



# Agriculture and Food

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

Volume 6 Number 2 .....December 2012

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## *From the President*

Marie-Christine Renard  
President, RC40  
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The XIII World Congress of Rural Sociology, held last July in the beautiful city of Lisbon, was the occasion for RC40 members to meet again and have some rich intellectual exchanges. It was also the occasion to pay tribute to one of the founders of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food, William (Bill) Friedland, who was attending his last international congress. Not only did he attend the Congress, he also organized an RC40 sponsored Mini-Conference on Alternative Agri-Food Movements which was, thanks to his convening power, a great success with more than 20 paper presentations. A Symposium on the same theme of alternative agri-food movements was organized to honor Bill, which included the participation of representatives from alternative social organizations such as Via Campesina, the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), the Fair Trade Small Producers Symbol from Latin America, and the movement against free trade and NAFTA in agro-food, *El Movimiento el Campo no Aguanta Más*, of México. Following tradition, RC40 members enjoyed a dinner together where we were able to express our

acknowledgment and gratitude to Bill for his contributions during his long academic career. Our colleague, Ray Jussaume, read his homage to Bill that had been given at the annual meeting of the Rural Sociological Association in Chicago, where Bill was awarded the Distinguished Rural Sociologist Award. The text of this speech appears below.

Now we have to turn our thinking to the future and begin to prepare our next tasks for RC40. The XVIII International Congress of Sociology to be held in Yokohama, Japan in 2014 is already close. RC40 has been allocated 14 sessions and the Executive Committee has chosen the theme "Worlds of plenty and worlds of hunger: towards sustainability and equity in the global food system." Once more, we call on our members to collaborate in helping to organize these sessions and enrich discussions with their contributions. We also invite RC members to organize sessions for other national and regional congresses to be held in 2013.

El XIII Congreso Mundial de Sociología Rural que tuvo lugar en julio pasado en la bella ciudad

de Lisboa fue la ocasión para los miembros del Comité 40 de volvernos a reunir e intercambiar ideas en un fructífero ambiente académico. Fue también la ocasión de rendir un sentido homenaje a uno de los fundadores de la Sociología de la Agricultura y los Alimentos quién asistió allí a su último congreso internacional, a saber, William Friedland. No solamente asistió sino que tuvo a bien organizar una Mini-Conferencia a nombre del Comité, sobre el tema de los Movimientos Agroalimentarios Alternativos, la cual fue, por cierto, y gracias a su poder de convocatoria, un rotundo éxito con más de 20 presentaciones. En su honor se organizó uno de los simposios del Congreso sobre el mismo tema de los movimientos alternativos con la participación de representantes de organizaciones sociales en el campo agroalimentario como Vía Campesina, el International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), El Símbolo de los Pequeños Productores de Comercio Justo de América Latina y el Movimiento el Campo no Aguanta Más de México. Y, como no podía faltar a la tradición, nos reunimos en una concurrida cena donde los miembros del Comité hicieron patente su reconocimiento a Bill por todo lo que nos aportó en su larga carrera académica; nuestro colega Ray Jussaume leyó para la ocasión el discurso que había preparado para otro reconocimiento otorgado a Bill Friedland unos días antes, el premio al sociólogo rural distinguido de la Asociación de Sociología Rural de los Estados Unidos (Rural Sociological Association's Distinguished Rural Sociologist Award) y cuyo texto aparece abajo.

Ahora nos queda pensar en el futuro y en las próximas tareas para el Comité. En puertas tenemos ya el XVIII Congreso Mundial de Sociología, en 2014 en Yokohama, Japón. El Comité tendrá el espacio para organizar 14 sesiones y el tema escogido por el Comité Ejecutivo ha sido "Mundos de abundancia y mundos de hambre: hacía la sustentabilidad y la equidad en el sistema alimentario global". Una vez más, hacemos un llamado a la colaboración de todos los integrantes del comité para participar en la organización de las sesiones y para enriquecer este espacio de discusión con sus aportaciones. También invitamos a quienes puedan organizar sesiones del RC40 en congresos nacionales o internacionales en 2013.

Le XIII Congrès Mondial de Sociologie Rurale qui s'est tenu en juillet dernier à Lisbonne a été l'occasion pour les membres du RC40 de se retrouver au cours d'enrichissants échanges académiques. Ce fut aussi l'occasion de rendre hommage à l'un des fondateurs de la Sociologie de

l'Agriculture et des Aliments qui y assistait à son dernier congrès international, William Friedland. Et non seulement, il y assistait mais il y a aussi organisé, au nom du RC40, une Mini-Conférence sur le thème des Mouvements Agroalimentaires Alternatifs, laquelle, grâce à son pouvoir d'appel, eu un grand succès puisque plus de 20 communications y furent présentées. Un des symposiums du congrès avait par ailleurs aussi été organisé en son honneur, autour du même thème des mouvements alternatifs, et a compté avec la présence de représentants d'organisations agroalimentaires comme Vía Campesina, el International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), Le Symbole des Petits Producteurs de Commerce Equitable (Amérique Latine) y le mouvement contre la libéralisation commerciale et le Traité de Libre Échange d'Amérique du Nord (TLCAN) *el Campo no Aguanta Más* du Mexique. Et tradition oblige, nous nous sommes retrouvés autour d'un excellent diner portugais, au cours duquel nous avons eu l'occasion de témoigner de notre reconnaissance à Bill pour tout ce qu'il nous a apporté au cours de sa longue carrière académique. Notre collègue Ray Jussaume a lu un discours qu'il avait préparé pour un autre hommage rendu à Bill, la distinction au Sociologue Rural décerné par l'Association de Sociologie Rurale des États-Unis (Rural Sociological Association's Distinguished Rural Sociologist Award) et dont le texte est publié ci-dessous.

Maintenant, il nous faut penser au futur et aux prochaines tâches du Comité. Le XVIII Congrès Mondial de Sociologie qui aura lieu en 2014 à Yokohama, au Japon, est déjà proche. Le Comité aura l'espace de 14 sessions et le Comité Exécutif thème a opté pour le thème "Mondes d'abondance et mondes de la faim : vers la durabilité et l'équité dans le système alimentaire global". Une fois encore, nous faisons appel à la collaboration des membres du RC pour l'organisation des sessions et pour enrichir, de par leur participation, cet espace de discussions. Nous invitons aussi les membres du Comité à organiser des sessions RC40 lors de congrès internationaux ou nationaux en 2013.

# Homage to Bill Friedland

By Raymond A. Jussaume Jr.

Presented at the Rural Sociological Association annual meeting, 2012

Dear Rural Sociological Colleagues:

It is my very great honor to introduce you all to this year's winner of the Rural Sociological Association's Distinguished Rural Sociologist Award for 2012. I am sorry to not be here in person, but responsibilities associated with being one of the Rural Sociological Association's representatives to the International Rural Sociological Association made it impossible for me to travel to the RSS meetings this year. I am very grateful to the Awards Committee for permitting me this honor despite my physical absence.

Many of you know this year's award winner. While he has been a special mentor and inspiration to many rural sociologists who study the social impacts of changing structures of agriculture around the world, his influence has been much broader than as a pioneer in the sociology of agriculture. His early career was inspired by his passion for understanding the role of labor in society, a passion that was kindled at an early age by his own participation in the industrial labor force. Not only did our award winner help to build motor cars on the assembly line, but I wonder how many of you know that, during this formative stage in his life, our award winner also was a singer/musician who, with his partner Joe Glazer, recorded songs (yes, on vinyl!) like "The Commonwealth of Toil," "Down to the Soupline," and "Dump the Bosses off your Back!"

Our award winner pursued his graduate education first at Wayne State University in Detroit, where he was awarded his Master's Degree, and then earned his Ph.D. in Sociology a half century ago at the University of California at Berkeley. At that point, he became involved in migrant labor issues in Africa, where he conducted field research, and subsequently ended up on the faculty in the School of Labor Relations at Cornell University, where he built upon the work he did in Africa by conducting research with students and faculty at Cornell on migrant labor issues in New York State. For those of you interested in the intellectual history of Rural Sociology, I would recommend you check out the book "Migrant: Agricultural Workers in America's Northeast," which our award winner co-edited with Dorothy Nelkin in 1971 and which includes a most intriguing Foreword by then United States Senator Walter F. Mondale!

At about this time, our award winner took a

position at the University of California at Santa Cruz, where he helped found, and was actively engaged in, that University's Community Studies program. As one of the scholars who wrote a letter in support of our award winner noted, the USCS Community Studies program is unique in that it requires each and every student to engage in a field study. This field study is preceded by "taking courses focused on the intellectual and practical issues they (students) are likely to confront in the field and then, after returning from the field study, they spend several quarters analyzing their field experience and must produce a capstone project or senior thesis integrating their practical experience with their academic course work."

My point in telling you a little about this year's Distinguished Rural Sociologist's background as a worker and as an intellectual who played a significant role in developing and administering an academic program that helped train generations of non-profit and governmental social service agencies and programs directors, of educators, of city managers and mayors, of government agency leaders, of union and community organizers, of regional planners, and others who work in environmental protection and planning, urban farming and community gardens, educational innovation, organizational development, and community arts development, is to demonstrate our award winner's commitment to a form of scholarship that not only strives to understand the issues facing every day people in contemporary society, but to come up with solutions to those problems, and to empower students and citizens to utilize those solutions. Our award winner's traditional academic credentials are without question. Over his career, he has authored or co-authored sixteen books and monographs, 43 journal articles, and thirty five book chapters. But not only has this Distinguished Rural Sociologist been an *active* researcher, he has been an *activist* researcher. And, in this era where we, as intellectuals, are pressured increasingly to benchmark our success with citation counts and the amount of overhead our grants contribute to our institutions, reflecting upon the career of Dr. William H. Friedland, this year's Distinguished Rural Sociologist, can hopefully help us recall why we chose our profession and inspire us to keep the people we should be serving at the front and center of our academic endeavors.

# Address to the General Assembly of IRSA from In-coming President, Professor Geoffrey Lawrence, 3 August 2012

I've entitled my short statement this afternoon: 'Think Global, Act Rural'. It is not an original title. It is the title of a 2010 film by award-winning French director Coline Serreau. The film argues that industrial agriculture is degrading resources, poisoning the world's fresh water supply, causing cruelty to animals and destroying farming systems that have fed the world sustainably for millennia. This film is about the emergence and consolidation of a corporate-endorsed farming system that pollutes the land, compromises human health, and undermines the well-being of millions of small-scale producers worldwide. While the film is not without faults, Serreau makes a basic and important point: if you want to change the global, you need to understand – and change - the rural.

It puts 'rural' back in the spotlight as the site of contest and the site of eventual economic, social and environmental rejuvenation. And, while it doesn't do so explicitly, it puts rural sociology back in the picture as the academic discipline most likely to comprehend the changes that are taking place, to theorise them, and to provide innovative options for the future.

Serreau is not alone in her assertion that there is something wrong with the current rural-based food and farming trajectory. On Sunday we heard from Olivier de Schutter, the UN's Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food. De Schutter was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council in 2008. In his role, he acts independently of governments, business organisations and lobby groups.

So, what does De Schutter think about the current direction the world is taking? He endorses the Rio + 20 Outcome Document which acknowledges the importance of the right to food and of the need to pursue sustainable development. He believes that improving global governance for sustainable development will be a key to addressing hunger and food insecurity. With 20 other UN human rights experts he wrote an open letter to governments at Rio + 20 arguing that they must be accountable for actions supporting sustainability and preventing land-grabbing and the continued exploitation of natural resources. Last year he is on record as saying:

Agriculture should be fundamentally redirected towards modes of production that are more environmentally sustainable and socially just....

He endorsed agro-ecology because it will help

small farmers who must be able to farm in ways that are less expensive and more productive. But it benefits all of us, because it decelerates global warming and ecological destruction.

At the IRSA food security symposium at this conference on Monday we heard from a range of speakers about the need for alternatives to industrial agriculture and the current system of global food procurement and distribution. It was argued that:

- Small farmers in the global South were paying the price of continuing producer protection in the North
- Women, smallholders and indigenous peoples – some of the most vulnerable in society – face serious constraints in improving their livelihoods
- There is little current evidence that industrial farming will become more productive via the latest push for 'sustainable intensification' – in fact, the term seems something of an oxymoron
- The real-cost of environmental damage is being underestimated and costs 'externalised': the environment is simply not being valued in a way which will give a true value to the ecosystem services and other services it provides
- Despite oppositional and alternative ways of understanding human/nature interrelations, the reductionist view of agricultural modernization still remains prominent in science and government circles, and
- Current food policy is failing to provide the necessary integration between human health, the economy and the environment. The outcome is a fractured, fragmented, approach to policy which gives power to supermarkets and corporate agribusiness and which helps to promulgate in society the polar opposites of starvation and obesity.

Speakers called for:

- Reform of the World Trade Organisation to reduce food import dependency in the global south
- A rejection of those neoliberal ideologies and policies that praise the last 'green revolution' and which promote the next one – this time based upon new technologies such as GMOs
- Global measures to address climate change and
- The replacement of the dominant food paradigm of the 'bio-economy' with that of the 'eco-economy' which sees food security embedded in multi-scalar networks of actors who have embraced agro-ecological principles as the basis for sustainable farming.

These are challenges, indeed, and they need to

be embraced. Terry Marsden has written in the most recent edition of the *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* that rural sociology should become a 'crusading force in wider interdisciplinary environmental and sustainability science debates'. In other words, this is the time for rural sociologists to accept the challenge of both interpreting the world AND helping to change it.

To do so means shedding older conceptions of 'rural'. In some circles, rural has been – and continues to be – used as a pejorative, or negative, term. It is sometimes associated with backwardness, with antiquated social relations, with outmoded ways of thinking, and with the past. Out with *Gemeinschaft* and in with *Gesellschaft*.

But as the many talks and many sessions at this conference have demonstrated, the key issues faced by an increasingly global society are rural in nature. The new editor of the *Journal of Rural Studies*, Professor Mike Woods of Aberystwyth, wrote an editorial at the start of this year in which he identified a number of key areas for research by rural social scientists.

- The first is about the **sustainable use of resources** – including critiques of discourses about food security and corporate farming, along with an exploration of alternatives such as food sovereignty and consumer-supported agriculture
- The second relates to the **resilience of rural communities to environmental uncertainties** - along with the ability of communities to move to environmental sustainability
- The third is the **reconfiguration and intensification of patterns of global mobility** as people move to, from and across rural space. This includes the dynamics of counter-urbanisation
- The fourth is **new rural economic development strategies** – particularly those aligned to the sustainable management of natural resources. Governance of resources is important here as are issues relating to the commoditization of nature
- The fifth and final area is that of the **contours of state intervention**: how are state interventions being redrawn? What regulatory instruments are now being used for environmental protection? What is the role of market-based, private, regulation?

Alongside these areas are wider – potentially more complex - areas for research, areas in which many of us are intimately engaged.

In regards to food security we know that there are worrying signs on the horizon. The price of food reached a high point in 2008 causing riots and political instability throughout the world. In 2009 approximately 1 billion people were chronically hungry. The food price index is currently lower than it was in 2008 but many

commentators have predicted that this will change as the US experiences its worst drought in 50 years. Corn and soybean prices are already above the levels they reached during the 2007-8 food crisis and wheat prices have increased by 50% over the last month. The effect of rising grain prices is particularly pronounced in poor countries and political instability is again being predicted. While it would seem people in rural areas – those growing food - might escape the next price bubble, this is not the case. Rural people have been forced from their land as governments have legislated for increased production of biofuels and as severe weather events have reduced production levels. Declining productivity is another factor, as is speculation in agricultural commodities. All contribute to 'depeasantisation' which undermines food sovereignty.

Another key issue faced by rural producers – and by humanity generally - is that of the environment. Industrial farming systems have been implicated in environmental damage. So-called productivist farming methods rely on monocultures that reduce biodiversity. They foster pest resistance, which often requires the application of higher levels of potent agrichemicals. The adoption of chemical/seed packages aimed at making farmers more productive creates a dependency on corporate agribusiness. But corporate farming is based upon a fossil-fuel based economy, and fossil fuels are rising in price as 'peak oil' emerges as a serious issue.

More recently 'peak phosphorus' and 'peak land' have been added to the list. While some new lands can be brought into production from forest clearing, the environmental impacts of the removal of forests can be profound – including salinization, acidification and desertification – and the release of greenhouse gases. Land clearing and poor farming practices mean that agriculture is the biggest source of greenhouse gas pollution. According to the UN, one quarter of the world's surface is threatened by desertification, with the livelihoods of some 135 million people being directly impacted, and another one billion threatened. Some 12 million hectares of agricultural land each year are lost to land degradation. Desertification takes land out of production at a time when there is pressure to improve farming productivity to feed a growing world population.

Then there is great concern about the future availability of fresh water. It is estimated that by 2050 some 3 billion of the world's 9 billion people will be living with chronic water scarcity. Freshwater ecosystems are in decline, worldwide,

and every year up to 25 million people die each year because the water they consume is contaminated. Over 30 nations have been in what has been described as ‘water wars’ – disputes over the rights to water in shared river basins.

One question for rural sociologists is: how will it be possible to feed a growing world population from a constantly depleting resource base? A better question is how can we actually improve the resource base so that more food can be grown - and in a more socially- and environmentally-beneficial manner?

What will exacerbate the problem of feeding future generations is climate change – another research challenge for rural sociology. Over the last fifty years the world has undergone warming caused by human activity. It is predicted that global temperatures will rise between 1.4 and 5.8 degrees between now and 2100. The most recent thinking is that temperatures might be closer to the upper range, than the lower. In June this year, the US National Research Council calculated that the sea level would rise two to three times higher over the next century than was previously estimated. Ice caps will melt at a faster rate than today, and low-lying and productive farming regions will be inundated. It is predicted that climate change refugees from low-lying farming areas might total as many as 200 million. Where do these people go? How are they fed?

There is some good news: one prediction is that between now and 2080 global warming will increase cereal production between 3 and 9 percent in the developed countries. But there’s a down side: climate change will reduce cereal production by 3 and 7 percent in developing nations - making the poor countries even more food dependent upon the wealthy. The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has predicted that agricultural production in many African countries will be severely compromised by climate change. At present, some 25% of Africa’s agricultural land is seriously degraded and drought, brought on by climate change, will make matters considerably worse. The Stern report predicted that if the global temperature increases by 2% Celsius crop yields in Africa will decline by up to 10%, leading to the deaths, from malnutrition, of an additional 3 million people.

The situation we face today is – in the words of my colleagues Chris Rosen, Paul Stock and Hugh Campbell – nothing short of a ‘global food systems failure’. It is a system responsible for creating greater food insecurity, rather than finding the means for its alleviation.

As Tim Lang and his co-workers cogently argued in their book *Food Policy*, food security

can *only* mean sustainability. It will only be achieved when:

- The core goal is to feed everyone sustainably, equitably and healthily
- We embrace culturally-appropriate goals of suitability, availability and accessibility of food
- The food system is ecologically sound and resilient in the face of environmental volatility
- Farming enhances, rather than depletes, the productive capacity of the land.

This is the time for rural sociology to embrace and actively engage with many of the challenges outlined above. The International Rural Sociology Association, IRSA, was established in 1976 to:

- Foster the development of rural sociology
- Provide a mechanism for rural sociologists to interact and exchange ideas.
- Apply sociological enquiry and insights to improve the quality of rural life.

We will fail in the last duty – improving the quality of rural life - if we do not bring our critical skills and academic knowledge to the fore in understanding how global trends impact on rural space and the people living in that space.

As I said at the start, this is the time - the decade, if not the century - for rural sociology. It is time for some critical, clear, thinking about the major issues we face: food security, the environment, third world poverty, climate change and a host of other rural, ‘place-based’, issues. We have the conceptual and theoretical approaches that can help us understand economic advantage and disadvantage, power relations, and can allow us to deconstruct discourses that continue to marginalize the powerless. We have the methodologies to provide rigour and validity in our research, and we have the intellectual capacity and legitimacy as professional researchers to have our findings make their way into policy decisions of governments.

I am particularly pleased to be accepting the Presidency of IRSA at a time which cries out for clear-thinking about rural society and which demands action on our part to help solve some of the ‘big’ problems facing the world. I want to thank past president, Professor Reidar Almas, and the out-going Council for placing their faith in me to lead IRSA over the next four years.

During this time I will - along with the Executive Committee, the incoming Council, the Past Presidents and the affiliated member organisations – make every possible effort to strengthen the efforts of IRSA in promoting rural sociology and ensuring that rural sociology continues to make a positive contribution to the lives and livelihoods of rural people around the globe. Thank you.

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

**Issues since the last RC-40 Newsletter**

Since the last newsletter one issue of the journal have been published online.

Available at:  
<http://ijsaf.org/contents/19-1/index.html>

**Volume 19, Issue 2 (2012)**

**Special Issue: Food Security**

**Editorial Introduction**

*The Question of Food Security*

Authors: Geoffrey Lawrence and Philip McMichael

**Articles**

1. *Renewal through Participation in Global Food Security Governance: Implementing the International Food Security and Nutrition Civil Society Mechanism to the Committee on World Food Security*

Authors: Jessica Duncan and David Barling

2. *Framing of Agri-food Research Affects the Analysis of Food Security: The Critical Role of the Social Sciences*

Author: Marta G. Rivera-Ferre

3. *The Food and Human Security Index: Rethinking Food Security and 'Growth'*

Author: Michael Carolan

4. *The Rural and Agricultural Roots of the Tunisian Revolution: When Food Security Matters*

Author: Alia Gana

5. *Is De-agrarianization Inevitable? Subsistence, Food Security and Market Production in the Uplands of Negros Occidental, the Philippines*

Authors: Stewart Lockie, Rebeka Tennent, Carmen Benares and David Carpenter

6. *Seed Diversity, Farmers' Rights, and the Politics of Re-peasantization*

Author: Elisa Da Vià

7. *Capitalist Philanthropy and the New Green evolution for Food Security*

Author: Behrooz Morvaridi

8. *Third Natures? Reconstituting Space through Place-making Strategies for Sustainability*

Author: Terry Marsden

**Volume 19, Issue 3 (2012)**

**Special Issue: Civic Food Networks**

**Editorial Introduction**

*Building Food Democracy: Exploring Civic Food Networks and Newly Emerging Forms of Food Citizenship*

Authors: Henk Renting, Markus Schermer and Adanella Rossi

**Articles**

1. *The Moral Economy of Civic Food Networks in Manchester*

Authors: Katerina Psarikidou and Bronislaw Szerszynski

2. *Collaborative Community-supported Agriculture: Balancing Community Capitals for Producers and Consumers*

Authors: Cornelia Butler Flora and Corry Bregendahl

3. *'We Want Farmers' Markets!' Case Study of Emerging Civic Food Networks in the Czech Republic*

Author: Lukáš Zagata

4. *Motivations, Reflexivity and Food Provisioning in Alternative Food Networks: Case Studies in Two Medium-sized Towns in the Netherlands*

Authors: Esther J. Veen, Petra Derkzen and Johannes S.C. Wiskerke

5. *The Civic and Social Dimensions of Food Production and Distribution in Alternative Food Networks in France and Southern Brazil*

Authors: Claire Lamine, Moacir Darolt and Alfio Brandenburg

6. *Local Food System Development in Hungary*

Author: Bálint Balázs

7. *The 2008 Food Crisis as a Critical Event for the Food Sovereignty and Food Justice Movements*

Author: Noha Shawki

8. *GMO-free America? Mendocino County and the Impact of Local Level Resistance to the Agricultural Biotechnology Paradigm*

Author: Gabriela Pechlan

# Minutes RC40 Business Meeting

August 2, 2012: 2.30-4.30 PM

Auditorium, University of Lisbon - Aula Magna; Lisbon, Portugal

34 Members in Attendance

1. **Opening from President:** Marie-Christine Renard
2. **Status report from Secretary/Treasurer:** Carmen Bain

3. **IJSAF Report:** Co-Editors Mara Miele and Vaughan Higgins

- Since 2011, IJSAF has published three regular issues per year. Issues for 2013 are already full. A key to these successes has been to organize special issues around particular themes, such as food security or climate change. These special themed issues have increased interest in the journal and attracted more interesting papers. We want to continue attracting papers for special issues. We also have an increase in book reviews
- **Goals for the Journal:**

A priority is to get journal ranking (monitored and accredited by ISI), which will build the reputation and quality of the journal. To get ISI accreditation we need three issues per year. We have established several additional procedures to facilitate this process. We have organized to track citation rates and usage of the journal. We established an editorial board, which has dramatically improved the quality and speed of reviews. We send each abstract to an editorial board member to review or suggest reviewers. We now guarantee a three month turn around to authors. We have an electronic submission process that also speeds up the process.

A second priority is to improve the financial stability of the journal which could be provided by moving to a commercial publisher. We have approached Taylor & Francis.

- At the next RC40 sponsored workshop we would like to have a plenary lecture sponsored by the journal as a way to increase our visibility and to attract high quality submissions.

## **Discussion:**

- It costs approximately £1,000 - £1,500 per issue

to publish the journal. Expenses include the editorial assistant, the web editor, copy editing and formatting. Currently, we rely on contributions from Farshad and support from Cardiff University. This is not sustainable.

- Part of the negotiation with any commercial publisher is the issue of copyright and open access.

Motion: to give \$2,000 per year to the journal. Editors will present a proposal to the executive committee of their plans for the journal for the next two years.

Adopted unanimously.

4. **Discussion on By-Laws:** Marie-Christine

- ISA reviewed our by-laws and said that we need to establish a difference between regular and affiliated members. If we only allowed individuals to join RC40 this could reduce the number of our members who are also members of ISA. This is problematic because ISA requires a research group to have 50 members in good standing with ISA. We wrote to them expressing our concerns and they are discussing the issue at their meeting in Buenos Aires.

5. **Upcoming Congresses:** Marie-Christine

- **ISA World Congress, 2014** in Yokohama, Japan. Conference theme: "Facing an Unequal World: Challenges for Global Sociology." RC40 is allocated 14 sessions (2 hours each). Could be organized as regular session, plenary session, or one sponsored by IJSAF
- **World Congress of Rural Sociology, 2016** in Toronto, Canada.
- **Asia Rural Sociological Association (ARSA), 2014** in the PDR of Laos.
- **ESRS, 2013** in Florence, Italy.

# RC40 By-Laws

## **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

## **Agriculture, Food & Human Values**

**June 19-23, 2013**

East Lansing, Michigan, US

<http://afhvs.org/meetings/next-meeting/>

Call for Participation due

February 1, 2013

## **XXV European Society for Rural Sociology Congress**

**July 29-August 1, 2013**

Florence, Italy

<http://www.florenceesrs2013.com/>

**RC40 Session:** *How Short Supply Chain and Civic Food Networks May Contribute to Rural Resilience in Times of Crisis?*

**Coordinators:** Maria Fonte (Università di Napoli Federico II), Silvia Sivini e Anna Maria Vitale (Università della Calabria)

## **Rural Sociological Society**

**August 6-9, 2013**

New York City, New York

<http://www.ruralsociology.us/>

Abstracts due March 1, 2013

## RC40 Executive Council, 2010-2014

Office	Officer	Organizational Affiliation	Country	Email
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## 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](mailto: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](http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm)

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