

Dear colleagues and friends!

Let us remind you to the general call for papers for the upcoming **XVIIth ISA World Congress of Sociology** to be held in Gothenburgh (Sweden) in July 11-17 2010 and, more precisely, the following panel within the Working Group for Comparative Studies of Legal Professions (RCSL).

***Our panel is entitled "Reform of the penal chain and its impact on professions and occupations"*.**

We locate our panel within the wider interactionist perspective which views professions and occupations as unstable products resulting from permanent negotiations between professional actors and their environment to bounder their jurisdiction (Abbott 1998, Freidson 2001). These negotiation processes, the power dynamics contained within them, but also discourses and practices through which we can concretely study professions, define our analytical focus.

Within this theoretical context this panel focuses on recent reforms which have been introduced in the criminal justice system in many countries around the world last years. These reforms are marked by new and sometimes contradictory policies, produced at a both national and international level, and translated in diverse discourses such as risk management, new public management, knowledge management, community policing, mediation, restorative justice and so on. All these discourses refer to many ethical frameworks and are translated in policies at all the stages of the penal chain. Policemen, police officers, prosecutors, judges, prison governors and prison staffs are not only using new words but also new devices and tools which reshape their everyday work and their concrete interactions.

The issue of reforms in the criminal justice system has been analysed from a variety of theoretical perspectives. This panel invites contributors (1) to explore the empirical impact of these discourses through their translation (or not) in new devices and tools; (2) to analyze the impact of these new devices, tools and rhetoric on professional actors of the penal chain; (3) to give an account of some new kinds of occupations arising on the ground, such as special management consultants in the justice courts, restorative justice advisers in prison, community-policing managers and so on.

The call will be closed by **February 15th**. Confirmation of communication selection will be given to authors by March 1st. Effective registration will then be allowed until May 4th 2010 (see: http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2010/how_to_present_a_paper.htm).

Each paper submission should include: (1) 300 - 500 words abstract, (2) paper title (3) name of paper giver, (4) institutional affiliation and (5) email address

Paper should be addressed to: C.Dubois@ulg.ac.be and F.Schoenaers@ulg.ac.be

Please do not hesitate to contact us in case of any confusions or questions on the matter.

We are looking forward to your submissions!

Best wishes from Liège, Belgium.

Christophe Dubois and Frédéric Schoenaers