Editorial to the First Issue

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I am very pleased to be able to write these words: this is the first issue of the official journal of Research Committee 13 (Sociology of Leisure) of the International Sociological Association. The International Sociological Association (ISA) is the most important international learned society for sociology, and it was established under the banner of UNESCO's Social Sciences Department. ISA remains associated with UNESCO through the International Social Science Council. Although ISA had struggled in its history to truly represent the diversity and range of international sociology, in this century it has become the meeting place of sociological ideas and research that its founders hoped it would be. To attend an event of the ISA is to see tens of thousands of delegates from every region of the world, from hundreds of countries, all keen to explore the sociological imagination, and all keen to use sociology and the social sciences to make a difference in the world. Any sociologist who wants to be part of international sociology needs to be a member of the ISA. It is the only learned society or association in sociology that looks beyond the country or the region – if sociologists in the global North want to live up to their political beliefs about power and inequality, they need to spend money joining ISA and working with people from the rest of the world.

Within the ISA are hundreds of research committees, working groups, and thematic groups. This journal has come from the activity of the thirteenth research committee created by ISA: one on sociology of leisure (RC13). The objectives of RC13 (<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/research-networks/research-committees/rc13-sociology-of-leisure/>) are as follows:

To promote international cooperation in the field of the activities of sociology of leisure; to exchange theoretical and practical information among all countries and experts concerning the results of investigations on leisure; to convene international seminars, symposia, meetings on leisure; to prepare and circulate reports about the development and problems of leisure in different countries and regions;

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to promote organised documentation on leisure in cooperation with other documentation centers; to identify sociological problems in leisure and organize international research projects.

RC13 has been flourishing in the last few years, and owes its health to our dear late colleague Professor Ishwar Modi. He personally reached out to encourage many of us to take an active role in the executive board of RC13, or as session organisers at ISA events and bespoke RC13 conferences. Professor Modi recognised that the sociology of leisure was growing across the global South as it has faced challenges in the neo-liberal marketplace of higher education in the UK and North America. That is, in the UK and North America the subject field of leisure studies – one of the original homes of sociology of leisure – has disappeared from courses and programmes. Sociologists of leisure now find themselves teaching sociology of sport, or sociology of popular culture. Under Professor Modi, many such sociologists of leisure in the global North (and social scientists originally from leisure studies now working under different disciplinary homes: in events management; tourism management; sports management) were persuaded to join RC13 alongside their colleagues from the global South. I was one of those sociologists. I knew leisure studies was thriving as a subject field, even if the traditional multi-disciplinary leisure studies courses for our undergraduates in the UK had been lost. I could see a huge portfolio of leisure-related courses and modules, not just here but around the world. I could see hundreds if not thousands of scholars working in fields related to leisure studies. I knew sociology of leisure was asking interesting questions and doing cool things in all sorts of exciting and unanticipated places. As someone who has researched and written on the sociology of leisure, leisure theory and leisure studies – someone who is a co-editor of a book series for Palgrave called *Leisure Studies in a Global Era* – I knew there were people out there who wanted to read this work. Joining RC13 felt like coming home. This is where the conversations and the connections are happening. RC13 has made me feel welcome, and proud to be a sociologist, and a sociologist of leisure. So, if you are a sociologist of leisure, or a social psychologist of leisure, you should make sure you join RC13 immediately, as soon as you join ISA.

This journal has been planned for some time, ever since I joined RC13's executive board. We wanted a journal with a name that reflects the work of RC13 and ISA more broadly. This is the *International Journal of the Sociology of Leisure* (IJSL); the name is exact and correct, though of course we are keen to publish social psychology of leisure too, as you can see from this first issue. We wanted a journal that would be a space for the best of the older generation – the people who are already renowned and cited heavily around the world – to publish work that provokes people to think about leisure in new ways. We wanted a journal that would highlight the best work among the members of RC13 and those who attend RC13 events. Finally, we wanted a journal that tried to nurture and support new and early career researchers, especially those beyond the global North. We – the editorial board at IJSL – believe that we have started to meet those original aims, although we are sensible enough to be wary of confidently saying we have finished the job. If you are reading this, you will be interested enough in IJSL to read the rest of this issue. Please let me know what you think of it. Please consider submitting a paper of your own. Please volunteer to be a reviewer. Please tell your library to get a subscription. I am delighted of course to thank Esther Otten at Springer

for buying into our vision, and to everyone else in the Springer office who have worked with me and Shintaro Kono to make this journal and this issue a reality. As I have mentioned Shin, I would also like to thank him in print for his hard work as one of the Managing Editors with an Associate Editor role.

I will let the content of the issue speak for itself. It represents the vitality and global reach of the sociology of leisure. Some of the authors were approached by me because they were involved in RC13 and they were world famous in leisure studies. Others I asked to submit because I knew of their work and was keen to see it in print. The rest came through finding IJSL after our endless email and Twitter campaign. Join us on the latter (@IJSociologyLeis) and I hope you will stick around for issues two and three... heading your way later in the year.

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Editor-in-Chief, IJSL