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# Agriculture and Food

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

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Image: TheDigitalArtist, Pete Linforth <https://pixabay.com/users/thedigitalartist-202249/>

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## President's Welcome

Dear RC40,

Greetings. While the latest IPCC report, COVID, the tenor of the upcoming United Nations Food Security Summit, and domestic and international political alignments are heavy, there are personal moments of great joy and there are reasons for broader optimism. You will see some of these reasons highlighted in this RC40 newsletter artfully produced by Hilde Bjørkhaug, Secretary/Treasurer.

Looking back to earlier in the year, you will find details enclosed on exciting sessions organized by RC40 members at the February 2021 ISA Forum. Looking ahead, you will see details on a series of upcoming Early Career Agrifood Research Workshops organized by RC40 members, as well as information on international conferences planned for 2022 (International Rural Sociological Assoc) and 2023 (ISA World Congress). The RC40 journal, the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food, is seeking a new Editor. Please see the call for proposals below. On behalf of RC40, I extend warm thanks to Ray Jussaume (Editor in Chief), Claire Marris and Katerina Psarikidou (Associate Editors) for their leadership. I also extend thanks to new leaders who have moved into the role of RC40 Regional Representatives.

The consultation we advanced around postponement of the ISA World Congress (now scheduled for June 2023 in Melbourne) and the implications of the RC40 election cycle term allows us to proceed with confidence. Thirty two of the thirty three people responding to the consultation agreed with the decision of the ISA Assembly of Council and supported extending the terms of the existing RC40 leadership for an additional year. One person abstained. On this basis, all is in order, procedurally and in terms of the spirit of solidarity on which RC40 is founded.

The September 2021 UN Food Systems Summit - <https://www.un.org/en/food-systems-summit> - brings tremendous focus onto issues of agriculture and food. The debates regarding a doubly green revolution, sustainable intensification, and food sovereignty are very much unresolved and highly salient regarding Sustainable Development Goals and the core interests of RC40 members. I encourage you to get informed and get involved. Philip McMichael shared the following links with me recently - <https://www.iatp.org/throwing-good-money-after-bad> and <https://agroecologyresearchaction.org/peoplesknowledge/>. Our voices are needed.

This newsletter aims to inform the membership of our activities and communicate possibilities to prospective members. I want to celebrate these initiatives, and at the same time I want to urge you not to take for granted our collective capacity to advance shared objectives – e.g., international intellectual fellowship, professional development of people at all career stages, and positive impacts of our research on food systems, health, rural communities, and land use. Please share this

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newsletter with non-members and encourage them to consider joining us. You will find RC40 outreach materials (posters, flyers, etc..) at <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/projects-8>. We remain a bit of a secret “club” and our members are the most effective way we can let people know we welcome them. With international travel and our normal rhythms interrupted, we remain very much dependent on leadership by our members and our Executive Council (EC). As always, I encourage you to see RC40 as a platform to support your work and your ambitions. I invite you to draw on our resources to build something. You can do this by reaching out to me, Hilde, your RC40 Regional Representative or any member of the Executive Council (find our contact information at <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/links>).

Very best,

Steven  
Steven Wolf  
Cornell University  
President, RC40 - <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/>

## RC40 regional representatives

RC40 is vitalizing its regional activities and connections. First part of 2021 three new regional representatives are committing to engage in RC40 activities. We warmly welcome Sheila Manka, Cynthia Gharios and Kiah Smith for joining the group and thank outgoing representatives for their service to our scholarly community.



Visit <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/links> for contact details to the representatives.

Our regional representatives are important nodes in connecting RC40 international activities and activities at regional level. Examples are hosting RC40 ‘sponsored’ workshops, working groups and pre- and post-activities at national and regional conferences.

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## Presenting our new regional representatives

### Middle East and North Africa: Cynthia Gharios



It is with great pleasure that I take the role of regional representative for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. I am currently a PhD candidate at the Graduate School Global and Area Studies at the University of Leipzig. My research interests revolve around the topics of food, agriculture, and the global food system. I am particularly interested in political ecology and cultural geography with an emphasis on the financialization of agriculture, land grabs and foreign direct investment, technology and smart farming, and the imaginary of agrarian future(s) MENA region.

I am currently based in Germany where I am working on my PhD. My research project examines the UAE's food system and addresses the changing practices and visions used to tackle food security at a national level, and the key role of technology and innovation in it. Before enrolling at the University of Leipzig, I was a research assistant on a collaborative project between the London School of Economics and Political Science and the American University of Beirut, entitled "The Palimpsest of Agrarian Change". The aim of the project was to explore the transformations of agrarian landscapes in South Lebanon, focusing on the relation between secure and long-term access to land for farming, and the social, physical, and environmental implications such transformations entail within the particular economic and political context of Lebanon.

I have previously worked on agrarian transformation in Lebanon and was involved in projects on agricultural war damage in Yemen, and on agricultural investments in Morocco. I have conducted fieldwork research in Lebanon, Morocco, and the UAE. Throughout the research projects I was involved in, I was exposed to various topics and methodologies, particularly in the fields of geography, ecology, political economy, landscape studies, GIS, planning, and agrarian changes. I hold an MSc in landscape architecture (specialization in cultural geography) from Wageningen University (the Netherlands) and a BSc in landscape design and ecological management from the American University of Beirut (Lebanon). I am fluent in Arabic, French, and English and have intermediate knowledge of German and Spanish

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## Australia/New Zealand: Kiah Smith



**Dr Kiah Smith** is a DECRA Senior Research Fellow with the School of Social Science, University of Queensland, Australia. Her research in Sociology (Environment/Development) focuses on sustainability transformations in local and global food systems, with publications on food security and food justice, climate resilience, ethical trade, sustainable livelihoods, gender, green economy, financialisation and governance.

She currently leads an ARC-funded study on 'Fair Food Futures, Civil Society and the SDGs', which engages 'food justice' advocates and groups in debates about the future of food in Australia and develops alternative visions for achieving Zero Hunger.

**Kiah** previously worked with the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development, has collaborated with NGOs in Australia and internationally, is a *Future Earth* Fellow, sits on the editorial board of the *International Journal of the*

*Sociology of Agriculture and Food*, and is the Treasurer of the *Australasian Agrifood Research Network*.

**Kiah** is passionate about praxis-oriented agri-food research, and in supporting and advancing the work of early-career researchers in Sociology and the RC40.

Sheila Manka from the African region will be properly introduced in the next issue. Sheila is just about to complete her PhD, we wish her the best.

## RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshops

RC40 is arranging a series of online regionally-focused workshops targeting early-career agrifood researchers to support their publishing in international, English language academic journals. One workshop was successfully conducted from the East-Asian node. Midori Hiraga, RC-40 Executive Committee (EC) member occupying the Junior Scholar seat, initiated this important initiative. The events are open to current and prospective RC40 members. By taking leadership in these events, RC40 aims to support global development of an inclusive agrifood research community. Also, we aim to recruit new RC40 members through this global initiative.

### Online Workshop for early-career agri-food researchers Latin American edition

isa-agrifood.com

Applications up to Aug 15th.



Sociology of  
Agriculture and Food

The second workshop will focus on Latin-America scholars and scholarship. The event will be held September 30<sup>th</sup> and it is being Chaired by Paulo Niederle, regional representative in Latin America. Carla Gras and Allison Loconto will serve as mentors at the workshop. This leadership group has attracted 18 applications from Early Career Researchers in 6 countries. See the call for applications (now closed) at: <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/forum/rc40-announcements/online-workshop-for-early-career-agrifood-researchers-latin-american-edition>

Next is workshop planned for young scholars from the Middle East or whose research is focused in the Middle East. Look out for the call for abstracts at the <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/forum/rc40-announcements>

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## Welcome new members!

In this issue we welcome two of our new members, Maraina Hase Ueta and Michael Grothe-Hammer to the RC40 community.

**Mariana Hase Ueta** is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Postgraduate Program in Social Sciences at the University of Campinas (UNICAMP) and an Associate Researcher at the Institute of Asian Studies at the Federal University of Pernambuco (UFPE), Brazil. She is also part of the Sustentarea project at the University of São Paulo (USP) that promotes the dialogue between academia and community on sustainable food systems. She holds a Bachelor's Degree from UNICAMP in Social Sciences with an emphasis in Anthropology and a Master's Degree in Chinese Society and Public Policy from the School of Social Development and Public Policy of Fudan University (China). Over the last years she has been a Fulbright Fellow at the University of California (UCLA), USA; DAAD Fellow at the project "Food for Justice: Power, Politics, and Food Inequalities in a Bioeconomy" at Freie Universität Berlin, Germany; and a Visiting Researcher at the School of Sociology and Political Science of Shanghai University, China. Her current research focuses on intergenerational discussions on Sustainable Food Consumption from a comparative perspective. Mariana analyzes how the perceptions of Food and Environment are connected to the historical experience of development and nutrition transition in four different countries: Brazil, China, the USA, and Germany. She is committed to empowering perspectives from the Global South in Food Justice debates in order to build an inclusive path towards Sustainable Development.

**Michael Grothe-Hammer** is an Associate Professor of Sociology (Organization and Technology) in the Department of Sociology and Political Science at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway. Before, he was a researcher at the Institute of Social Sciences at the Helmut Schmidt University Hamburg, and at the Department of Management at Freie Universität Berlin. He is secretary of ISA RC17 "Sociology of Organizations". His field is organizational sociology with a focus on sociological systems theory, communication-and decision-centered approaches, and relational sociology. He is currently particularly interested in the characteristics and consequences of new forms of organization in the context of sustainable development, the effects of new digital technologies on organizations and society, and the relationship between organizations and macro-societal differentiation.

## Report from ISA Forum

A belated ISA Forum 2020 took place virtually February 23-28, 2021. Although we were not allowed to meet physically, the virtual arrangement worked well. Forum originally followed the timetable based on Porto Alegre time. Of course, it was challenging for those who were in time zones where there was never a particularly good match with sessions and activities.



All in all, the virtual event was a success for RC40. RC40 organized 13 planned and one open sessions. We collaborated with RC17 (Sociology of Organization) and RC47 (Social Classes and Social Movements) and RC48 (Social Movements, Collective Actions and Social Change) on four sessions. The open session invited all RC40 delegates to and open discussion on direction forward for our scholarly community.

Our sessions gathered 110 individual persons either as session organizers, presenters or co-authors to papers presented. In addition, many sessions were well visited by delegates across other RC's.

The **RC40 Business meeting** was also well attended and was followed by a **social event** gathering new and old RC40 friends over a virtual drink suitable for the individual taste and time zone. Drinks varied from morning tea, cold drinks for lunch to wine and cocktails for those having an evening meeting. Presentation of drinks included a sociology of beverage perspective on culture, social and drink content aspects, as well as entertaining philosophizing. It was an enjoyable moment in Covid times.



Two RC40 delegates, Allison Loconto and Hilde Bjørkhaug contributed together with Edna Castro to the **semi-plenary session on Environmental Challenges**. The session was organized by the Brazilian Sociological Society and LOC.

All presentations from the ISA forum were recorded and are available through the program calendar <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/forum2020/meetingapp.cgi/ModuleProgramBook/0>

## ISA World Congress Melbourne 2023

Post ISA Forum several meetings were held to discuss the fate of the next ISA World Congress. On the agenda was topics of timing and formats, as well as the organization of leadership due to the fact that the congress ush the term off elected members. On May 1, 2021 the Assembly of Councils of the ISA reached the decision to postpone the congress to June 25-July 1, 2023, aiming for physical attendance. It was also decided to extend the term of elected delegates to ISA EC. The RC40 EC will follow this extension based on the acceptance of our members. From RC40 both President Steven Wolf and Secretary/Treasurer Hilde Bjørkhaug participated. RC40 member and past president, Allison Loconto have put a lot of effort into this work though her position in the EC of ISA.

Dates:

August 2022 Call for sessions

September 2022 Call for abstracts

November 2022 Abstract selection

Keep posted for updates on details.

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

Melbourne, Australia | June 25-July 1, 2023  
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre



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



[www.isa-sociology.org](http://www.isa-sociology.org)

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## IRSA 2022

# IRSA 2022 XV World Congress of Rural Sociology

Submissions are now open for the postponed XV World Congress of Rural Sociology, taking place **19-22 July 2022 in Cairns, Australia** at <https://www.irsas2022.com/>

The theme of the congress is **Rural sustainability in the urban century**.

From the call: Whose versions of sustainability count in the urban century? How does spatial disadvantage intersect with injustices based on gender, ethnic, linguistic, religious and other dimensions of social difference? What opportunities do flows of people, capital, information and commodities between urban and rural spaces present for sustainable rural development? As a delegate to the 2022 World Congress of Rural Sociology you will consider these and many other questions relevant to contemporary rural society.

### Key dates for presenters

30 June 2020	Abstract submissions open
30 Sep 2021	Abstract submission deadline
10 Jan 2022	Notification of presenters
28 May 2022	Registration deadline for speakers
10 Jun 2022	Finalization and distribution of program
19–22 Jul 2022	Congress

RC40 have several initiatives in the planning for pre-conference workshop and working groups as well as social events in collaboration with the Australasian Agri-Food Research Network. Due to uncertainties and restrictions regarding travel in the pandemic, we urge you to keep posted on updates on physical and virtual formats.

RC40 is planning to sponsor a virtual or hybrid mini-conference in conjunction with the IRSA conference. Planning is underway and we hope to release details in coming weeks. RC40 has a long history of solidarity with IRSA. The objective is to create a forum for inclusive, low-carbon intellectual exchange that adds energy to the IRSA conference without sapping participation from the event. This is a balancing act that we are pursuing in consultation with IRSA conference organizers.

## Communication

**RC40 main communication** tool is the webpage [www.isa-agrifood.com](http://www.isa-agrifood.com) using your internet browser or the app Spaces (by Wix) on your mobile phone or tablet, invitation code 7KPXHT.

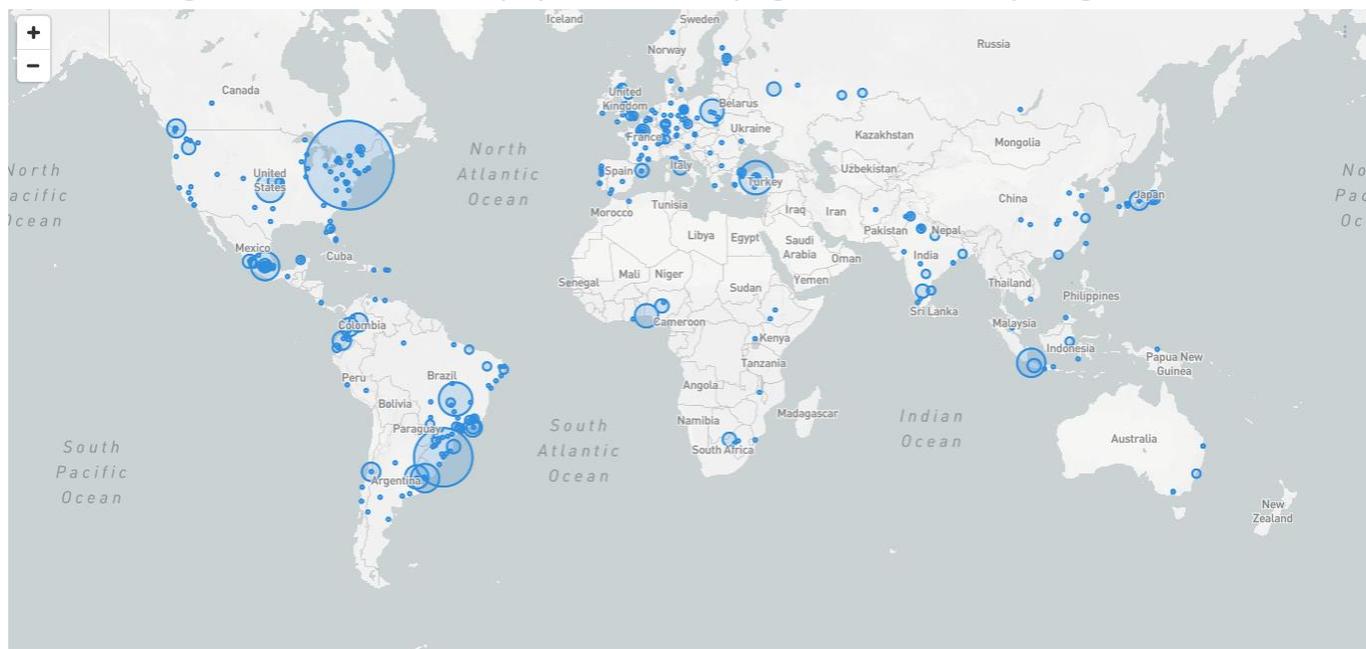
**The RC-40 listserv** runs at the webpage. To read and to post in the RC-40 listserv you need to log on using an e-mail and set a password. The registration is necessary to be able to reach out to the members of the listserv. Input is very welcome. Here you can post directly yourself – or you can ask for assistance to post with Hilde Bjørkhaug (hildebj@ntnu.no).

**RC-40 blog** is open for all to read. To post a blog – contact Angga Dwiartama at [dwiartama@sith.itb.ac.id](mailto:dwiartama@sith.itb.ac.id) . See next pages for call for blogpost and print of our most recent Blog.

**RC-40 Newsletters** are released twice a year. The newsletter is sent electronically to all current members and members of the RC40 listserv. You can read this and previous issues at <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/newsletter>

**RC-40 twitter** account [https://twitter.com/ISA\\_RC40](https://twitter.com/ISA_RC40). Tag @isa-rc40 to notify colleagues on relevant events, activities and publications.

RC40 has a global outreach. The map shows webpage outreach May-August 2021.



## Invitation to Blog at <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/blog>

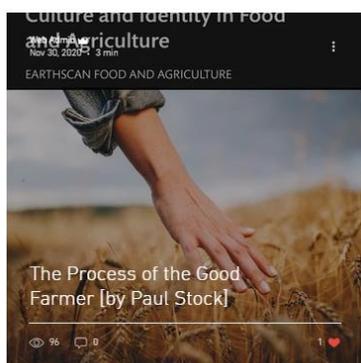
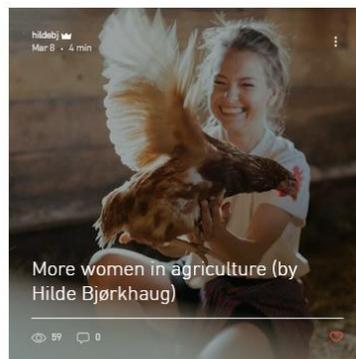
**Weblog** (blog for short) is a good way of sharing your ideas and promoting your works to a wider audience. We invite ISA RC40 members to write their stories, news and promotion materials in our RC40 Community Blog Page. We will then promote the posts to our networks and social media to increase the visibility of your ideas.

The post should be 500 - 1,000 words and correspond to the scope of sociology of agriculture and food, as well as any related works/projects/newly published books/articles. You can also add a link to your web profile or online publication for others to see.

Posts will be curated to fit the said criteria. English, French and Spanish are recommended, but other languages are welcome, as we're keen to build a multi-lingual community blog.

Regularly, we will select posts to be included in the regular RC40 Newsletters.

Share your ideas with us!  
Contact our Web Admin (Angga Dwiartama) at [dwiartama@sith.itb.ac.id](mailto:dwiartama@sith.itb.ac.id) and make your voice heard!



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# That alarming sculptor, Time, and the Long Food Movement [Blog by José Duarte Ribeiro]



Peasant woman, Alentejo, Portugal, circa 1950

Photo: Artur Pastor

Source: Twitter @RuralPortugal

Marguerite Yourcenar's essay *That mighty sculptor, Time* grasps the ambivalence of time with a mastery only reserved to the very few that with a timeless contribution can mean much by saying less. Every meaningful act and movement require timelessness; a continuity to set in stone through the ages a human effort shaped message. That is the effort of a sculptor giving life to a statue, on the metaphor of Yourcenar, and the first phase of its life. Although time can be petrified, its silent motion, or the second phase of erosion "will bit by bit return to the state of unformed mineral mass out of which its sculptor had taken it" [1].

Yourcenar's essay is influential because it successfully portrays both the heritage making capacity of time but also its side of eroding all that was ever created. When we think about our own times, human caused erosion over nature has reached levels that rivalry with time itself. The ways by which we speed up that erosion have come to define predominately the human-nature relation: to the point that the current Anthropocene is the first proposed geological epoch dating human impact on Earth's ecosystems.

Technology allowed us to bend time at our own favour and human development has never been potentially higher but the negative consequences on what has been bended are now more destructive than ever before. We can make out of a rover landing on Mars a live social media event to millions of people around the globe (21.5 million people according to NASA's Youtube channel) while COVID-19 added around 130 million people to the world's hungry, estimated 690 million in 2019 [2]. I know these are not related and yet they are. It is all a matter of political agenda, resources allocation and which fundamental (or radical) changes take, or not, place.

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The fastest historical changes in human history emerged from global scale historical disruptions which considerably threaten our existence, by war or global health risks. On the 14th century, early conceptions of public health emerged from the plague. The 1918 pandemic led to new concepts of preventive medicine as well as expanded access to healthcare for general population. The current pandemic saw a global technological effort which developed several vaccines in record time. Nonetheless, the political economy of production and access to vaccines has only worsened already existing geographies of inequality.

This is precisely one of the key premises of the International Panel for Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food) report “A Long Food Movement: Transforming Food Systems by 2045”[3] which brings to public discussion two main scenarios for food systems. That key premise can be found on the first scenario “Agribusiness-as-usual” where the authors imagine unchanged power relations and a civil society capable of preventing the worst but not fundamentally changing the course. The current global scale historical disruptions have been showing that.

Most recent assessments to the threatening impacts on global food systems are directly related with, perhaps, our century’s greatest erosions: biodiversity loss and declining soil fertility. They are also linked to a “new wave of land, ocean, and resource grabs”[3] by powerful governments under the guise of flagship corporations or corporations which are often more powerful than states. If the pandemic brought more discussion into ethical consumerism and blossoming short supply chain, localized producer and consumer liaisons and cooperatives, accelerating already existing urban food policies or new patterns, regulations and support to urban agriculture, it also brought novel downsides to alternative and sustainable farming and food systems.

Proof of that is the fact that retailing giants that tremendously benefitted from national-wide quarantines and lockdowns are investing massively to control food supplies through digitalization of farming and engineering ecosystems through data control – which amid a pandemic and future health risks proves quite persuasive to policymakers, as IPES-Food reports. Furthermore, even when considering policy drivers and enablers of global debate on alternative food systems, we must not forget that their geographical origins are dominantly embedded in path dependence inequalities, which means that they mostly take place in already privileged topographies of overconsumption over others of overproduction, where underconsumption, malnutrition and hunger also takes place. This is not the mighty, but the alarming sculptor of our times.

I do not write these words out of cynicism. All positive initiatives happening at the developed world are not directly to be blamed for lacking impact on other geographies. But then again, they are. When we look at the upcoming UN Food Systems Summit as the first world summit ever to embrace farm-to-fork issues we are also seeing numerous civil society organizations, voicing the summit’s “corporate takeover” by agribusiness[4].

Here we find the sword of Damocles over the scenario 2, “Civil society as Unusual” of the IPES-Food report. Despite incremental successes of agroecology, nature rights and food sovereignty’s operational narratives and agendas, governance structures must be transformed, and the transformation must be at the highest levels to reach all geographies of food. The report acknowledges so on Pathway 2, aiming at the fundamental need to review, reform and reconfigure the UN’s agri-food agencies. That is why, whenever fears of corporate takeover are voiced, boycotting and opted-out parallel discussions are,

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although a legitimate strategy, mostly sharpening the sword. James Scott's *art of not being governed* lesson provides a powerful tool for state avoidance when state avoidance is needed to empower local and community level decision making, but does not apply when transnational governance structures (where major budget lines, subsidies and tax policies are designed) need to be reformed from within.

This remains and will remain more fundamental. Even at governance levels, such as the European Union, where perhaps there is more permeability to financially support agroecology and small-scale family farming than elsewhere, the 'Farmers for the Future' [5] report was heavily criticized by civil society organizations for including on the 12 profiles of farming styles for the future, some that do not take in account climate crisis or are even associated with land-grabbing. Furthermore, the report refers to "the large majority of the 10 million family farms that exist in the EU" under the 'adaptive' and 'patrimonial' pejorative terms [6]. In Portugal, my home country, over 100 scholars (among which I include myself) from almost all domestic universities recently delivered at the parliament and ministry of agriculture an open letter calling for the Portuguese government to strategically use the financial package of the Common Agricultural Policy 2021-2027 under the premises of the ecological transition of Portuguese agriculture, sustainable agricultural practices and rural development as well as food sovereignty [7].

Civil society and social movements in their work to challenge agribusiness and striving to shift the current direction of our food systems must not forget that the adjective "Long" is what matters the most at the "Long Food Movement" project. Persistence and continuity from within are perhaps the ingredients to deal with time's erosion at its own pace. Its passage is inevitable, but our interference is not, and that is after all agroecology's utopia. Although time is not on favour of civil society and social movements, we all know that this utopia has already many topographies around the world.

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[1] Marguerite Yourcenar, *That Mighty Sculptor, Time*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 1992, p.57.

[2] [http://www.ipes-food.org/\\_img/upload/files/LFMExecSummaryEN.pdf](http://www.ipes-food.org/_img/upload/files/LFMExecSummaryEN.pdf)

[3] [http://www.ipes-food.org/\\_img/upload/files/LongFoodMovementEN.pdf](http://www.ipes-food.org/_img/upload/files/LongFoodMovementEN.pdf)

[4] <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2021/4/22/what-is-the-food-systems-summit>

[5] [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/232686/farmers\\_of\\_the\\_future\\_final\\_online.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/cmsdata/232686/farmers_of_the_future_final_online.pdf)

[6] <https://ruralsociologywageningen.nl/2021/03/11/open-letter-on-the-eus-farmers-for-the-future-report-and-the-farm-to-fork-strategy/>

[7] <https://expresso.pt/sociedade/2021-04-15-Mais-de-100-investigadores-e-professores-lancam-manifesto-em-defesa-da-sustentabilidade-da-agricultura-portuguesa-0535d893>

Share your stories, promote your ideas, new books/articles/projects with us!

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## RC40 membership and finances



### Membership is important to RC40

- To uphold engagement in agri-food research
- To uphold a strong RC40 community
- To secure space at conferences and forums
- To secure our internal economy to advance programming

Please join us by recruiting new members. You will find promotional materials at <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/projects-8>. We have created posters, email flyers, and other outreach formats for your use. Please post, print, and share. RC40 is eager to attract new members and expand our network. Many people in our field of research do not know about RC40 and are not aware of the opportunity to engage people with shared interests through this community.

The number of members in the RC-40 has, for many years, been gradually increasing. We saw a turn by the end of 2020. The decrease is partly due to expired memberships. Reminders and encouragement to rejoin will be sent to this group. By August 2021 we have again reached 100 members.

- Membership to the International Sociological Association (ISA) and RC40 covers a four-year period
- RC40 fee: USD 40 for Category A USD 20 USD 10 for Category C countries.
- **New and expired memberships are very welcome!** <https://isa.enoah.com/Sign-In>.

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## Finances

- Balance per January 2021 NOK **71960,49**. (1 NOK = **0.12 US\$**)
- Of these NOK **11616,13** is royalty deposit earmarked IJSAF.
- The RC40 EC allocates money to the RC40 website, IJSAF, communications, travel grants, and networks.



The RC40 EC allocates money to the RC40 website, IJSAF, communications, travel grants, and networks.

Reported by

Hilde Bjørkhaug

RC40 Secretary/treasurer

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## News from the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture

IJSAF is constantly searching for new and good articles to publish! We do hope to see your submission soon at <http://ijsaf.org/index.php/ijsaf>

### ABOUT THE JOURNAL

#### Aims and Scope:

The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF) provides a forum for informed academic social science debates about food and agriculture-related issues. While the journal is owned by the Research Committee of Agriculture and Food of the International Sociological Association, the journal welcomes and encourages contributions based on any social science perspective. Furthermore, it welcomes interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of food production, consumption and agricultural change. Finally, the journal actively reaches out to scholars from all over the globe.

#### Open Access Statement:

IJSAF is a fully open access journal. There are no fees for publishing articles or for accessing them. All articles are available on the internet to all users immediately upon publications. Non-commercial and commercial use and distribution are permitted, on the condition that the author and the journal are properly acknowledged.

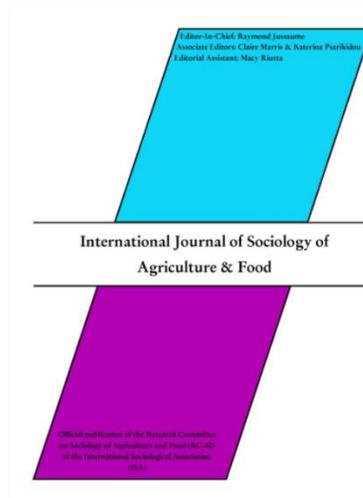
Authors hold copyright and publishing rights. Authors are free to upload post-acceptance and post-publication articles/reviews to their university Open Access depository or a secondary platform. Please do provide proper citation and a link to IJSAF.

#### Peer Review Policy:

All articles published in this journal have undergone internal editorial scrutiny and external, double-blind peer review.

Abstracting and Indexing Information: Agricola (USDA), SocINDEX (EBSCO), Scopus (*accepted for indexing 2020*)

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To strengthen our position as a journal, we depend on publishing individual articles in open issues. The journal also wants to publish special issues on topics relevant to readers who are interested in the sociology of agriculture and food. The latest issue is an example of this – an issue on **Sustainable Food Systems – Sustainable Diets**, edited by **Colin Sage, M.G. Quieti and Maria Fonte**. The special issue contains eight articles on the topic.

**Abstract** “This Special Issue seeks to contribute to the debate around less resource-intensive sustainable diets demonstrating just how critical a social science perspective is in problematising and enriching the terms of that debate. There is general consensus that the global dietary transition towards westernized diets with high intakes of meat, refined fats, sugar and salt are unhealthy for people and the planet. Healthier and more sustainable diets are widely recognised as necessary to mitigate climate change, reduce the pressure on natural resources including aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, and lower the global burden of disease. (...) Demonstrating the vital role of critical social analysis in deepening our understanding of the institutional, social, and cultural dimensions of food systems, this Special Issue will fill an important gap in the literature around sustainable diets.” <http://www.ijsaf.org/index.php/ijsaf/issue/view/57>

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## Call for Journal Editors



**International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food**  
Published by the Department of Sociology, Michigan State University (USA).

**Frequency: 2 to 3 issues per year with an ambition to reach 4 issues per year**

**ISSN: 0798-1759**

**Editors: Raymond A. Jussaume Jr., Katerina Psarikidou, Claire Marris**

**<http://www.ij saf.org/>**

The *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* (IJSAF) is an open-access, on-line academic journal that provides a forum for theoretically informed empirical research and critical debates about local, regional, national and/or global food and agricultural systems. It is open to contributions not only from sociologists, but also from scholars in related disciplines. It welcomes interdisciplinary approaches to social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of food production, distribution and consumption, as well as processes of agricultural change. All articles published in this journal undergo external, double-blind peer review.

IJSAF is the official journal of the [Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food \(RC-40\)](#) of the International Sociological Association (ISA). At this time, RC40 is soliciting applications for a new Editor-in-Chief for a term of 4 years.

The Editor-in-Chief will be responsible for leading an Editorial Team (appointed with input from the RC40 President and Secretary and approved by the RC40 Board) that includes the following roles:

- Editor-in-Chief
- Two Associate Editors
- Editorial Board
- Liaison with RC-40 Board

**The following qualifications are required for the application to be the Editor-in-Chief to be competitive:**

- Be a member of RC-40 and hold a tenured position or equivalent in an academic or non-academic setting. New members welcome - <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/>.
- Strategic vision for the positioning and further improvement of the journal
- Demonstration of an understanding of the mission of the journal as indicated through previous commitments. Strong research record and evidence of leadership in the field
- Adequate financial and time support granted to the applicant from their organizations

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Applications from underrepresented groups and regions are encouraged. In addition, ability to communicate in more than one RC40 language is an asset. Prospective Editors-in-Chief should submit an application package by **1 September 2021**. Each application package should include:

- A 2-5 page proposal that includes an outline of a strategic vision for the journal, the names of two proposed Associate Editors, and a budget.
- A full CV
- A letter of support from the applicant's home unit or department

Applications will be reviewed by the RC40 Board in consultation with the IJSAF Editorial Board. The final decision will be communicated by the RC40 Board.

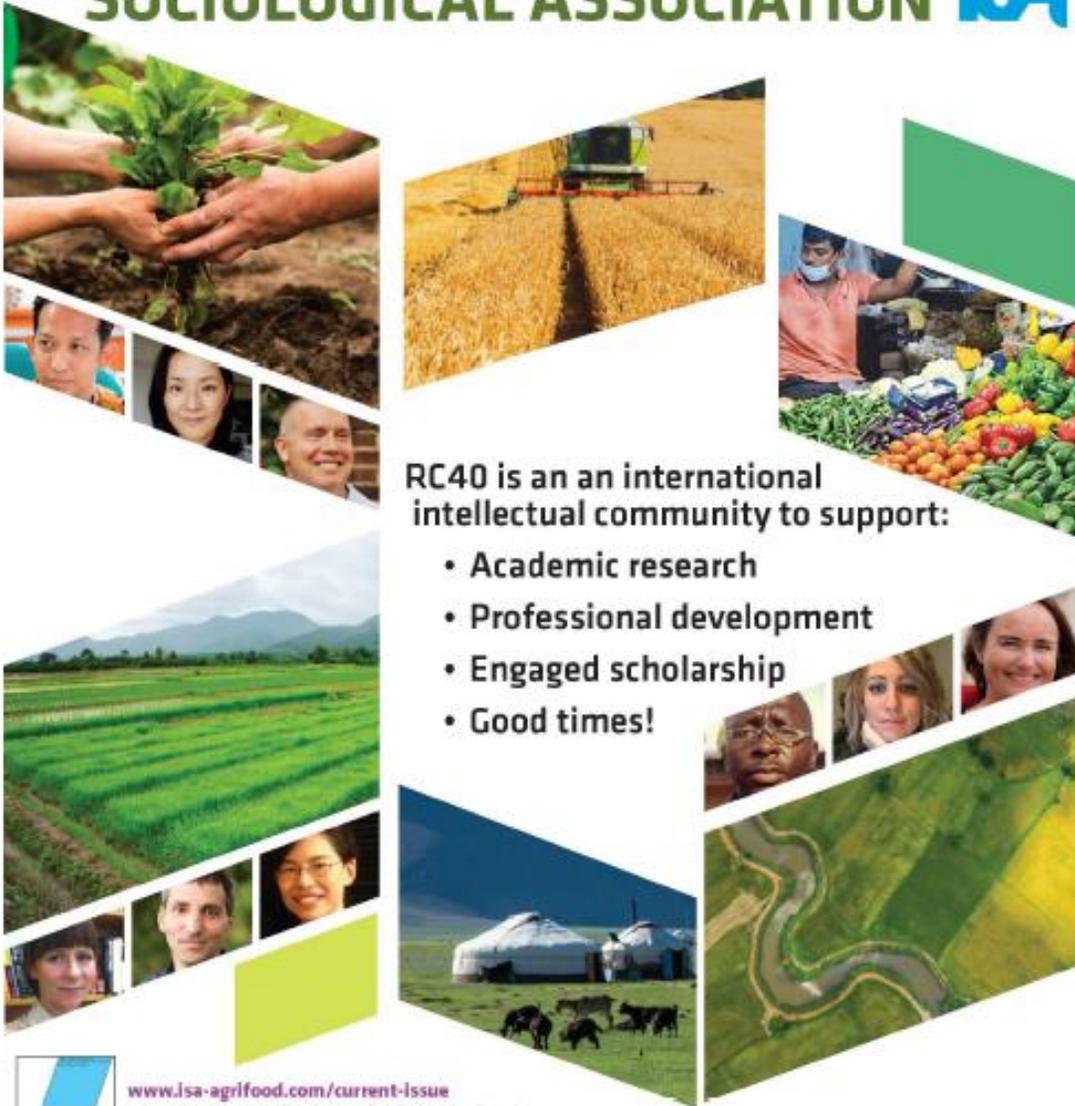
**Key Dates:**

- September 15, 2021 - Full application package due
- October 1, 2021 - Successful applicant(s) notified and editorial transition begins
- January 1, 2022 – Official start date of new Editor(s)

Application materials should be sent to the RC40 President: Steven Wolf at [saw44@cornell.edu](mailto:saw44@cornell.edu).

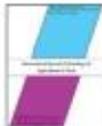
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International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food

Official publication of: Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC-40) and the International Sociological Association (ISA)

The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF) provides a forum for informed academic social science debates about food and agriculture-related issues.



Sociology of Agriculture and Food

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