International Sociological Association

RC25 Language and Society

RC25 NEWSLETTER

4th Quarter 2026 | VOLUME 33

Edited by Anna Odrowaz-Coates & Teruhiro Yamakita

Highlights:



- **Letter from the President**
- **Language, Discourse and Society Updates**
- **Special Issue of Language, Discourse and Society Call for Papers for Gwangju Congress Participants**

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Letter from the President

Keiji Fujiyoshi
Otemon Gakuin University, Japan

Dear RC25 members,
Dear colleagues,

I hope you are safe and well no matter where you live and work. Here are some pieces of information I would like to share with you.

1. ISA Gwangju Congress

The XXII ISA World Congress of Sociology is to be held in Gwangju, South Korea, 4 – 10 July, 2027. The deadline of abstract submission was October 14, 2026 and the Program Coordinators are now working on the program finalization till November 30.

As a whole, we have 112 submissions to 12 sessions, which means that we should reject around 20 papers even if each session accepts 6 oral presentations (15 mins) and 2 distributed papers (Usually in RC25 program, each session accepts 5 oral presentation and 1 or 2 distributed papers in order to keep 30 minutes for questions and discussion in the slot of 105 minutes). We have decided to change the format of Open Session from "Oral Session" into "Roundtable Session" which is able to accept 25 papers at the maximum.

Here I cite the table from the ISA webpage again.

XXI ISA World Congress of Sociology - Gwangju, Korea

Number of sessions allocated to Research Committees (RC), Working Groups (WG) & Thematic Groups (TG)

ISA Members October 2025*	250 +	200 - 249	150 - 199	100 - 149		50 - 99		25 - 49	< 25
Number of Allocated Sessions	27	25	23	19		15		10	6
RC/WG/TG	RC02	RC05	RC11	RC07	RC44	RC01	RC42	RC36	TG02
	RC04	RC06	RC14	RC08	RC46	RC03	RC43	RC50	TG13
	RC21	RC16	RC15	RC09	RC52	RC10	RC45	RC54	
	RC24	RC22	RC17	RC12	RC53	RC13	RC49	TG07	
	RC28	RC34	RC18	RC20	RC55	RC25	RC51		
	RC31	RC47	RC19	RC33	RC56	RC26	WG01		
	RC32		RC23	RC37	RC57	RC27	WG06		
	RC48		RC30	RC38	WG04	RC29	TG05		
	WG10		RC58	RC39	WG11	RC35	TG09		
			TG03	RC40		RC41	TG12		

* RC/WG/TG numbers and names are updated as approved by EC in February 2026

(https://www.isa-sociology.org/isa-events/xxi-world-congress-of-sociology/congress-guidelines/conference-format)

As indicated in the webpage of the table, The number of sessions allocated to each RC/WG/TG is determined by the number of ISA members in good standing in the respective group as of October 31, 2025, about two years before the Gwangju Congress. RC25 had around 80 good standing members then and has been allocated 15 slots of sessions. I suppose that we should keep the number of good standing members no less than 100 in order to ensure the number of sessions

enough to provide the good papers with an opportunity to be presented. This is why I ask you to invite your interested colleagues to join RC25 in the future.

2. RC25 Midterm Conference

The RC25 Midterm Conference was held in Warsaw, Poland, on 1 September, 2026. I would like to express my gratitude to our board member, Anna Odrowaz-Coates and her Polish colleagues, for the great success of our meeting. The detailed report is prepared by her.

3. Invitation to Run for the New Board Member

In advance of the Gwangju Congress, the election for RC25 new board members shall be held. Please contact any board members if you are interested in working to maintain RC25 community stable and vibrant.

As we all experience, we live different spheres of life as an individual person: researcher, teacher, institutional administrator, as well as mother, father, community organizer, etc. Taking a role of the board officer is different from being just a scholar and it requires some amount of time. We appreciate your will and time to take care of our research community of RC25. Here are the descriptions of each position of the board. Call for Self-nomination shall be issued by RC25 Secretary early in the next year. Thank you very much for your interest!

Please note: **Executive board members are elected by the votes of all the RC25 good standing members and all the good standing members are qualified to run for any position of the board.**

President:
- works as manager of the RC25 community and as an interface between the ISA executive board and the RC25 community;
- takes a role of Program Coordinator at every ISA Congress and Forum together with some members.

Vice President:
- supports president's work and exchanges views and observations with president when needed.

Treasurer:
- takes care of the money of RC25;
- shows an insight about spending money for something at consultation;
- collects money from participants at the welcome dinner at each ISA Congress and Forum.

Secretary:
- takes care of the RC25 member list;
- manages an online election of the board members and other votings;

Newsletter Editor:
- collects items and edit them into a biannual newsletter and disseminate it to members.

Webmaster:
- keeps the RC25 website (https://www.language-and-society.org/) updated;
- creates and takes care of submission page on the website for the RC25 journal ***Language, Discourse and Society*** and for the RC25 interim conferences;
- is required a high level of IT skill and knowledge.

Current Officers (2023 – 2027):

President: Keiji Fujiyoshi, Japan, fjosh524@hotmail.com

Vice President: Frida Petersson, Sweden, frida.petersson@socwork.gu.se
Treasurer: Rika Yamashita, Japan, rikayam111@gmail.com
Secretary: Beatriz Xavier, Porgugal, xavier.beatriz@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Anna Odrowaz-Coates, Poland, acoates@aps.edu.pl
Webmaster: Laura Odasso, France, laura.odasso@univ-paris8.fr

Also, it's not among the board but the very important role in our RC:
Journal Editor (Editor in Chief):
- takes care of tasks involved (finding thematic editors, paper reviewers) so that the journal Language, Discourse and Society be published twice a year constantly;
- supervises the work of editorial board members so that they get more matured and expertized as editorial staff.

Anna Odrowaz-Coates, Poland, journal@language-and-society.org

Every position requires a certain amount of work which sometimes exceeds the workforce of one person. It is desirable that the positions such as Treasurer, Secretary, Newsletter Editor, and Webmaster are supported by a co-worker officially appointed by the board. It might be in the agenda of the board in the next term.

As to the Journal Editor, Anna is kindly going to stay the position because the publication format of *Language, Discourse and Society* is in the process of transformation. It is already shared in the previous issue of the Newsletter that the current amount of editorial work is over the control of a few voluntary staff members. We are now working on the sustainable format of journal publication and Anna is at the core.

Please feel free to contact any of board members, if you are interested in joining the work keeping our RC25 vibrant and sustainable.

4. Membership Fee Raise

It is important matter for all of us to pay attention. It is related to our journal, ***Language, Discourse and Society***. As shown by Anna, our distinguished Editor-in-Chief, in the last Newsletter, we have seen 1tremendous development of our journal thanks to a lot of dedicated academic volunteers who have supported its publication process together with Anna. Now it is time for us to think about relieving them of accumulating burden by anyway. Its editorial work is already beyond a scale that could be handled by a few people but it is currently managed by a very small number of devoted colleagues. Of course, some experts are indispensable for our journal production but we could outsource some of the involved workload.

Language, Discourse and Society is an open journal. You don't have to pay to publish your article and you don't have to be even a RC25 member. All the published articles are kept accessible on our RC25 website. And the important point is that all the work has been voluntarily done by some colleagues without any reward. I don't think it is acceptable for all of us. Anna is now on the process of seeking better ways to keep the journal publication sustainable. One of them is to find a good publisher which support our journal. Another is to outsource some bothering tasks by paying the appropriate fee. Moving to an OJS system is also an option as Anna sees.

Anyway, we need more money in order to keep our journal stable and sustainable. The ISA provides us with activities grant depending on the number of good standing members. The number of RC25 members is usually between 80 and 100, which means that we expect about 1,000 euro from ISA per 4 years. Besides, RC25 membership fee is now 40 USD per 4 years,

which means that we have about 3,600 USD for 4 years (given that we have 90 members). By summing up both ISA grant and RC25 membership fee, we could spend about 1,000 euro every year (3,600USD=3,070euro, as of April 26, 2026).

We have been discussing the raise of membership fee from 40 to 60 USD for regular A country member (15 to 25 for student and regular B and C country member). It might not enough to fully improve the current situation of journal editorial work but it could help us to outsource some part of it. This is just an idea of the current executive board members. We must confirm RC25 members' approval and secure it by vote.

As I mention above, our journal is:

1) open access both for authors and readers;
2) no fee charged for publication;
3) registered on SCOPUS.

It brings us, therefore, a significant presence in our research area. The board want to keep it as it is now by strengthening financial support but you have an option to make the journal closed and accessible only to RC25 members and opt out from SCOPUS to reduce the workload involved in the journal production. We would like you, however, your support to our intention to allow more financial aid to the editorial work of our journal. We really appreciate your support. I hope our research community vibrant and stable in the future as has been for decades. Thank you.

Stay safe and take care,
Keiji Fujiyoshi
President of ISA RC25 (2024-2027)

Language, Discourse and Society
Updates

Anna Odrowąż-Coates

In the last newsletter vol 32 Q2 2026 I have communicated with you the journey we took to secure the stability and continuity of our journal. I highlighted its history and the difficulties we faced since the SCOPUS embraced us (cf. https://www.language-and-society.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/05/Q4Newsletter-RC25-ISA-2026-1.pdf) .

Today I come with good news.
The Executive Board of RC25 ISA negotiated hard with a professional publishing house based at my university in Poland. The Maria Grzegorzewska University has supported the publication by allowing to use my UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair budget to cover the costs of typesetting of the last 8 issues, including the upcoming December 2026 issue that is ready and will be released soon.
The University runs its own publishing house registered in court and accredited by the Polish Ministry of Higher Education. The RC25 Executive Board decided to move the operations of the journal to the Maria Grzegorzewska University Press under several conditions that will have a positive effect for the continuity and professionalization of the publishing processes, at no cost to our network, and with a guarantee of archiving all previously published issues.
I would like to express my sincere gratitude to both the University Press and to the RC25 Board for coming to an agreement that will ensure sustainability of the publishing process and remove the dangers of copy right issues and accessibility issues that we were so worried about without any legal ownership of the journal. It will also help us process the volume of submissions we are currently dealing with ranging from 280-480 submissions per year. This number of submissions to process for a small community of volunteers is too burdening when ongoing for many years.
We will communicate the new OJS address for submissions in January, when the transition comes to effect and a new hosting website becomes available. Please withhold new submissions until then.
Thank you all for being so supportive and patient with looking for the best solution. I am confident that with this new arrangement, the journal will be able to survive and serve our community for many more years to come.

Prof. dr hab. Anna Odrowąż-Coates
Editor in Chief

Special Issue of Language, Discourse and Society
Call for Papers for Gwangju Congress Participants

Dear RC25 Community,

To take advantage of the membership in our Research Council on Language and Society we want to offer you a possibility to submit your Gwangju Congress paper for fast tracking for a special issue of LDS planned for December 2027. All members in good standing presenting at the Congress may send their papers to acoates@aps.edu.pl latest by **20.06.2026.** Please ensure you use the Journal's template for your submission. If all is well with the template and your paper will be invited to submit it via our new OJS system, it will be fast tracked in the review queue in order to make it in time for December 2027.

TEMPLATE

Title of the article

Author[1]

Abstract

text

Keywords

words

1 University, department, country, e-mail: , ORDID:

Introduction

text

Title

text

Title

text

Title

Text

Title

Title

text

Title

Text

Conclusion

text

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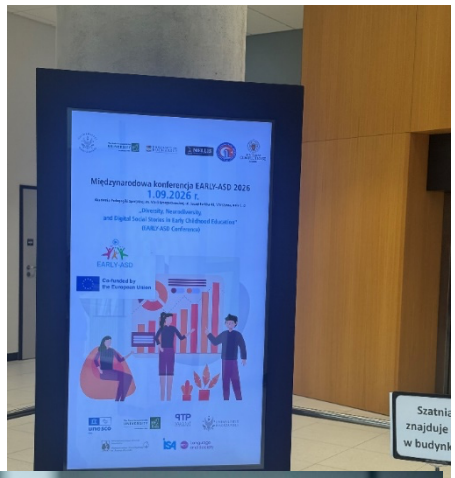
ISA RC25 Mid-term conference in Warsaw

Diversity, Neurodiversity, and Digital Social Stories in Early Childhood Education

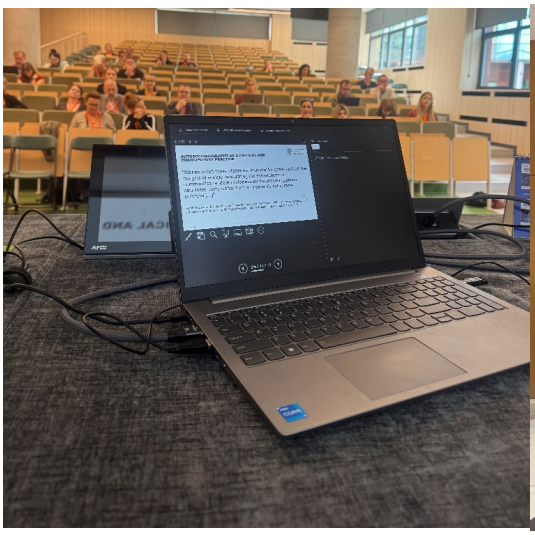


The Mid-term conference attracted over 200 participants, including several RC 25 members. The RC25 Board was represented by the President Prof. Keiji Fujiyoshi
and Prof. Anna Odrowaz-Coates, the local host.





President of RC25 ISA Prof. Keiji Fujiyoshi





Rooms were provided by the Maria Grzegorzewska University free of charge
and the food and materials financed by the EU grant: EARLY-ASD (2024-1-PL01-KA220-HED-000246304).

Photos from the conference: ***https://galeria.aps.edu.pl/index.php?/category/698***
Video Footage of the plennary sessions: ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dfjjCZni2rY***

RC25 Language and Society















The EARLY-ASD Project that supported our Mid-term conference

EARLYASD project ("Upskilling Preservice Teachers to Support Young Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder through Digital Social Stories"), runs from November 2024 to February 2027, under Erasmus+ initiative that bridges the gap between educational research and classroom practice.
The project focuses on equipping future teachers, current professionals, and non-specialists with evidence-based strategies to effectively support the social-emotional development of young children (aged 3–7) with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
Bringing together a multidisciplinary European consortium -including the University of Warsaw, Complutense University of Madrid, University of Bucharest, Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, and Mellis Educational Technologies- the project champions inclusive education.
Together, they have developed practical materials that are completely free and available in English, Polish, Spanish, Romanian, and Turkish. Key Project Deliverables
• Digital Social Stories: Interactive, accessible visual tools designed to explain everyday social situations clearly and support social-emotional learning.
• Practical Guide for Teachers: A comprehensive handbook detailing how to seamlessly implement digital social stories in preschool and early school environments.
• Higher Education Curriculum: A specialized training curriculum designed to provide preservice teachers with actionable skills in early intervention and neurodiversity.

Open-Access Resources & Links

We invite our network members and community to explore, download, and utilize these outputs via the official links below:

• General Project Results: Browse the primary self-exploration platform at the EARLYASD Repository. https://earlyasd.eu/web/project-results/
• Handbook for Educators: Access the implementation manual directly through the EARLY-ASD Practical Guide. https://earlyasd.eu/web/practical-guide/
• Interactive Story Library: Explore the ready-to-use digital resources in the EARLYASD Digital Social Stories Collection. https://earlyasd.eu/web/video-library/
• New Academic Publication: Check out the newest scientific volume, Inclusive Education and Neurodiversity: Theory, Research and Practice (Maria Grzegorzewska University Press, 2026), edited by leading network members. Download: https://www.aps.edu.pl/media/50pb4eas/inclusive-education-and-neurodiversity_internet_maly.pdf

Academic Excellence Award
Established by Research Committee on Language and Society of the International Sociological Association in April 2018 it gathers the awards created in June 2011 (the Award for Academic Excellence, dedicated to scholars having a PhD, and the Graduate Student Award).

Purpose
The purpose of this award is to promote scholarship and to recognize academic excellence in the field of language and society.

Recognition
The winner of the Award for Academic Excellence will be recognized with an engraved plaque at the RC25 reception at the ISA World Congress of Sociology and at the interim conferences. Awards will also be announced in the RC25 newsletter.

Eligibility
All articles published in the RC25 journal, *Language, Discourse & Society* are eligible. Language, Discourse & Society *Language, Discourse & Society* publishes articles written in the official languages of the ISA: English, French and Spanish. All articles published since the past Interim Conference or ISA World Congress of Sociology and at least three months in advance of the next Interim conference or the World Congress will be considered for the Award.
Members of the Executive Board, Editorial Board and of the Award Committee are not eligible.

Nominations
The Award Committee consists of three scholars and a chair; it will evaluate articles in English, French and Spanish. The RC25 Executive Board appoints the chair of the Award Committee for a period of four years. She or he is responsible solely for administering the award process. This includes but is not limited to establishing the composition of the Awards Committee, and the call for papers. The full Executive Board must approve all decisions by the chair before they can be implemented. The Committee members must be scholars with demonstrated expertise in the field and appropriate language skills. Members of the RC25 Executive Board and of the editorial board of *Language, Discourse & Society* are not eligible to sit on the Awards Committee.
The chair does not vote but oversees the process and to the extent possible maintains the anonymity of the authors and of the rankings provided by journal reviewers. Since these are all published articles, it is impossible to maintain complete anonymity in the review process. The chair of the Award Committee will submit a list of winners and documentation of the award process to the Executive Board for approval and formal announcement.

Costs
No monetary prize is linked to this award. The RC plans to spend a maximum of $200 USD for the engraved plaque.

Timetables
Award will be made at RC25 reception every two years at the ISA World Congress of Sociology and at the Interim Conferences.

Language & Society Distinguished Career Award
Established in April 2018.
Deadline for nomination (2018 edition): May 13, 2018.

Purpose
The purpose of this award is to recognize career excellence in the field of language and society.

Recognition
The winner of the Language & Society Distinguished Career Award will be recognized with an engraved plaque at the RC25 reception years at the ISA World Congress of Sociology. Award results will also be announced in the RC25 newsletter.

Eligibility
Eligible candidates are persons who have significantly contributed to the field of language and society through their continuous, well-known and excellent production and dissemination of knowledge through their entire sociological careers. Merits of recipients include outstanding achievements in the areas of research, teaching, service to profession and social service.
Due to its wide focus, the eligibility is not restricted to members of RC25 or ISA. However, Members of the award committee and the Executive Board are not eligible.

Nomination and Selection Process
The Award Committee consists of three scholars and a chair.
Each member of RC25 can propose only one candidate summarizing why he/she deserves the award. Joint proposals are allowed. For this purpose, a Call for nominations for the Language & Society Distinguished Career Award shall be made three months before the start of the International Sociological Association World Congress of Sociology. No nominated person can be part as scholar of the Award Committee.
The RC25 Executive Board appoints the chair of the Award Committee for a period of four years. She or he is responsible solely for administering the award process. This includes but is not limited to establishing the composition of the Award Committee. The full Executive Board must approve all decisions by the chair before they can be implemented. The Committee members must be scholars with demonstrated expertise in the field.
The chair does not vote but oversees the process. The chair of the Award Committee will submit a list of winners and documentation of the award process to the Executive Board for approval and formal announcement.

Costs
No monetary prize is linked to this award. The RC plans to spend a maximum of $200 USD for the engraved plaque.

Timetable
Award will be made at RC25 reception every four years at the ISA World Congress of Sociology.

Thank you for reading our newsletter 😊