

## Agriculture & Food: Growing our Network

RC-40 is a Research Committee within the International Sociological Association (ISA) dedicated to the sociology of agriculture and food.

RC-40 members have been some of the pioneers in the scholarly advances in agrarian political economy, food regime theory, agri-food standards, financialization of agri-food systems, food democracy, civic food regimes, sociological readings of food security and food sovereignty, rural dynamics and farm labour in global agri-food systems – just to name a few of the contributions from the group.

## Contents

President's welcome.....	2
Meet the RC40 Exec team.....	3
In Memoriam.....	4
Secretary/Treasurer's report.....	6
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion.....	8
RC40 Statutes.....	10
Journal report: IJSaF.....	11
RC40 Book club.....	12
RC40 Member activities.....	13
SE Asia Writing Workshop.....	14
ISA Forum 2025: call for sessions.....	16
Communications update.....	18

## Member Snapshot

**93**

total members

**72%**

from high income  
countries

**28%**

from low-middle  
income countries



# President's welcome

**KATHERINE LEGUN**

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In 2023, a new EC was elected to the RC40, and I was delighted to be elected president. It was also a strange year to be taking a leadership role in an organization like the RC40, having just emerged from the challenging period of Covid-19.

Many of our activities, like conferences and workshops, were radically transformed or put on hold. Many of the changes we saw during Covid still shape the tenor of our work today. Some of us may be experiencing new flexible work arrangements, no longer beholden to office attendance, and can work remotely. Others spent a few years without conference attendance, and suddenly wonder whether conferences are actually worth-while given the environmental and economic expense.

Many of us are faced with students shaped by the social isolation of the pandemic, and combined with the rapid acceleration of digital tools in the classroom, our teaching practices have adapted and the teaching environment, altered. I personally came out of the pandemic with two new children, and certainly my own working life looks much different than it did in 2018 when I initially joined the executive committee.

The world of our research is also changing, with new topics and approaches expanding or deepening in response to shifting environmental, economic and political conditions. We've seen a flurry of work around digital agriculture, land grabs, contract farming, resilient farming, democratic directionality and political ontologies.



At the same time, the ecological world in which we conduct our work continues to change, and we can't help but note increasingly dire news being reported about climate change and increasing toxicity in our air, water and soil. A recent news article in the Netherlands where I live announced that backyard chicken eggs are no longer safe to eat, exceeding recommended levels of forever chemicals.

So, as we enter a new term leading the RC40, the executive has spent some time reflecting on what activities would most benefit the community in the sociology of agriculture and food, given these changes to our work context and our subject matter. We have traditionally committed ourselves to organizing sessions at conferences, and this is a cornerstone of the RC40 and will continue. We have our book club, and are planning a series of online writing workshops and a seminar series or public lecture.



# Meet the Exec

## PEOPLE BEHIND THE RC40 COMMITTEE

### KATHERINE LEGUN

#### President

Knowledge, Technology and Innovation Group, Wageningen U, NL.  
Katharine.legun@wur.nl

Katharine is an Assistant Professor who works on science and technology in agriculture at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. Her work looks at the politics of plant breeding, autonomous AI robotics, and local environmental governance.

### KIAH SMITH

#### Secretary/ Treasurer

Centre for Policy Futures, The University of Queensland, Australia  
k.smith2@uq.edu.au

Kiah is a Senior Research Fellow and theme lead in Social Justice, Rights and Empowerment at the Centre for Policy Futures, UQ. Her research in food systems focuses on food justice and security, financialization, resilience, sustainable livelihoods, gender and the SDGs.

### CYNTHIA GHARIOS

#### EMCR representative

University of Munster, Germany  
cynthiagharios@gmail.com

Cynthia's research addresses the intersection between the environment and agriculture technology in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a focus on AgTech intermediaries in the USA, and transformations of agrarian landscapes in South Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco.

### ANGGA DWIARTAMA

#### Webmaster

Institut Teknologi, Bandung, Indonesia  
dwiartama@itb.ac.id

Angga is an Associate Professor at the School of Life Sciences and Technology, Institut Teknologi Bandung. His research focuses on multiple aspects of agrifood studies: value chain and livelihood, agri-environmental governance, Alternative Food Networks (AFNs), food security-sovereignty-justice nexus, and resilience.

### MADELEINE FAIRBAIRN

Environmental studies department, U. California Santa Cruz, USA.  
mfairbai@ucsc.edu

Madeleine's research explores the political economy of food and agriculture, including the financialization of farmland and, more recently, the rapid growth of the Silicon Valley agri-food tech sector. She is the author of *Fields of Gold: Financing the Global Land Rush* (Cornell University Press, 2020).

### ATAKAN BUKE

Research Centre Global Dynamics, Leipzig U.  
atakan.bueke@uni-leipzig.de

Atakan is an affiliated research fellow at the Research Centre Global Dynamics at Leipzig University. His research interests include the agrarian/peasant question, food regime analysis, digitalization, and alternative socio-ecological agrifood movements.

### HILDE BJØRKHAUG

Department of Sociology and Political Science, NTNU, Norway  
Hilde.bjorkhaug@ntnu.no

Hilde's research focusses on recent changes in agriculture and food value chains, and the emergence of new issues for stratification such as environment, climate change and animal welfare, land use issues, power relations. Hilde served as RC-40 Secretary/Treasurer 2018-2023

### STEVEN WOLF

Cornell University Ithaca, USA.  
saw44@cornell.edu

Steven's research and teaching focus on the interplay between state and non-state actors in environmental (mis)management. Current projects include critical analysis of venture capital-funded agtech entrepreneurship; accountability relations and the climate crisis; and experimental strategies for public engagement. Steven served as RC40 President 2018-2023.

### FRIDAH MUBICHI-KUT

School of Applied Economics and Management Cornell University, USA.  
mfm96@cornell.edu

Fridah's work focuses on the role development policies play in the promotion and adoption of new agricultural innovations, economic development, and gender equity among rural populations in Sub Saharan Africa. Fridah is the RC40 African Regional Representative, and helped established the Rural Sociology Working Group within the South African Sociological Association (SASA).

# Sheila Manka. In memory.

It is with a very heavy and broken heart that we share the sad news of the death of our colleague and friend Dr. Sheila Manka following a short illness. Sheila was a Senior Lecturer at Mmpumalanga University, and previously taught at the North West University, in South Africa. Sheila was a member of the Executive Committee of RC40 as the African Regional Representative. Sheila shared the vision of elevating African Scholarship particularly among early career PhDs. Recognizing the budget constraints African scholars are often faced with, she also worked hard to establish the Working Group on Agrifood and Rural Sociology within the South African Sociological Association (SASA). In 2023, Sheila co-organized an early career workshop for rural and agrifood researchers, which again reflects her generous spirit and her professional ambitions to strengthen intellectual engagement and policy-relevant research focused around food, development, and justice.

Through many countless meetings and discussions, Sheila was passionate about how we could truly level the ground for African scholars and promote increased participation at the global level. We are extremely blessed to have had such a valiant regional representative who was not only proud but passionate and determined to make a difference despite the personal struggles she quietly bore as a young researcher.

Sheila leaves behind her husband and three children, and she will be sorely missed by family, friends and colleagues.

Thank you to Fridah Mubichi-Kut for these words commemorating Sheila.

In Sheila's memory, the IJSAF editorial team remain committed to publishing the first special series of SASA early career researchers papers soon.



# Remembering David Burch



We also commemorate the passing of Emeritus Professor David Burch, acknowledging his outstanding and enduring contributions to research and scholarship in the Sociology of Agriculture and Food. As a founding member of the Australasian Agrifood Research Network, David was instrumental in establishing that network as an avenue for research collaboration as well as a way that postgraduates could present their research and ideas for research in a professional but supportive ambience. The idea prospered as membership quickly doubled, publications were organized, and international scholars were invited. David will be remembered for these achievements, but equally, perhaps more so, as a warm and supportive colleague to his many personal and professional friends, his students and collaborators from North America to Europe, Asia, Africa and particularly, from Australia and New Zealand.

David was a member of the Griffith University School of Environment and Science, arriving from the University of Sussex in 1978. He retired in 2007 joining the University of Queensland as an Honorary Professor. He received his PhD from the University of Sussex, specializing in the political and policy sciences. David's research interests focused mainly on the structure of agriculture, the increasing concentration of economic power in that sector, agriculture finance and most recently on food security. He published widely and frequently with colleagues at Griffith University, the University of Sydney, the University of Queensland, and the CSIRO. David was a good friend and colleague to many, a dedicated scholar, and an active and committed member of the ISA throughout his long and distinguished research and teaching career.

Thank you to Roy Rickson, Geoffrey Lawrence, Bill Pritchard and Hugh Campbell for these words commemorating David.



# Secretary & Treasurer's report

**KIAH SMITH**

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2024 has commenced as a busy year for Secretary and Treasurer duties, which I've been happy to undertake since being elected to this role at last year's ISA World Congress.

First, I'd like to encourage everyone to please ensure that your **registration** to both ISA and the RC40 are up to date – or please renew – by **01 May 2024**. This is really important considering that session allocations for the ISA Forum will be opening soon, and how many sessions we have for RC40 is dependent on our member numbers as of 1st May. How much funding we receive from ISA is also directly dependent on membership numbers.

Second, I'd like to encourage you all to start thinking about how the RC40 can support a range of inclusive and creative activities for next year. In the past, the RC40 has used ISA **activity grants** to support member-initiated activities such as regional writing workshops and conference side events.



Our Executive group decided not to apply for a small activity grant in the first round in 2024 – but we will soon be inviting members to propose activities for 2025.

These grants are a great way to mobilise our members around a specific regional event, creation of online dialogues, or to support a side event. We are already putting together ideas for RC40-specific events at the ISA Forum in Morocco next year. **So stay tuned for more information on Activity Grants in our next newsletter!**

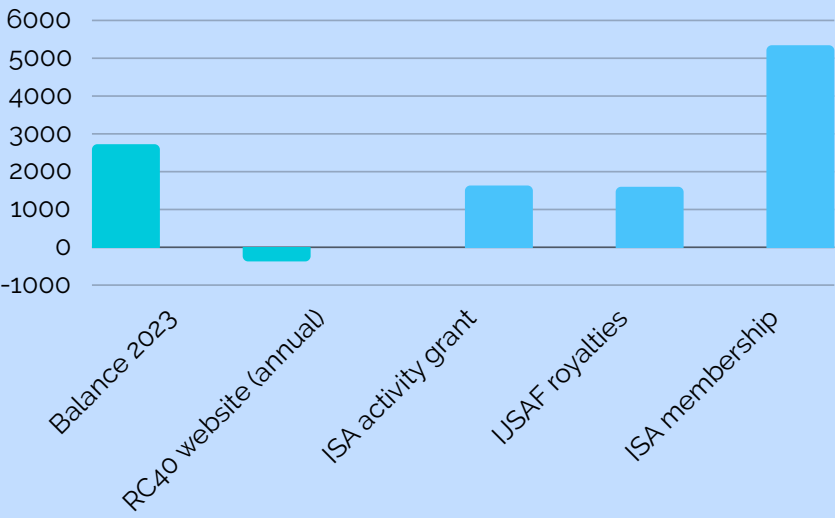
Current balance

**\$2,342**

2024 income and expenses include balance transferred from previous RC and RC40 website fees (green).

Projected income 2024-2026 includes ISA memberships, ISA activity grant and IJSAF royalties (blue).

All figures in \$AUD



## Source \$

## Details

### ISA memberships

Financial contributions from the ISA are based on member numbers, and are paid every two years. If we can grow above 100 members, we will move into a higher tier for ISA payments.

### IJSAF royalties

We receive 4-yearly contributions from royalties for our journal, the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food.

### ISA activity grants

These grants are allocated to the Research Committees to support activities such as conferences, workshops, and/or the production and distribution of the newsletter.

# Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

## UPDATE ON THE ISA TASKFORCE

A key role for the President and Secretary is to attend the ISA Research Committee meetings, and to pass on information that is most relevant to our RC40 members.

In 2022, a survey of ISA members was conducted to inform efforts to support improvements in Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI), with the assistance of former Secretary of the ISA, Izabela Barlinska and former Membership Officer Juan Lejarraga, with the support of the ISA Research Council, at that time facilitated by Vice President of Research Geoffrey Pleyers. The findings from the survey were presented orally at the World Congress of Sociology in Melbourne, in June 2023, and in a report in 2024.

A total of 334 members out of the entire ISA membership of 4,450 filled out the survey. The survey was anonymous, entirely voluntary, and respondents had the option to not answer certain questions, or stop the survey at any time. The survey also asked respondents if they identify as a member of a minority, marginalized or under-represented group in their country, to which 28% reported positively. Respondents had the option to indicate the group to which they belong, generating a diverse list relating to ethnicity, religion, gender role, sexual orientation, among other identities. The data was then compiled, and descriptive statistics were generated.

Respondents were asked several questions regarding their personal experiences within the ISA. 58% of respondents indicated that they voted in at least one of the groups to which they belong, and 42% indicated that they did not. Respondents indicated, for the most part, that they felt voting procedures were fair, with just 5% rating the fairness in voting procedures 1 or 2 on a 5-point scale.

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**"IT IS TOO HUGE TO FEEL AS A COMMUNITY, I MAINLY FEEL CONNECT TO MY MAIN RC, NOT ISA."**

Respondents were then asked to select from a list of factors which they felt contributed positively to their sense of belonging. The most frequent response was the opportunity to engage with peers (75%), opportunity to network (69%), international exposure (62%), and solidarity with colleagues (46%). On the other hand, from a list of factors perceived to undermine the respondent's sense of belonging in the ISA, the most frequent responses included inadequate representation (27%); lack of collegiality (24%); lack of resources (to participate) (46%), and linguistic barriers (29%).



# Enhancing EDI

From these (and many other) findings, the ISA concluded that much Association member engagement happens at the RC/TG/WG level, and thus this is the realm in which efforts to enhance EDI really need to be focused.

The RC40 is committed to enhancing EDI within our group and our activities,

If you wish to read more about the Charter, please follow up directly with the ISA-EDI Taskforce, Dr. Debra J. Davidson [debra.davidson@ualberta.ca](mailto:debra.davidson@ualberta.ca)

The RC40 Executive Committee also voted to support presenting the Taskforce's **Charter on Equity, Diversity and Inclusion** (EDI) to the ISA Executive Council for their consideration. We agreed with the vision of the Charter (below), and look forward to continuing to work with the ISA to improve EDI processes and outcomes.

Finally, the RC40 participated in the call-out for volunteer members to contribute to the planning of a forthcoming **ISA webinar series**. We will continue to keep you updated as this initiative progresses.

## VISION

The International Sociological Association (ISA) is a non-profit association established to support the pursuit of sociological scholarship and action across the globe, by providing opportunities for dialogue, knowledge sharing, collaboration, and mentorship.

The realization of this vision, however, depends upon the full participation of all ISA members regardless of sex, gender, class, ethnicity, race, Indigeneity, religion, sexual orientation, physical capacity, age, nationality and geography, or any other identity. Ensuring such full participation requires the active removal of systemic barriers to, and the progressive cultivation of, full participation in the Association based on equity, diversity, and inclusion, as well as encouraging and supporting an EDI-positive institutional culture within the ISA, including activities organized by Research Committees, Working Groups, and Thematic Groups, ISA-affiliated publications, and within other domains of international sociological practice.

# Finalising RC40 Statutes

Throughout RC40's existence, RC40 Statutes have been amended to accommodate changes over time and circumstances. In 2023, some changes to the RC40 Statutes were unanimously adopted at the Business Meeting and ratified by RC40 members. On submitting the revised Statutes to the ISA Executive Committee, a few minor inconsistencies were brought to our attention, requiring some minor changes in wording. None of the changes referred to substantive shifts in governance, membership structure or fees.

Below you will find the proposed changes, We are still waiting on confirmation from ISA as to whether we will require a member vote, despite the minor nature of the changes. We appreciate the time it takes for our members to engage with this level of governance of the RCs; so if you have any queries or concerns about the proposed changes, you are encouraged to write directly to the RC40 Secretary [k.smith2@uq.edu.au](mailto:k.smith2@uq.edu.au).

Old text	New text	Reason/comment
1A.2 All regular members of RC40 shall be entitled to vote as individual members in the discussions about organisational matters at the General Assembly Meetings according to the principle "one member, one vote"; and C1. RC40 is governed by four Officers, an Executive Committee and by a Business Meeting Assembly.	1A.2 – no change  C1. (revised) RC40 is governed by four Officers, an Executive Committee and by voting members at the General Assembly meeting.	Terminology for RC40 meetings was not consistent, with clarification required as to whether these refer to the same meeting.  We will use the term 'General Assembly Meeting' to refer to the meeting held with members.
C1.d The Secretary whose duties are: i. to assist the president in the coordination of the scientific and business activities of RC40 and publication of the Newsletter. ii. to maintain a record of all committee business and executive meetings. iii. to conduct the elections of new officers.	C1.d – no change	The ISA asked: Can the Secretary, who is responsible for organizing elections, be a candidate?  We made no suggested changes to the Secretary's role in our amendments. This has never been an issue, as the Secretary can only serve one term. This is covered in section 1A.5 (see below).
1A.5 Officers and Executive Committee Members of the RC40: a) are elected in the year prior to the quadrennial World Congress and take office at that Congress. b) cannot succeed themselves. must be members in good standing in the ISA and of RC40 throughout the four years of their mandate.	1A.5.b (revised) Officers and Executive Committee Members of the RC40: a) are elected in the year prior to the quadrennial World Congress and take office at that Congress. b) Can only serve 1 term of 4 years; they cannot succeed themselves. c) If the Secretary stands for election as President, a substitute Secretary must be appointed by the EC. must be members in good standing in the ISA and of RC40 throughout the four years of their mandate.	The ISA asked that the bylaws should specify how many terms Executive committee members can serve.  This was already covered in that they 'cannot succeed themselves', which means they cannot serve more than one term. Language has been clarified.  Point c added to ensure no conflict of interest for the Secretary during elections
B. Bylaws on the RC40 Membership Fee	B.1.g (added) There is no fee for affiliated members	The ISA asked: How much are affiliated members fees?
C5.a Business Meeting Assembly A Business Meeting Assembly is held at least every four years, preferably at the ISA World Congress.	C5. (revised, added)  (a) A General Assembly Meeting is held at least every four years, preferably at the ISA World Congress. A General Assembly Meeting may be called biannually (every two years) if there is a need for members to vote on urgent governance issues (e.g. changes to statutes), as the discretion of the RC40 President, preferably at the ISA Forum or other major RC conference	The ISA asked: How often should business meetings be held? This was previously not consistent in the text. Also updated terminology, and clarified process to call additional General Assembly meetings if and when required for addressing important ISA requirements

# Post-covid food systems

NEXT SPECIAL ISSUE - INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF THE SOCIOLOGY OF AGRICULTURE AND FOOD



Edited by Allison Loconto, the RC40 runs a journal that is free to publish in and free to read. It is an offer to writers and readers that is quite unique these days and which we wish to maintain. IJSAF is known for having published many very good articles since its origin. We are widely read and our articles can now also be found through sites such as Scopus. IJSAF has also recently been indexed globally as a Q2 journal. Information and figures are found at the IJSAF webpage. Please consider submitting your articles to the journal, to continue this important global dialogue.

<https://ijsaf.org/index.php/ijsaf>.

COVID-19 sharply exposed the vulnerabilities of capitalist-industrial agri-food relations and significantly intensified them. At the same time, we have also seen that agri-food relations can be resilient, that some systems prospered when changes were needed, and that many people experienced new forms of solidarity.

This is the focus for the two special issues now published successively in the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF). We aim to revisit the major themes of the sociology of agriculture and food, specifically focusing on what the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed about them: the globalisation of agri-food, the reconfiguration of socio-ecological linkages between agri-food and nature, the politics of agriculture and food, and the methodological and theoretical ways we make sense of these within agri-food scholarship.





# Growing our activities

## RC40 book club

The RC-40 book club welcomes individuals interested in the sociology of food and agriculture, irrespective of their RC40 membership. Members collectively select the book and attend online meetings, with two sessions scheduled to accommodate diverse time zones. Our members represent various career stages and backgrounds, and this also contributes diverse perspectives.

Conversations focus on the impact of selected texts on the sociology of agriculture and food, as well as their relevance to teaching and research.

When possible, discussions are transformed into book reviews by volunteers from within the club.

For more information on the RC-40 book club and its book review format, please see our review of Bronson's **The Immaculate Conception of Data** published at the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF).

In April 2024 we discussed **Farming Inside Invisible Worlds: Modernist Agriculture and its Consequences** by Hugh Campbell.

If you want to stay informed about future book club meetings, please contact [katharine.legun@wur.nl](mailto:katharine.legun@wur.nl)

## Book reviews

**Kelly Bronson**

The Immaculate  
Conception of Data

**Monica  
White**

Freedom  
Farmers

**Annemarie  
Mol**

Eating in Theory



# RC40 mini-conferences and sponsored sessions



RC40, as a scholarly collective informed by diverse critical schools of thought and theoretical frameworks, tries to create spaces of sustained dialogue and critical scholarly engagement. The RC40 “mini-conference” and “RC40 sponsored sessions” tradition is among the most important of those collaborative spaces, which has made significant contributions to the sociology of agriculture and food. Typically located within conferences like those hosted by the International Rural Sociology Association (IRSA), the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS), and the Rural Sociological Society (RSS), these events aim to expand intellectual engagement beyond established forums.

We also aim to empower our members to host RC40 events autonomously, outside the scope of larger conferences. Notably, the recent success of the Leipzig mini-conference, “Food System in the (Post-)Pandemic World: Disruptions, Vulnerability, Resilience, and Alternatives,” held at Leipzig University Research Centre Global Dynamics in October 2022, is a testament to this endeavour. Papers presented at this event were also invited for publication across two special sections in the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF).

As a member-led collective, we actively encourage all members to contact us to initiate similar gatherings and contribute to our collective scholarly engagement.

To support these activities, the RC40 has available some small activities grants. We will release more information about these grants for 2025 activities later in the year.

# Beyond Adaptation: New Insights from Southeast Asia's Agrifood System

RC40 REGIONAL WRITING WORKSHOP, DECEMBER 2024

Over the years, there has been increasing discontent with the concept and practice of climate change adaptation. Scholars argued that, conceptually, the dominant view of adaptation is too narrow to capture the multifaceted, nonlinear dynamics of social-ecological change and yet too abstract to be translated into concrete, measurable outcomes. As a field of practice, adaptation has produced an assemblage of identities, practices, and institutions that renders climate change as a techno-managerial problem, reinforcing regimes of power and knowledge that produced anthropogenic climate change in the first place (Newell and Paterson, 2010; Clapp, 2022).

In the agrifood sector, early adaptation research and practice gravitated towards the 'pipeline' model of agricultural research and development that narrowly conceived adaptation as technological change. Recently, there has been a growing body of literature that attempts to broaden what adaptation means in the agrifood sector. Scholars are considering adaptation as a multi-scalar change process inseparable from broader processes of change (Darnhofer et al., 2016; Wise et al., 2014). Still, most adaptation research and programs invoke 'transformational adaptation' in ways that largely ignores the possibility of structural and paradigmatic change. The first ever United Nations Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) that took place in 2021 has made evident the deep paradigmatic tensions about 'food systems' and whose/which goals and values should underpin adaptation and system-wide transformations.

Southeast Asia presents a compelling case to rethink adaptation, particularly in the agrifood systems contexts. Despite the declining contribution of the agriculture sector to the economies of most countries in the region, smallholder farmers are observed to persist amidst the social-ecological transformations. Smallholding farming is, however, challenged by the rapid industrialization that has occurred in the 1980s, which to some extent led to what Dani Rodrik termed premature deindustrialization (Rodrik, 2016), a situation whereby middle- and low-income countries de-industrialize at income levels and developmental stage lower than what is experienced by developed countries. This phenomenon, in combination with other socio-cultural contexts, influences the type of urbanization and rural-urban linkages emerging in the twenty-first century Southeast Asia. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic compounded the climate impacts on the agrifood systems and revealed the highly inequitable distribution of income across the supply chains.

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**THE PARTICULAR ECOLOGICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, AND ECONOMIC POSITIONALITIES OF MANY SOUTHEAST ASIAN COUNTRIES OFFER DIFFERENT WAYS TO UNDERSTAND, MITIGATE, AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE.**

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# Call for papers: online regional writing workshop

With these themes as background, we call for ideas and papers that can offer new insights into how we understand climate adaptation in the agrifood sector, preferably using empirical findings within Southeast Asian countries. We look towards new and alternative ways of framing climate adaptation, including (but not limited to):

- post-1.5-degree future
- adaptation beyond human
- non-adoption/non-adaptation
- culture-based responses to losses and damages
- less documented forms of transformative adaptation including structural and enabling transformations
- adaptive transformations
- the ethics of care in adaptation pathways, and
- documenting intangible aspects of adaptation.

We invite you to share your abstract with us and engage in an **online regional writing workshop** organized by the RC40.

After the writing workshop, we will then invite you to develop a full paper and submit it collectively to a Special Issue at selected high-ranked journal (to be decided), preferably the *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food*.

We look forward to collaborating with you in the future!

**Winifredo Dagli** (University of the Philippines at Los Baños)  
**Angga Dwiartama** (Institut Teknologi Bandung)

<https://www.isa-agrifood.com/forum/rc40-announcements/rc40-regional-writing-workshop-southeast-asia>

## KEY DATES

Call for abstracts (deadline)  
 Online workshop  
 Submission of full papers  
 Peer-review process

30 June 2024  
 31 July 2024  
 15 December 2024  
 December 2024 – June 2025

Please send your abstract to Dr. Winifredo Dagli  
[wbdagli1@up.edu.ph](mailto:wbdagli1@up.edu.ph)

Clapp, J. 2022. Concentration and crises: exploring the deep roots of vulnerability in the global industrial food system, *J Peasant Stud*; Darnhofer, I., Lamine, C., Strauss, A., Navarrete, M., 2016. The resilience of family farms: towards a relational approach. *J. Rural Stud.* 44, 111–122.; Newell, P., & Paterson, M. (2010). *Climate capitalism: global warming and the transformation of the global economy*. Cambridge University Press; Wise, R.M., Fazey, I., Stafford Smith, M., Park, S.E., Eakin, H.C., Archer van Garderen, E.R.M., Campbell, B. (2014). Reconceptualising adaptation to climate change as part of pathways of change and response. *Glob Environ Change*, 28, 325–336.

# International conferences

The RC40 is gearing up to the 2025 **V ISA Forum: Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene**. We invite you to submit your proposals for RC40-led session, following the ISA's online schedule and procedures. You do not need to be a member to propose a session. Please submit proposals online at [V ISA Forum of Sociology \(isa-sociology.org\)](https://isa-sociology.org).

Sessions can take many forms, and we are very keen to have a variety of formats reflected in the RC40 programme. All sessions are allocated 1 hour 45 minutes. Sessions can include:

## V ISA FORUM OF SOCIOLOGY

### CALL FOR SESSIONS IS OPEN

MAY 2ND –  
JULY 1ST

- Paper presentation session: Traditional paper session, accommodates 4-5 papers.
- Panel session: This accommodates a larger number of invited panellists who will debate around a specific theme or current issue of importance to the RC40.
- Invited session: Directly organised by a session organiser, these sessions are not open for abstract submission.
- Author meets critics: A debate around an important recent publication that could be presented by the author(s) with commentators and discussion. These are directly organised by a session organiser and are not open for abstract submission.
- Roundtable session: This includes 5 presenters, who will share a table in one room (with up to 5 concurrent roundtables in the same room). The format is suited in-depth discussions rather than paper presentations and should be led by at least 1 RC40 organiser.
- Poster session: We are open to hosting one poster session on a current theme of interest to RC40 members.
- Joint sessions (with other RCs, WGs or TGs) are strongly encouraged



## 2025 V ISA Forum of Sociology

7-11 July, Rabat Morocco: 'Knowing Justice in the Anthropocene'



## 2026 XVI World Congress of Rural Sociology

July, Porto Alegre, Brazil



## 2027 XXI World Congress of Sociology

4-19 July, Gwangju, Korea

# Mark your Calendars

KEY DATES FOR SESSIONS, ABSTRACTS & SPEAKERS

## May 2nd - July 1st

Call for sessions open. Please submit your proposal, including a list of proposed/confirmed speakers via the ISA online web portal at [V ISA Forum of Sociology \(isa-sociology.org\)](https://isa-sociology.org)

## July 31st

Accepted sessions notified and finalised

## August 5th - October 15th

Abstract submission open

## November 10th

Session chairs, co-chairs, discussants and panellists finalised

## November 30th

Final deadline for all session/abstract changes.

## December 15th

Final notification letters from ISA



We would also like to support our members to convene a side-event at the V ISA Forum, such as an RC40 Mini-conference or social event. If you have a theme and/or format in mind and are interested in organising something, please email your expressions of interest to Cynthia Gharios - [cynthiagharios@gmail.com](mailto:cynthiagharios@gmail.com)



# Communications update

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## OUR WEBSITE INCLUDES 3 DYNAMIC ONLINE SPACES:

### RC40 FORUM, WEBLOG & EVENTS & CONFERENCES

The RC40 website has been one of our main communication and information media over the past several years, not only for RC40 members, but also for the wider community across the globe. We recorded that there are currently 385 subscribers/site members of our website, some of whom, of course, are official RC40 members.

However, some of our members have not been subscribed to the website. As there is no direct linkage between RC40 membership and website subscription, we encourage all members to sign up to RC40 website to receive the latest news and updates on RC40.



- **RC40 Forum** is a communication page dedicated for members to share news, information, and updates, particularly in the interest of other members and site visitors (e.g., job vacancy, call for proposals, etc.).
- **Weblog** (or Blog for short) is a page for members to write stories, summaries of their work, or ideas related to the sociology of agriculture and food, which we hope may be spread to the wider audience and able to promote members' works as well.
- **Events and Conferences** is a calendar where members can promote their events for other members/public.

# Contribute your news ...

Aside from the RC40 Forum where members can submit news directly (although through a moderated process), you are also welcome to share your stories or information about events/conferences via our Community Blog,

You need to contact the website administrator ([dwartama@itb.ac.id](mailto:dwartama@itb.ac.id)) for the news to be uploaded to the website.

We're looking to have a more automated process in the future, but at this stage, we hope to support you through our web admin.

## Are you sure that you are a full member of RC40?

- Some of our friends have active memberships in ISA but have forgotten to renew their membership in RC40.
- Some of our friends have active memberships in RC40 but have not updated their membership in ISA.
- If you are not a full RC40 member, you can of course still be a friend of RC40, receive newsletters and participate actively on our own websites and forums.
- Please circulate this invitation to join the RC40 to your networks!

## RC40 DIGEST

We have recently commenced a monthly newsletter digest. This digest aims to share the latest information about jobs, new published papers, calls for proposals and grants, upcoming conferences, etc. The digest will increase the communication between members in a simple and more accessible format. Email content will also be published on our website. This is hopefully going to increase the foot-traffic to the RC40 website, as well as create a more visible and solid community.

We will send around a call for information every 15th of the month, and share the digest every 25th of the month.



[RC40.digest@gmail.com](mailto:RC40.digest@gmail.com)



<https://www.isa-agrifood.com/>

**Please check your membership status at**  
**<https://members.isa-sociology.org>**