



Biennial Report 2019-2021 of Research Network 29

1. Name and Number of RN

Social Theory, RN29

2. Names and email addresses of:

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3. Activities:

Mid-term Conference: We made two attempts (in August 2020 and January 2021) to organize a Mid-term conference at the University of Copenhagen on the topic “Social Theory as vocation” but had to cancel both because of the pandemic. We will make a new attempt at the same place, on the same topic in August 2022.

ESA Conference in Barcelona September 2021: RN 29 organized 15 sessions (50 presentations), which include two Joint Sessions in cooperation with RN 20 (Qualitative Methods)

Together with Research Networks 20, 25 and 32, we hosted a semi-plenary on “Civic Action: Creating and Living Alternative Futures” (SP09) with Paul Lichterman and Ann Mische.

We held a well attended Business Meeting that discussed matters relevant to future planning and held elections for the board and coordinator positions. We discuss among other things Midterm Conference and new digital communication strategies

Two candidates for the ESA Executive Board from RN29: Csaba Szalo and Krešimir Žažar. Krešimir Žažar was elected

Marta Soler, the 2015-2017 RN29 coordinator and current member of the RN29 Advisory Board left the ESA presidency. She is the third member of RN29 to have been elected ESA President, having been preceded by RN29 office-bearers Frank Welz and Pekka Sukunen.

The RN 29 coordinator and co-coordinator attended the Research Network meeting of the conference.

RN 29 Social Theory has its own website: <http://www.social-theory.eu/>

There are many journal articles, book chapters and book publications that derive from work originally presented at RN 29 sessions and mid-term meetings.

Any funds that are available will be used to support PhD student and early career researchers’ participation in the 2022 Mid-term conference. RN29 is seeking to assist early career researchers, as well as PhD students. It will promote ESA support and resources.

The Mid-term Conference will be promoted through national and international sociology associations. It is expected that this profile will expand the RN membership. The membership list will be scrutinized to assess which countries have a weaker representation amongst RN 29 Social Theory and appropriate promotional activity will be undertaken.

There are a number of members from outside Europe, including the 2017-2019 coordinator and a number of other scholars at various stages of their career. In particular, there are several members from outside Europe who are undertaking PhDs and postdoctoral research in Europe who are members of the RN. Likewise, the accessibility for members from less well-resourced European nations is taken into account in the planning of the mid-term conference.

The RN has co-organized sessions, including plenary sessions (see above), and it plans to continue collaborations in the future. It is expected that sessions will be proposed for the next ESA conference that involve some collaboration with other RNs. The board is interested in building on these collaborations.

The Coordinators discuss publication opportunities with the board members, with a view to developing edited volumes or special journal issues dedicated to the work of RN publications, especially those presented at the Mid-term Conference and the main ESA conference. The Board Meeting considered invitations that have been received from publishers and journals to contribute submissions.

The RN will continue to promote awareness of the current persecution of academic scholars in some European and non-European nation-states. Some members of the RN are currently affected by the policies of nation states with governments hostile to open academic inquiry.

The RN plans to start a newsletter and enhance its website.