Adolescent Development: Current Updates and Global Perspectives" – Call for Papers or Review Articles

This Special Issue with guest editors Dr. Elitsa Dimitrova and Prof. Dr. Apolinaras Zaborskis takes a multidisciplinary stance and aims to collect theoretical, methodological and empirical papers on topics related to the influence of the family type, structure and family dynamics, the gendered aspect of parenting and care for children and adolescents, i.e. the role of mothers' and fathers' involvement and parenting practices, and their implications for child/adolescent development, health and well-being; the involvement of extended family members in care for children and adolescents; the role of the cultural practices of parenting in different social contexts; the role of the institutional and policy context, reflected in early childhood education and care (ECEC) policies, family and youth policies and services for families, children and adolescents.

Further information: https://www.mdpi.com/journal/children/special_issues/7839X9JHQQ

Contact information: Ms. Malinda Jiang (malinda.jiang@mdpi.com) or Dr. Elitsa Dimitrova (e.dimitrova@iphs.eu; elitsa_kdimitrova@yahoo.com) for the Guest Editors

Submission deadline: **30 September 2024**

Event Title: Art Production and Valuation in a Global Context.

A BSA Sociology of the Arts Study Group Event

20 February 2024 (4.00-5.30pm GMT)

Online

How is art produced, mediated, and valued within a global context? Larissa Buchholz's recent book *The Global Rules of Art* (Princeton University Press, 2022) examines the historical emergence of a global cultural field and the diverse ways artists from formerly colonized or "peripheral" countries become valued worldwide. This conversation will focus primarily on the book's findings but also moves beyond it to other forms of art production, especially the works of outsider and self-taught artists who are far away from the well-established art institutions and art market centers.

We will be joined by the book's author Prof. Larissa Buchholz and sociologist Jiayi Tian who works with the self-taught artists in post-socialist China. The event will run as a conversation between the two speakers, with ample opportunity for audience discussion.

Link (info and registration): <https://www.britsoc.co.uk/events/key-bsa-events/art-production-and-valuation-in-a-global-context/>

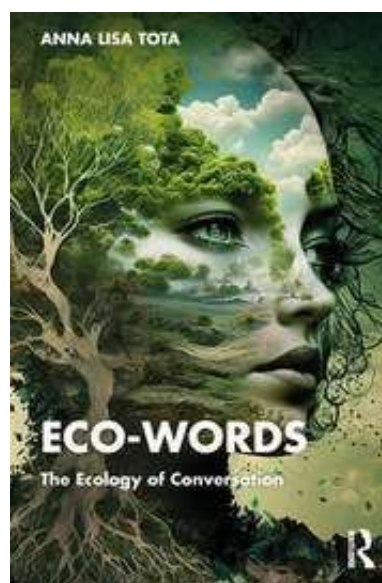
News from our members

We are proud to inform you that two of our Board members, Anna Lisa Tota and Anna-Mari Almila, have started the New Year 2024 with important contributions to the debates in the broad field of Cultural Sociology, each in their specific thematic areas. We offer here brief excerpts from their authored and/or edited volumes as selected by the authors and/or editors.

Anna Lisa Tota is Vice-Rector of the University Roma Tre in Rome, Italy and Full Professor of Sociology of Communication and Culture at the Department of Philosophy, Communication, and Performing Arts in the same university. Among her publications is the *Routledge International Handbook of Memory Studies* (edited with Trever Hagen, Routledge, 2016).

Her new book examines the power of words. It explores the links between communication, language and identity, arguing for a certain gravity to the practice of speech, for offering only meaningful words to the people we talk to.

[Eco-words. The Ecology of Conversation, 2024
Routledge, London](#)



Eco-Words. The Ecology of Conversation

Excerpt from the Preface

Anna Lisa Tota

Eco-words are all those words, phrases, and expressions that do not reflect any pathological form of communication. They are uttered with the intention of not judging negatively or discrediting the other; on the contrary, they carry an authentic, sincere, and pure intention. *Eco-words* are words that rebuild the silent but vivid connection between our subjectivity and the knowledge of the world. *Eco-words* are alive, vital, nourishing, they produce happiness and well-being wherever they are present. They have the capacity to create deep understanding and produce well-being in the person speaking and in the one listening at the same time. *Eco-words* are always embodied, which means they always both require and impose their corporeity on the content they are expressing, their being a product of the body, in and about the body. Yes, the fact is that words being uttered seem to be heard in a sort of magical dance by all the cells in our body and in the bodies of those listening. *These sequences of eco-words* are, above all, sounds capable of creating real micro-cosmogonies. As we speak

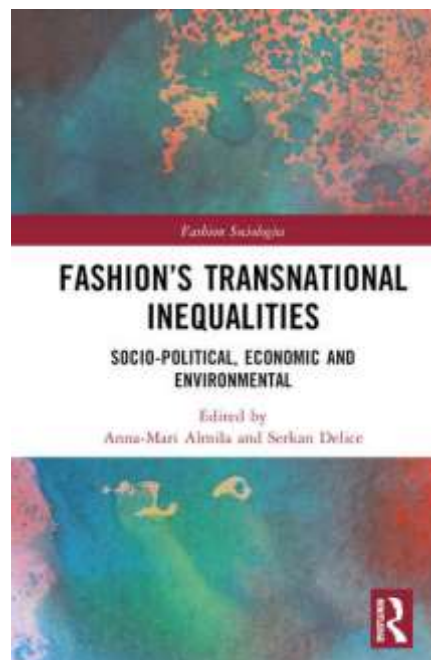
and listen, it almost seems as if present, past, and future were constantly coming undone and being recombined, as if, while we speak, these words were contributing with their shimmering sonorities to unravel one future scenario and forge another one in an ongoing alternation. *Eco-speaking* therefore also means following the principles of deep ecology illustrated by Arne Naess (2005) and consciously taking responsibility for the effects of what we are saying or hearing. (...) I realise that offering you, dear reader, a clear and simple definition of this concept I am describing with a neologism is far from simple. However, if the definition is a difficult one, it is much easier to outline the pragmatic criteria useful to distinguish between eco-words and toxic words and conversations: the former makes us feel good, not superficially but deep down at the level of our soul. When words are inscribed in the body, they question us and then, only then, are we able to comprehend the quality of their resonance. (...) I hope that this book of "mine" will give all of us the opportunity for many eco-conversations.

Anna-Mari Almila is Senior Researcher in Cultural Sociology at the Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.

Serkan Delice is Senior Lecturer in Cultural and Historical Studies at the London College of Fashion, University of the Arts London, UK.

This book, published in the newly established book series Fashion Sociologies (Routledge) explores the evolving relationship between fashion and transnational capitalism. It examines the inequalities and injustices that this relationship embodies and engenders within the interconnected domains of production, consumption, labour, and environmental ethics. It also considers national and transnational ways of evading, resisting, and dismantling those inequalities and injustices.

[Fashion's Transnational Inequalities: Socio-Political, Economic, and Environmental, 2024, Routledge, London](#)



Fashion's Transnational Inequalities: Socio-Political, Economic, and Environmental

Published in the newly established book series *Fashion Sociologies* (Routledge).

Excerpt from the Introduction by the book's editors

Anna-Mari Almila and Serkan Delice

Scholars of fashion in the 2020s face two pressing and intertwined issues: environmental crisis (often framed as 'sustainability' questions within fashion systems) and decolonising. When talking of the inequalities inherent in fashion systems, we cannot avoid either. The various decolonising projects ongoing in the field of fashion studies (e.g. [Gaugele and Tilton 2019](#); [Slade and Jansen 2020](#); [Cheang et al. 2021](#)) are made all the more pressing by fashion production's extremely heavy environmental cost ([Niinimäki et al. 2020](#)), the socially and geographically stratified consequences of climate change ([Fletcher and Maki 2022](#)), and ongoing exploitation of vulnerable workforce in textile and garment production ([Mezzadri 2017](#); [Delice 2019](#); [Niessen 2020](#); [Sullivan 2022](#)).

Further issues exist, too. We might ask where fashion scholarship and education are located, both in terms of global geography and in terms of subject-specific versus general educational institutions. Where are various fashion knowledges located? Where lie fashion's value production and garment production respectively, and why are they so very differently rewarded ([Aspers 2010](#))?

Not that any of these divisions and factors are geographically fully stable. Around the world people travel, goods travel, thoughts travel, money travels. These movements are never based upon equality, either, but are ridden with many sorts of privileges, hindrances, and vulnerabilities. Some humans are forced to move, or forced to stay, while others (including many fashion scholars based in high-status institutions in places considered fashion capitals) move freely in a highly privileged manner. The movement of fashion commodities is likewise either restricted or facilitated by international laws, contracts, and trade agreements. Ideas and images of fashion, and about fashion, move differently from physical objects and human bodies, but at the same time they reflect the global and local inequalities and injustices inherent in fashion systems and demonstrate that influencing and accessing flows of information is not as free and open as the early (somewhat optimistic) ideas about the internet's power seemed to promise.

In this book, we bring together contributions from scholars who share a fascination for fashion on the one hand, and the worry and concern of the persistent inequalities induced by its operations on the other.

Editor's Request

Dear RN07 members,

If you read this message, this could probably mean that you have already gone through the whole start-up issue of ESA Culture Newsletter without losing your interest to the end. This would be a good sign for all of us, involved in the preparation of this first sample issue by which we try to establish the initial standards of the future Newsletters of the RN07 "Sociology of culture". Here I should mention all Board members, and especially our network coordinators Simon Stewart and Rita Ribeiro, as well as Anna Lisa Tota and Anna-Mari Almila for their meaningful contributions and cooperation. Last, not least my exclusive thanks go to our esteemed colleague Mark Jacobs, senior Board member and also long-time editor of the Newsletter of the Sociology of Culture Section at the American Sociological Association. While discussing with the Board members the format of the future Newsletter, I received many important insights from Mark, part of which I will share with you – with his permission:

For what it's worth, I think the challenge of getting the newsletter off the ground will be to solicit more submissions rather than fewer ones. The newsletter offers members opportunities for presentation of self and of general interests rather than fully developed and defended theoretical statements that are ready for submission to scholarly journals. [...]

When I first started editing the ASA's newsletter, I would solicit submissions from conference presenters whose talks attracted special attention. [...] The problem was always to have enough copy, not too little; the aim of the newsletter was to generate entice dialog by inviting participation, not to adjudicate differences.

The ASA section of Sociology of Culture has already 955 members as of September 2023, and their Newsletter which presently looks almost like a journal, has been produced for about 30 years (see <https://asaculturesection.org/>). There is a lot to be learnt from this sustained experience, but the most important takeaway is that any Newsletter cannot outgrow its readership. For this reason, I would like to invite you to send any relevant information about calls for papers, conference invitations, research proposals, educational programs, but also to share your feedback about conferences, you have visited, where interesting discussions have been raised; books and articles that have attracted your attention; your own work which you feel that needs a more focused attention and an open discussion in a broader international environment.

As well-known, any newsletter can "serve as a window to the external world and publicize the achievements of the organization", but more than that, it can enable the network members to exchange information and thus to better know each other and ideally - gradually grow into a community of shared commitment. For 2024 we plan to publish four issues, the next one scheduled for the beginning of June. Therefore, we shall expect your contributions that will be recognized individually, **by May 31st 2024** to the e-mail address: [esasymposiumsofia2023\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:esasymposiumsofia2023[at]gmail.com)

Looking forward to hear from all of you,
Svetlana Hristova