
Cocta News

The work of COCTA is carried on by various activities. At the World Congress of the International Sociological Association in New Delhi, Aug.12-22, 1986, a number of panels on methodology were held, arranged by Alberto MARRADI. After the ISA Congress another meeting was held at Jaipur within the INTERCOCTA Project in a joint effort with the Indian Social Science Council headed by Iqbal NARAIN. A report on the Jaipur meeting is rendered below.

INTERCOCTA Activities during the ISA Congress in Delhi

An overall review of the COCTA-sponsored project to develop a conceptual encyclopedia in the social sciences was presented during the COCTA business meeting by Fred W.RIGGS. An essay by him on this subject will be published soon in the International Social Science Journal. The pilot project for the encyclopedia, consisting of a computerized conceptual glossary for researchers writing about ethnic problems and processes has been published under the sponsorship of the International Social Science Council (ISSC). Information about participation in the network of correspondents who are specialists in "ethnicity" and undertake to use and test the glossary and contribute to its revision and augmentation may be secured from Prof.Riggs at the University of Hawaii, Political Science Department, Honolulu, HI, 96822, USA. These participants will receive complimentary copies of the glossary and a follow-up newsletter - others may buy the work for US \$ 25.-

A parallel glossary on ethnicity, in Russian, has been prepared at the Institute of Ethnography in the Academy of Sciences of the USSR. Further information about this project can be secured from the director of the Institute, Academician Yu.V.BROMLEY, at 19 Dm.Ulianov St., 117036 Moscow, USSR. Preliminary planning is under way for additional ethnic glossaries in French and in Spanish. Anyone interested in the former should contact Prof. Eric de GROLIER at the ISSC in Paris; those interested in the latter should write Dr.L.RAMALLO, at the ISSC also.

A Spanish-language glossary for "development studies" has been prepared at CENDES, the Center for research on development at the Central University of Caracas, Venezuela. The possibility of an English-language parallel glossary for researchers on "development" is under consideration. Attention is also being given to possible new INTERCOCTA glossaries, viz. in such fields as "peace and conflict resolution", "human and social ecology", "human rights", "ways of life". A paper on the key concept, "growth", has been prepared by Prof.Henry TEUNE, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and additional papers are planned on the adaptation and use of this concept in various social science disciplines, leading to the compilation of a book of essays for the INTERCOCTA Encyclopedia.

The possibility of launching a new kind of INTERCOCTA project focussing on the indigenization of social science research and on "indigenous concepts" required for this purpose was the main subject of discourse during another COCTA-sponsored session held on the afternoon of Aug.22, 1986, under the co-chairmanship of Prof.S.C. DUBE from Bhopal and Prof.D.M.PESTONJEE from Ahmedabad, India. An overflow crowd of actively interested panelists and participants produced one of the most lively discussions at the Congress. This discourse continued during a three-day Round Table on "Indigenous Concepts and Terms in the Social Sciences" held in Jaipur, India, Aug.24-26, 1986. The Indian Council for Social Science Research, under the leadership of Prof. Iqbal NARAIN, sponsored this meeting, which was hosted by the Institute of Development Studies of the University of Jaipur, under the direction of Prof.D.D.NARULA.

After a lively and extended debate, consensus was reached on two basic proposals: first the preparation of the new kind of conceptual glossaries for indigenous Indian social science concepts, under the sponsorship of the ICSSR. A second project involves the compilation of essays, to be discussed at follow-up meetings, on themes relating to the indigenization of Indian social science research. Questions about the goals and audience for social science knowledge in India will be considered, together with questions about methodology and salient substantive issues.

UNESCO was represented at the meeting by Dr.Z. GUELEKVA, from Paris Headquarters and Dr.Yogesh ATAL from UNESCO's regional office in Bangkok. It is anticipated that modest UNESCO support will be forthcoming to help encourage these projects.

F. W. Riggs

It may be added that it was decided at the New Delhi Congress that new COCTA panels would be arranged at the next world congress of the ISA. Alberto Marradi will plan these panels together with other ISA research groups: the methodology group and the social ecology groups.

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