



Estd. 1951

Indian Sociological Society

Rules for the working of Indian Sociological Society Research Committees

As Approved in the RC Convenors Meeting on 21st July, 2017 and by the MC Meeting on 22nd July, 2017'

Introduction

Research Committees (RCs) are an integral part of ISS and are instruments for advising the Office Bearers and Managing Committee (MC) members on subjects of concern to the ISS and also for implementing the programmes of the MC. In this capacity they have advisory and consultancy roles. Since RCs are considered crucial operational wings of ISS for all its teaching, research and professional activities and in order that they organically relate to them, the following guiding principles and rules have been formulated regarding their governance to streamline their functioning, to make them more effective and useful to all members of ISS:

1. RCs should *represent* the richness and variations in the disciplinary practices of Indian sociology across geographical and institutional swathes within the country.
2. RCs should *indicate and guide* new types of research and *articulate* cutting edge research in frontier areas.
3. RCs should *converse with* sociologies of the global South in terms of their focus areas and *take leadership roles* in this direction.
4. RCs should *equally converse with the global trends* in the discipline while embodying the distinctiveness of sociological practice in India.

RCs should not only reflect what sociologists in India do in terms of research and reflection but also play the role of intellectual/academic leadership to orient our disciplinary practices towards national and international trends and debates in the specializations that they represent. RCs have to communicate the distinctiveness of Indian scholarly practices without being insular and/or indifferent to what is happening globally.

I. Preamble

RCs have been established by ISS with the following objectives:

1. Provide a forum for more involvement in and commitment to the Society on the part of senior professionals by associating them as office bearers of RCs,
2. Streamline the process of paper presentation at the All India Sociological Conferences,
3. Encourage specialization among paper presenters,
4. Give direction to the conference sessions and papers,
5. Assist younger members of the profession in preparation and presentation of papers at all India Conferences through RC Conveners who will motivate them and act as friend, philosopher and guide to them,
6. Provide for ISS a group of specialists whom it could bank upon in times of necessity for consultation and other academic matters (syllabus revision, research priorities and the like),
7. Make ISS professionally strong through the Research Committees and

II Institutional mechanisms to achieve these goals:

1. As RCs are academic arm of the Society, they have to ensure that their meetings create an intellectual dialogue and debate on the issues that are germane to the specializations that they represent.
2. As a consequence each RC has to express their academic concerns and posit their academic boundaries. These should also be accepted by its members so that they can collectively establish the intellectual continuity and academic stability of each RC. Each RC should discuss and pass its academic agenda which defines its scope in its Business meeting and continuously update the same as and when needed. They would also upload this statement in their individual websites on the ISS website.
3. An ideal RC should have a viable number of long-term members (at least 5 years or more), minimally 30 so that at least a meaningful discussion takes place during presentations.
4. Each RC should have members from across the country in order to reflect diversity and heterogeneity that constitutes India and would have member- representatives of at least 10 different states of the country across all regions and across wide institutional swathe – university professors, college teachers, doctoral researchers. It should also represent the linguistic heterogeneity.

5. RC conveners have to provide academic leadership and thus they should have reasonable academic standing in the field. They should be Associate Professors/Readers/Research Scientist B or of equivalent rank (within Universities and Research Institutes) and it would be desirable that s/he be affiliated to a University Department. In addition we also recommend that an RC convener should have published at least two papers in the *Bulletin* or a peer-reviewed journal or a book from select publishing houses.
6. The Society will constitute a Standing Academic Committee of 4 external members together with the President, Secretary and the Treasurer as ex-officio members. This committee will meet and discuss professional matters with RC conveners at the RC convener's meeting every year and advise them regarding their academic and professional agendas and design further guidelines for effective governance of the RCs.
7. The Society will also constitute an Academic Advisory Committee constituting of the President, Secretary, Organising Secretary AISC and two external members who will classify the abstracts to be presented during AISC according to the academic scope of each RC/Adhoc group and forward these to each RC/ Adhoc group for organisation into session schedules.
8. The Academic Advisory Committee will also further divide the abstracts selected for each RC/Adhoc group into those meant for paper presentation and those for poster presentations. Each author who is selected for paper presentation will be allocated 10-15 minutes in their RC/Adhoc session while those been given poster presentation will be given 5 minutes. No author can submit more than two abstracts as author or co-author.
9. Abstracts should be submitted to fit the following criteria:
 - a) Connection of the title to the theme of the conference (whenever possible)
 - b) Relevance of the title and of the abstract to the focus of each RC/Ad-hoc group
 - c) conceptual clarity and methodological application of the abstract with this focus
10. The Academic Advisory Committee will also advise the President in taking decisions regarding the names of scholars to be invited as plenary speakers.

III. Membership

1. All new RC members will have to fill up and submit a form of membership available on the ISS website.
2. Membership is available for ONLY to two RCs/Adhoc groups per person
3. Only Life Members of the Society shall be eligible to become full members of RCs.

4. Ordinary/Student and Life Members can enroll themselves as RC members on payment of Rs. 1000 for 5 years. **Henceforth there will be no annual or biannual membership for RCs.** An ordinary member or student member can take RC membership for five years but will have to renew their membership of ISS for the next four years every year. If this is not done the Ordinary/Student member will not be able to submit an abstract for presentation at the AISC.
5. All RC/Adhoc fees will be paid to the ISS. Each convener will receive 70% of the fees in their RC/Adhoc group bank accounts with 30% being retained by the Society.
6. As Adhoc Groups are formed on temporary basis, the membership fee for these Groups will be on yearly basis and their members should pay Rs.250 for each year. 70% of the same will be transferred to the convener each year.
7. Each RC/Adhoc group should send audited accounts of their income and expenditure statement to the Society every year.
8. Other categories of ISS Members can become Associate Members of RCs by paying Membership Fees as stated above, but they can neither contest in RC elections nor vote in those elections.

IV. Office Bearers

1. Each RC/Adhoc group will have a Convener, a Secretary and an Executive Committee consisting of 2 to 5 Members elected by the members of that RC. An RC/Adhoc group can co-opt an outside ISS member as an ordinary member of that RC if it deems fit but he/she will have to pay membership fee as in Section II.
2. There shall be a Treasurer for every RC/Adhoc group who will be nominated by the RC Convener from among members of the Executive Council of the RC.
3. Any RC/Adhoc group Convener, if elected as MC Member or Office Bearer, has to resign as RC Convener immediately after getting elected. Any Existing MC Member cannot become a RC Convener.
4. In RC/Adhoc groups having 20 or more members, there can be a Co-Convener elected by the members of the RC.

5. The tenure of office of the office bearers (Convener, Co Convener, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Committee Members) shall be 2 years.
6. They can be re-elected for another term of two years only.
7. The Convener of a RC/Adhoc group can hold office continuously only for two consecutive terms.
8. An outgoing Convener of one RC/Adhoc group cannot be elected as Convener of another RC/Adhoc group for a minimum of two years after vacating his/her office. This does not apply to the other Office Bearers of a RC.
9. A person can be member of not more than 2 RCs/Ad-hoc Groups at a time and can hold office only in one RC.

V. Election

1. There shall be election to the various offices of RC/Adhoc groups every two years. Election shall be held at the time of the Annual Conferences of the Society. The RC/Adhoc group Convener should activate the election proceedings and will act as the Returning Officer.
2. Only Life Members with one year's standing are eligible to vote in RC/Adhoc group election. Only Members who have 3 year's standing in the RC can stand for election as Convener, Co Convener and Secretary.
3. Only members who have two year's standing in the RC/Adhoc group shall be eligible to contest for the other elected posts in the RC/Adhoc group.
4. If any RC/Adhoc group has only less than 6 qualified voters at the time of election, there shall be no election in that year and the matter should be reported by the outgoing RC Convener to the ISS office immediately. In such cases, the MC will take appropriate decision regarding the nomination of the next Convener. In case of Adhoc group if such a situation occurs, the MC can also dissolve the Adhoc group.
5. Within two weeks after election, the outgoing RC/Adhoc group Convener should send to ISS Secretariat a brief report containing list of voters, list of contesting candidates and the results of the election.

VI. Qualifications for RC/Ad-hoc Conveners

1. The RC/Adhoc convener should be an Associate Professor/Reader/Research Scientist B or of equivalent rank (in Universities and Research Institutes) and it would be desirable that s/he be affiliated to a University Department. RC conveners should have published at least two papers in the *Bulletin* or a peer-reviewed journal or a book from select publishing houses.
2. S/he should have good standing in the field of specialisation of the concerned RC.
3. S/he should be a Life Member of ISS at least for a minimum period of 5 years.
4. S/he should have been a member of the RC group for a minimum period of three years.
5. The person desirous of being a RC/Adhoc group Convener must be a regular participant in AISCs. S/he must have participated in at least a 2 AISCs before the election.
6. In case these qualifications are not fulfilled, the MC can take a decision to appoint a new convener for any RC/Adhoc group.

VII. Responsibilities of the RC/Ad hoc Conveners

RC/Adhoc group Conveners shall be responsible for the following:

1. Organize all RC/Adhoc group sessions at the AISC and present an Annual Report of the RC/Adhoc group at the Annual Conference of the Society. S/he may entrust the work to the Co Convener or Secretary, if he/she cannot present it himself/herself. S/he
2. Should upload a note on the academic scope of its RC/Adhoc group on its website (which is part of the ISS website). The RC/Adhoc group convener can also initiate publication programme for the RC after discussing this with the Standing Committee members.
3. The RC/Adhoc group Convener shall be the Returning Officer at RC/Adhoc group elections. In this capacity, he/she should send a report on the election to the ISS Office within two weeks after the election containing the list of voters, list of candidates contesting for election and the result of the election.
4. MC has the power to entrust an RC/Adhoc group Convener with any responsibility for the good working of the RC or Society if it deems necessary.
5. RC/Adhoc group Conveners shall be responsible for ensuring that all paper presenters present papers for the minimum of 10-15 minutes during the session and minimum of 5 minutes for those giving poster presentation. In addition to receiving voluntary papers, they could invite papers from experts with good spread of young scholars.
6. RC/Adhoc group convener may invite abstracts for 'Young Scholar Award' from abstract givers under the age of 35 years along with proof of age. A separate session should be organized for

Young Scholar Award. The RC Convener should form a panel of three senior ISS members to take a decision on best paper which may be awarded a Certificate. The Certificate shall be provided by the ISS to the RC Conveners.

7. An outgoing RC/Adhoc group Convener should send to the ISS office within one month of election all records including list of members, files and accounts and cash belonging to the RC/Adhoc group and ISS Office will pass them on to the successor immediately after their receipt. This applies only if there is a change of Convener at the time of election.
8. RC/Adhoc group Conveners should encourage maximum involvement of members in the sessions of the Conferences. One way of doing this is to provide them with important responsibilities (e.g. chairing sessions) and retain their interest during the mid conference periods by organising mid conferences, seminars/workshops and publication of a newsletter. These could be done either alone or in combination with other RCs.
9. If any RC/Adhoc group Convener defaults in any of the above responsibilities, MC will have the right, after getting his/her explanation, to remove him/her and appoint another person either from the same RC or from outside as it may deem appropriate.

VIII. Finance

1. Each RC/Adhoc group will be transferred 70% of all fees collected every year.
2. Each RC/Adhoc group will maintain proper accounts to be audited internally every year.
2. RC/Adhoc group Convener shall keep the funds of the RC in savings bank account to be jointly operated by him/her and the Treasurer.
3. All RC/Adhoc group membership fees shall have to be paid directly to the ISS bank (Punjab National Bank, Branch: Vasant Kunj, New Delhi 110070). The name of the Account is: Indian Sociological Society and its Savings Bank Account Number is: 4114000100575176

IX. Activities of the Research Committee

- 1 There shall be at least one annual meeting of the RC/Adhoc group. There can be a mid-term workshop to discuss the progress and updating of RC/Adhoc group activities.
2. RC/Adhoc groups can organise regional conferences, workshops, seminars and the like either alone or in collaboration with other RC/Adhoc groups.
- 3 Each RC group may have its own newsletter and publications. Copies of such newsletters and publications should be sent to all members of ISS Managing Committee and to the ISS President and Secretary.

X. Setting up of New RC/Adhoc groups, merging and termination of existing RC/Adhoc groups

1. The ISS MC can constitute a new RC or Adhoc Group in any branch of Sociology if not less than 10 Life Members of ISS come forward with a request and agree to pay for an RC five years' membership fee in advance and two years for an Adhoc group..
2. The ISS MC may merge an RC/Adhoc group with another appropriate RC for academic and professional reasons.
3. The ISS MC can merge and/or terminate any RC if any RC/Adhoc group does not follow the guidelines and rules elaborated in this document.
4. The ISS MC can also terminate an RC/Adhoc group if its membership is less than six for 3 consecutive years or if it fails to attract at least 10 papers for 3 annual conferences continuously.

XI. RC Names after reorganisation and rationalisation July 2017

The ISS MC on 22nd July resolved that it has merged and rationalised the existing 24 RCs and changed its names consequent to this decision. The following changes will be implemented after the 43rd AISC at Lucknow.

1. RC 01 History of Sociology
2. RC 02 Studies on Family, marriage and Kinship
3. RC 03 Economic and Society
4. RC 04 Migration and Diaspora Studies
5. RC 05 Sociology of Education
6. RC 06 Sociology of Religion
7. RC 07 Adivasi and Tribal Studies
8. RC 08 Inequalities, Stratification and Exclusion Studies
9. RC 09 Dalit Studies
10. RC 10 Gender Studies
11. RC 11 Environment and Society
12. RC 12 Sociology of Health, Ageing and Well Being

13. RC 13 Science, Technology and Society
14. RC 14 Globalisation and Culture
15. RC 15 Agrarian Structure and Social Transformation
16. RC 16 Work, Labour and Organisation
17. RC 17 Sociology of Social Movements
18. RC 18 Social Demography
19. RC 19 Urban Studies
20. RC 20 Media Studies
21. RC 21 Political Sociology
22. RC 22 Conflict and Violence Studies
23. RC 23 Sociology of Law, Crime and Criminology
24. RC 24 Childhood and Youth Studies