

Agriculture and Food

The E-Newsletter of the ISA Research Committee on Agriculture and Food (RC40)
Volume 17 Number 1 2023



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Greetings from outgoing leadership of RC40 (2018-2023)

This is the last newsletter by the leadership of RC40 during the period 2018-2023. It was five exciting years for us and RC40. After postponement due to Covid19, the ISA World Congress was held in Melbourne in July 2023. It was great to meet again at the conference. Some traveled to Melbourne, some joined us on Zoom, and some uploaded a finished lecture and were not present themselves. RC40 organized 14 sessions at this major conference. Several sessions were Integrated or Joint sessions convened together with sister committees in ISA, such as RC17 (Organization) and RC24 (Environment) networks with which we have had very good cooperation throughout this period.

Hybrid may not be the ideal format for us in RC40. We are a group with both a strong professional and social affinity. The social interaction that characterizes a week at a conference with RC40 is somewhat hollowed out when digital technologies mediate our communications and interactions. The experience of a community was actually easier to maintain through the 2020 ISA Forum in Porto Alegre during Covid when we were all in the digital format. Another consistent reflection we have had from our period of leaderships is the importance of cultivating other RC40 meetings beyond the large biannual conferences held under the auspices of ISA. These can be just as important for maintaining and driving the enthusiasm for our professional community in the future. The mini-conference in Leipzig was a very good initiative for intellectual exchange and for supporting the professional development of early career researchers. While the Leipzig conference was a major success, it did not result in expanding RC40 membership in the way that ISA conferences do. Both types of engagement are therefore important for the future of RC40.

During this period, RC40 have been well represented in ISA. Allison Loconto, our former president, and now editor of IJSAF, has been a member of the ISA Executive Committee. At the world Congress in Melbourne, she was elected Vice President of Research. We congratulate her and have confidence that she will do a very good job for the organization.

This newsletter contains a report from the Business meeting in Melbourne and the result from election to new leadership and EC. We also provide an extended report from the last two early career workshops that were held during the past year. We have also attached photos from the very nice dinner for RC40 during the ISA World Congress.

We thank you and wish the new leadership in RC40 embodied by Katherine Legun and Kiah Smith all the best for the next four years. In order to support continuity and institutional memory, as outgoing President and Treasurer/Secretary, we will serve on Executive Committee for the next four years. We thank all members of the outgoing Executive Committee – Angga Dwiartama, Midori Hiraga, Michael Carolan, Maki Hatanaka, Allison Loconto, Katherine Legun - for their service and collegiality.

Hilde Bjørkhaug and Steven Wolf

RC40 Business meeting at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology June 28. 2023

In outgoing Rc40 President Steven Wolf's spirit, the business meeting was renamed to community/business meeting in Melbourne. In order to increase members' opportunity to participate even if they were not at the conference, we chose to keep a Zoom link open to all members. About 25 people participated in person, about 10 of them by Zoom during the meeting.

The meeting contained important records about finances, activities and elections. A proposal for changes to the RC40 Statues was presented, which with some modifications was adopted at the meeting.

Steven Wolf welcomed everyone.



Agenda for the meeting



RC40 Community/ Business Meeting Melbourne June 28. 2023

Agenda

1. Welcome from Melbourne and the ISA World Congress
2. Reports from RC40 Officers and Executive Committee
 - o Membership
 - o Finances
 - o Programming initiatives
 - o Communications
 - o International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF)
3. Reflections and collective brainstorming to inform future RC40 programming
 - o Leipzig RC40 mini-conference
 - o Early career agrifood research workshop series
 - o RC40 Book Club
4. RC40 statues – proposal to change
5. Welcoming and installing the new RC40 Officers and Executive Committee
4. Adjourn



Outgoing leadership

- Steven Wolf (USA), President
- Hilde Bjørkhaug (Norway), Secretary/Treasurer
- Michael Carolan (USA)
- Angga Dwiartama (Indonesia)
- Katherine Legun (Netherlands)
- Midori Hiraga (Japan), Early Career Representative
- Allison Loconto (France/Italy), Past President
- Maki Hatanaka (USA), Past Secretary/Treasurer

Report from RC40 Officers and Executive Committee

Membership:

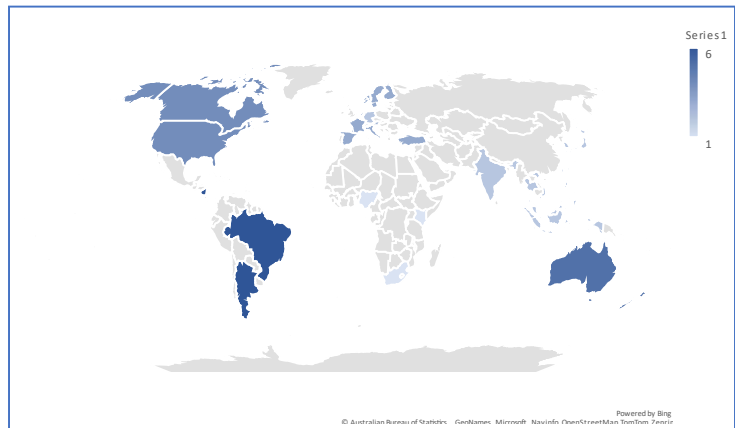
Secretary Hilde Bjørkhaug presented the status regarding membership.

At the end of the period, RC40 has 105 members, which is over the important limit of 100 that ensures us a somewhat larger share in the operating budget from ISA and gives us the opportunity to hold the number of sessions at the next conference that we believe that we need.

Based on what we can see from the numbers and maps, the membership should preferably be distributed over several countries and continents. This has been and will continue to be a challenge for RC40 in the future. RC40's new board has representation from most continents, in addition, good integration of the regional representatives in underrepresented regions could make a positive contribution to enhance a more diverse membership in RC40.

Membership

- 105 members
 - Africa 7
 - Asia 34
 - Europe 25
 - N America 23
 - C and L America 7
 - Oceania 9



Category A countries	USD 40
Category B countries	USD 20
Category C countries	USD 10

Finances:

Treasurer Hilde Bjørkhaug presented the status regarding finances.

At the beginning of the period, we had US\$1,100 in our account. Of income in the period, we have received US\$3510 via membership fees to RC40 from ISA and US\$890 from ISA's Activity Grants. Another important and steady source of income is about US\$400 yearly in Royalties from EBSCO based on articles published in IJSAF. A generous grant to RC40 was granted by LISIS (Paris) to RC40 during Allison Loconto's term as President. This was transferred during this present period. The grant has been used to strengthen IJSAF and are intended for the operation of IJSAF in the future. Transferring articles and establishing a good operational platform for IJSAF at Open Journal is one of these expenses. Other expenses include the web platform for RC40's website at WIX, support for social activities at conferences and support for the implementation of RC40-relevant activities upon application to RC40 EC. These are described in previous and this newsletter. We transfer about US\$2412 to the new EC.

Finances

Result 2019-2023

	Income	Expenses
Balance	\$1100	
ISA RC40 Membership	\$3510	
ISA Activity Grant	\$890	
WEB- platform WIX 250*4		-\$980
Social events		-\$1850
Activities/Support		-\$4775
LISIS grant (IJSAF)	\$3400	
EBSCO Royalties (IJSAF 400*4)	\$ 3640	
Open Journal		-\$ 3253
Total	\$12540	- \$ 10858
Result	\$2412	

Election to the new RC40 board

President

Katharine Legun, University of Wageningen, The Netherlands

Secretary / Treasurer

Kiah Smith, UQ, Australia

Members of the EC

Atakan Buke, Uni Leipzig

Angga Dwiartama, Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB), Indonesia

Madeleine Fairbairn, UC Santa Cruz

Sheila Manka, North-West University, South Africa

EC Junior Seat

Cynthia Gharios Uni Leipzig, Germany, 39 votes

Election information:

Voting period: 26. April to 23. May 2023

102 members received the ballot. 64 voted.

Response rate 63.

Demographics of the new board:

5 women, 2 men

Asia / Oceania, 2

Africa, 1

Europe, 3

North America 1

Middle/South America 0

Reflections and collective brainstorming

Report from President Steven Wolf on activities during his term as leader. The meeting also included an opportunity to discuss carried out and future activities for the RC40 community.

Notable RC40 Activities 2018-2023

- ISA Melbourne (14 sessions, plus Joint and Integrative Session)
- Leipzig conference
- ISA Forum
- RC40 mini-conferences – ISA, IRSA, ESRS.....
- RC40 Early Career Agrifood Research Workshops
- RC40 Regional Representatives
- Agrifood and Rural Sociology Working Group, South African Sociological Association
- Regional Activity Grants
- RC40 Book Club
- RC40 Blog
- RC40 outreach materials
- RC40 Election

Discussion & critique as inputs to planning

1. Research forums– e.g., Leipzig RC40 mini-conference
2. Programs – e.g., Early career agrifood research workshop series
3. Identity, strategy and communications



RC40 Website

Angga Dwiartama has had a special responsibility for following up the development of the RC40 website. He gave a report on the purpose and activities of the site. An innovation is the option to blog on the site. We see that there is an under-utilization of the opportunities that this website can provide the RC40 community. We depend on members' initiative and willingness for the site to function as a source of information and interaction.

RC40 Website Report – Angga Dwiartama

- Serves two purposes: (1) to provide basic information about RC40 (the static pages) and a goto-page for RC40 members; and (2) a medium for communication and engagement (particularly the dynamic pages)
- The dynamic pages: RC40 Listserv/Forum, RC40 Weblog, RC40 Events Calendar (designed as a community calendar)
- 4,574 visits over the past year, around 50 per cent are unique visitors
- Avg 150 view/blogpost, unless for prominent authors
- Problems in maintaining consistency of posts, technical issues with calendar, and spams!
- 355 site members, but not necessarily RC40 members *going exclusive?*

The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF)

Editor Allison Loconto reported on news and developments on IJSAF. We run a journal that is free to publish in and free to read. It is an offer to writers and readers that is quite unique these days and which we wish to maintain. IJSAF is known for having published many very good articles since its origin. Keeping that image requires that today's researchers also allow journals to test their articles for publication in IJSAF. We are read and our articles can now also be found through sites such as Scopus. Information and figures are found at the IJSAF webpage <https://ijsaf.org/index.php/ijsaf>.

The screenshot displays the homepage of The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF). The header features the journal title, a 'Publishing Home' button, and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, Google+, and LinkedIn. A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT, CURRENT ISSUE, ARCHIVES, SUBMISSIONS, CONTACT, REGISTER, and LOGIN. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation menu. Below the navigation, a breadcrumb trail reads 'Home / The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains a 'JOURNAL CONTENT' section with a dropdown menu for 'Information' and a 'Make a Submission' button. Below this is a 'Cultural Studies' badge indicating a Q2 ranking and an SJR 2022 score of 0.21. The right column features an 'ABOUT THE JOURNAL' section with a cover image of the journal and the following text:

The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food.

The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF) is the primary publication outlet for the Research Committee on Food and Agriculture (RC-40) of the International Sociological Association (ISA).

It actively seeks out high-quality manuscripts that present theoretically informed research on issues related to the social organization of food and agriculture.

Manuscripts are welcomed from scholars across the social sciences including sociology, science and technology studies, human and cultural geography, political science, consumer management, agricultural economics, anthropology, philosophy and environmental studies.

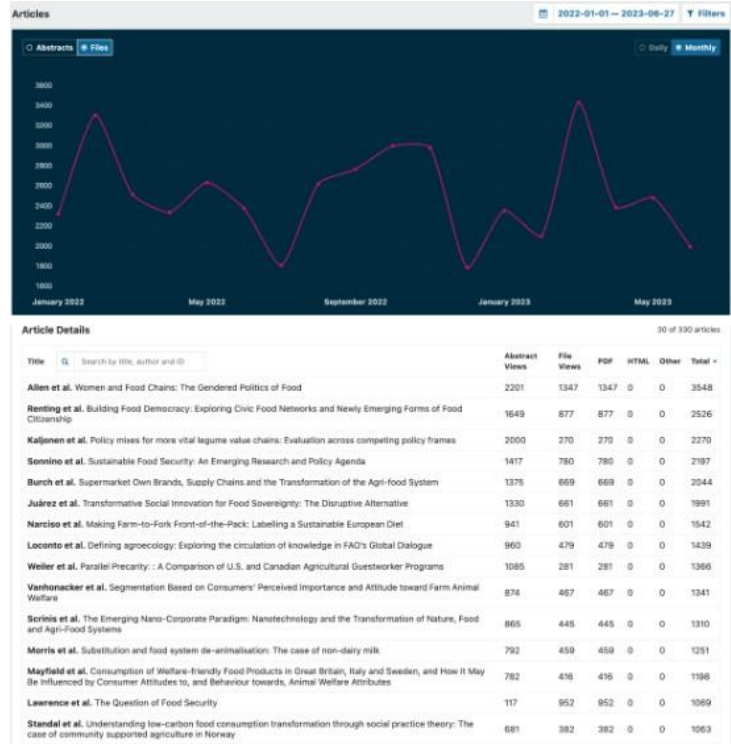
IJSAF also welcomes manuscripts from and about all regions of the World.



Official publication of the [Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food \(RC-40\)](#) of the [International Sociological Association \(ISA\)](#).

Editors:
Allison Loconto,
Katerina Psarikidou and
Angga Dwiartama

www.ij saf.org

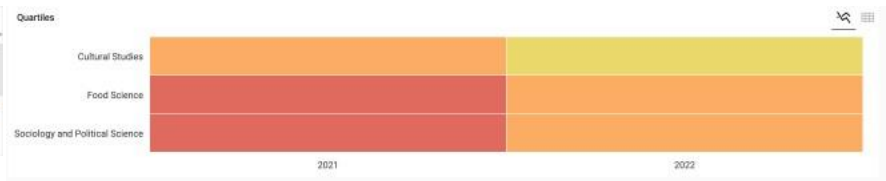


Usage

- 77.5K annual downloads/ views

Speed/acceptance

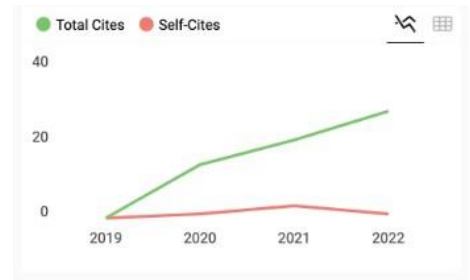
- 25 days avg. from submission to first decision
- 71 days avg. to Reject
- 351 days avg. to Accept
- 22% acceptance rate



CiteScore rank 2022

Category	Rank	Percentile
Social Sciences	#126/1203	89th
Cultural Studies		
Social Sciences	#448/1415	68th
Sociology and Political Science		
Agricultural and Biological Sciences	#206/359	42nd
Food Science		

CiteScore 2021	0.9
SJR 2021	0.118
SNIP 2021	1.193
CiteScore 2022	2.2
SJR 2022	0.214
SNIP 2022	0.286



Proposal of changes to RC40 Statues

Report from Secretary Hilde Bjørkhaug:

Throughout RC40's existence, RC40 Statues been amended to accommodate changes over time and circumstances. This is also the case at this crossroads. Proposal for changes were presented by the Secretary to the EC Executive committee at a meeting ahead of the Business Meeting and discussed. In agreement with the EC, the proposed amendments were presented to Business Meeting in line with current ISA and RC40 rules. With some changes, the proposals were adopted by Business Meeting. They are further presented to ISA for verification.

One of the changes past Business Meeting is to not carry out a proposed change to remove affiliated members due to breach with ISA rules. The removal of associated members was an attempt at simplification in line with our practices, rather than a purpose to make RC40 exclusive to members. It is simply about the fact that we do not have our own cash register to collect membership fees for affiliates or a special register for these. RC40 is a completely open organization that welcomes all friends of the sociology of agriculture and food to sign up on our website <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/> and participate actively in the exchange of information and discussion in our Forum. This is a free service from RC40.

Among the major changes is the extension of the leadership duet to a quartet consisting of President, Vice-president, Secretary and Treasurer. This comes as a result of growth in RC40 and also that we see that there is a great willingness to serve as officers to RC40 EC (ref. last election). More dedicated leadership roles can make RC40 stronger and ensure progress in the activities that members want. It was discussed to include regional representatives in EC meetings. This is not pursued in the proposed changes.

Proposals for changes that were unanimously adopted at the Business Meeting. The changes must be ratified by RC40 members.

Below you will find the proposed changes and reasons for the changes proposed.

Old	New	Reason and comment
A 1-4 Members shall either be regular members or affiliated members	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Members shall either be regular members or affiliated members. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Regular members shall be individuals in good standing within the ISA. b. Affiliated members shall be individuals interested in the activities of RC40, who are not members of the ISA. 2. All regular members of RC40 shall be entitled to vote as individual members in the discussions about organisational matters at the General Assembly Meetings according to the principle "one member, one vote". 3. All regular and affiliated members of RC40 shall be entitled to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. priority status for participating in the scientific activities of the Research Committee. b. receive the newsletter issued by RC40 free of charge 4. All regular and affiliated members of RC40 shall be obliged to: 	<p>Members shall be regular members. Suggestion to General Assembly Meeting (RC40 Business Meeting) remove the 8 references to affiliated members as well as the unnecessary specification of regular members. RC40 does</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. uphold the present Statutes of RC40 and to adhere to the stipulations of the present Statutes. b. conscientiously fulfil the tasks entrusted to them by the General Assembly Meeting or other bodies of RC40. 	<p>not have affiliated members. Comment: ISA require RC's to have regular and affiliated members. The suggested change is reversed.</p> <p>Hence only minor change remains in this section.</p>
Old	New	Reason
A 4 on membership c. pay their fee for the respective period (i.e. of 4 years).	c. pay their fee for the respective period of 4 years.	The period is 4 years. Parenthesis is deleted.

Old	New	Reason
<p>B. Bylaws on the RC40 Membership Fee</p> <p>1. The membership fees for RC40 are fixed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. USD 40 for members from "category A" countries as defined by the ISA. b. USD 20 for members from "category B" countries as defined by the ISA. c. USD 10 for members from "category C" countries as defined by the ISA. <p>2. In line with ISA practice, membership fees are collected for a period of four years, i.e. USD 40 for members from "category A" countries will be collected every four years.</p>	<p>Keep current law and add:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> d. USD 10 onetime fee for Life Members. For the minimum age of Life members see currently valid ISA individual membership guidelines. e. USD 80 for a four-year period for supporter members. Supporter membership is a regular membership but with a higher fee that can be paid voluntarily to support RC40. f. USD 80 onetime fee for supporter life members. Supporter life membership is a regular life membership but with a higher fee that can be paid voluntarily to support RC40. Minimum age of Life Members is aligned with ISA individual membership guidelines. 	<p>Add opportunity for:</p> <p>Lifetime members of ISA to also be lifetime RC40 members (per 2023 after age 70)</p> <p>Add category Supporter members</p> <p>Both categories will help keep the number of members up and also secure income to support RC40 activities.</p>

Old	New	Reason
<p>1. RC40 is governed by two Officers, an Executive Committee and by a Business Meeting Assembly.</p> <p>2. The Officers of the RC40 are:</p> <p>a. The President, whose duties are:</p> <p>i. to organize the scientific and administrative work of the committee in consultation with the secretary/ treasurer and members of the executive committee.</p> <p>ii. to convene and organize the quadrennial business meeting as well as any meetings of the executive committee.</p> <p>iii. to appoint the editorial committee of the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food.</p> <p>iv. to provide, with the assistance of the secretary, a free newsletter or equivalent to the membership at least twice annually.</p> <p>b. The Secretary/Treasurer, whose duties are:</p> <p>i. to assist the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC40.</p> <p>ii. to maintain a record of all committee</p>	<p>1. RC40 is governed by four Officers, an Executive Committee and by a Business Meeting Assembly.</p> <p>2. The Officers of the RC40 are:</p> <p>a. The President, whose duties are:</p> <p>i. to organize the scientific and administrative work of the committee in consultation with the vice president, the secretary and the treasurer and members of the executive committee.</p> <p>ii. to convene and organize the quadrennial business meeting as well as any meetings of the executive committee.</p> <p>iii. to appoint the editorial committee of the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food.</p> <p>iv. to provide, with the assistance of the secretary, a free newsletter or equivalent to the membership at least twice annually.</p> <p>b. The Vice President whose duties are:</p> <p>i. to assist the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC40.</p> <p>c. The Treasurer, whose duties are:</p> <p>i. to assist the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC40.</p> <p>ii. to maintain the financial records.</p> <p>iii. to make a yearly statement of financial affairs to the executive committee and a quadrennial statement of financial affairs to the membership at the quadrennial business meeting. The Treasurer must be discharged of their financial responsibilities by the Business Meeting Assembly.</p> <p>d. The Secretary whose duties are:</p> <p>i. to assist the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC40 and</p>	<p>RC40 has grown since its origin. A leadership of two officers can be fragile. In line with other RC's in our size it is suggested that we extend the leadership with 1 vice president and split the Secretary/Treasurer position. The number of 4 EC-members is kept at 4.</p> <p>The content of duties has not been changed, just split among more roles.</p>

<p>business and executive meetings, and maintain the financial records.</p> <p>iii. to make a yearly statement of financial affairs to the executive committee and a quadrennial statement of financial affairs to the membership at the quadrennial business meeting. The Treasurer must be discharged of their financial responsibilities by the Business Meeting Assembly.</p> <p>iv. to conduct the elections of new officers.</p> <p>3. The Executive Committee, which consists of:</p> <p>a. The current president and secretary-treasurer</p> <p>b. The immediate past president and secretary-treasurer</p> <p>c. Four elected representatives</p> <p>d. A dedicated junior scholar seat</p>	<p>publication of the Newsletter.</p> <p>ii. to maintain a record of all committee business and executive meetings.</p> <p>iii. to conduct the elections of new officers.</p> <p>3.The Executive Committee, which consists of:</p> <p>e. The current president, vice president, secretary and treasurer.</p> <p>f. The immediate past president and secretary-treasurer</p> <p>g. Four elected representatives</p> <p>h. A dedicated junior scholar seat</p>	
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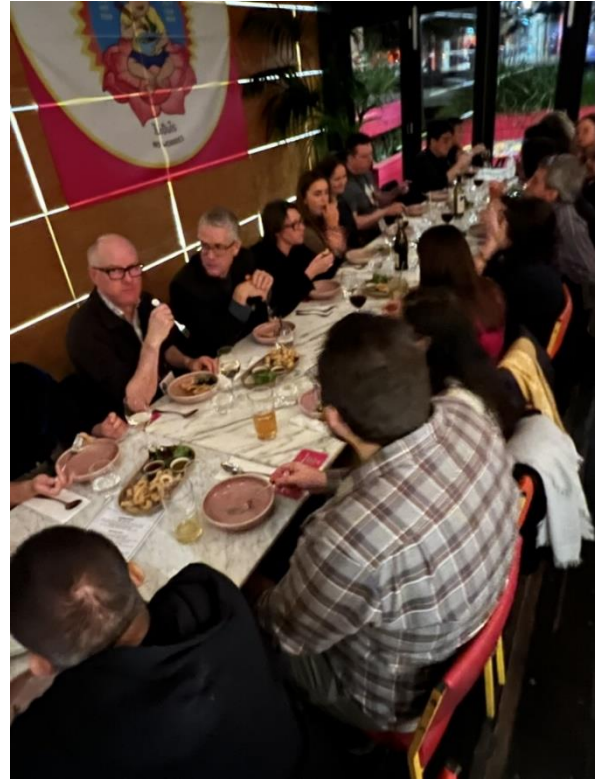
Old	New	Reason
<p>D. Elections</p> <p>(3) The Secretary shall prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates along with the respective positions on the Executive Committee. In case of several nominations for the same position, the nominated candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. The ballot shall be sent to all regular members of</p>	<p>3. The Secretary shall prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates along with the respective positions on the Executive Committee. In case of several nominations for the same position, the nominated candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. Elections are conducted using electronic ballot. The ballot of voting shall be emailed to all regular members in sufficient time so that the due date for the end of ballots is at least 4 weeks prior to the beginning</p>	<p>Election statues needs to be updated in accordance with using electronic ballot, hence time frames can be more flexible.</p>

<p>RC40 by mail at least ten weeks before the election day.</p> <p>(4) ...members shall send their ballot by mail or email to the designated electoral officer(s). Ballots received later than two weeks before the beginning of the World Congress shall not be counted.</p> <p>(5) The Secretary/Treasurer will count the votes,</p> <p>(6) The Secretary/Treasurer will publish the results of the vote.</p>	<p>of the subsequent ISA World Congress.</p> <p>4. Point 4 is deleted.</p> <p>New 4 .The Secretary will count the votes,</p> <p>New 5. The Secretary will publish the results of the vote two weeks ahead of the ISA World Congress.</p>	
<p>IV. AMENDMENTS TO STATUTES AND BYLAWS</p> <p>A. Any proposal for amendments to the Statutes or bylaws may be made by any regular member in good standing of RC40.</p> <p>B. Such a proposal must be received by the Board at least one year before the World Congress.</p> <p>C. The proposal will be circulated among all RC40 regular members, together with an explanation of its rationale, at least six months before the next World Congress. The Board will be entitled to propose amendments, to be circulated at least two months before the World Congress.</p> <p>D. The proposed amendments must be initially approved by a simple majority vote during the quadrennial RC40 business meeting.</p> <p>E. Amendments must then be ratified by mail or email ballot of regular members by a simple majority of those voting.</p>	<p>B. Changes in and amendments to these statutes, must be proposed in writing by the RC40 Governing Bodies or by at least five RC40 members in good standing, and must be approved by two-thirds of the votes in an electronic ballot or the biannual Business Meetings.</p> <p>C. Delete</p> <p>D. Delete</p> <p>E. Delete (included in B.)</p>	<p>Current rules on amendments are rigid.</p> <p>Flexibility to amend within a board's serving period will allow for engagement and amendment in line with changing times and membership.</p>

RC40 Social Dinner at the ISA Congress

All photos kindly shared by Midori Aoyagi







Report from RC 40 Africa Regional Representative Sheila Manka

Dear all

Greetings from South Africa!

I officially took up this role, as the RC 40 Africa Regional Representative in October 2021. It was indeed an honour for me to have been entrusted with this very important responsibility.

As the RC40 Africa Regional representative, I have recorded the following achievements:

Successful creation / integration of a new working group - Sociology of Agriculture and Food within the South African Sociological Association (SASA) in 2022 (during the SASA congress at the University of Sol Plaatje in South Africa). This is the first of its kind in the history of SASA as it never existed.

The working group was initiated through a panel discussion during the congress. The discussion featured three RC40 members namely: Manka Sheila, Fridah Mubichi-Kut

and the then RC40 President, -Steven Wolf. The aim of the working group within SASA is to:

- bring together scholars around the African continent to discuss cutting-edge scientific research;
- engage African scholars in intellectual debates that stimulate professional exchanges and collaborative research projects; and
- establish a strong network of African scholars and activities to increase visibility and representation of RC40 in African countries.

These objectives are aligned with those of RC40 and present a unique avenue through which membership and representation of Africans within international associations can be gained.

We look forward to further engagements and initiated RC 40 activities within SASA.

In May 2023, Fridah Mubichi-Kut, Allison Loconto and I successfully organised the first early career agrifood scholars virtual workshop series in sub-Saharan Africa. This event took place on 29th and 30th May 2023. It was an amazing and exciting event as there was a good regional balance from Africa.

The aim of the workshop was to:

- strengthen early career agrifood researchers' ability to publish research articles in international journals;

-
- encourage and support professional development of early career researchers and provide constructive feedback on draft papers;
 - Mentor early career researchers and academics to become reviewers; and
 - Provide support to participants to ensure successful completion and publication of papers in the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food.

The enthusiasm and participation from the early career scholars was fantastic. The attendance was great as all attended the workshop. The highlight of the workshop was on Wednesday, 30th May, when all the mentors were present and eager to engage with mentees on an intellectual debate as they provided constructive feedback with regard to their manuscripts. The mentees appreciated the initiative and indicated that the workshop was helpful not only in assisting them to get their papers published at in international journal but also more importantly, mentoring them on becoming good academic reviewers. The participants committed to continue working with their mentors to ensure that by the end of August 2023, their papers will be ready for submission to the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food.

To promote the career development of early career scholars in the region, participants given the opportunity to present their work at an international conference. SASA (South Africa Sociological Congress) was identified for this purpose. The event will take place from 5th to 7th at the University of Zululand, South Africa.

My sincere gratitude goes to the RC40 Executive Committee for the financial assistance provided to support this programme in the African region. We trust that this initiative will serve as a motivation to both mentors and early career researchers as they pave their way towards the publication of their manuscripts.

We look forward to future projects and programmes in the region in fostering the objectives of RC40 and in creating its visibility in Africa.

Thank you!

Yours sincerely

Sheila Manka

MENA early career workshop



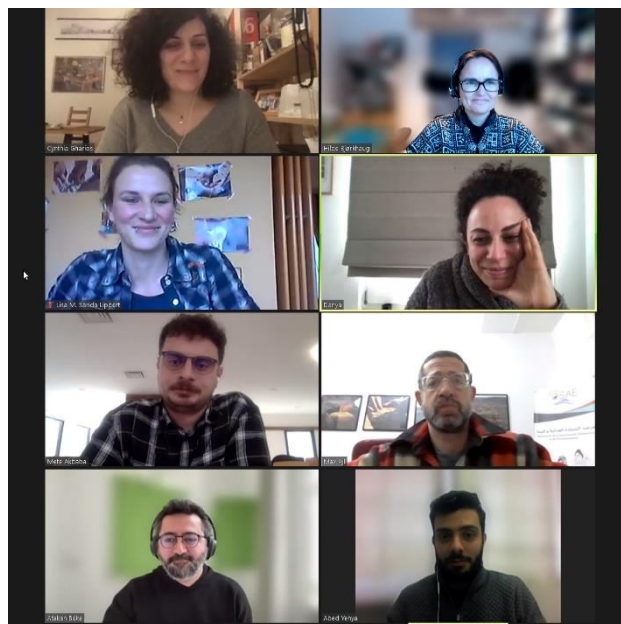
Sociology of
Agriculture and Food

Online Workshop for early-career agri-food researchers: Middle East and North Africa edition

Report

On February 3, 2023, the first Middle East and North Africa early career writing workshop convened virtually. The workshop, organised by Hilde Bjørkhaug and Cynthia Gharios, aimed to support early-career researchers from the Middle East and North Africa (or whose studies focus on this region) working on food and agriculture issues in moving their papers for successful publication in international journals. Following the call, launched in September 2022, four articles were selected, and their authors invited to take part in the workshop.

The authors selected, all PhD candidates, were working on a broad range of topics and countries. Danya Nadar, from the University of Antwerp in Belgium, presented a paper on peasantry in Palestine. Mete Akbaba, from Hacettepe University in Ankara, Turkey, presented a *longue durée* analysis on rural sociology studies in Turkey. Lisa Sarida Lippert from the University of Hamburg in Germany shared a paper on climate change adaptation in agricultural production in Tunisia. Finally, Abed al Kareem Yehya from the University of Kassel in Germany submitted a paper on smallholders farmers in Lebanon. The workshop was divided



in two parts. It started with a general introduction to the workshop and RC40 by Cynthia Gharios and Hilde Bjørkhaug, followed by some opening comments from the advisors Max Ajl and Arakan Büke, who shared their own experiences as early career scholars and in publishing.

They also addressed some of the lacunae in agricultural and food scholarship in the MENA region. Following this, Cynthia Gharios gave a presentation on publishing academic papers, sharing relevant information and highlighting common pitfalls. The second part of the workshop was dedicated to addressing in more depth each of the papers. Ahead of the workshop, advisors shared their comments with the participants, and each participant had to give (in writing) constructive feedback on the paper of another participant. This way, each participant received two detailed comments that would be helpful in improving the quality of their papers. The feedback session started by sharing the comments on a specific paper, followed by a response from the author and a short Q&A session. The workshop was concluded with feedback from the participants themselves and their plans for the papers.

This workshop has been a first important step in improving the quality of papers received. All four participants believed their papers required significant reworking before publishing, and were planning to work on their papers again before considering sending them for publication. Even though no article has been published yet, this workshop was successful in encouraging participants in moving their research into a concise written text. All participants were grateful for the opportunity, and shared their interest in taking part in other workshops and events organised by RC40.

Cynthia Gharios

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