



Agriculture and Food

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

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From the President

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President, RC40

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The beginning of 2015 was marked by the passing of the great sociologist Ulrich Beck. I heard the news from a *Le monde* article forwarded by a colleague a short time after the event. I was particularly taken aback for two reasons. First, I was one of hundreds who packed into the lecture hall at last year's ISA World Congress in Yokohama to hear him speak, and second, because I had just finished reading his most recent article on Emancipatory Catastrophism (Beck 2015) just a few days before.

While I am sure that all RC40 members are familiar with Beck's (1999) 'world risk society', there has been scant treatment of his theories in the areas of food and agriculture. A quick search of the databases where RC40 members most often publish turn up only a smattering of articles (around 30 since 1995) that integrate Beck's insights and only a few that truly mobilize his theories in relation to risks related to agricultural biotechnology (Levidow 1995; 1996) and food safety (Almas 1999; Knight and Warland 2005), reflexive modernity in farming with genetically modified organisms (Kaup 2008), organic agriculture (Kaltoft 2001) and climate change concerns (Stuart, Schewe and McDermott 2012). I've asked myself if this is because we tend to shy away from 'grand theory' when we study food and agriculture or if there are just more adequate ways of explaining the changes that we are observing?

I want to propose a challenge to RC40 members, as I think that Beck has arrived in his last article, at an issue that is quite salient for RC40 members - that of climate change and its complex interrelations with food and agriculture. I propose we take up the challenge that Beck proposed in 'emancipatory catastrophism'. He has argued that the 'side-effects' of the global bads produced through climate change offer opportunities for transformative change. This is what he calls the 'metamorphosis of the world' - a need to focus on 'the politics of possibility' that are found not in grand designs of revolution or even on the steady path of evolution - but in the non-planned, everyday practices of the new and the old (people, technology and institutions) mixing as the frames of reference for change shift: "It is a mode of changing the mode of change." He recognizes the questions of power that have been very important for RC40 members and he brings up the uncertainty involved in "the frame of reference in reality and in framing reality". What I propose to RC40 members, is, what might this mean for some of the pressing issues in food and agriculture today?

We begin on this challenge within our very newspaper with articles by Marta Guadalupe Rivera Ferré, who reflects upon the Climate Smart Agriculture Conference that was held this past March in Montpellier; while Clare Hinrichs

and Phil Mount highlight the notion of transition that is the theme of next year's IRSA conference. The rest of the newsletter contains information about upcoming events and news from our journal (IJSAF). I also want to take this time to announce that we will be launching the vote to ratify the changes made in the RC40 by-laws (statutes). These changes were requested by ISA in 2014; they were discussed during last year's business meeting in Yokohama; and were approved this past fall by the RC40 Executive Board during its bi-annual meeting. As a reminder, only RC40 members who are members of ISA can vote to ratify these changes, so please keep a look out for a message from Maki Hatanaka in the coming weeks.

As we move into the summer conference season, we ourselves move into a period of greater exchange and interaction. Please keep us informed of any new events or readings that could be of interest via the RC40 listserv.

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Reflection Piece

The Climate-Smart Agriculture Conference 2015 Marta Guadalupe Rivera Ferré University of Vic-Central University of Catalonia

In March 2015 the third Global Conference on Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA) took place in Montpellier (<http://csa2015.cirad.fr/>). I was in CIRAD as visitor researcher when the conference started to be organized. My curiosity in attending the meeting was two-fold: it is a concept stated at the Fifth Assessment report of the IPCC as a potential option to both mitigate and adapt agriculture to climate change, while improving food security, but at the same time is a contested concept rejected by many agriculture-related civil society movements,

among which La Via Campesina, because it is widely associated to corporations and is perceived as an industry strategy to deepen their control of global food system. That is, it is perceived as a new tool to deepen in the current food regime through greening (corporate environmentalism) and sustainable development narratives. I was interested in knowing what the scientific discourse behind CSA was. To my surprise, only a couple of weeks before Montpellier's conference, a huge conference on Global Innovation in Agriculture was taking

place in Abu Dhabi (GIAF: <http://www.innovationsinagriculture.com/>).

Many politically relevant faces (such as John Kerry or The Prince of Wales) were attending that meeting, where a specific group of sessions on climate-smart agriculture were programmed. I navigated that conference through the web, and all intuitions from social movements were correct: It was clearly a meeting in search of making profit from agricultural innovation, among which, climate-smart agriculture. The conference was plenty of global food corporations and the word “business” was common in the web, as well as the presence of CEO’s as invited speakers in different sessions. The scenario was not very promising. But I found that Montpellier’s conference was going into a completely different direction. Mostly scientists, with predominance of natural sciences profile, were attending and many of the presentations were defending agroecology or traditional knowledge as key elements of CSA (others definitely were more into conventional agriculture). Also, the final Montpellier statement addressed to policy-makers, defended agroecology and small-family farming as key elements in CSA.

So we have one concept, and two different views. That is, the concept, originally launched by FAO in 2010, seems to have diverged into two different concepts, one more corporate, for-profit with a clear market-oriented perspective, and other more natural resources based, supported by public institutions and international NGOs, really focused on climate change and food security. The main problem, as with the term food security or sustainable development, is the lack of a clear political direction and treat mitigation and adaptation to climate change as technical problems, leaving space for different interpretations, and thus, to be used at their convenience by different actors. The lack of political direction is certainly due to something that we are, unfortunately, very much used to: the lack of social and political analysis of the causes of hunger, poverty and agriculture-related climate change; and of course, the compartmentalization of knowledge within the field of agri-food sciences. Clearly this is a relevant topic of interest for RC40 members that we will need to follow up and why not, increase our presence in this type of conferences to bring in the so-much needed social and political analysis.



XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology

Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions: Connections and Complexities

**Toronto, Canada
August 10-14, 2016**

Global environmental changes, shifting resource scarcities, deepening social inequalities, both innovation and crisis in urban centers, and new patterns of voluntary and involuntary migrations are among the conditions and dynamics now shaping the futures of rural places and people. Intensifying and intertwining forces of commodification, industrialization, neoliberalization and globalization over the last several decades have produced uneven and arguably illusory gains, given evidence of the increasingly precarious position of labor and livelihoods throughout the rural world and the widespread distribution of environmental harm and ecological degradation. Within these general patterns and trends, circumstances can vary greatly across rural contexts within and between continents.

Rigorous analysis of the interconnected challenges now experienced by rural people and places, as well as comprehensive assessment of the proposed solutions and diverse experiments now underway will increase our understanding of the pathways which may be open, blocked or yet to be created for movement towards more sustainable and just rural futures. Sociologists and other social scientists addressing rural concerns play indispensable roles in identifying, analyzing and assessing the forms and consequences – both intended and unintended – of the diverse transition aspirations and experiences of rural people and places.

We invite you to submit a paper for presentation at the Congress. Abstracts (in English and limited to 300 words) must be submitted to one specific session. Session organizers will be responsible for selecting papers that fit their topic, and reassigning others to the conference 'open paper' sessions. The program committee will work to ensure disciplinary diversity and content compatibility when assigning individual papers within the 'open paper' sessions.

Congress guidelines and a link to the abstract submission system can be found on the IRSA Congress 2016 website. <http://www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016/call-for-submissions/call-for-papers.html>

The XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology encourages interdisciplinary dialogue, exchange and collaboration in order to enhance the contributions and applications of sociological inquiry for understanding and improving the life conditions and experiences of people located in, identified with, and concerned about, rural places and communities worldwide. The program for the Congress will include keynote lectures by invited speakers providing fresh, integrative insights and challenges for rural sociological inquiry and practice. It will also include varied opportunities and venues for participants to present results of their research and engage with other scholars and practitioners from around the world, within traditional paper sessions, thematic panel discussions or debates, roundtables, workshops or performances.

IRSA2016@arts.ryerson.ca

www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016.ca

Call for Paper Abstracts: *Open as of May 19 – until November 1, 2015.*

After a successful call for sessions that attracted a diverse and exciting set of proposals, we have finalized the [list of Sessions](#) for XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology 2016 (Toronto). We invite you to browse the possibilities in the session descriptions, accessed through the [Call for Paper Abstracts](#) page on the Congress website.

Adding to the diversity and potential of the coming Congress is an RC-40 mini-conference: Critical Analysis of Agri-food Resistance and Alternatives. This mini-conference includes three tracks:

- 1) The Critique of Resistance in Agri-Food organized by **Alessandro Bonanno** and **Steven Wolf**
- 2) Contested Sustainability Discourses: From Food Sovereignty to Sustainable Intensification, organized by **Douglas H. Constance**, **Jason Konefal**, and **Maki Hatanaka**
- 3) Global trends in Alternative Agri-food movements: Seeking Convergence Paths, organized by **Marta Guadalupe Rivera Ferré**, **Douglas H. Constance** and **Marie-Christine Renard**

Please consider spreading the word and submitting an abstract to one of 70 sessions before November 1, 2015. Check the Congress Website for further details, as plenary speakers are confirmed, field trips are announced and registration details are posted.

Clare Hinrichs and **Phil Mount**

Co-chairs, [World Congress of Rural Sociology](#) (Toronto, 2016)

Program Committee

General questions related to the Congress, its local arrangements or the Congress website may be emailed to: IRSA2016@arts.ryerson.ca

Preparation for the ISA Forum 2016 in Vienna

Call for Participation in the ISA Forum Blog

Dear Colleagues,

The ISA Vice-President Research, Markus Schulz, and the Chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Rudolf Richter, of the Third ISA Forum of Sociology in Vienna, July 2014, cordially invites ISA Research Committees, Working and Thematic Groups to participate in the ISA Forum Blog: <http://isaforum2016.univie.ac.at/blog>

The blog serves to promote the ISA Forum 2016 in Vienna and should help to prepare a lively conference. With this blog we wish to encourage interaction between individual scholars as well as many participant groups:

Local Organizing Committee and Austrian and Central European Sociology:

- The institutes represented in the LOC are contributing content related to their respective locations concerning Austrian sociological thought, research on the host country and continent (for example on history and history of science) and the theme of the Forum.
- Members of the LOC introduce themselves by presenting their main issues of research and publications of interest concerning the forum's theme.

We would like to invite you to coordinate participation in the blog from your RC/WG/TG. Possible contributions:

- A discussion of the ISA Forum main theme “*The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World*” from the perspective of your RC/WG/TG
- A presentation of your ongoing research and upcoming RC/WG/TGs sessions in Vienna, initiating a pre-forum discussion to be continued at the Forum.
- A worldwide perspective on topics discussed within the Central and Eastern European context
- An introduction of the work and thematic focus of the president of the RC/WG/TG in form of an interview

The posts should ideally encourage interaction, address the reading public and invite them to leave comments and contribute their own perspective on the topic discussed. The texts should be written in English and the length of each post should be max. 1000 words, shorter posts are very welcome.

We ask interested RCs/WGs/TGs to send their contributions to **Celi Scalon** <celiscalon@gmail.com> and **Dieter Bögenhold** <dieter.boegenhold@aau.at>

Yours,

Markus Schulz, ISA VP Research

Report from the Editors

International Journal of Sociology and Agriculture and Food

Mara Miele, Farshad Araghi, and Vaughan Higgins

Issues since the last RC40 Newsletter

Vol 21, Issue 3 (2014)

Special Issues

CHILDREN'S FOOD PRACTICES AND SCHOOL MEALS

Available at: <http://www.ij saf.org/contents/21-3/index.html>

Editorial Introduction

Children's Food Practices and School Meals

Authors: Mónica Truninger, Ana Horta and José Teixeira

Articles

The Politics of the Public Plate: School Food and Sustainability

Author: Kevin Morgan

Breakfast and Beyond: The Dietary, Social and Practical Impacts of a Universal Free School Breakfast Scheme in the North West of England, UK

Authors: Pamela Louise Graham, Riccardo Russo, John Blackledge and Margaret Anne Defeyter

Developing a Conceptual Framework for Understanding Children's Eating Practices at School

Authors: José A. (Tony) Torralba and Barbara Atie Guidalli

What Would Be the Best School Meal If You Were to Decide? Pupils' Perceptions on What Constitutes a Good School Meal

Author: Maria Bruselius-Jensen

Between Pleasures and Risks: The Circulation of Knowledge about Food in French Primary Schools

Authors: Simona De Iulio and Susan Kovacs

Volume 22, Issue 1 (2015)

Available at: <http://www.ijsaf.org/contents/22-1/index.html>

Articles

Food-based Activities versus Material Possessions: Alternatives to Consumption

Authors: Robin R. Wikoff and Madeleine E. Pullman

Change Management in Dairy Farming

Authors: Bjørn Gunnar Hansen and Anne Moxness Jervell

Why Do Farmers Collaborate with a Food Cooperative? Reasons for Participation in a Civic Food Network in Vienna, Austria

Author: Ulrike Jaklin, Susanne Kummer and Rebecka Milestad

Book Review

In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World, by Judith Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff

Review Author: Karolina Rucinska

The editors of IJSAF invite all the members of RC40 to submit papers to the journal.

Mara Miele
Vaughan Higgins
Farshad Araghi



Upcoming Events

Agrifood XXII: Agrifood Research Network Conference
Queenstown, New Zealand
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/agrifood-2015/index.html>

December 6-9, 2015

Abstract Due August 1, 2015

3rd ISA Forum of Sociology
Vienna, Austria
<http://www.isa-sociology.org/forum-2016/>
July 10-14, 2016

Abstract Due September 30, 2015

XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology

Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions: Connections and Complexities

Toronto, Canada

<http://www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016/call-for-submissions/call-for-papers.html>

August 10-14, 2016

Abstract Due November 1, 2015

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.



RC40 Executive Council (2014-2018)

Office	Officer	Organizational Affiliation	Country	Email
President	Allison Loconto	National Institute for Agricultural Research	France	amloconto@versailles.inra.fr
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From the Secretary

Maki Hatanaka (maki.hatanaka@shsu.edu)

[1] About the Listserv of the RC-40:

Beginning fall 2014, RC40 has established its listserv using the Yahoo Groups. We hope to use this listserv to enhance communication and interaction among the RC40 members.

List Logistics:

- To join the RC40 listserv, send your message to: rc40_food_and_ag_soc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
- To post messages to the list membership, send your message to: rc40_food_and_ag_soc@yahoogroups.com.

[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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For more information contact:

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