

Progress Report

Laboratory for Comparative Social Research
Higher School of Economics
3rd International Conference
November 12 - 16, 2013
Moscow, Russia

Sociologists Everywhere: Country Representation in Conferences Hosted by the International Sociological Association, 1990 to 2012

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ISA Conferences since 2008



First ISA Forum of Sociology

Sociological Research and Public Debate
Barcelona, Spain, 2008



XVII ISA World Congress of Sociology

Sociology on the Move
Gothenburg, Sweden, 2010



Second ISA Forum of Sociology

Social Justice and Democratization
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 2012

Example of official listing of attendance by country (Sweden 2010)

Country	No. of participants
Albania	1
Algeria	2
Angola	1
Argentina	39
Armenia	3
Australia	162
Austria	72
Azerbaijan	3
Bangladesh	2
Barbados	2
Belarus	2
Belgium	66
Brazil	185
Bulgaria	9
Cameroon	2
Canada	176
Chile	14
China	31
Colombia	14
Congo, Democratic Rep.	2
Costa Rica	4
Cote d' Ivoire	1
Croatia	11
Cyprus	2
Czech Republic	17
Denmark	46
Ecuador	1
Egypt	2



Two main research questions

1. Are some countries more likely than others to attend ISA conferences?
2. What factors are associated with attendance?

“While the United States had the largest number of registrants (517), this number should be kept in perspective by underscoring the economic, political, and social factors that limit participation from poorer countries.”

-- ISA VP Prof. Margaret Abraham in “Sociology on the Move in Gothenburg: International Sociological Association XVII World Congress of Sociology” in *Footnotes: Newsletter of the American Sociological Association*

“The choice shall give due attention to the need for diversity of locations over time, as well as to local organisational resources and physical capacity; unlimited admission to the country of all participants, regardless of nationality, is essential.”

-- ISA Statutes on the rationale for choosing the location of the World Congress (Article 11)

The location of ISA conferences between 1990 and 2012:

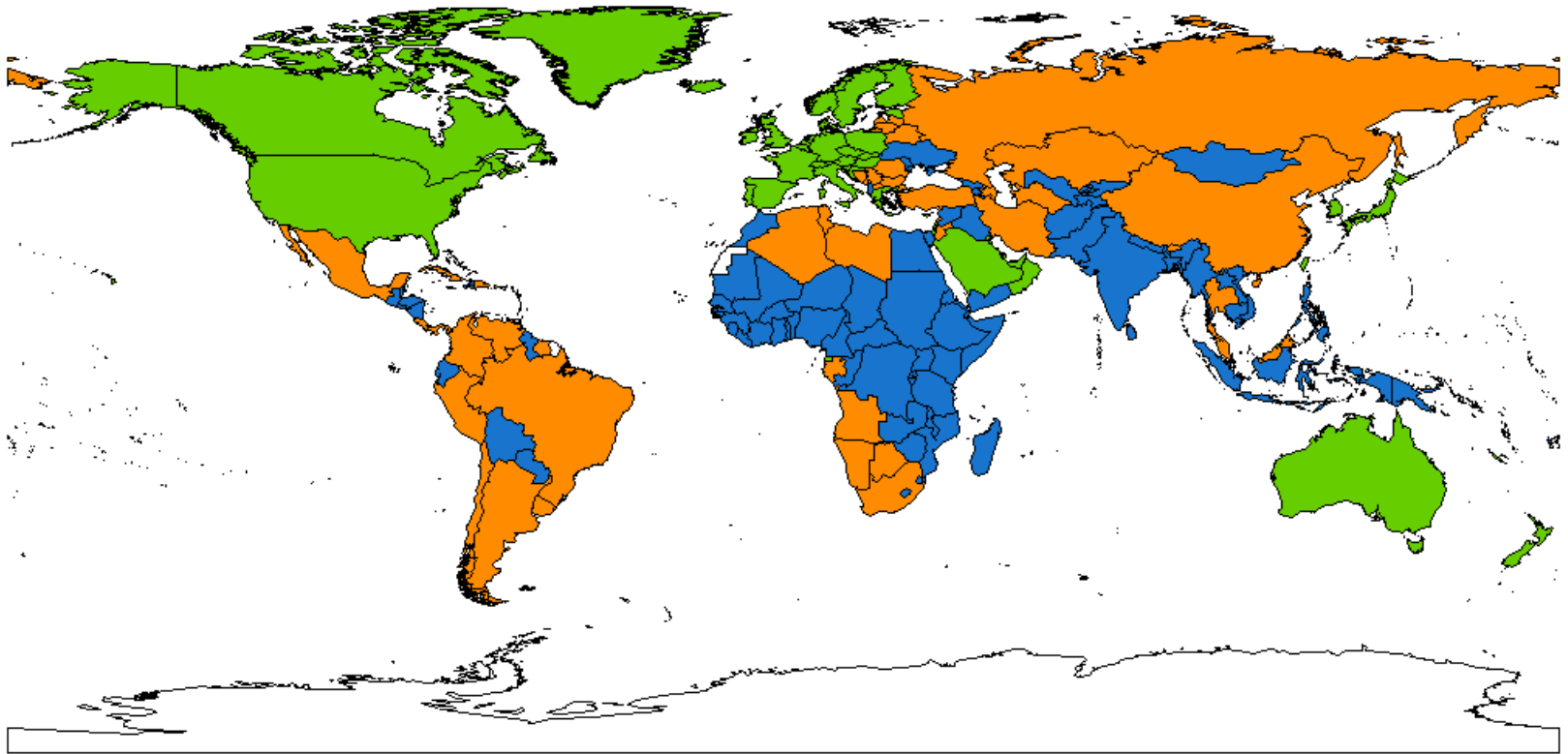
Four in Europe: Madrid: 1990; Bielefeld 1994; Barcelona 2008 (Forum); Gothenburg 2010

One in Australia: Brisbane 2002

One in North America: Montreal 1998

One in Africa: Durban 2006

One in Latin America: Buenos Aires 2012 (Forum)



World Map of A, B and C Categories in the International Sociological Association's Table of Economies, 2012

A = Green
B = Orange
C = Blue

Concept	Measurement
Attendance at ISA Conferences, 1990 -2012	Number of participants, logged, + 1, in each of the ISA conferences (eight time points, 1990 – 2012).
Economic resources	GDP per capita PPP, logged, at year prior to ISA conference
Political factors: Level of democracy	Freedom House, mean of political rights and civil liberties scores; higher score, higher level of democracy, at year prior to ISA conference
Social science research infrastructure	1 = country is in the most recent WVS or EVS either prior to, or in the exact year of, the ISA conference (0 = else)
Population	In millions
Conference location	1 = country is located within the continent of the ISA conference (0 = else). Six continents: Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America.

		I	II	III	IV	V	VI
I	Number Conference Participants, Logged (DV)	----					
II	Economic Resources	0.53 **	----				
III	Level of Democracy	0.37 **	0.49 **	----			
IV	Social Science Research Infrastructure	0.57 **	0.39 **	0.29 **	----		
V	Population	0.26 **	-0.05 +	-0.08 **	0.21 **	----	
VI	Continent	0.23 **	0.17 **	0.22 **	0.19 **	-0.06 *	----
VII	Time	0.01	0.22 **	0.11 **	0.18 **	0.012	-0.04 +

**p < 0.01; *p < 0.05; +p < 0.1

Linear Random-intercept model

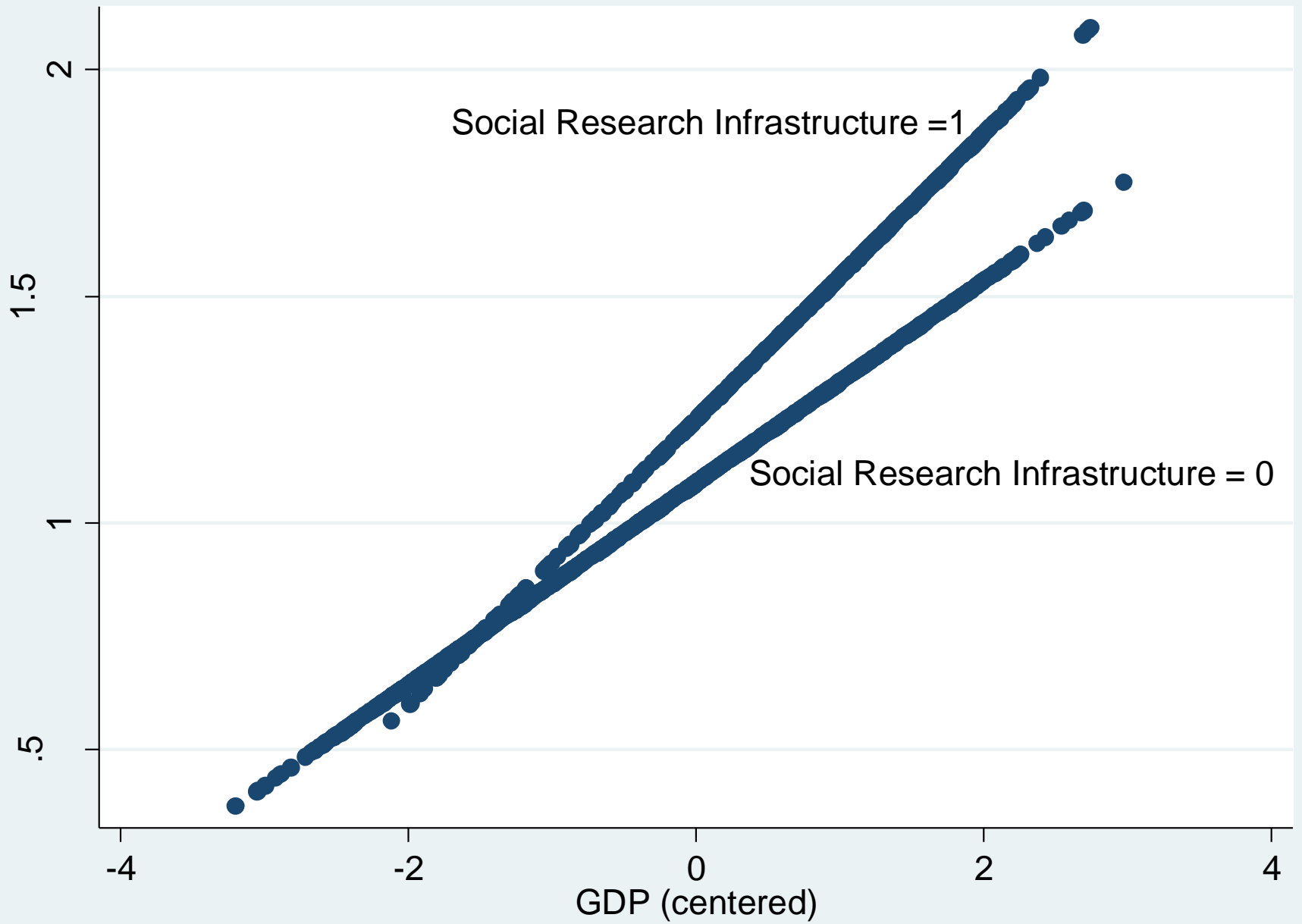
<i>Fixed part</i>	Unst. Coeff. (S.E.)
Economic Resources	0.33 (0.06)
Level of Democracy	0.07 (0.02)
Soc. Sci. Res. Infrastructure	0.06 (0.05)
Population	0.003 (0.001)
Time	-0.02 (0.003)
Continent	0.51 (0.04)
Intercept	-1.10 (0.44)
<i>Random part</i>	
Var (Intercept)	1.387 (0.16)
Var (Residual)	0.249 (0.01)
Fit statistics:	Wald chi2 (6) = 253.55 Log likelihood = -1297.25

Number
Observations
= 1336

Number of
groups
(countries)
= 177

Obs per group:
min = 3
avg = 7.5
max = 8

	Model 1	Model 2
<i>Fixed part</i>	Unst. Coeff. (S.E.)	Unst. Coeff. (S.E.)
Economic Resources	0.372** (0.056)	0.334 (0.055)
Level of Democracy	0.084** (0.023)	0.069 (0.022)
Soc. Sci. Res. Infrastructure	0.122* (0.052)	0.056 (0.050)
Population	0.003** (0.001)	0.003 (0.001)
Time	-0.020** (0.003)	-0.017 (0.003)
Continent	--	0.512 (0.042)
Intercept	-2.279 (0.451)	-1.987 (0.441)
<i>Random part</i>		
Var (Intercept)	1.342 (0.159)	1.387 (0.162)
Var(Residual)	0.282 (0.012)	0.249 (0.010)
Fit statistics:	Wald chi2 (5) = 105.22 Log likelihood = -1368.857	Wald chi2 (6) = 253.55 Log likelihood = -1297.247



Country's Placement in ISA's Table of Economies in 2012	Attended All Three	<i>n</i>	Attended At Least One	<i>n</i>	Attended None	<i>n</i>
A	56	37	70	46	30	20
B	34	19	63	35	38	21
C	11	9	47	40	53	45
<i>All</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>121</i>	<i>42</i>	<i>86</i>

Country Attendance at ISA Conferences, 2008-2012, by Category in ISA Table of Economies (%)

Country	Individual		Collective	
	<i>Regular (IR)</i>	<i>Student (IS)</i>	<i>Regular (CR)</i>	<i>Affiliated (CA)</i>
A	255	120	min. 300*	175
B	105	50	300	85
C	35	25	75	60

Membership Fees in U.S. Dollars (USD) for A, B and C Categories in ISA Table of Economies as of 2012

* 1% of the association's annual budget or 1 USD per each member per year.
Minimum USD 300.

Note: IR = Individual Regular, IS = Individual Student, CR = Collective Regular,
CA = Collective Affiliated

We calculated the average attendance from 1990 to 2012.
The range is from zero to 460 attendees per conference.

Core averaged over 70 participants per conference:
Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India,
Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Russia, Spain, Sweden,
United Kingdom and the United States.

Upper semi-periphery averaged over 30 but up to 70
participants per conference: Belgium, Denmark, Finland,
Israel, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa and
Switzerland.

Lower semi-periphery averaged 10 to 30 participants per
conference: Austria, Chile, China, Colombia, Greece, Hungary,
Ireland, New Zealand, Nigeria, Slovenia, South Korea, Taiwan,
Turkey, and Venezuela.