

Call for Papers for the Session

Methods for the Sociological Analysis of Affect and Emotion

RC 33 (Research Committee on Logic and Methodology)
at the 2nd ISA Forum of Sociology ("Social Justice and Democratization")
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Session Organizers:

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Since the 1970s, the sociology of emotion has developed into a vibrant and continuously growing field of research and a large number of theoretical treatises and reviews on this topic have been published. The sociology of emotions has been institutionalized in various national and international associations and its findings have begun to diffuse into mainstream social theorizing. However, the increasing importance of the subject has not yet led to a clearly visible empirical research agenda and empirical studies in the sociology of emotion are in fact still rare. One reason for this might be the absence of a precise methodological canon. Certainly, the way we approach affect and emotion depends on our theoretical background and on our particular topics of interest. Thus, empirical studies in the sociology of emotion employ a wide range of different methods, from standardized paper-and-pencil tests and surveys with large sample sizes to qualitative approaches relying on self-report data, experimental designs, ethnographic materials, or cultural artefacts such as the arts and mass media. However, reflections on specific methodological requirements in sociological emotion research or methodological innovations are almost non-existent.

This session therefore aims at exploring the specific methodological requirements of sociological emotion research and at discussing the benefits and drawbacks of specific methods. Can we transfer methods from other fields of research to the sociology of emotion or do we need special, field-specific methods? What can we learn from methods used in neighbouring disciplines? Which sets of methods can be recommended for empirical analyses targeting micro-macro issues in understanding emotion? Papers for this session should therefore address one or more of the following questions:

- Which data are appropriate for the sociology of emotion, and what kind of information can be gained from these data? How can different types of data often used in sociology (e.g., surveys, interviews, observation) be combined to get a glimpse of the ‘bigger picture’ (e.g., combining surveys with experimental designs)? How do we have to adjust different types of data to field-specific requirements? What other types of data are useful for emotion research (e.g., documents, literature, diaries, paintings, films, drawings, maps, architecture, etc.) and what advantages do these data have in comparison to more traditional data types?
- Which strategies of data analysis are appropriate to the field?

Papers debating general methodological questions and papers discussing specific problems using a concrete data type in a specific research project are both equally welcome.

Submission

Please submit an abstract online to the centralized conference website created by Congrex. Please note that only abstracts submitted online can be incorporated in the sessions, and no changes/updates to the submitted abstract will be allowed. It is the author's responsibility to submit a correct abstract – any errors in spelling, grammar, or scientific fact will be reproduced as typed by the author.

Deadlines:

Submission of abstracts	December 15 th , 2011
Notification of authors	January 31 st , 2012
Registration for the Conference	April 10 th , 2012

Further Information

On the Conference:	http://www.isa-sociology.org/buenos-aires-2012/
On ISA:	http://www.isa-sociology.org/
On RC 33:	http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc33.htm