



Agriculture and Food

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

Volume 7 Number 2December 2013

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From the President

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Alternative agro-food movements, which act in the market space, involving producers and consumers with an international coordination and dimension, such as the organics and slow food movements, fair trade, short chains, the denominations of origin, and localized products, amongst others, have been the focus of a large number of studies. The significant attention paid to those initiatives must not let us forget about other social agrarian and rural movements. Those movements whose protagonists are peasants, indigenous communities, landless workers, who are mostly —but not exclusively— from the South where rural dwellers still represent a large portion, if not the majority, of the population, and whose struggles too often go unnoticed. We are witnessing numerous battles by these movements against the strategies and politics which, under the pretext of modernization and development, produce more exclusion, impact workers' and peasants' already precarious living

conditions, threatens their identity and survival and pushes them to become migrants. Across the entire world's rural areas arise movements against macro projects, such as dams that would flood territories, against water and soil pollution, resistance to the land spoliation by mining companies, to land grabbing by foreign governments or corporations, to unfair trade conditions and to the pressure of export crops that replaces food crops. Some of these movements are well known, such as the MST (Landless Movement) in Brazil or Vía Campesina, an international coordination of several countries' organizations. But not all peasants and rural movements are so renown. Generally, such movements remain regional in scope and receive, for that reason, scarce attention in the global media; they act mostly in a fragmented way, with poor coordination and organization. Nevertheless their lack of visibility must not let us forget about their existence nor undervalue their importance as examples of

resistance to the threats to a sustainable agro-food system.

La atención puesta en los movimientos agroalimentarios alternativos, estos que actúan en el mercado, involucran a productores y consumidores y que tienen una dimensión internacional, como el movimiento de la agricultura orgánica, el comercio justo, las cadenas cortas, el movimiento *slow food*, las denominaciones de origen y los productos territoriales, entre otros, y que han sido el objeto de numerosos estudios, no deben hacernos olvidar que también se dan otros movimientos sociales en el campo: estos movimientos, cuyos protagonistas son campesinos, comunidades indígenas, trabajadores agrícolas, se ubican en general, aunque no exclusivamente, en países del Sur donde la población que vive del campo sigue siendo muy importante sino mayoritaria, y pasan demasiadas veces casi desapercibidos. Múltiples son las luchas de resistencia a las estrategias y las políticas excluyentes que, bajo el cubierto de la modernización y del desarrollo, afectan su ya de por sí precarias condiciones de vida o amenazan su identidad y su existencia misma y los empujan a engrosar los ejércitos de migrantes: por todas las zonas rurales surgen movimientos de oposición a macro-proyectos como presas que inundarían sus territorios o a la contaminación de sus aguas y del subsuelo, de resistencia a los despojos por parte de las compañías mineras, al acaparamiento de sus tierras de parte de gobiernos o corporaciones extranjeras, y a la presión de monocultivos de exportación que desplazan sus cultivos alimenticios. Conocidas son las organizaciones del Movimiento de los Sin Tierra de Brasil o Vía Campesina, coordinadora internacional de varias organizaciones en diversos países. Pero no siempre tienen los movimientos de los rurales esta proyección. En general, estas luchas, constreñidas al ámbito regional, y por ello poco visibles en los medios globales, se dan de manera fragmentada, respondiendo a la urgencia del momento, sin coordinación y faltas de organización. Su ausencia en los medios de comunicación nacionales e internacionales no deben, sin embargo, llevarnos a olvidar su existencia y

menospreciar su importancia como ejemplos de resistencia a las amenazas que pesan sobre un sistema agroalimentario sostenible.

L'intérêt porté aux mouvements agro-alimentaires alternatifs qui agissent dans l'espace du marché, mobilisent producteurs et consommateurs à l'échelle internationale, comme les mouvements organiques et *slow food*, le commerce équitable, les filières courtes, les dénominations d'origines et produits de terroir, entre autres, ne doit pas nous faire oublier les autres mouvements sociaux dans les campagnes : ces mouvements dont les protagonistes sont les paysans, les communautés indigènes, les travailleurs agricoles et sans terre, et que l'on trouve, en général mais pas seulement, dans les pays du Sud dont une grande partie, sinon la majorité de la population est encore rurale et agricole et qui passent trop souvent inaperçus. Nombreuses sont les résistances aux stratégies et politiques, qui, sous couvert de modernisation et de développement, augmentent les exclusions, ont des impacts négatifs sur leur condition de vie déjà précaires et menacent leur identité et leur existence même et les poussent à grossir les masses de migrants : dans toutes les régions rurales apparaissent des luttes contre des macro-projets, comme des barrages qui inondent les territoires, ou contre la pollution des eaux et des sols, contre l'accaparement des terres par les compagnies minières, des corporations ou gouvernements étrangers, et contre la pression de monocultures d'exportation qui déplacent les cultures vivrières. On connaît le Mouvement des Sans Terre du Brésil et Via Campesina, coordination internationale de nombreuses organisations dans plusieurs pays. Mais tous les mouvements paysans n'ont pas cette célébrité. En général, ces luttes, confinées à leur espace régional et donc peu visibles dans les médias globaux ; leur action est fragmentée, répondant à l'urgence du moment, sans grande coordination et avec un déficit d'organisation. Leur absence des médias ne doit cependant pas nous faire oublier leur existence et sous-estimer leur importance comme exemples de résistance aux menaces qui pèsent sur le système agro-alimentaire.

How Short Supply Chains and Civic Food Networks May Contribute to Rural Resilience in Times of Crisis

Report on the RC 40 MINICONFERENCE - WG34

Florence, 2013

By Maria Fonte

In line with the general theme of the XXV European Society of Rural Sociology Congress, the RC40 Mini-conference in Florence, convened by Maria Fonte, Silvia Sivini and Anna Maria Vitale, was designed to analyse the role of civic food networks for rural resilience in times of crisis. Sixteen papers were presented from eight different countries in four sessions. The debate was lively and pointed to very critical issues emerging from the analysis of the concept of 'resilience'.

Opening the mini-conference, Maria Fonte stressed how important it is to relate the concept of resilience to other concepts central in the analysis of rural sociology: sustainability, vulnerability, place, social justice and food democracy. The concept of resilience becomes much more complex when we include the social system to an analysis of eco-systems.

Important new questions arise. First of all the question of power and democracy: for whom should the socio-ecosystem be resilient? Who will decide the acceptable level of functioning and structure of the system? How do we reconcile long- and short-term perspectives? At which scale must the socio-eco-system be resilient? How do we reconcile the necessity of changing food systems in the direction of food democracy, as illustrated in the literature on local food systems and civic food networks, with the aim of 'returning to a previous state of equilibrium' as advocated by the concept of resilience?

These themes were preeminent in the presentation by Geoffrey Lawrence, which centred on the performance of long and short food chains in the Queensland, Australia floods in 2011. During these severe weather events there was clear evidence that the supermarket-based food delivery system experienced significant disruptions to supply, highlighting the vulnerabilities of long supply chains. In

contrast, short food supply chains and civic food networks remained largely intact. Nonetheless, the supply of food to towns isolated by flooding was eventually achieved through cooperation between retailers, governments and emergency services using alternative modes of transport (such as army planes and helicopters) and alternative truck routes. The role of the State was fundamental in restoring the 'resilience' of the long chains.

There was a broad consensus among participants in the mini-conference that in times of crisis consumers, especially urban consumers, are questioning the conventional organization of food systems and are finding in civic food networks and local food systems a viable strategy to combat neo-poverty and malnutrition in Greece (Maria Partalidou) or to alleviate suffering from individualization and marginalization processes in France (Lucile Garçon) and Italy (Corrado, Sivini, Coscarello, Farinella et al.). Marino and Cavallo have applied a neo-institutional approach to civic food networks, stressing the importance of cooperation between institutions and civic society for enhancing sustainable food practices and planning. Short-food supply chains are acquiring a growing importance also in Eastern European countries, as Olga Gromasheva illustrated for many initiatives in St. Petersburg, Russia or Bálint Balázs and Gábor Bertényi for the civic food networks established in downtown Budapest, Hungary, where activists, producers and agencies are working together to establish a farmers market.

The role of consumers, relationships of trust between producers and consumers, and new urban-rural alliances emerge as fundamental in establishing new civic food network initiatives. Carmen Lozano, Gomez-Benito, Luque and Moreno have examined convergences and divergences in

the perception of food labels among producers, processors and consumers in Spain, while Anne-Mette Hjalager has analysed how the involvement of lead users in innovation in the food sector has created opportunities for the blue mussels of the Danish Great Belt Region in terms of innovative dishes and narratives.

Finally Alberto Arce, Eleanor Fisher and

Annamaria Vitale called attention to the need to substantiate the concept of resilience with critical sociological analysis. To treat the crisis simply through the 'resilience' concept is to risk creating an ahistorical and apolitical simplification that ignores social differentiation, power relations and socio-economic inequalities.



RC40 Sessions - Preliminary Program
(subject to modification)

In order to be included in the program participants (presenters, chairs, discussants, etc.) need to pay registration fees by **April 1, 2014**. If not registered, their names will not appear in the Program Book or in the Abstract Book. <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/>.

Monday

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Alternative Food Practices in the Global South: Organic and Sustainable Production and Local/Global Issues in Distribution and Consumption. Part I

3:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Alternative Food Practices in the Global South: Organic and Sustainable Production and Local/Global Issues in Distribution and Consumption. Part II

5:30 PM - 7:20 PM

Global Agri-Food and Labor Relations: Exploitation, Vulnerabilities and Resistance of Agri-Food Workers

7:30 PM - 8:50 PM

RC40 Business Meeting

Tuesday

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Food Security: Intersections Between Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods. Part I

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Food Security: Intersections Between Indigenous Knowledge, Sustainable Agriculture and Sustainable Livelihoods. Part II

3:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Food Security: Politics of Food Security in Asia Pacific: Neoliberal Reforms, Contamination, and Social Movements. Part I

5:30 PM - 7:20 PM

Food Security: Politics of Food Security in Asia Pacific: Neoliberal Reforms, Contamination, and Social Movements. Part II

Wednesday

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Food Security: Critical Perspectives on Food Crises, World Hunger and Farming Alternatives

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Contemporary Research in the Agrifood System

3:30 PM - 5:20 PM

Land As an Asset Class: The Future of Food and Farming. Part I

5:30 PM - 7:20 PM

Land As an Asset Class: The Future of Food and Farming. Part II

Thursday

8:30 AM - 10:20 AM

Towards a Different and More Future-Oriented Understanding of Agricultural Modernization. Part I

10:30 AM - 12:20 PM

Towards a Different and More Future-Oriented Understanding of Agricultural Modernization. Part II

[ISA 2014] Welcome to Yokohama, Japan!!
Yoshimitsu TANIGUCHI and Masashi TACHIKAWA

We, as Japanese members of RC40, are planning to organize one or two excursions to provide foreign visitors with some lovely experiences of Japanese agriculture and food (including with farmer's markets, local foods, consumer coops, etc).

Our excursion for RC40 people will be planned separately from the ISA organized field trips. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Yoshimitsu TANIGUCHI (E-mail: tani@akita-pu.ac.jp).

More detailed information on the field trips will be provided in the next RC40 newsletter.

FYI: The ISA website also provides various information regarding tours and cultural experiences in and around Yokohama and Tokyo. If you have never been to Japan, this is a good resource to help prepare for your trip. <http://www.isa-sociology.org/congress2014/hotels-tours.htm>

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/20-3/index.html>

Articles

[Problematizing the Emergence of Household Food Security in England](#)

Author: Jane L. Midgley

[Responses to the Crisis of Neo-liberal Globalization: State Intervention in Palm Oil Production in Chiapas, Mexico](#)

Authors: Héctor B. Fletes-Ocón and Alessandro Bonanno

[Governing Global South–North Organic Food Exporting: Possibilities for Democratic Engagement and Impacts for Smallholder Farmers](#)

Author: Kristen Lyons

[Feeding the Planet or Feeding Us a Line? Agribusiness, 'Grainwashing' and Hunger in the World Food System](#)

Author: Stephen J. Scanlan

Alternative Food Networks

[Moving Alternative Food Networks beyond the Niche](#)

Author: Damian Maye

[Critical Reflection and Civic Discourse within and across the Alternative Food Movement](#)

Author: Laura B. DeLind

[Reflexive Localism: Toward a Theoretical Foundation of an Integrative Food Politics](#)

Author: Maria Fonte

[Searching for the 'Alternative', Caring, Reflexive Consumer](#)

Authors: Josée Johnston and Kate Cairns

[Bastions of White Privilege? Reflections on the Racialization of Alternative Food Networks](#)

Author: Stewart Lockie

[Alternative Food Networks and the Test-tube Burger](#)

Author: Moya Kneafsey

[Engaging Alternative Food Networks: Commentaries and Research Agendas](#)

Authors: David Goodman, E. Melanie DuPuis and Michael K. Goodman

Book Review

[State of the World 2011: Innovations that Nourish the Planet](#), by Worldwatch Institute

Review Author: Giuseppe Feola

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

Collaboration and Innovation Across the Food System

June 18-22, 2014

University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, USA

Information will be forthcoming at:

<http://www.uvm.edu/conferences/foodsystems/>

Abstract due: February 1, 2014

Rural Sociological Society

Re-centering Equity, Democracy, and the Commons:

Counter-narratives for Rural Transformation

July 30-August 3, 2014

New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

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

Abstracts due: March 3, 2014

RC40 Executive Council, 2010-2014

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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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