



# Newsletter

December 2021 | Volume 50 | Issue 2

Editor: Matt Patterson

## *RC03 Board (2020-23)*

**President** Clemente J. Navarro, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain

**Vice-President** Marta Klekotko, Jagiellonian University, Poland

**Secretary** Rachel Harvey, Columbia University, USA

**Delegate to Research Council** Daniel Silver, University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada

### **Members of the Board**

- Peter Achterberg, Tilburg University, The Netherlands
- Wonho Jang, University of Seoul, South Korea
- Maria Jesus Rodriguez Garcia, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Spain
- Daniel Silver, University of Toronto Scarborough, Canada
- Johan Zaïman, North-West University, South Africa

**Newsletter Editor** Matt Patterson, University of Calgary, Canada

## *Inside This Issue*

**Letter from the President** ..... 2

**Announcements**..... 2

**Community Profile** ..... 3

**Urban Sociologist Elected Mayor** ..... 5

**Book Spotlight**..... 6

**Contacts**..... 6

## Letter from the President

Dear Colleagues,

This newsletter includes examples of the collaboration between academics and society. Applied sociology, the cooperation with and knowledge transfer to society, is an essential aspect of community and urban studies. Community researchers and professionals are commonly involved in different initiatives oriented to improve community quality of life, for instance, helping in urban policy planning or evaluation. This newsletter includes two examples of this productive relationship. First, the 'Community Profile' shows how academic and civil society could promote urban change based on mutual collaboration and citizen participation. Second, the newsletter includes brief information about the election of an urban sociologist as a city mayor after an outstanding experience applying urban sociology in her city. Applied research and the practice of urban and community sociology as professionals in organisations are relevant fields that enhance our knowledge about communities and factors explaining their change. We hope to include other examples and initiatives about applied community and urban sociology in the following newsletters.

Let me also announce that [the new RC03 website](#) has been launched. The website includes institutional information as required by the ISA, and should be a tool to increase the visibility of our activities and enhance mutual communication. Therefore, please send us information about your academic activities (such as seminars, workshop and research meetings, PhD dissertations), ongoing research projects, and new publications related to RC03 issues. We will post them as news on the website and in upcoming newsletters.

Welcome to new RC03 members, and I hope a happy 2020 for all the RC03 community!

Clemente J. Navarro, RC03 President (on behalf of the RC03 Steering Committee)

## Announcements

### I. Research Council Meeting (18th December 2021)

Representatives of RC/WG/TC have discussed the following issues:

1. Research Council activities:
  - a. Report of the Research Council task force on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) chaired by Debra Davidson (RC25).
  - b. Activities of Research Council representatives in the ISA Executive Committee
  - c. Information about ISA presence and activities at the UN and how RC/WG/TG may start new collaborations with UN bodies by Jan Fritz and Rodha Reddock
2. Consultation about the ISA secretariat: the Research Council started a consultation about the roles and missions of the ISA Secretariat, and specifically, the help Secretariat could provide to RC/WG/TG activities.
3. A new social media strategy by the ISA: the Secretariat will support the dissemination of RC/WG/TG news, activities, and calls through their social media accounts or the ISA account.

### II. Dissertation Abstracts

An ISA initiative to discover other young researchers studying similar topics. Researchers in the middle of their PhD dissertations or who have completed them in the last five years could include an abstract of their dissertation and some information about them on the ISA Dissertation Abstracts website. Almost 1000 young researchers have already shared this information. <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/junior-sociologists/dissertation-abstracts>

# Chronicling a Long-Term Social Change Initiative in Maré, Rio de Janeiro

A team of faculty members from Virginia Tech, including Professors Desirée Poets (Department of Political Science) and Max Stephenson Jr. (School of Public and International Affairs), along with other partners from St. Andrews University (Professor Nicholas Barnes) and Brown University (Stephanie Savell) as well as Bard College (Peter Klein) have recently developed a continuing collaboration with community cultural organizer Henrique Gomes as well as Andreza Jorge from the Complexo do Maré, an agglomeration of 16 favelas, or informal and working-class neighborhoods in Rio de Janeiro's North Zone. They did so first to bring a major photography and film exhibit documenting daily life in Maré, a favela in the northeast section of that city, to Virginia Tech. The powerful, and to our knowledge, unprecedentedly intimate photographs, by the noted Italian-Brazilian photographer Antonello Veneri in collaboration with Gomes, that comprise a major portion of the show focus particularly on the period of Brazil's military occupation of Maré prior to that nation's hosting of the World Cup (in 2014) and Summer Olympic Games (2016). *Maré from the Inside* is now on offer at Newman Library at Virginia Tech until March 1, 2022.

The collaborating team of community artists, cultural producers, activists, advocates and scholars have also developed a newly published edited book, *Maré From the Inside, Art, Culture and Politics in Rio de Janeiro Brazil* with Virginia Tech Publishing to accompany the Exhibit. *Maré From the Inside* will next travel to the University of Virginia's School of Architecture, where it will be on view from March 18, 2022-April 15, 2022.

The project's principal academic collaborators are especially pleased to be continuing to work with our partners in Maré on a variety of community-based efforts. In addition to Poets and Stephenson, Dr. Vanessa



Photo by Molly Todd (2021).

Guerra (University of Virginia), Dr. Neda Moayerian (Research Associate, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance), Dr. Nada Berrada (International Project Coordinator, Education Development Center), Virginia Tech PhD candidate Molly Todd, Ms. Cathy Grimes, (Communication Studies), Dr. Lyusyena Kirakosyan (Senior Research Associate, Virginia Tech Institute for Policy and Governance) and Helena Vasconcellos (Virginia Tech undergraduate researcher) are teaming up to author a series of articles that seek to capture that favela's residents' generative efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic in the face of continuing overt discrimination, scapegoating and refusal to provide needed public services by the Jair Bolsonaro regime and local government.

(Continued on next page)

## Maré, Rio De Janeiro (Continued)

More generally, the academic principals involved in this initiative hope to continue to collaborate with civil society organization representatives in Maré to assist them as they address issues vital to their community's future. That is, the scholars involved in this enterprise hope to continue to support these citizen groups and others as they work to ensure needed services for their community, while also demanding the civil and human rights owed them by their humanity and citizenship, but too often ignored or worse by Brazil's government. Apart from the work already underway, the Maré partners are now planning an environmental services scan of the favela with an eye to establishing a benchmark understanding of the community's water, sanitation and air quality needs, and how they affect residents' health.

That effort will involve additional Virginia Tech researchers who will bring their specialized expertise to bear to complement existing efforts by Maré's residents to craft substantive strategies that will help improve these services and conditions and obtain the resources needed to implement them. In all, the partners in this ongoing effort hope to continue to learn from each other as they together chronicle and address Maré's continuing communal imperative both to mobilize its citizens to tackle the issues they can and to demand that their government assist them in attending to those they cannot alone overcome. In so doing, both the community and academic partners engaged in this long-term collaboration hope to find ways to bring their respective knowledges and understanding to bear to secure steps toward just social change for the 140,000 residents of Maré.

An abbreviated online version of the Exhibit may be viewed at <https://exhibits.lib.vt.edu/mare-from-the-inside/>. The accompanying book is available for free download or purchase at <https://doi.org/10.21061/mare> and available in Portuguese at <https://publishing.vt.edu/site/books/>

Desirée Poets and Max Stephenson Jr. (Virginia Tech)



Photos by Desirée Poets (2021).

## Urban Sociologist Elected Mayor

# Dr. Jyoti Gondek Elected Mayor of Calgary, Canada



October 18, 2021 was a momentous day for the discipline of sociology and particularly for those of us in the sub disciplinary field of urban sociology. Jyoti Gondek is the first woman ever to be elected as Mayor of the City of Calgary, and she is the first woman of colour ever to be elected as Mayor of a major city in Canada. What is more is that to our knowledge, she is the first sociologist ever to be elected as Mayor of a major city at least in Canada if not in North America. Jyoti readily identifies with the professional designation of “sociologist” and has been repeatedly identified in the local, national, and international media as a sociologist, and particularly an “urban sociologist”. From a professional point of view, this is a landmark development for all of us in the discipline of sociology.

Jyoti’s M.A. (2003, University of Calgary) was in the field of organizational sociology with her thesis linking corporate stakeholder relations with issues of corporate

responsibility (supervised by Bill Zwerman). Her Ph.D. (2014, University of Calgary) was in urban sociology where her [dissertation](#) examined hybrid urban-rural spaces on the edges of cities where conflicts occurred over spatial meanings and controversial land use changes (supervised by Harry Hiller). An early version of this study was presented at an ISA meeting in 2011.

In recognition of her growing impact and contribution in applying sociology within the community, even as a doctoral student, Jyoti was awarded the Angus Reid Applied Sociology Student Award by the Canadian Sociology Association (CSA) in 2013. But as it became even clearer that Jyoti was channeling a unique path in the field of applied sociology, particularly because of her community service as well as contributions through a consulting company which she established, the CSA granted her the Angus Reid Applied Sociology Practitioners Award in 2016.

After the formal completion of her graduate work, Dr. Gondek was appointed as the first Director of the University of Calgary’s Westman Centre for Real Estate Studies, a position she held for three years. Because of her many contributions to community organizations, it was no surprise that Dr. Gondek was elected to Calgary City Council in 2017. Among the many roles which she filled was serving as Chair of the Standing Policy Committee on Planning and Urban Development. All this activity became excellent preparation for being elected and serving as Mayor.

Jyoti is proud to call herself an urban sociologist and very much identifies with the field although in an applied format. She has chosen to use her urban knowledge and insights for what she describes as “city-building” and to seek solutions to urban problems. She does have a chapter on “Urban Sustainability” in our third edition of *Urban Canada* (2014).

Harry Hiller (University of Calgary)

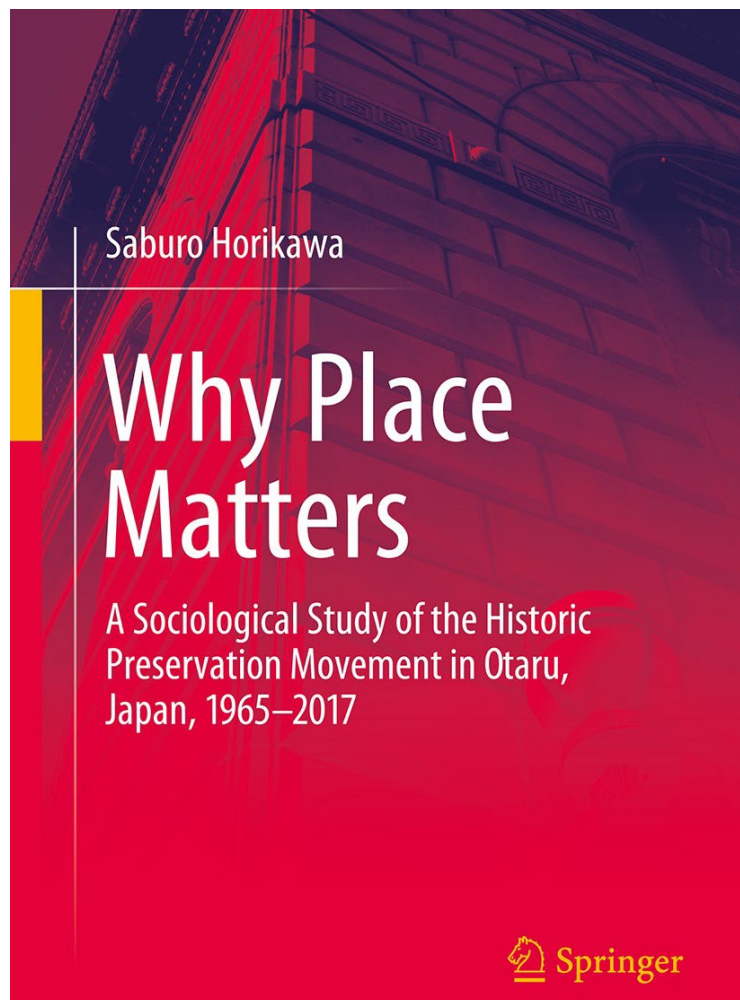
## Book Spotlight

**Saburo Horikawa, *Why Place Matters: A Sociological Study of the Historic Preservation Movement in Otaru, Japan, 1965–2017*. (Cham, Switzerland: Springer 2021)**

xxvi, 416 pp., 90 b/w illustrations, 11 illustrations in color  
e-Book: ISBN 978-3-030-71600-4  
Hardcover: ISBN 978-3-030-71599-1

Since 1984, I have continuously studied the movement to preserve the Otaru Canal in Otaru, a community in northern part of Japan. The book, *Why Place Matters*, is based on my 33 years of intensive fieldwork. It chronicles a major movement that shaped the preservation policy in Japan in the 1980s and 1990s, providing “thick descriptions” of preservationists who stood up for their own community and campaigned for more than a decade.

Through thick description, I show that the preservation movement was neither conservative nor an obstacle. Rather, the movement sought to promote changes in which the residents’ “place” would continue to be theirs. As such, the word “preservation” does not mean the *prevention* of growth and development, but rather its *control*. As is shown in this study, preservation allows for and can even promote *change*. I argue that preservation activists claimed that the Otaru Canal and the surrounding built environment must be saved because the loss of that environment would alter the character of the local community. It was not the *memories* that they tried to preserve; it was the *lived environment* that forms the basis of their very existence. The materiality of society and the sociality of material matter. Place and materiality of the community did matter after all.



For more information:

<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-71600-4#about>

<http://horikawa-seminar.ws.hosei.ac.jp/english.html>

Saburo Horikawa (Hosei University)

## Contacts

New Website: RC03 has a new, revamped website. You can find it at: <https://www.upo.es/cspl/rc03-isa/isa/>

Please send future announcements to Matt Patterson (matt.patterson@ucalgary.ca)