



Attending Roundtable Sessions at the ISA

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The International Sociological Association (ISA) provides various presentation formats, and one of them is the roundtable. At a roundtable session, participants sit around a large table and engage in discussions about the given topics. This format requires each participant to give a presentation, but it can effectively create an active and relaxed atmosphere for all attendees to exchange comments and build social networks.

Before giving a presentation at the roundtable session, you should read the requirements for presentation schedules, time length, materials, and facilities carefully. For ISA, its roundtable sessions encourage participants to leverage various materials and tools to facilitate their presentations, such as slides or printed full papers. If you still wish to prepare your slides, you can print them out before the presentations and share the printed slides with participants sitting at the same table or bring your own laptops to demonstrate them. While it offers more choices for presentation materials, you still need to rehearse before the conference to become familiar with the contents and avoid exceeding the required time length.

During the roundtable session, you should not only fulfill your presentation but also engage in interactions with other attendees. It is important to note down useful questions, comments, or suggestions about your presentation. Meanwhile, you should listen carefully to the presentations given by other attendees. If you have questions or comments about their research, you can propose them and discuss them with other participants sitting at the same table.

After the conference ends, you can exchange contact information with other attendees. If needed, you can sort out your meeting notes and revise your work as soon as possible if you gained any valuable comments or suggestions.

CONFERENCES

Xiaomin CAI. Working on the Market Frontier: Selling Prohibited Assisted Reproductive Technologies in Pronatalist China. ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia

Lingxi CHEN. Gender Policy Mismatch: Why Do Women Not Using Facilities Designed to Help Them Balance Mothering and Work? ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia

Peng WANG. Social Mobility during the Transition to the Third Industrial Revolution: A Comparison between the United States and China. ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia

Ji CAO and Ling ZHU. Occupational Gender Segregation, Intra-Occupation Inequality, and Gender Wage Gap Dynamics in the United States: A Causal Mediation Approach. ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia

Jing WANG. Gig Workers' Resistance and State-Labour Relations in the Platform Economy—Cases from Platform Food Delivery Workers and Platform Domestic Workers in China. ISA World Congress of Sociology, Melbourne, Australia

Attending Regular Session at International Conference

Ji CAO

Attending ISA was a refreshing journey for me, as it was my first time traveling overseas after years of pandemic-related travel restrictions. I would like to share with you my experience.

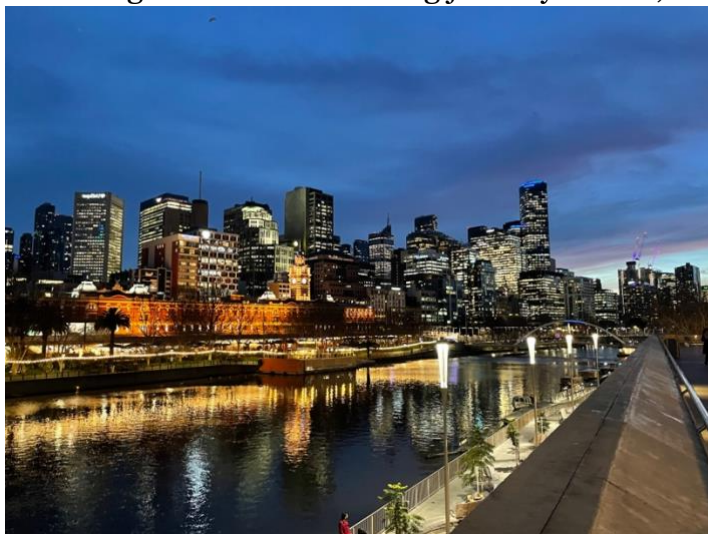


Photo of Melbourne by CAO Ji

Firstly, I learned to be positive about feedback. After attending several sessions as an audience member, I became more relaxed because I found the comments were mostly constructive. After my presentation, several audiences asked similar questions about one kind of analysis based on a certain group of respondents. This made me realize that what I ignored was that other scholars do care. It suggested me to modify my empirical analysis and writing. Besides,

there are also questions on the issue that our research could not answer, which reminded me to highlight the scope of our study clearly in writing.

Secondly, I realized that there is no need to wait until your work is fully developed to apply for conferences. I was surprised to find that many presentations I attended were still in the early stages of research. Later I learned that it happens a lot during conferences that only require abstract rather than full-fledged paper. Therefore, we can strategically utilize different types of conferences depending on the level of maturity of our work. For conferences that accept works with only preliminary results, we have a great opportunity to sharpen our thoughts on what you really want to tell about and how to proceed with the analysis.

Lastly, just enjoy the process. I used to feel uncomfortable and awkward chatting with strangers or people I barely knew in occasions like a reception dinner. However, this time, I decided to let go of my mental burden and engage in conversations that interested me. Eventually, during two reception dinners and some casual dinners with other participants that I just met from the same session I attended, I didn't chat with many people, but each time I spent a relatively long time diving into some topic in detail. Since the background of participants of ISA is very diverse, I have the chance to listen to the issues in various social contexts vividly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

✓ Job Ads

- Assistant Professor, Sociology (Understanding [Non]Citizenship Cluster), UC Berkeley, United States. **Deadline for Applications: September 1, 2023** [[See the ad](#)]
- Assistant Professor, Sociology, University of the Fraser Valley, Canada. **Deadline for Applications: September 15, 2023** [[See the ad](#)]

✓ Call for Applications

- Religion and Public Life in the Philippines Mentoring Program. **Deadline for Applications: August 4, 2023** [[See the ad](#)]