**International Sociological Association (ISA)**

**RC33 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology**

**11-16 September 2016, University of Leicester, Leicester (UK)**

Session “Contemplative methods meets sociological imagination. An enactive

perspective for sociological inquiry and wise social transformation"

**Call for Abstracts (Timeline 21st January, 2016)**

Contemplative practices are mostly first-person methods or techniques originated from contemplative knowledge, a term collecting a wide spectrum of approaches and methodologies, all focused on the quest for the meaning of human life. They are social practices that arise from the wisdom traditions of human culture, mostly from religious and spiritual backgrounds.

In recent decades their spread in the West took place through secularized forms, that were strengthened in the field of health and well-being, above all experienced in clinical settings and then spread in organizations and communities.

The aim of these practices is admittedly the *transformation from within* with expected consequences in social interactions through a redefinition of self, experience and action to alleviate individual and social suffering.

This session will witness the sociological commitment in this area, highlighting the methodological aspects of greatest interest to the possibility of combining first person, second person and third person methods.

The session is intended as an experience-based workshop.

**GUIDELINES**

1. To submit a paper abstract for the RC33 9th International Conference on Social Science Methodology, you should visit: <http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/sociology/research/rc33-conference> After landing on the homepage, navigate to ‘Abstract Submission’, which appears in the top left hand column of the webpage, see image below:

2. Complete the form in full. You may wish to cut and paste your abstract into the Abstract field from another document.

3. Choose the relevant session for your stream. To do so you will need to select the relevant lead session organiser from the drop-down menu highlighted in the image below. To check you are submitting to the correct session, you can view a table of sessions and session convenors by clicking the link entitled ‘View the list of sessions and session convenors’. Once complete, click submit.

**Session Convenors**

Vincenzo Giorgino (University of Torino, IT), Krzysztof Konecki (University of Lodz, PL), Valerie Malhotra Bentz (Fielding Institute, Santa Barbara, CA, USA)

Vincenzo **GIORGINO**

is Aggregate Professor of Economic Sociology at the Department of Economic and Social Sciences, Mathematics and Statistics, State University of Turin, Italy. His research interests include analysis of co-production and self-production as forms of relational work in the economic field; practices of health and well-being at the individual, organizational and community levels; first-person methods, action research, clinical sociology, and grounded theory. He is also committed to the integration of social sciences and contemplative practices. He is Research Fellow at the European Spes Institute <http://eurospes.org/> .

Krzysztof **KONECKI**

Chief of Sociology of Organization and Management Department, University of Lodz, Poland, editor-in-chief of Qualitative Sociology Review (www.qualitativesociologyreview.org ), chair of a section of Qualitative Sociology and Symbolic Interactionism of Polish Sociological Association.  
He is a member of the Executive Committee of European Sociological Association (2013 - 2015) and a member of the Board of Qualitative Methods Research Network of European Sociological Association. He works at the University of Lodz (Poland). He published extensively on qualitative methods and grounded theory methodology. His research interests include the sociology of organization and management, human – non-human animals interactions, visual grounded theory, contemporary forms of spirituality: yoga and meditation practices. He served as a Chair and Vice-Chair of the Qualitative Methods Network of ESA.

Valerie **MALHOTRA BENTZ**

is Professor, Human and Organization Development, Fielding Graduate University, where she served as Associate Dean for research. Her books include Mindful Inquiry in Social Research (with Jeremy Shapiro) and Becoming Mature: Childhood Ghosts and Spirits in Adult Life. She is a Fellow in Contemplative Practice of the American Association of Learned Societies. Valerie was editor of *Phenomenology and the Human Sciences*, (1994-1998). She has served as president and board member of the Clinical Sociology Association and the Sociological Practice Association. She founded and co-directed with Dr. Linda Wing and Dr. Lianzela an action research team and center in Mizoram, India. Valerie was co-founder of the *Creative Longevity and Wisdom program* at Fielding. She has experience as a practitioner of psychotherapy, yoga instruction, and body-spirit integration. Her current interests include sociological theory, consciousness development, Vedantic and Buddhist theories of knowledge, and social somatics.