



Agriculture and Food

The E-Newsletter of the ISA Research Committee on Agriculture and Food (RC40)

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CONTENTS

From the New President (Marie-Christine Renard)	1
Report from the Past President	3
Report from the Editors of the IJSAF.....	4
Minutes from the RC40 Business Meeting.....	5
RC40 By-Laws	6
Upcoming Events	8
Executive Council and Regional Representatives (2010-14)	9
From the Secretary	9

From the New President

Marie-Christine Renard
President, RC40
mcrenard@gmail.com

Last July, RC40 had its biannual meeting at the ISA Congress in Gothenburg. There were 14 interesting sessions with contributions from various approaches and on diverse themes, including alternative food systems, choice in the agri-food sector, rural development, the food crisis, food security and food safety, the role of food in sustainable city-regions, food governance, local food, responses to climate change, amongst others. Two of the panels were joint sessions with RC47 (Social Class and Social Movements).

Support for the panels and the high quality of the presentations contributed to the success of the congress for our RC. We want to thank the session coordinators for organizing them and especially thank the outgoing officers for organizing the entire RC program.

The dinner after our business meeting was an occasion to enjoy what several members called “the warm

atmosphere that makes RC40 unique” and to share a nice meal and a good time.

Now, we have to look forward and work on new initiatives in order to strengthen the dynamic of RC40 and its contribution to the academic debate on Agriculture and Food in these difficult times. For example, the impact of climate change on grain production is bringing, once more, the question of food security to the foreground of politics and public concerns. One of the decisions coming out of the business meeting was to work to give greater visibility to RC40, particularly in regions where its presence is only partially developed. A key means to accomplish this is through our members participating in regional and national congresses and academic events. Participation in our sessions at Gothenburg was mainly from our members from Northern countries and we need to try to incorporate more

contributions from Southern or less developed regions in our discussions. Therefore, before our next general meeting at the IRSA Congress, in Lisbon, 2012, we strongly encourage all our members to organize RC40 sessions—and present contributions at those meetings—in their own regions. A first call for volunteers has already received an encouraging response, as detailed below.

Part of RC40 life relies on its publications; this Newsletter and the online International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF). The RC needs your contribution to the Journal and we invite all members to submit articles and disseminate the journal amongst your colleagues and in your institutions.

The economic crisis all countries and academic institutions are going through represents a further challenge to our tasks, making it difficult sometimes to perform them as we would wish. There is no doubt, however, that by bringing together our efforts we will strengthen our organization and improve our reputation.

Como Comité de Investigación, tenemos varios retos por delante. Uno de ellos es fortalecer nuestra presencia en foros internacionales y hacer oír nuestra voz sobre los temas relacionados con las políticas agrícolas y los alimentos. La vida del Comité 40 es parte de la responsabilidad de su Comité Ejecutivo

pero depende también de la colaboración de todos los miembros. Los invitamos, por tanto, de manera muy atenta, a fortalecerlo y darle mayor presencia en sus países y regiones de origen mediante la organización de sesiones en congresos y otros eventos académicos. La colaboración con el IJSAF es otro elemento importante para consolidar el RC40, invitamos a todos los socios a mandar artículos de calidad a los editores.

Depuis sa naissance, le Comité de Recherches 40 a été une voix analytique et critique dans la discussion sur les systèmes agroalimentaires; ses contributions abordent des sujets d'actualités comme les politiques agricoles, les impacts du changement climatique et sur les productions vivrières, les filières agroalimentaires alternatives, la sécurité alimentaire, entre autres. Il nous semble important d'élargir la base de cette discussion en incorporant de nouveaux membres de générations et de régions jusqu'ici sous-représentées. Cela oblige à une plus grande visibilité des contributions des membres du Comité. Nous invitons donc les membres actuels à travailler dans ce sens au sein de leurs institutions, leurs pays, leurs régions et en préparation de notre prochaine réunion générale, au Congrès de l'Association Internationale de Sociologie Rurale (IRSA), à Lisbonne en 2012.

Report from the Past President of RC40 Gianluca Brunori

I would like to take the opportunity of this space in the RC40 newsletter to give some elements of reflection on the experience accumulated in the past four years, during which I had the honour to serve the RC40 community as president.

The first point I want to highlight is an increasing attention towards RC40, both from other sociology branches and from other disciplines, such as, for example, geography and agricultural economics. The theme of food is the object of increasing attention of public opinion, and I think we have succeeded in turning our activity to the events in the world by addressing the most relevant themes in a timely manner and with scientific rigour and a critical view. During my four years participating in RC40 events I have seen very lively debates attended by many people, of which many of them were young scholars.

The second point is that RC40 is well on the way of reaching a truly global status. Our working sessions during the ISA conference in Gothenburg were populated by scholars from everywhere in the world, illustrating an incredible variety of situations and a true interest in creating a common understanding and an enrichment of our knowledge basis.

The third point I would like to highlight is the great degree of familiarity that anyone could observe among RC40 members, as demonstrated by the assiduity of members' presence in the working sessions and on the pleasant atmosphere of conviviality we have felt in the side events.

Despite the difficulty of the times for independent academics as us, I strongly

believe that we can give an important contribution for a more equitable and sustainable society. Our strength is related to our values and motivation, and

to our capacity to create links between civil society, producers and public administrations, to learn from successful and unsuccessful initiatives, to give voice to people and to turn this voice into scientific knowledge.

Finally, I wish to express my happiness for the outcomes of the election of the new representatives, which are highly appreciable for competence, gender and geographical composition.

I would like to thank the past secretary, Masashi Tachikawa, all members of the past executive council and the editors of the 'International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food', our scientific journal, for having worked as a true team. A special thanks is to be addressed to our old fellows, and first of all Bill Friedland, who have transmitted to the new generations the enthusiasm they had when founding RC40.

My best wishes to the new president, the secretary and the executive council for the challenges of the four years ahead.

**Report from the Editors of the
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SOCIOLOGY OF
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD (IJSAF)
Mara Miele, Vaughan Higgins, Farshad Araghi**

IJSAF Review of Progress (August 2009 – September 2010)

Articles already under review at handover	7
Articles received post handover	20
Published	4
Rejected	14
Withdrawn	2
Under review	5
Accepted awaiting publication	2

Summary of progress

August 2009 – Adrian Evans takes over the role of editorial assistant from Joek Roex.

Published Volume:

Volume 17, Issue 1 was published in June 2010. It contained three peer reviewed articles (see below) and one special article by W.H. Friedland regarding the current status of rural sociology.

1. *Governing the Global Value Chain: GLOBALGAP and the Chilean Fresh Fruit Industry*
Carmen Bain

2. *Visiting a Farm: An Exploratory Study of the Social Construction of Animal Farming in Norway and the Netherlands Based on Sensory Perception*
B.K. Boogaard, B.B. Bock, S.J. Oosting and E. Krogh

3. *Plantation Workers by Definition: The Changing Relevance of the ILO's Plantations Convention*
David Lincoln

RC-40 Members Corner

Who Killed Rural Sociology? A Case Study in the Political Economy of Knowledge Production
William H. Friedland

Forthcoming Issue (Volume 17. Issue 2)

We are aiming to publish the next issue of

IJSAF in Oct 2010. Two papers have already been accepted for publication on vegetable retailing in Japan and organic certification in Thailand. Of the five papers currently under review, two are at the final stages of completing corrections.

Forthcoming Special Issues

1. Collective farmers' marketing initiatives
2. Financialisation of food and agriculture
3. Climate Change Challenges to the Agri-food Sector
4. Labour Processes in the Global Agri-Food System

Other Matters:

- The journal continues to have a high number of immediate rejections (due to articles that are too short or off topic).
- Our goal is to work to increase the speed of the review process, especially with regards to returned referee reports. We are looking into automated software to assist in this process.
- We are working to increase the number of high quality submissions.

Minutes

RC40 Business Meeting

July 14, 2010, 18:20-20:00

Handels D32, ISA Congress, Gothenburg, Sweden

1. **Opening from President, Gianluca Brunori**
 2. **Status report from Secretary/Treasurer, Masashi Tachikawa**
 3. **Introduction of new officers and discussion of future issues**
 - (a) **Role of regional representatives:**
 - Stressed importance of improving the visibility of RC40 within regions
 - Need to specify the role of regional representatives in order to enhance collaboration and raise the profile of RC40 at local and regional meetings
 - Need to identify new regional representatives and encourage young people to participate
 - New council will decide the role of the regional representatives and give clear instructions to them
 - (b) **Raising the visibility of RC40**
 - Suggestions for raising the profile of RC40 and enhancing collaboration among members included:
 - Organize RC40 workshops or working groups at regional or national congresses
 - For example, Salete Barbosa Cavalcanti will organize an RC40 mini-conference at the Brazilian Sociological Association meeting in 2011
 - Creating a restricted access Blog for communication among members
 - Uploading RC40 presentations (or video recordings of presentations) onto our website
 - Create template of RC40 poster/brochure/flyer (downloadable from the website) for promotional use at regional meetings
 - Encourage those members who were involved with establishing RC40 to write a history of RC40 and draw on some of its important lessons (this could include re-printing an interview with Bill Friedland that was published in a past edition of our newsletter).
 - Need to involve younger generation in order to expand our organizational base
 - Should increase efforts to recruit members from diverse regions of the world
 - Need to connect relevant activities with the journal
4. **IJSAF**
Report from Mara Miele, Co-Editor of the IJSAF
 - Problem with low submission rate to journal, therefore struggle to meet goal of three issues per year. Many irrelevant papers submitted from non- social science field
 - Journal is not viewed as avenue for publishing by our members
 - How we can increase submissions to IJSAF, while maintaining quality of papers, in order to achieve ISA ranking for journals?
 - Special issues achieve the highest visibility. Should increase number of special issues.
 - IJSAF invested in new website
- Discussion**
- Ongoing problem with delays in review process. Process needs to be more efficiently organized
 - IJSAF is currently in process of shifting towards an e-submission system which should help improve the review process and turnaround time
 - Idea of a submission fee to help cover the cost of the journal and help reduce the number of inappropriate submissions considered. However, difficult to ask for a submission fee to a non-ranked journal
 - Need to expand varieties of contributions to the journal, such as discussion papers, guest columns, book reviews, etc.
 - Could advertise IJSAF in other journals, such as *Agriculture and Human Values*
 - Should disclose the number of hits (visits) to the IJSAF on the website since it is quite large
 - Need to identify editorial board for the journal made up of individuals with strong reputations
 - Consider commissioning papers to increase visibility

5. Amendment of RC40 By-Laws

- Proposed revision of RC40 By-Laws discussed (as outlined in the meeting's agenda).
- Gianluca motioned to approve the proposal to amend the By-Laws (seconded by Alessandro Bonanno). Adopted unanimously (29 persons).
- All members must be notified of this decision and the decision must be ratified by mail ballots.

Meeting Closed at 19:45

Meeting followed by RC40 dinner at the Lilla London restaurant, Gothenburg

RC40 By-Laws*

* As outlined in the Minutes above, these By-Laws were revised in 2010 and approved by the RC40 membership.

I. MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

I.A. Members are those who pay RC-40 dues and participate in the scientific activities of the committee. Dues are set by the Executive Committee of RC-40.

I.B. Members of RC-40 have the right to

I.B.1. Run for office

I.B.2. Vote in all RC-40 elections

I.B.3. Participate in RC-40 business meetings

I.B.3.a. To participate in the quadrennial business meetings, individuals must be members of the International Sociological Association

I.B.4. Have priority status for participation in any of the scientific activities of the committee

I.C. Members are strongly urged to maintain membership in good standing in the International Sociological Association

I.D. Officers of the RC-40 are

I.D.1. The President

I.D.2. The Secretary

I.D.3. The Executive Committee, which consists of

I.D.3.a. The current president and secretary-treasurer

I.D.3.b. The immediate past president and secretary-treasurer

I.D.3.c. Four elected representatives

I.E. Officers are elected in the year prior to the quadrennial World Congress and take office at that Congress

I.E.1. Officers cannot succeed themselves

I.E.2. All Officers must be members in good standing in the International Sociological Association

I.F. Duties of the President

I.F.1. The president has executive authority to organize the scientific and administrative work of the committee in consultation with the secretary-treasurer and members of the executive committee

I.F.2. The president convenes and organizes the quadrennial business meeting as well as any meetings of the executive committee

I.F.3. The president appoints the editorial committee of the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food

I.F.4. The president, with the assistance of the secretary, organizes the publication and distribution of the semi-annual newsletter

I.G. Duties of the Secretary-Treasurer

I.G.1. The secretary assists the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC-40

I.G.2. The secretary-treasurer shall maintain a record of all committee business and executive meetings, and maintain the financial records

I.G.3. The secretary shall make a yearly financial accounting to the executive committee and a quadrennial financial accounting to the membership at the quadrennial business meeting

I.G.4. The secretary shall be responsible for conducting the elections of new officers

I.H. Duties of the Members of the Executive Committee

I.H.1. Advise the President and Secretary on all scientific and business matters pertaining to the activities of the Research Committee

I.H.2. Review the secretary's annual financial report

II. SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

II.A. To promote and encourage scientific analysis of the social organization of agriculture and food systems

II.B. Organization of the substantive content of the RC-40 session of the quadrennial meetings of the World Congress of Sociology

II.C. Organization of additional international meetings, including those that are held in conjunction with the World Congress and other scientific meetings

III ORGANIZATION OF THE JOURNAL

III.A. The International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food is the official scientific journal of RC-40.

III.B. The content of the journal shall reflect the scientific interests of the Research Committee, which is the sociological study of agriculture and food.

III.C. The editor(s) are appointed by the president in conjunction with the executive committee. The term of service for editors shall be negotiated in consultation with the executive committee.

III.D. The editors shall between them nominate a representative who is the main point of contact for, and liaison between, the journal and the executive committee.

III.E. The editors shall, in consultation with the executive committee, appoint an editorial assistant to take charge of the daily running of the journal. The editorial assistant shall have responsibility for co-ordinating the entire submission, reviewing and publication process; responding to contributors; liaising with reviewers; maintaining the website; ensuring that the editors are provided with regular updates on contributions and reviewing; and, assisting in the planning of future issues.

III.F. The president of RC-40, in consultation with the editors and the members of the executive committee, shall appoint the members of the editorial board. The editorial board members consist of distinguished researchers in the sociology of agriculture and food and at the time of appointment must be members of RC-40.

III.G. The executive committee shall, where possible, provide financial support to ensure the ongoing viability of the journal.

III.H. The editors shall transmit regular reports on the journal to the RC-40 newsletter and shall present a report at the quadrennial business meeting.

III.I. The editors shall transmit a complete record of journal finances to the secretary of RC-40, who shall add those records to the yearly financial report that is to be submitted to the executive committee and the quadrennial report submitted to the business meeting.

IV. AMENDMENTS TO THE BY-LAWS

IV.A. Amendments to the by-laws can be submitted by any member in good standing of the Research Committee.

IV.B. Amendments must be initially approved at RC-40 business meetings

IV.C. Amendments must then be ratified by mail ballot of members by a majority of those voting

Upcoming Events

XXIV ESRS CONGRESS

Inequality and diversity in European rural areas <http://www.ruralsociology.eu/>

22-25 August 2011 in Chania, Greece

Those interested in organizing a working group should send their proposal (not longer than 600 words) to the ESRS Scientific Committee by **15th November 2010** at chania2010@agr.unipi.it

For further information contact:

Gianluca Brunori

gbrunori@agr.unipi.it

Agri-Food XVII

Conference of the Australian and New Zealand Agrifood Research Network Monash University, Victoria, Australia

29 November 29 – 1 December

<http://www.gippsland.monash.edu.au/media/events2010/agrifood/>

For further information contact:

Vaughan Higgins

Vaughan.Higgins@monash.edu

Indian Sociological Society

Cuttack, Orissa, India

27-29 December 2010

RC 7 Committee deals with Rural Peasant

and Tribal Communities, including papers on agriculture and food.

For further information contact:

Dr.S.K.Chaudhury

sukantkchaudhury@gmail.com

Agriculture and Human Values

9-12 June, 2011

Missoula, USA

<http://www.afhvs.org/2011CallForPapers.pdf>

For further information contact:

Jim Bingen bingen@msu.edu

Bernhard Freyer

Bernhard.Freyer@boku.ac.at

XV Brazilian Congress of Sociology

26-29 July 2011

Curitiba, Brazil

<http://www.sbsociologia.com.br/portal/index.php>

For further information contact:

Saete Cavalcanti saletcav@hotmail.com.br

Rural Sociological Society

28-31 July, 2011

Boise, Idaho. U.S.

<http://ruralsociology.org/>

RC40 Executive Council, 2010-2014

Office	Officer	Organizational Affiliation	Country	Email
President	Marie-Christine Renard	Universidad Autónoma Chapingo	México	mcrenard@gmail.com
Secretary/ Treasurer	Carmen Bain	Iowa State University	U.S.	cbain@iastate.edu
Executive Council	Josefa Salete Barbosa Cavalcanti	Federal University of Pernambuco	Brazil	jsaletec@hotmail.com.br
	Alia Gana	University of Paris Ouest	France	agana@u-paris10.fr
	Chul-Kyoo Kim	Korea University	Korea	ckkim@korea.ac.kr
	Bill Pritchard	University of Sydney	Australia	bill.pritchard@sydney.edu.au
	Gianluca Brunori	University of Pisa	Italy	gbrunori@agr.unipi.it
	Masashi Tachikawa	Ibaraki University	Japan	mtachi@mx.ibaraki.ac.jp

RC40 Regional Representatives

Latin America	John Wilkinson	jwilkins@uol.com.br
Australia/New Zealand	Geoffrey Lawrence	g.lawrence@mailbox.uq.edu.au
East Asia	Yoshimitsu Taniguchi	tani@akita-pu.ac.jp
South Asia	Bishnu C. Barik	bishnu_barik@rediffmail.com
Northern Europe	Reidar Almås	reidar.almås@rural.no
Southern Europe	Maria Fonte	mfonte@unina.it

From the Secretary

[1] About the electronic Mailing List of the RC-40:

If you would like to join this e-list or if you would like to share information among the members of the RC40 or our listserv, please contact the secretary, Carmen Bain, at cbain@iastate.edu

[2] About the membership fee:

Membership to the International Sociological Association (ISA) and RC40 covers a four year period. To apply for membership and see the fee structure, please go to http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm

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Editor: Carmen Bain, RC40 Secretary
Iowa State University
cbain@iastate.edu

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