



European
Sociological
Association



Biennial Report of Research Network 37 – Urban Sociology 2017-2019

1. Name and Number of RN: RN37 – Urban Sociology

2. Names and email addresses of:

a. Outgoing Coordinators and board members (past term)

Coordinator: Marta Smagacz-Poziemska - marta.smagacz-poziemska@uj.edu.pl

Co-coordinator: M. Victoria Gómez - mgomez@polsoc.uc3m.es

Co-coordinator: Patrícia Pereira - patricia.pereira@fcs.unl.pt

Board Members:

Juan Jose Villalón Ogayar - jvillalon@poli.uned.es

Sebastian Kurtenbach – kurtenbach@fh-muenster.de

Laura Guarino - laura.guarino@edu.unige.it

b. Incoming Coordinators and board members (new term after this year's conference)

Coordinator: Marta Smagacz-Poziemska - marta.smagacz-poziemska@uj.edu.pl

Co-coordinator: M. Victoria Gómez - mgomez@polsoc.uc3m.es

Co-coordinator: Patrícia Pereira - patricia.pereira@fcs.unl.pt

Board members:

Rui Carvalho - rui_carvalho@brown.edu

Gabriele Manella - gabriele.manella@unibo.it

Katrin Paadam - katrin.paadam@taltech.ee

Jan Üblacker - jan.ueblacker@ils-forschung.de

3. Activities:

a. Mid-term conference

On 27-29th of June, 2018 the RN37 – in cooperation with Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) and Universidad Carlos III de Madrid – organized the midterm conference “Uncertainty and Inequality – Current Challenges for Cities” which took a place in Madrid, at UNED. The board of RN37 coordinated the process of conception of the conference, its promotion, dissemination of the call for papers, abstracts submission, abstracts evaluation, programming (key-notes lectures, sessions) etc. The local institutions were the main organisers, concerning the venue, catering, supplies for attendants, local team of supporters and provision of administrative, economic and technical support. Our call was widely spread through: mailing to the RN37 members, mailing to the national sociological associations, RN37 blog (<http://esarn37.hypotheses.org/>), websites (<https://web.facebook.com/esarn37/>) and facebook. 202 people applied for the conference of whom 161 eventually participated; 124 presentations within 32 thematic sessions (plus 2 key-note lectures and 2 additional events with open discussions) were presented. We invited 3 keynote speakers: prof. Jesús Leal (Madrid), prof.

Martina Löw (Berlin), prof. Suzanne Hall (London). Unfortunately, two days before the conference prof. Martina Löw informed us that due to important family related issues she couldn't attend. For this reason, ultimately we only hosted two key-note speakers. Three additional events complemented the programme: (1) presentation and discussion with City Executive Manager Municipality of Madrid entitled "Territorial rebalance in Madrid"; (2) Presentation of the ethnographic film "The Order I Live In. An indoor urban symphony" with subsequent discussion; (3) Guided tour in the neighborhood where the conference took place (Lavapiés), as the case of an area in the process of gentrification). In addition, the local team organised a photographic exhibition about social urban movements in Madrid from 1975 to 2017 in the conference premise's ground floor.

b. RN37 activities at the ESA Conference in 2019

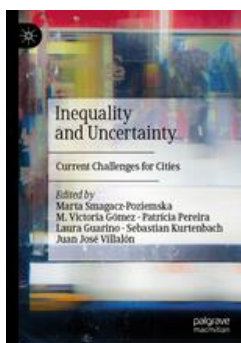
RN37 – Urban Sociology organized 16 RN sessions and 5 Joint Sessions with RN01 (Ageing in Europe), RN15 (Global, transnational and cosmopolitan sociology) and RN35 (Sociology of migration). 97 papers were presented within both types of sessions.

c. Online information and promotion

As mentioned above, the former RN board established a Facebook profile: <https://web.facebook.com/esarn37/> and a website <http://esarn37.hypotheses.org/> that help communicate activities (such as the publications of RN37 members, conferences and meeting calls, academic fellowships in the area of urban studies etc.) to members and the general public. We had about 1970 followers on Facebook in October 2019. The official communication tool, exclusive for members, is the ESA platform CiviCRM.

d. Publication

We find our books a very important forum for our members' debate on urban research. They help motivate members of our network to share and present their research. RN37 board and coordination team 2017-19 organised one book, with chapters based on presentations and keynote speeches from the 2018 Midterm Conference:



Smagacz-Poziemska, M., Gómez M.V., Pereira P., Guarino L., Kurtenbach S., Villalón, J.J. (2020). Inequality and uncertainty: current challenges for cities, Palgrave Macmillan. <https://www.palgrave.com/gp/book/9789813291614>

e. Collaboration within ESA with other RNs:

In July and August 2018 we worked with RN12 and RN35 on two RN-Semi-Plenary Proposals for the 2019 ESA Conference in Manchester. We submitted 2 proposals: 1) Semi-Plenary Title: Politics of anticipation - transgressing barriers or defining new boundaries? [Submitting RN(s): RN12 - Environment & Society & RN37 - Urban Sociology] and 2) Semi-Plenary Title: Migration and the city: urban spaces and the reordering of borders, boundaries, and belongings in contemporary Europe

[Submitting RN(s): RN35 - Sociology of Migration & RN37 - Urban Sociology]. Both proposals were rejected.

As mentioned above, we cooperated with three RNs, co-organizing 5 Joint Sessions at the 2019 conference with RN01, RN15 and RN35.

f. Plans for further activities of RN37

We would like to keep the path trailed thus far and continue the type of work we have been doing for the past five years. Our team consists of three "old" and four new candidates coming from different parts of Europe: Estonia, Germany, Italy, Poland, Portugal and Spain. This provides continuity and work stability on the one hand, and new energy and fresh ideas on the other. This will put us in an excellent position to both consolidate the network and work towards infusing new strategies and initiatives to improve the communication among our members, the creation of opportunities for collaboration and the dissemination of collaborative and individual work.

To do so we will:

- 1) continue developing and expanding our online presence, and empower our members to participate more directly in the communication tools.
- 2) organize the next Midterm-Conference in Bologna (Italy) in September 2020, entitled: "Urban Theory and Urban Praxis: Past, Present and Possible Futures". For this midterm conference we will first open a call for session proposals, to enhance the participation of members and potential members beyond individual presentations. After the list of sessions has been finalized, a second call for individual abstracts to be integrated in the accepted sessions will be opened.
- 3) organize a 1-day PhD workshop at the mid-term conference that facilitates the exchange and communication between PhD students and other members of the RN37. The workshop can also be a platform for the advancement of their research, so the proposed theme, to be discussed at the business meeting, will be defined in a way that fosters innovative ways to apply urban research methodologies.
- 4) invite another ESA's research network for the midterm conference. We propose a round table with members of the invited RN or a whole "track" with a roundtable and a couple of sessions with a shared topic.
- 5) support publications by RN37 members through:
 - the publication of a third monograph with contributions from the next Midterm Conference (as in the case of the monograph published by Springer in 2017 and Palgrave in 2019)
 - providing information and updates about new papers and books by RN37 members (via facebook, twitter, website, ESA mails)
- 6) develop our collaboration with other ESA's research networks and other urban research networks.