Professions are bond to societal developments as policy experts, organisational managers, and providers of a wide range of services from teachers, doctors and carers to social workers and others. While they are serving as ‘connecting tie’ between the state and its citizens and between organisations, professionalism has also all too often been a host for ‘social exclusion’ and ‘boundary work’. Currently, societies are facing many changes that may impact in the professions and re-design the bonds, calling for a more inclusive professionalism. Here, the Expo 2015 in Milan demonstrates how the global economy is increasingly becoming a single market, especially for high-skilled workers like professionals; social media may furthermore accelerate the creation of new bonds across the globe. At the same time, new emergent global labour markets, new connections between management and professionalism and the overall changing social composition of the professions, including gender and ethnic dimensions, may all foster re-stratification processes and the ‘making’ and ‘unmaking’ of boundaries. This Interim Conference addresses these issues and seeks to further the debates into visionary models of professionalism.

Hosted by the Catholic University Milan (www.unicatt.it/) beautifully located in the City Centre, the Conference is organised by Lara Maestripieri (RC52 Board member), Ivana Pais and Michela Bolis (contact: lara.maestripieri@gmail.com).

Following ISA’s two-step procedure, we at first invite Call for Sessions – comprising no more than 150 words, additional information on the organiser’s institutional affiliation and experience with organising international events); session organisers must be ISA RC52 members in good standing. Please send your Session Call no later than 15 May 2014 as a word-file by email to the Local Organisers (lara.maestripieri@gmail.com); notification by 15th June latest.

Following the selection of session calls, the Call for Papers will open by 1 July 2014 and close 30 September 2014. A conference website with further information and guidelines for abstract submission will be launched in June/July. The Call for Papers will also be available at the ISA RC52 website (http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc52.htm) and the RC52 blog (researchcommittee52.wordpress.com).