



Agriculture and Food

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

Volume 9 Number 2

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From the President

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As we head towards the end of 2015, we take this moment to reflect upon the events of the past year.

As I write this text, here in Paris we are dealing with the aftermath of a second terrorist attack. This one targeting not cartoonists and kosher grocers like the Charlie Hebdo attack at the beginning of the year, but the highly integrated Parisian youth culture of food and music, for which the 10th and 11th Arrondissements are so well known. The beauty of these neighborhoods is that they intersperse Cambodian cuisine, with classic French bistros, Japanese cuisine alongside new-wave continental cooking by four young waitresses who wanted to start their own restaurant. These neighborhoods point to the culinary and cultural fusion that Parisian youth are drawn to, in a relaxed atmosphere of conviviality. Our condolences go out to all those who were touched by these attacks.

Questions of social change were on the agenda this conference season, which was filled with a number of regional and national conferences that brought together scholars around the themes of: *Rural Societies in a Neoliberal World*, *Understanding Rural Social Class in an Era of Global Challenge*, *Comparing processes of agrarian change in Latin America*, *Agriculture in an Urbanizing Society*, *Food Sovereignty*, *Food Empires and Political Economies* and *Embodied Food* - just to name a few.

It is clear that our fellow sociologists are seriously considering some of the changes that we are experiencing in the social fabric of food and agriculture across rural and urban landscapes. Each country and region takes a different approach to how they approach the social aspects of neoliberalism, globalization and agrarian change. At R40 we are encouraging dialogue on this by featuring updates by our various members from around the world. This month we feature an article by our Nigerian colleagues, who held their national meeting this year in Ogbomoso, Nigeria.

In RC40 business, we successfully ratified amendments to the RC40 Bylaws (now referred to as Statutes) with a 100% approval rate. Voter turnout was quite low, only 23% of members voted. We will work on trying to improve this number in the future. You can look at the new statutes at the end of this newsletter.

The Journal Professionalization Committee has officially started its search for a commercial publisher. The committee is made up of Mara Miele as representative from the IJSAF Editors, myself on behalf of the RC40 Executive Board and Alessandro Bonnanno as an expert on working with commercial publishers. We will be fielding proposals over the next few months and will hopefully have new news to communicate in the next newsletter.

Finally, we are happy to report that RC40 will be participating in both the ISA Forum in Vienna from 10-14 July 2014 and at the IRSA meetings in Toronto Meetings August 10-14, 2016 with the Mini-Conference entitled: *Critical Analysis of Agri-food Resistance and Alternatives: Contestation over Just, Healthy, and Safe Worlds of Food.*

We are currently working with our RSS colleagues in order to have a presence at the RSS meetings that will take place just before the IRSA meetings (7-10 August). So those of you who did not make the IRSA deadlines, might be able to join us as we extend the mini-conference into the RSS meetings.

Reflection Piece

Recollection of the 2015 Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria (RuSAN) Annual Congress

Taofeeq Yekinni, PhD

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The annual congress of the Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria, held in October 2015, was the 24th edition of the conference. It was conceived to address an issue of societal relevance with the theme 'Social change, transparency and sharp practices: Impacts on rural development'. Issue of corruption was highlighted, being of an issue of pertinence to Nigeria at this period in time. In 2014, Nigeria scored 27 points out of 100 on the Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International. A country's score indicates the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).

At this time, public institutions are known to be most ineffective because of various issues traceable to corruption and inappropriate conducts and practices. The aim of the conference was to unravel the various ways in which the actions and inactions of individuals as well as private and public institutions have affected social relations and development in rural areas. The leadership of the society, apart from being current with happenings in the society, floated the theme to attract other professionals' interests in this issue of contemporary relevance.

The conference was held at an auspicious time, when the issue in vogue was war against corruption, as it was being championed by the new government in the country, led by President Muhammadu Buhari. The association was thus noted as drumming up supports for war against corruption in the land.

During the presentations at the opening ceremony, an erstwhile official of the former President and Head of Department of Economics, University of Ibadan; Prof Kassey Garba affirmed that the benefit of oil boom does not translate to development in the country largely because of corruption, noting that rural areas are especially worse for it. She reiterated the current President's mantra that "if Nigeria does not kill corruption, corruption will kill Nigeria" is true. She also linked rise in criminal activities to the corrupt activities that have denied so many people and beyond the tolerable limits of some of the criminals. Prof Abayomi Olubunmi Omotesho, one of the plenary paper presenters, highlighted how Nigeria lost \$4.8billion to corruption arising from subsidies on fertilisers and seeds, whereas these items often did not get to farmers.

There were other technical presentations by researchers that highlighted various tendencies and manifestations of corruption in agricultural and rural development activities in the country, at the levels of government, public/private institutions and individuals. Reports from such researchers would expectedly be found useful by the anti-corruption agencies of the government.

With this activity, the association is fulfilling its responsibility, not only to its members, but to the entire country by coming out clearly to support the government's effort at curbing corruption in the country. At the end of the event, the association released a communiqué, from which an excerpt is presented;

1. Several myths surrounding corruption as non-researchable or not measurable was debunked, hence the need to be more focused on vigorously promoting transparency, integrity, due process and accountability rather than pursuing curative agenda which are by no means cheap.

2. There is the need to shift away from a 'tendency to compartmentalise our participation as academics in management, in leadership and in public service to a degree that we are contented with our inputs even when the outputs and outcomes are not appreciated, or the inputs time and time again fail to bear the desired fruits.'

3. Leaving the struggles against anti-corruption to government agencies and the media alone may not yield any reasonable result. Therefore academia; behavioural and social scientists including the Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria (RuSAN) must join in the crusade by embarking on a two-prong approach of evidence-based research and advocacy.

4. To better position the association towards achieving the best quality of life for the rural dwellers, RuSAN will unfold a programme of establishing state chapters for more effective community interaction and linkage with the grassroots and policy makers. The association will also pursue an internationalisation agenda towards mustering strength at a pan-African advocacy against corruption.

5. RuSAN will promote a robust anti-corruption movement to support the zero tolerance of governments by partnering with other organisations with identical agenda.

6. Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria is willing to contribute its technical and professional services towards liberating the psyches of Nigerians through persuasive mass campaign and revival of healthy and progressive ethos.

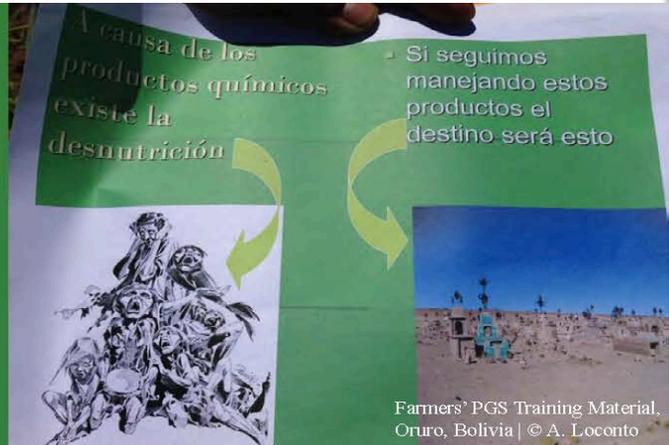
7. The 24th Annual National Congress of the Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria recognised and appreciated the right steps taken so far by the President Muhammadu Buhari's administration. We acknowledged that the damage of several decades can only be fixed through calculated and determined restructuring of our systems and total re-orientation of our social values and we therefore appeal to all Nigerians to exercise patience and be prepared to sacrifice and contribute to the re-building of a great Nigeria.



XIV World Congress of Rural Sociology Sustainable and Just Rural Transitions: Connections and Complexities

August 10-14 2016
Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada

<http://www.ryerson.ca/arts/irsacongress2016/>



Farmers' PGS Training Material,
Oruro, Bolivia | © A. Loconto

RC40 Mini-Conference

Critical Analysis of Agri-food Resistance and Alternatives: Contestation over Just, Healthy, and Safe Worlds of Food

Convened by: Allison Loconto (President) and Maki Hatanaka (Secretary/Treasurer), RC40

The mini-conference will critically explore the dynamics of dominance and resistance and the transformative potential of alternative propositions in three interrelated session tracks:

Track 1. The Critique of Resistance in Agri-Food: Its Limits and New Frontiers

Organizers: Alessandro Bonanno and Steven Wolf

Track 2. Contested Sustainability Discourses: From Food Sovereignty to Sustainable Intensification

Organizers: Douglas H. Constance, Jason Konefal, and Maki Hatanaka

Track 3. Global trends in Alternative Agri-food movements: seeking convergence paths

Organizers: Marta Guadalupe Rivera Ferré, Douglas H. Constance and Marie-Christine Renard

The papers presented in this mini-conference will be considered for publication in a special issue of RC40's International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food. (<http://www.ij saf.org/>)

Papers presented in Track 1 will also be considered for inclusion in an edited book to be published by a major academic press.



<http://www.isa-sociology.org/rc40.htm>



<http://www.irsa-world.org/>

ISA Forum 2016 in Vienna

Update from Maki Hatanaka

The 2016 ISA Forum has received over 7,700 abstracts. We are very excited about the large number of submissions. As the Program Coordinators, Allison Loconto and I are currently in the process of working with Session Organizers on selecting abstracts and making necessary session adjustments. RC 40 will (co)sponsor the following 5 sessions in Vienna:

- Contested Sustainability Discourses: From Food Sovereignty to Sustainable Intensification
- Food Security, Indigenous Knowledge and Sustainable Agriculture
- Globalized Agrarian Economy and Women's Labour: Analysing Situations in Asia
- Social Innovation in Agriculture and Food: Old Wine in New Bottles?
- Farm Work Issues within Globalization

Notifications to the authors regarding the selection status of their papers will be sent out from the ISA office on November 30th. Please stay tuned!

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 22, Issue 1 (2015)

Available at: <http://www.ij saf.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

Author: 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

Authors: 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

Upcoming Events

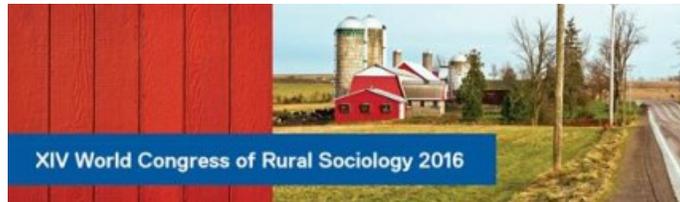
Agrifood XXII: Agrifood Research Network Conference
Queenstown, New Zealand
<http://www.otago.ac.nz/agrifood-2015/index.html>
December 6-9, 2015

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

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

Agriculture, Food & Human Values Society and the Association for the Study of Food and Society Annual Conference
University of Toronto – Scarborough, Canada
June 22-26, 2016

Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting
Understanding Rural Social Class in an Era of Global Challenge
Toronto, Canada
August 7-10, 2016



The Futures We Want: Global Sociology and the Struggles for a Better World



RC40 Statutes

I. MEMBERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE

I.A. MEMBERSHIP

I.A.1. Members shall either be regular members or affiliated members.

I.A.1.a. Regular members shall be individuals in good standing within the ISA.

I.A.1.b. Affiliated members shall be individuals interested in the activities of RC40, who are not members of the ISA.

I.A.2. All **regular members** of RC40 shall be entitled to vote as individual members in the discussions about organisational matters at the General Meetings according to the principle "one member, one vote".

I.A.3. All **regular and affiliated members** of RC40 shall be entitled to:

I.A.3.a. priority status for participating in the scientific activities of the Research Committee.

I.A.3.b. receive the newsletter issued by RC40 free of charge

I.A.4. All **regular and affiliated members** of RC40 shall be obliged to:

I.A.4.a. uphold the present Statutes of RC 40 and to adhere to the stipulations of the present Statutes.

I.A.4.b. conscientiously fulfil the tasks entrusted to them by the General Meeting or other bodies of RC 40.

I.A.4.c. pay their fee for the respective period (i.e. 4 years). This fee shall be fixed by the RC40 Executive Committee at each General Meeting for both regular and affiliate members. The respective amounts to be paid shall be specified in the By-Laws to the present Statutes.

I.A.5. Officers and Executive Committee Members of the RC40:

I.A.5.a. are elected in the year prior to the quadrennial World Congress and take office at that Congress.

I.A.5.b. cannot succeed themselves.

I.A.5.c. must be members in good standing in the ISA and of RC40 throughout the four years of their mandate.

I.B. BY-LAWS ON THE RC40 MEMBERSHIP FEE

I.B.1. The membership fees for RC40 are fixed as follows:

I.B.1.a. USD 40 for members from "category A" countries' as defined by the ISA.

I.B.1.b. USD 20 for members from "category B" countries' as defined by the ISA.

I.B.1.c. USD 10 for members from "category C" countries' as defined by the ISA.

I.B.2. In line with ISA practice, membership fees are collected for a period of four years, i.e. USD 40 for members from "category A" countries will be collected every four years.

I.B.2.a. For a list of countries see currently valid ISA membership form.

I.C. GOVERNING BODIES

I.C.1. RC40 is governed by two Officers, an Executive Committee and by a Business Meeting Assembly.

I.C.2. The Officers of the RC40 are:

I.C.2.a. **The President**, whose duties are:

I.C.2.a.i. to organize the scientific and administrative work of the committee in consultation with the secretary-treasurer and members of the executive committee.

I.C.2.a.ii. to convene and organize the quadrennial business meeting as well as any meetings of the executive committee.

I.C.2.a.iii. to appoint the editorial committee of the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food.

I.C.2.a.iv. to provide, with the assistance of the secretary, a free newsletter or equivalent to the membership at least twice annually.

I.C.2.b. **The Secretary/Treasurer**, whose duties are:

I.C.2.b.i. to assist the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC40.

I.C.2.b.ii. to maintain a record of all committee business and executive meetings, and maintain the financial records.

I.C.2.b.iii. to make a yearly statement of financial affairs to the executive committee and a quadrennial statement of financial affairs to the membership at the quadrennial business meeting. The Treasurer must be discharged of their financial responsibilities by the Business Meeting Assembly.

I.C.2.b.iv. to conduct the elections of new officers.

I.C.3. **The Executive Committee**, which consists of:

I.C.3.a. The current president and secretary-treasurer

I.C.3.b. The immediate past president and secretary-treasurer

I.C.3.c. Four elected representatives

I.C.4. The duties of the Members of the Executive Committee are to:

I.C.4.a. advise the President and Secretary on all scientific and business matters pertaining to the activities of the Research Committee.

I.C.4.b. review the secretary's annual financial report.

I.C.4.c. identify the themes and topics for at least one mid-term conference and take responsibility for the organization of those sessions;

I.C.4.d. identify (i) the Research Committee's delegate to the ISA Research Council and other organizations and (ii) the alternate delegate to the Research Council.

I.C.5. **Business Meeting Assembly**

I.C.5.a. A Business Meeting Assembly is held at least every four years, preferably at the ISA World Congress. The meeting is chaired by the President or by one Vice-President of the RC 40. Votes can only be cast by regular RC 40 members in good standing who are present at the Meeting.

I.C.5.b. The duties of the Assembly are:

I.C.5.b.i. to evaluate and approve the four-year-report.

I.C.5.b.ii. to discharge the outgoing Executive Committee of its responsibilities, including the financial statement.

I.C.5.b.iii. to discuss and carry motions on any other point that may arise.

I.C.5.b.iv. Decisions in a Business Meeting Assembly are taken by simple majority.

I.C.6. Measures for replacing inactive Officers.

I.C.6.a. Temporary vacancies in the Executive Committee between consecutive ISA World Congresses may be filled by appointment by the President, in accordance with ISA Statute 4.5.

I.C.6.b. The places of any Executive Committee member not in good standing with either the ISA or RC40 may be declared temporarily vacant by the President, at the President's discretion, and the vacancy filled according to paragraph (a).

I.C.6.c. One of the Executive Committee members, identified by the Executive Committee will assume the responsibilities of the President of the Executive Committee in the case of the death, incapacitation, resignation, or other inability of the incumbent to carry out the responsibilities of the office of the President.

I.D. ELECTIONS

I.D.1. All **regular members** of RC 40, in good standing, shall be entitled to:

I.D.1.a. run for office.

I.D.1.b. vote in all RC40 elections.

I.D.2. Nomination Procedure

I.D.2.a. To ensure participation of all regular and affiliated members, nomination shall be done by mail. To this end, the Secretary shall prepare a form to be sent to all **regular and affiliated members** at least twenty weeks before the election day together with a list of all regular members of RC 40.

I.D.2.b. All **regular and affiliated members** of RC 40 shall be entitled to nominate candidates for the Executive Committee. Nominated candidates shall be **regular members** of RC 40. They shall confirm their preparedness to accept the respective position on the Executive Committee in case they are elected and to remain a regular member in good standing for the duration of their mandate, and shall return the nomination form to the Secretary, together with a brief curriculum vitae

I.D.3. The Secretary shall prepare a ballot listing all nominated candidates along with the respective positions on the Executive Committee. In case of several nominations for the same position, the nominated candidates shall be listed in alphabetical order. The ballot shall be sent to all **regular members** of RC 40 by mail at least ten weeks before the election day.

I.D.4. **Regular and affiliated members** shall send their ballot by mail or email to the designated electoral officer(s). Ballots received later than two weeks before the beginning of the World Congress shall not be counted.

I.D.5. The Secretary/Treasurer will count the votes, present them to the Executive Committee and will record the tally in the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting. Any tie votes will be resolved through a vote by Executive Committee members.

I.D.6. The Secretary/Treasurer will publish the results of the vote.

II. SCIENTIFIC WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

II.A. Promotion and encouragement of scientific analysis of the social organization of agriculture and food systems.

II.B. Organization of the substantive content of the RC40 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 national and regional associations 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 RC40 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 coordinating 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 RC40, 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 RC40.

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 RC40 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 RC40, 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 STATUTES AND BY-LAWS

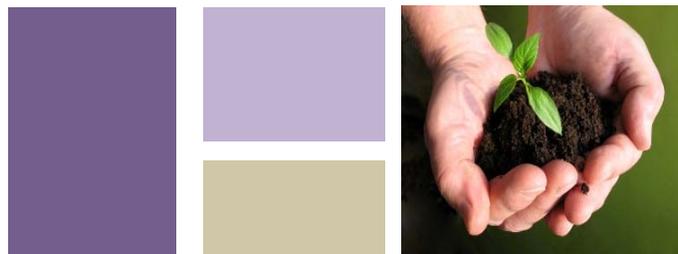
IV.A. Any proposal for amendments to the Statutes or by-laws may be made by any regular member in good standing of RC40.

IV.B. Such a proposal must be received by the Board at least one year before the World Congress.

IV.C. The proposal will be circulated among all RC40 regular members, together with an explanation of its rationale, at least six months before the next World Congress. The Board will be entitled to propose amendments, to be circulated at least two months before the World Congress.

IV.D. The proposed amendments must be initially approved by a simple majority vote during the quadrennial RC40 business meeting.

IV.E. Amendments must then be ratified by mail or email ballot of regular members by a simple majority of those voting.



RC40 Executive Council (2014-2018)

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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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