

# Agriculture and Food

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

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# President's Welcome

Dear RC40 members,

A wise person once told me that the secret to happiness is having “something to do, someone to do it with, and something to look forward to.” While this prescription is rather disengaged from the social struggles that animate our association, there is something attractive about it. Regardless as to whether you agree or disagree, I hope you are well and feeling positive.

RC40 is now looking forward to ISA World Congress in Melbourne, Australia June 25-July 1, 2023. I am reasonably confident that COVID will not present major obstacles to international participation in this meeting, and I strongly encourage you to plan to attend. The global dimensions of agrifood systems and social problems makes an international professional association like ours very important. Please draw on and contribute to RC40's capacity to support international exchange and synthesis. See details in this newsletter regarding opportunities for participating in the ISA World Congress 2023.

After publishing a call for proposals from teams interested in leading the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF), the RC40 journal, we are pleased to announce new editorial leadership. We send warm thanks to Ray Jussaume for his leadership of the journal in recent years, and we send congratulations and a commitment of support to Allison Loconto (Editor-in-Chief) and Claire Marris and Katerina Psarikidou (Associate Editors) as they begin their leadership terms. Allison served as liaison between the RC40 Executive Committee and IJSAF and Claire and Katerina supported IJSAF and Ray as Associate Editors in past years, which ensures continuity and continued growth. The editorial transition was completed in January 2022, and the new Editors will share their vision and concrete plans for the journal in the next RC40 newsletter. As we look back and acknowledge the important contributions of Ray Jussaume and all contributors to the journal, and we look ahead to new leadership and the development of IJSAF, I encourage you to engage as an author, reviewer, and a reader of IJSAF.

RC40 members, Regional Representatives, and the Executive Committee continue to develop programming, as reflected in our newsletters, our website, and our current planning. We are excited about an upcoming RC40 mini-conference to be held in October 2022 in Leipzig, Germany, RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshops, an online discussion of the United Nations Food Systems Summit and its significance, and RC40 elections in 2023. Please reach out to me ([saw44@cornell.edu](mailto:saw44@cornell.edu)) with questions, ideas, and news that you would like to share with our membership. We are eager to engage new people and new projects, and you are invited to play a leadership role.

Regards,

Steven



## Sociology of Agriculture and Food

### First announcement!

ISA RC40 Mini-Conference, 20-21 October 2022

Research Center Global Dynamics at Leipzig University (Leipzig, Germany)

**Title: Food System in the (Post-)Pandemic World:  
Disruptions, Vulnerabilities, Resiliences, and Alternatives Ahead**

The Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC40) of the International Sociological Association has been working towards generating and stimulating scientific and public debate on the social organization of agriculture and the food system since 1978. As a collective informed by diverse critical schools of thought and theoretical frameworks, RC40 tries to create spaces of sustained scholarly dialogue and critical engagements in relation to the intensifying social and ecological problems and challenges shaping the field of agriculture and food. The RC40 “mini-conference” tradition is among the most important of those collaborative spaces of intellectual and scholarly engagement, which has made significant contributions to the sociology of agriculture and food reflected in the edited books as well as special issues and journal articles that came out of the previous mini-conferences.

The COVID-19 pandemic, on the one hand, has demonstrated the vulnerabilities of capitalist-industrial agrifood relations and has significantly intensified them. On the other hand, the questions of which and where agrifood relations have appeared as resilient and agile, as well as why and how have become another significant research area for the agrifood scholarship. In this regard not only the scope, depth, and intensity of the current agrifood related problems, but also the proliferating search for alternatives in the pandemic and the post-pandemic world lead us to revisit, revise, deepen, and extend the analysis of major themes and problematics of the sociology of agriculture and food. To that aim, we propose an RC40 mini-conference titled “Food System in the (Post-)Pandemic World: Disruptions, Vulnerabilities, Resiliences, and Alternatives Ahead” to revisit ‘old’ but also to address novel aspects of the neoliberal globalization of agriculture and food while looking for socially and ecologically just alternatives. The mini-conference - with a particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic - welcomes contributions on the histories, legacies, and possible future trajectories of agrifood relations within the following themes that have been central to the emergence of the sociology of agriculture and food as well as its discussions for the last three decades:

- Globalization of Agriculture and Food: Capital, State, Governance and Corporate Hegemony
- Reconfiguration of the Social and Ecological Linkages Between Food, Agriculture, Rural and Nature: Agri-Food Cultures, Spaces, Infrastructures, and Technologies
- Politics of Agriculture and Food: Resistance, Movements, Discourses, Identities, Imaginations, and Utopias
- Agrifood Knowledge and Scholarship: Theories, Approaches, Methodological Strategies, Research Agendas, and Questions

Stay tuned for the call for abstracts!

# XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

## XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



**Resurgent Authoritarianism:**  
*Sociology of New Entanglements of  
Religions, Politics, and Economies*

**Melbourne, Australia | June 25-July 1, 2023**  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre  
[www.isa-sociology.org](http://www.isa-sociology.org)



## Important dates and deadlines

### **May 10, 2022:**

Submission of proposals for:

- Integrative Sessions which involve at least 3 Research Committees, 3 National Associations or a combination of the two
- Author Meets Critics sessions

### **May 2-31, 2022**

Submission of proposals for RC/WG/TG Sessions

### **July 1-September 30, 2022**

Abstracts submission

For more details, please see ISA World Congress website <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023>

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## Presenting our new regional representatives

Dr Manka Sheila (Regional representative for Africa)



I am delighted and honoured to have been entrusted with this very important duty and role of regional representative for Africa. I obtained my doctorate degree in Sociology in 2021 from the North-West University (South Africa). I am currently a lecturer at the same Institution in the Sociology Department. My research areas revolve around global food systems, food and consumption, food and gender, social problems and the sociology of education. I

teach Introduction to Sociology, Advanced Social Policy, Sociology of Social Problems and Development, and Social Dynamics of Work, Family and Gender.

My PhD research study titled, “Food and consumption patterns of selected communities in South Africa and Cameroon”, focused on the causes and effects of the shift in food consumption patterns in two African countries, South Africa and Cameroon. A qualitative research approach was used in the study and in-depth interviews were used to collect data. Recommendations were made to reduce the shift in food consumption patterns, as the study clearly confirmed that shifts in patterns are attributed to modernisation, globalisation, lifestyle changes, availability and accessibility of varieties of foods with diverse effects, including diseases, such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, heartburn, ulcers, obesity and other health diseases. Thus, there is need for citizens in African countries to return to the consumption of indigenous foods and consume less processed and genetically modified crops.

I hold a B.Sc. in Sociology from the University of Buea (Cameroon), an Honours in Sociology, M.Sc. in Sociology, Post Graduate Certificate in Education and a PhD in Sociology, from the North-West University (South Africa).

I am enthusiastic and excited to advance the activities of RC40 in Africa as well as promote the growth of early career researchers in Africa.

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# The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food

As Ray Jussaume ends his tenure as Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food, we send warm thanks. We want to acknowledge his leadership and to recognize the challenges and accomplishments of self-publishing a research journal. It is not so easy to publish research that advances contemporary debates and build an inclusive academic culture. The bias associated with the requirement to publish in English is one important challenge, as RC40's strength lies in our geographic diversity and our engagement with global dynamics. Academic publishing has a competitive dimension, and it is not so easy to attract researchers "best" papers in a journal that is not yet included in indexes of citation rates and prestige. Something similar can be said about competing for the attention of reviewers, who are the backbone of peer review. Ray stepped into the role of Editor at a time when the future of the journal was unclear. As Ray hands off the leadership to Allison Loconto, the newly installed Editor-in-Chief, the journal is on firmer footing, and that progress is what I think where I want to focus our attention.

For many, open access articles published in IJSAF has been an important knowledge base and source of inspiration in formative years. We do hope that this will also be the case for future generations of agricultural and food sociologists. It does require an effort of our senior researchers to publish in IJSAF also to motivate our younger researchers to send us their manuscripts to be considered for publication. We are optimistic about many good years ahead for our journal.

Thanks, Ray. Your many years of service to IJSAF and to RC40 are much appreciated!



**Make a submission of your manuscript to IJSAF!**

**No fee for publication fee - Open access for readers.**

**<https://www.ij saf.org/index.php/ij saf/about/submissions>**

## Call for items for the next RC40 newsletter

All submissions welcome – e.g., information about future or past conferences and workshops, research projects and research products, engagement with civil society and policy actors, photographs.....

Please share your news with us!

### JOIN US! > SOCIOLOGY of AGRICULTURE and FOOD (RC40) + INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION



An international intellectual community to support:

- Academic research
- Professional development
- Engaged scholarship
- Good times!

[www.isa-agrifood.com/current-issue](http://www.isa-agrifood.com/current-issue)  
International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food  
Official publication of: Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC-40) and the International Sociological Association  
The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSaF) provides a forum for informed academic social science debates about food and agriculture-related issues.

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Agriculture and Food**  
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Executive Council 2018-2022  
Steven Wolf  
saw44@cornell.edu  
Hilde Bjørkhaug  
hilde.bjorkhaug@ntnu.no