First announcement!

ISA RC40 Mini-Conference, 20-21 October 2022
Research Center Global Dynamics at Leipzig University (Leipzig, Germany)

Title: Food System in the (Post-)Pandemic World: Disruptions, Vulnerabilities, Resiliences, and Alternatives Ahead

The Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC40) of the International Sociological Association has been working towards generating and stimulating scientific and public debate on the social organization of agriculture and the food system since 1978. As a collective informed by diverse critical schools of thought and theoretical frameworks, RC40 tries to create spaces of sustained scholarly dialogue and critical engagements in relation to the intensifying social and ecological problems and challenges shaping the field of agriculture and food. The RC40 “mini-conference” tradition is among the most important of those collaborative spaces of intellectual and scholarly engagement, which has made significant contributions to the sociology of agriculture and food reflected in the edited books as well as special issues and journal articles that came out of the previous mini-conferences.

The COVID-19 pandemic, on the one hand, has demonstrated the vulnerabilities of capitalist-industrial agrifood relations and has significantly intensified them. On the other hand, the questions of which and where agrifood relations have appeared as resilient and agile, as well as why and how have become another significant research area for the agrifood scholarship. In this regard not only the scope, depth, and intensity of the current agrifood related problems, but also the proliferating search for alternatives in the pandemic and the post-pandemic world lead us to revisit, revise, deepen, and extend the analysis of major themes and problematics of the sociology of agriculture and food. To that aim, we propose an RC40 mini-conference titled “Food System in the (Post-)Pandemic World: Disruptions, Vulnerabilities, Resiliences, and Alternatives Ahead” to revisit ‘old’ but also to address novel aspects of the neoliberal globalization of agriculture and food while looking for socially and ecologically just alternatives. The mini-conference - with a particular focus on the COVID-19 pandemic - welcomes contributions on the histories, legacies, and possible future trajectories of agrifood relations within the following themes that have been central to the emergence of the sociology of agriculture and food as well as its discussions for the last three decades:

- Globalization of Agriculture and Food: Capital, State, Governance and Corporate Hegemony
- Reconfiguration of the Social and Ecological Linkages Between Food, Agriculture, Rural and Nature: Agri-Food Cultures, Spaces, Infrastructures, and Technologies
- Politics of Agriculture and Food: Resistance, Movements, Discourses, Identities, Imaginations, and Utopias
- Agrifood Knowledge and Scholarship: Theories, Approaches, Methodological Strategies, Research Agendas, and Questions

Stay tuned for the call for abstracts!