



**COMMITTEE ON FAMILY RESEARCH
(CFR) (RC06)**

**INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL
ASSOCIATION (ISA)**

CFR GAZETTE

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1. *President's Column*



I have to open this editorial with the sad news that Andy Settles passed away on June 18th. The husband of Barbara Settles, former president of the Committee of Family Research, played an integrative part in our community. We enjoyed his remarks in our seminars as well as his hospitality. During our seminars he helped to arrange friendly gatherings in the evening, prepared food and drinks and made our research committee a family. He supported Barbara at the presentations, figured out best places to meet in the city and brought big warmth to our meetings. We will miss him and wish Barbara, his sons and family strength in the time of mourning.

RC06 – Family Research, or as we call it: CFR – Committee of Family Research is a special research committee. Family Research, perhaps more so than other research fields, is confronted with practical policy issues. Not only has every researcher his/her own experience in family life, scientific issues raised are in many ways political issues as well. The fact that the ISA is recognized as an NGO at the United Nations might therefore be an opportunity for us as family researchers. The ISA encourages researchers to participate in UN issues. I experienced myself the opportunity for sociologists when attending one or the other meeting in Vienna. Rosemary Barbaret, from the Sociology Department from John Jay College of Criminal Justice in North Hall, is one of the busy attenders and representatives of ISA at meetings in New York as well as in Vienna and she wrote me in a mail some of the issues that could be interested for us family sociologists. You will find an outline of her suggestions in this issue of the Gazette. Please take note of these possibilities.

This is the last editorial of the outgoing board. I speak in the name of the board members that we enjoyed serving the CFR. It was a pleasure to meet so many sociologists from around the world and learn of the manifold approaches and research questions. Moreover, we made friends at these scientific meetings.

Thank you for your collaboration and all the best to the incoming board headed by Chin-Chun Yi.

Rudolf Richter

2. *Honorary President's Column*



As a young student many years ago I learnt that there are a number of family functions. Some of the functions were called primary functions, namely procreation (more or less meaning sexuality), socialization and the emotional function, also called the primary group function. The others were functions of protection, economy, religion, and leisure.

These could be seen in the view of the surrounding society or as the satisfaction of the individual's needs. All these seven family functions were seen as necessary for the society and for the individual to survive.

Around 1970 a lot happened, at least in the Western world. For us family sociologists one example was the "sexual revolution" meaning that new contraceptives came, the pill and the IUD, both non-directly related to sexual intercourse. A second example was that non-marital cohabitation came, first in opposition to or against the established society, and very soon just as a parallel to marriage, just what others did and no opposition but a new social institution.

Within these movements the idea of functionalism became obsolete and conserving. Now we can hardly hear anyone speak about family functions. From an anthropological perspective a functionalistic approach might still be reasonable.

Another issue when I was a young student was the developmental approach, which carried the idea of family life stages on its shoulders. The idea with this was that the first stage was the newly married couple, a next step would be the family with an infant or toddler, a third with more children, and so on until the seventh stage might come with the launching family, meaning when the children had left home and finally one of the spouses would die and the family was gone. Important is to stress that this approach deals with *stages* and not with *states*. Stages are dependent of each other but states are not necessarily so.

The family life stages did not see any children born by unmarried mothers, no divorces, no early deaths among spouses, no childless couples, and so on. I made a longitudinal study of newly wed couples and followed them for five years. If I would be very tolerant to the idea of family life stages I found that only about two thirds followed the pattern. When I was more critical and restrictive I found that only about one third followed the pattern¹!

These approaches were idealistic and non-realistic and have hopefully disappeared from our field of family studies, both theoretically and empirically. Both these approaches saw *the* family as a unit and as a simple unit where, for example, all family members (with the outside perspective) also

¹ Jan Trost, The Family Life Cycle - An Impossible Concept?, *International Journal of Sociology of the Family*, 4, 1974.

Jan Trost, The Family Life Cycle: A Problematic Concept, in Cuisenier (ed.): *The Family Life Cycle in European Societies*, Mouton, 1977.

see not only themselves but also all others as members of *the* family. We can see the same phenomenon in many of the writings about “family boundaries” where an outside view decides who would be members of *the* family.

I have often wondered who those are who can take the responsibility to decide who are members of my family – or for that matter anyone else family. Is this my perspective strange to come from a family sociologist? Many might say so. Hopefully many would agree with me.

To me there is no concept connected to the term *family*. Or to say it in a different way, the term *family* is covering a number of other terms like an umbrella, or better a roof since an umbrella traditionally covers only one while a roof also traditionally covers many parts of an area. Examples could be relations, friendship, births, children, marriages, deaths, socialization, divorces, cohabitation, prefix-families, and so on. All these can be said to be the concepts of the term *family*.

The disappearance of ideas of family functions and of family life stages as well as the disappearance of the belief that we can speak about *the* family in definite form is one of the improvements we have seen in our field.

JT

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3. *From the Secretary*



Dear Members,

We are fast approaching the ISA World Congress in Yokohama, Japan, where RC06 has a full programme. Once again, I would like to express our gratitude toward Rudy Seward and all the session chairs who have worked tirelessly in finalising the RC06 programme. We look forward to a stimulating intellectual discourse, seeing familiar faces, and making new friends. Participation in the RC06 programme also motivated many to join the CFR and we would like to welcome these new members. By the end of June 2014 our membership total stood at 369 of which 212 members are also ISA members in good standing.

The elected board for 2014-2018 will take office at the time of the ISA World Congress. Once more our congratulations to Chin-Chun Yi (President), Mark Hutter (Vice-president), Bárbara Barbosa Neves (Secretary/Treasurer), Sylvie Fogiel-Bijaoui, Susan McDaniel, and Margaret O'Brien (members at large).

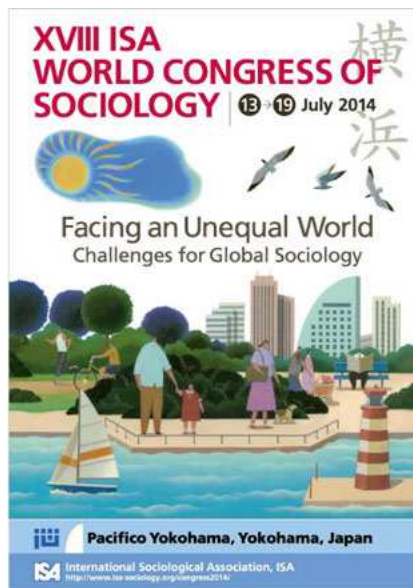
This is my last letter as Secretary/Treasurer of the CFR, which prompted me to reflect on the eight years I filled this position. I can honestly say that it has been an absolute pleasure serving the Committee in general and working with Rudolf Richter and Rudy Seward in particular. I developed a

great respect for both Rudolf and Rudy and I would like to express my appreciation for their support and the superb work they have done in their capacity as President and Vice President respectively. I am also grateful for the way in which Irene Levin made it easy for me to carry on the professional work she did as Secretary/Treasurer of the CFR before I took over the role from her in 2006. Moreover, I would like to thank Bárbara Barbosa Neves for doing a splendid job in developing and updating the CFR website. Over the years, many of our members contributed to the CFR Gazette and I acknowledge their input. In particular I would like to mention the thought provoking contributions made by Jan Trost in his column as honorary president.

So, at the end of my term of office, as I paged through many pictures taken at CFR seminars and events, I once again realized how much I appreciate being part of this 'extended family' of family researchers.

Kind regards,
Ria Smit

4. XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology



RC06 members attending the ISA Congress in Yokohama might find the following timetable useful. Thank you to CFR member Noriko Iwai who was so kind to prepare this timetable.

You are also invited to attend the RC06 Business Meeting and the RC06 Reception. Please make a note of the dates and times:

RC06 Business Meeting

July 14th (Monday) 19:30-20:50 (with Japan Society of Family Sociology) **Room 413**

RC06 Reception

July 17th (Thursday) 19:30-20:50 **Room 303**

XVIII ISA World Congress of Sociology RC06 Timetable								
Yokohama 2014	08:30-10:20	10:30-12:20	12:30-13:50	14:00-15:20	15:30-17:20	17:30-19:20	19:30-20:50	21:00
Sunday 13-Jul		<i>Research Council Business Meeting (delegates only)</i>		<i>Council of National Associations Business Meeting (delegates only) till 16:00</i>		Opening Ceremony, Presidential Address, and Reception National Convention Hall		
Monday 14-Jul	Presidential Plenary I Main Hall	117: Room413 Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and Family Life: NEVES & CASIMIRO	Integrative Sessions of RC/NA	Semi-Plenaries & Japanese Thematic Sessions	JS-8: Room302 TG03/RC06 Families, Structural Violence and Human Rights: ROUX & SIEH	118: Room315 Roundtable I. Global Changes in Families: Implications for Family Processes, Cohesion, and Identity Formation: TRASK	119: Room 413 Business Meeting: Small Reception w/Japan Society of Family Sociology	<i>Presidential Candidates' Presentation Open Meeting (21:00-23:00) Room 503</i>
Tuesday 15-Jul	JS-14: Room301 RC13/RC06 Leisure and Family: A Mutually Supportive Relationship: RICHTER & MODI	JS-19: Room 302 RC06/TG03 Human Rights, Family Roles and Social Justice: LEROUX	Integrative Sessions of RC/NA	Semi-Plenaries & Japanese Thematic Sessions	JS-24: Room 501 RC06/RC32 Women Negotiating Work and Family: BARDHAN & DASH	120: Room 413 Inter-Ethnic Families in Asia: SUN	121: Room 511 Poster Session: Meet Family Scholars: BLAIR	
Wednesday 16-Jul	JS-32: Room303 RC06/RC39 Families Responses to Natural and Human-Made Disasters: HUTTER & MILLER	122: Room 315 Roundtable II. Fatherhood in Transition: A Challenge for Global Sociology : CRESPI & RUSPINI	Integrative Sessions of RC/NA	Semi-Plenaries & Japanese Thematic Sessions	123: Room 419 Cultural Capital and Parenting in Global Asia:SHIH	124: Room 417 Work and Family in Cross-National Comparative Perspective: KAUFMAN & TANIGUCHI	RC, WG, TG Professional Development Sessions	<i>Assembly of Councils</i> <i>Business Meeting President & Vice-Presidents Elections (delegates only)</i>
Thursday 17-Jul	125: Room 419 Transition into Adulthood: Youth and Families: YI	JS-54: Room 501 RC06/RC31 Families' Resilience in Times of Economic Crisis and Mobility: BALDASSAR, KILKEY & MERLA	Integrative Sessions of RC/NA	Semi-Plenaries & Japanese Thematic Sessions	JS-60: Room 303 Disasters and Families and Children: Coping Strategies and Recovering Efforts: IWAI & FOTHERGILL	JS-61: Room 303 RC06/RC33 Panel Data Analysis of Families Worldwide : TSUTSUI & NISHINO	Room 303 RC06 Reception	<i>Research Council Elections (delegates only)</i>
						<i>Council of National Associations Elections (delegates only)</i>		

Friday 18-Jul	JS-64: Room 301 RC11/RC06 Family and Elder Care: CREADY & HOFFMAN	JS-70: Room 302 RC53/RC06 Children's Agency Through Daily Life Interactions: HAN & LI	Integrative Sessions of RC/NA	Presidential Session II & Installation of New President	126: Room 413 Caretakers of Families' Children and Elders :HUTTER	127: Room 413 New Roles of Men and Women and Implications for Society:RICHTER, OLAH & KOTOWSKA	Farewell Party (21:00-23:00)
Saturday 19-Jul	128: Room 413 Family Studies Based on Quantitative Analyses of Surveys:TABU CHI & TANAKA	129: Room 413 Families in the Developing Countries:SMIT <i>New Executive Committee Meeting (members only)</i>	12:30-14:20 130: Room 413 Emerging New Family Forms in Asia and Beyond:YEUNG & CHEUNG	14:30-16:20 131: Room 413 Facing an Unequal World: Social Capital and Families in a Cross-Cultural Perspective: AMARO & NEVES JS-91: Room 304 RC06/RC53 Labor Market Trends and Family and Child Well-Being: LI & HAN			<i>The out-going & new Executive Committee Dinner (members only)</i>
RC, WG, TG = Research Committees, Working Groups, Thematic Groups sessions							

5. The ISA and the United Nations

Some preliminary remarks made by **Rosemary Barbaret** in email correspondence with Rudolf Richter with regard to family sociology and the UN:

"The ISA has NGO status at the UN. That could be interesting also for family sociologists in dissemination of their results.

"International Day of Families is always May 15th:

<http://undesadspd.org/Family/InternationalObservances/InternationalDayofFamilies.aspx>

The UN has a focal point on family within the Division for Social Policy and Development, which is within the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, in ECOSOC (in New York, at UN Headquarters): <http://undesadspd.org/Family.aspx>. It doesn't seem that there is a unique UN decisionmaking body on family issues but rather, that there are several and that this Division for Social Policy and Development implements the decisions that come from these bodies (which are the Commission for Social Development, the Economic and Social Council, the General Assembly and other intergovernmental forums, such as the Conference of State Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.) From the meetings listed under this family focal point, they seem to be mainly expert group meetings and seminars, and a side event during the Commission for Social Development held in NY last February:

<http://undesadspd.org/Family/MeetingsEvents.aspx>. I looked at the panelists for that side event and Bahira Sherif Trask was invited as one of the speakers:
<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/csocd/2014/family-event-bios.pdf>.

An expert meeting was convened in 2012 on Good Practices in Family Policy Making:

<http://undesadspd.org/Family/EGMonGoodPracticesinFamilyPolicyMaking.aspx>

It seems that most of what occurs around the family is at UN Headquarters in NY. The ISA provides

no funds for travel, hosting services, or visa assistance, but if a member of RC06, who wanted to attend such things, or wanted to travel on their own funding, that might be worth doing ad hoc since we do have New York representatives. Jan Fritz is the main representative.

Of course, any expert invited by the UN (as was Dr. Trask) is usually compensated by the UN and comes as a private person to share expertise, and is allowed to speak and voice their own opinions. ISA representatives represent the ISA, are usually observers (but depending on the event, sometimes organize and speak) and only advocate for the interests and aims of the ISA as an NGO.”

Rosemary Barberet, Ph.D.
Director, Master of Arts Degree Program in International Crime & Justice
Associate Professor, Sociology Department
John Jay College of Criminal Justice

6. In Remembrance of Andy Settles



“Andy” Robert Andrew Settles, age 75, of Newark, DE, passed away on Wednesday, June 18, 2014 from the effects of congestive heart failure. Andy was educated in Physics from Ohio State University and worked most of his life at DuPont. After his retirement he joined his wife Barbara at almost all our seminars all around the world. He was also active in organizing seminars, among them one in Annapolis, DE. Even though Andy was not a family scholar himself, he participated in our scientific discussions as well as in our business planning meetings. Many of us saw Andy as a fully member of CFR and enjoyed his qualified comments. As a couple Andy and Barbara were warm and including and many newcomers as well as the old members saw them as a cornerstone of the CFR. Included in this impression were the social activities they arranged wherever the seminars took place. It was nearly a ritual that the two of them invited participants into their hotel rooms (often a suite) and gave us drinks and snacks. Most important with these gatherings were the opportunity that was given to talk informally and make friends which is so crucial for the international work. Research is as much friendships as it is new developments and findings. Andy and Barbara were very much aware of that and took the consequences. In order to do this, one also needed a sensitivity and taste. Andy was the best to pick out restaurants at various places we visited – also because he did his homework and was well read about the new locations. When we think of Andy, we see a loyal man: He was loyal and dedicated towards Barbara and his children and he was loyal and dedicated towards CFR. We in CFR will miss him and even though he has not joined our seminars lately because of health reasons, CFR will not be the same with Andy.

Jan Trost & Irene Levin

7. Recent Publications by CFR Members



Work and Care under Pressure. Care Arrangements Across Europe.

**Edited by Blanche Le Bihan, Claude Martin,
and Trudie Knijn**

2014

In many European countries tensions have arisen between the demands of the labor market and the caregiving responsibilities workers must fulfill at home. Examining these tensions, *Work and Care under Pressure* focuses on two groups of people who must juggle work and caregiving: parents of young children who work nonstandard hours and working adults who care for older parents. Based on empirical evidence from six European countries, this volume sheds light on the social effects of national policies and the choices made by caregivers. It is an essential resource for researchers, scholars, and policy makers interested in social policy.



Intimacies and Cultural Change. Perspectives on Contemporary Mexico

**Edited by Daniel Nehring, Rosario Esteinou, and
Emmanuel Alvarado**

2014

Exploring cultural transformations of intimacy in contemporary Mexico, *Intimacies and Cultural Change* examines the ways in which globalization and rapid cultural change have transformed the cultural meanings of couple relationships, sexuality, and personal life in Mexican society. Through a range of contemporary case studies, the book sheds light on the ways in which people draw on these cultural meanings in everyday life to account for their experiences and practices of intimacy in different social settings. An interdisciplinary volume, presenting the latest research on the region from experts working in diverse fields within the social sciences, this book will appeal to scholars of sociology, anthropology, geography and social psychology with interests in gender and sexuality, social change and contemporary intimate relationships.



The Fabric of Your Life: The five cycles of change.

Dixon A L Sinikka

2013

Friesen Press, Victoria, BC.

ISBN 978-1-4602-2064-1

Book Review by Sarath Chandrasekere Ph.D

Approaching families and individuals via their life cycle has been a major innovation among the students and scholars of marriage and Family, especially during the past decade (White et al: 2013). Dr. Sinikka Dixon in her easy to read but thought provoking book makes a further innovation by selecting some major domains of activity in human interaction to look at life cycle. In a more theoretical sense, Sinikka is attempting to bring sociology to the average reader who may or may not have a good sense of sociological theories. This is a commendable attempt on her part to blend theory with day-to-day experiences. The book will not only force the reader to read all chapters to the end but also to reflect on the readers own life events with a view to find some missing links.

Let me now go chapter by chapter, to highlight the significance of Sinikka's writing. In her introductory chapter, Sinikka presents some strong propositions to the reader. She says: "culture is not a limitation or psychological prison for life...as a participant observer you can become a master weaver of your own life". This is the mirror opposite of what founding fathers of sociology like Emile Durkheim advocated when he presented the concepts of social facts and social determinism. Sinikka goes on to say that the reader has the capacity to enrich the lives of those to whom he/she is functionally and emotionally linked. By utilizing this capacity the reader possess, he/she not only acquires happiness for himself/herself but also able to spread happiness among those who are in interaction with them. By presenting these ideas she is asking the reader to participate fully in their lives and attempts to show how well one could participate in his/her own life.

Sinikka has identified five life cycle domains: age, family, education, work and leisure. In sociological terms, these are five major social institutions that any human being has to traverse through in his/her life span .Both age and family are inevitable encounters in our lives and one has hardly any opportunities to change one's age and family of origin. Therefore, the above two are valid points of entry to a discussion of life cycle. The other three: education, work and leisure have also similar impact on our lives. I am particularly fascinated by her treatment of leisure time in this book.

Leisure is considered today as a luxury as many people in the western world find very little time to do what you please outside regular work. The rich which is almost 20% of any given industrial country's population find sufficient funds and time to spend leisurely but the majority poor people; leisure is a rarely consumable commodity. Sinikka attempts to address the issue of leisure with its multifaceted nature. Her quantification of leisure time available to human beings is a forceful proposition for anyone to rethink about his/her life style. More recent studies on dramatically increasing workplace stress and burnouts reveal that leisure time of workers needs to be addressed by employers as well as employees in a more systematic way. Sinikka concludes her discussion on leisure by asking the reader to consciously be aware of the value and opportunities that leisure time affords us.

Another beautifully written chapter deals with the "Role of values in life cycles". Sinikka attempts to treat values in a three dimensional form: traditional, self-centered and cooperative values. Then, she analyses these three forms in relation to the five domains she introduced at the outset. This is particularly a very useful and interesting chapter as it brings together her personal research/participation experience as well as some religious assertions.

The last two chapters are dealing with health and self-esteem. These chapters offer a host of valuable do-it-yourself prescriptions for the reader. This is where Sinikka comes forward with some social work interventions for the reader to consider as part of his/her life style upgrading efforts.

The intellectual capacity Sinnikka demonstrates in her thinking and writing reminds us that even in discussions of new approaches to themes like life cycle, classical figures such as Karl Marx, and Durkheim need to occupy a prominent place.

I will strongly recommend this book as a supplementary reading for a course on Marriage and Family. The Fabric of Your Life is a must for those who begin to study sociology at the 101 level because of its lucid and easy to read style. I would be inclined to read Sinikka before I read Peter Berger's Invitation to Sociology.

Sarath Chandrasekere Ph.D
Sociology and Anthropology, University of Prince Edward Island



O Brasil Como Destino
(Brazil as Destiny. Jewish Immigration to São Paulo from 1880 to 1940)

Eva Alterman Blay
2013

ISBN: 9788539304912

A special issue of the *Journal of Family Issues*,
35(12), 2014 October,
published online June, 2014.
'Marriage in Asia'

Gavin Jones, WJ Jean Yeung (Eds.),
National University of Singapore
<http://jfi.sagepub.com.libproxy1>



Asian Family Matters: Research Brief Series

This research brief series is intended to provide an overview of research produced by the Changing Family in Asia Cluster at the Asia Research Institute, National University of Singapore. It acts as a platform to disseminate research findings and up-coming research to academics, policy makers, and researchers.

http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/article_view.asp?id=18&ari=Overview&categoryid=98

Issue 11 (Jan 2014) - Family Ambiguity and Domestic Violence in Asia

Issue 12 (Feb 2014) - Family Background and Higher Education in China

Issue 13 (Mar 2014) - Economic Insecurity and Husband-to-Wife Violence

Issue 14 (Apr 2014) - Care Provision in Asia: Changing Policies and Practices

Issue 15 (May 2014) - Resilience and Transformation of Families in Asia

Issue 16 (Jun 2014) - Economic Stress and Health among China's Oldest Old

8. *New Members*

The CFR welcomes the following members:

Hilda Joyce Portilla
Canada

Tatiana Karabchuk
Russia

Ariane Bertogg
Switzerland

Kammila Naidoo
South Africa

Shampa Datta Gupta
India

Aparna Sadhu
India

Hirohisa Takenoshita
Japan

Namita Manohar
USA

Pragna Rugunanan
South Africa

Olga Kormush
Ukraine

Ganna Gerasymenko
Ukraine

Ito Peng
Canada

Anna Bagirova
Russia

Andrea Doucet
Canada

Margaret Penning
Canada

Hsiang-Ming J. Kung
Taiwan

Ilknur Oner
Turkey

Natalia Marska-Dzioba
Poland

Rim Valiakhmetov
Russia

Chin-Fen Chang
Taiwan

Renske Keizer
Netherlands

Amparo Gonzalez-Ferrer
Spain

Hiroki Igarashi
USA

Xu Chen
China

Anna Sofie Bach
Denmark

Jessica Schwittek
Germany

Ana Cristina Marques
United Kingdom

Yu-Hua Chen
Taiwan

Deborah Dempsey
Australia

Dafna Halperin
Israel

Carmel Hannan
Ireland

Sanja Magdalenic
Sweden

Colette Fagan
United Kingdom

Kairi Talves
Estonia

Diana Lengersdorf
Germany

P.B. Chamaraja
India

Lluis Flaquer
Spain

Karen Doneker Mancini
USA

Eva-Maria Schmidt
Austria

P.B. Chamaraja
India

Kristin Hajek
Germany

Soyoung Lee
USA

Esther Serok
Israel

Premchand Dommaraju
Singapore

Anzhelika Voroshilova
Russia

Haruna Fukui
USA

Pei-Chia Lan
Taiwan

Joanna Bielecka-Prus
Poland

Julia Fawaz
Chile

Veronika Salzburger
Germany

Katarzyna Suwada
Poland

Marja Tiilikainen
Finland

Denise Marques
Brazil

Michiko Nishino
Japan

Henrik Pruisken
Germany

Akiko Yoshida
USA

Sonali Mukherjee
India

Joanna Bielecka-Prus
Poland

Rita Gouveia
Portugal

Akiko Yoshida
USA

Chih-Lung Hsieh
Taiwan

Jean Seward
USA

Felicia Tian
China

Michael Rush
Ireland

Analia Torres
Portugal

Wendy Olsen
United Kingdom

James Raymo
USA

Madeleine Wayack Pambe
Burkina Faso

Saori Kamano
Japan

Marek Butrym
Poland

Veronique Hertrich
France

Helen Norman
United Kingdom

Saeko Kikuzawa
Japan

Jani Turunen
Sweden

Please send address and other
corrections to the RC06 / CFR
secretary/ treasurer.

Board of the CFR (2014-2018)

President	Chin-Chun Yi
Vice-president	Mark Hutter
Secretary/ Treasurer	Bárbara Barbosa Neves

Members at large	Sylvie Fogiel-Bijaoui Susan McDaniel Margaret O'Brien
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Honorary president	Jan Trost (Sweden)
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CFR home page:

www.rc06-isa.org

twitter account:

[@sociofamilyISA](https://twitter.com/sociofamilyISA)