29th General Assembly Meeting
Montréal, 10-12 October 2013

World Social Science Fellows Programme
WSS Fellows at the GA

- Vivi Stavrou (ISSC Senior Executive Manager)
- Charles Ebikeme (ISSC Science Officer)
  - Mathieu Denis (ISSC Senior Science Officer)
  - Laura van Veenendal (WSS Fellows Prog Manager)

World Social Science Fellows:

- Moises Lino e Silva (Department of Anthropology, Brandeis University)
- Natalie Rosales (Urban sustainability scientist, Mexican Observatory of Crisis)
- Laura Pereira (Department of Environmental and Geographical Science, University of Cape Town)
- Timos Karpouzoglou (Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University)
Overall objective to manage the ISSC's role in global social science capacity development

To build capacity for international collaboration based on equality and respect

- Individual level - early career scientists, post-doc
- Organisational level - institutions from lower and middle income countries (LMIC)
- international research collaboration – research, publishing
Overview II

- Thematic focus on interdisciplinary social science knowledge production in global priority areas with particular reference to LMIC
- Fellows’ seminars core component of the programme's work
  - Intensive working meetings
  - 20 competitively selected Fellows work with senior scientists and others
- ExCo appointed International Advisory Team
  - advises on topics, experimental formats, selection, contacts with potential hosts, senior scientists
Some facts to date

Events

1. 1st of 3 WSS Fellows Seminars on Sustainable Urbanisation, March 2013, Quito, Ecuador

2. 1st of 3 ISSC/ICSU Networking Conferences, Food Futures, May 2013, Villa Vigoni, Italy

3. Rio+20 (special grant opportunity)

- 52 Fellows, 28 countries, more than 40% from and/or working in LMIC
  - anticipated participation of 220 Fellows

- 12 Senior scientists, 8 from and/or working in LMIC
New projects

- ISSC/ICSU Networking Conferences for Young Scientists on Integrated Science
  - Supported by the German Research Foundation (DFG) to stimulate and develop integrated science

- WZB-ISSC Global Fellowship programme
  - Early career social scientists from LMIC working on global priority problems with particular relevance to developing countries.
  - 1 Fellow per year - stipend to conduct research for up to 6 months at the WZB Berlin Social Science Research Centre
  - Write a report, present a seminar, write/contribute towards a paper for the WSS Forum 2015, teaching materials

- Discussions started for more 2014 and 2015 events, eg Global SHS Priority Scan
Planned Events

• Seminar on *Risk Interpretation and Action*, Dec 2013, Wellington & Christchurch NZ
  • Integrated Research on Disaster Risk programme, the IRDR CoE, the START global change capacity programme, Massey and Christchurch Universities

• 2x Seminars on *Sustainable Urbanisation*:
  • Sept 2014 (proposal from Centre for Sustainability Science, Academia Sinica, and the Center for Global Change and Sustainability Science at National Taipei University)
  • 2014, venue in Africa tbc

• 2x ISSC/ICSU Networking conferences, May 2014 & 2015
Sustainable Urbanisation, Quito

- Series of 3 seminars on Sustainable Urbanisation designed to build on each other
- One convening team (South Africa, Mexico, India)
- IHDP/CROP partners
- Host Universidad Andina Simon Bolivar
- 19 Fellows from 14 LMIC
- Book in progress …

**UNTAMED URBANISM**

**Part I: Greening the urban age: perspectives and trajectories**

**Part II: When communities innovate: emerging transformative practices of sustainable urbanisation**

**Part III: Governance and urban planning**

**Part IV: Liberating alternatives**
• 3x ICSU/ISSC series - “…Futures” themes linked to Future Earth

• Build capacity for integrated research - new networks of interdisciplinary researchers to develop new FE research

• Network across institutions, disciplines, fields, topics

• Identify key research questions, plan research and response models for promoting integrated science - scale up

• Connect next generation of leading thinkers - young scientists joined senior scientists to explore and debate food system in its entirety.
What is GOING ON?

THINKING & DOING INNOVATIVE RESEARCH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATIONS

SOCIAL RESEARCHERS FROM INSTITUTIONS ACROSS THE GLOBAL SOUTH AND NORTH WORK TOGETHER IN PURSUIT OF A CLEARLY DEFINED COMMON GOAL.

DISSEMINATING AND COLLABORATING ON RESEARCH AND PUBLISHING

SEEK BETTER WAYS TO STRUCTURE AND MANAGE COMPLEX PROCESSES.

YOUNG SCIENTISTS NETWORKING
IMPROVED QUALITY OF CURRENT WORK THROUGH NEW INPUTS
WORKING ON PUBLICATIONS
PLANNED NEW RESEARCH COLLAB
RAISED PROFILE
USED PAPERS FROM SEMINAR IN DESIGNING NEW COURSES
DISCUSSIONS WITH COLLEAGUES
STARTED PLANNING A FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOP
STARTED NEW RESEARCH PROJECT BASED ON QUITO IDEAS
SPREAD THE WORK OF OTHER FELLOWS AMONG APPRECIATIVE COLLEAGUES
WIDENED NETWORKS
EXCHANGE OF EXPERIENCE GAVE NEW KNOWLEDGE, BROADEN PERSPECTIVES

YOUNG SCIENTISTS NETWORKING CONFERENCES

SUSTAINABLE
URBANISATION

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO UNDERSTANDING URBANISATION IN THE 21ST CENTURY

QUITO 2013
COLLECTIVE WORK

A more collaborative and comprehensive approach to addressing sustainable urbanisation challenges

book project
"Untamed Urbanism"

old debates in new ways & new questions about sustainable urban development

GREENING THE URBAN AGE: PERSPECTIVES & TRAJECTORIES

WHEN COMMUNITIES INNOVATE: EMERGING TRANSFORMATIVE PRACTICES OF SUSTAINABLE URBANISATION

GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING FOR THE SUSTAINABLE CITY

LIBERATING ALTERNATIVES

CONTINUOUS COMMUNICATION
Untamed Urbanism
Liberating alternatives?
Urban life: ordinary citizens and untamed practices

Collective introduction: reframing the debate

What is the destabilizing capacity of everyday practices?
How can we understand urban life and everyday practices beyond needs?
What are the factors/qualities that make practice 'alternatives' (to the mainstream)?
What are the fractures that emerge in the friction between everyday practices and social regulation?
To what extent are 'alternatives' transformative?

A conversation on a dentist's chair: employment, marginality, and freedom at the borders of a Brazilian favela (Moises)

Negotiating and contesting urban spaces: everyday experiences of women in Harare

Everyday practices in Greece in the shadow of property: urban domination subverted? (Irene)

Public spaces as incubators for change: untamed social practices in a fragmented city (Diafa)

Fracturing urban (crack) governmentality and gentrification policies. Microresistance of every daylife in Buenos Aires (J. Shevrai)

Towards the productive city: exploring socio-environmental change through non-capitalist food economies (FERN)
Workshop Activities

Networking

Knowledge Exchange

Envisioning future pathways
Commentary
Meeting the growing demand for food and bioenergy in the 21st century: synergies through efficient waste management

Sigrid Kusch *1 & Chijioke J Evoh 2

* Author for correspondence
Villa Vigoni Outcomes

Theme based networks and proposal writing
  e.g. food and health, food and innovation, underutilised food species in Africa

Joint collaborations
  e.g. Resilience 2014, Montpellier, France
  Agroenvironment symposium 2014, Rio, Brazil

Calls for funding
  e.g. SUSFOOD
  Gates Foundation
Where to from here?

Preparation of concept Note for a 5-day workshop for young sustainability scientists to learn new skills and approaches for doing transdisciplinary research on food sustainability

Date: July 2014
A week before or after Oxford Food Symposium 2014.
Workshop commitments

**Over-arching goal:** To strengthen the capacity of early career scientists to devise and implement the next generation of research programmes and to deliver tangible impact on food sustainability

**Objective 1:** To gain exposure to novel skills and approaches for young researchers to do better inter/transdisciplinary research on food

**Objective 2:** To engage with novel transdisciplinary concepts (i.e. transformation, technological transitions, and socio-ecological resilience) and methodological tools that bridge theory and practice in creative ways, and have a demonstrated track record of increasing research impact in the area of food sustainability.

**Objective 3:** To identify suitable strategies for realising a rewarding career in academia while conducting interdisciplinary research on the future of food.
http://vimeo.com/72349912
Outcomes to date

Since 2012 launch

• Several publications, university courses/teaching materials, initiatives to develop collaborative research proposals, career boost

• «Untamed Urbanism» book

• Working with hosts and partners – significant in-kind & co-financing support, able to leverage additional funding, extend programme
Pilot phase

- Experimenting with formats
- Fellows in the lead
- Towards concrete products
- Organised with partners
Agenda setting, contribution to the creation of new, interdisciplinary knowledge

Fellows linked in strategic ways to other ISSC activities: WSS Fora, WSS Report, international programmes and networks

Opportunity for interaction with ISSC members and partners
  - Interaction of scientists, and mechanism for promotion of issues important to the disciplines

Network of outstanding early career scientists
  - build careers, also for the ISSC and members to have access to talented early career scientists
Challenges for the next phase

- Extend benefits, reach and scope:
  - promote and sustain networks beyond seminars
  - support Fellows to develop teaching materials
- Enhancing relevance through closer engagement with decision-makers, practitioners and other key stakeholders
- Mobilise new sources of funding
- Better engage ISSC members in the work of the programme.
Thank you