

Agriculture & Food: Highlights from Rabat

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.....	4
Secretary/Treasurer's report.....	5
Financials.....	6
Governance update.....	7
Regional Update - Paris.....	10
Spotlight on Rabat.....	11
Mentoring.....	16
Future conferences.....	17
RC40 Book Club.....	18
Communications update.....	19
Contribute.....	20

Member Snapshot

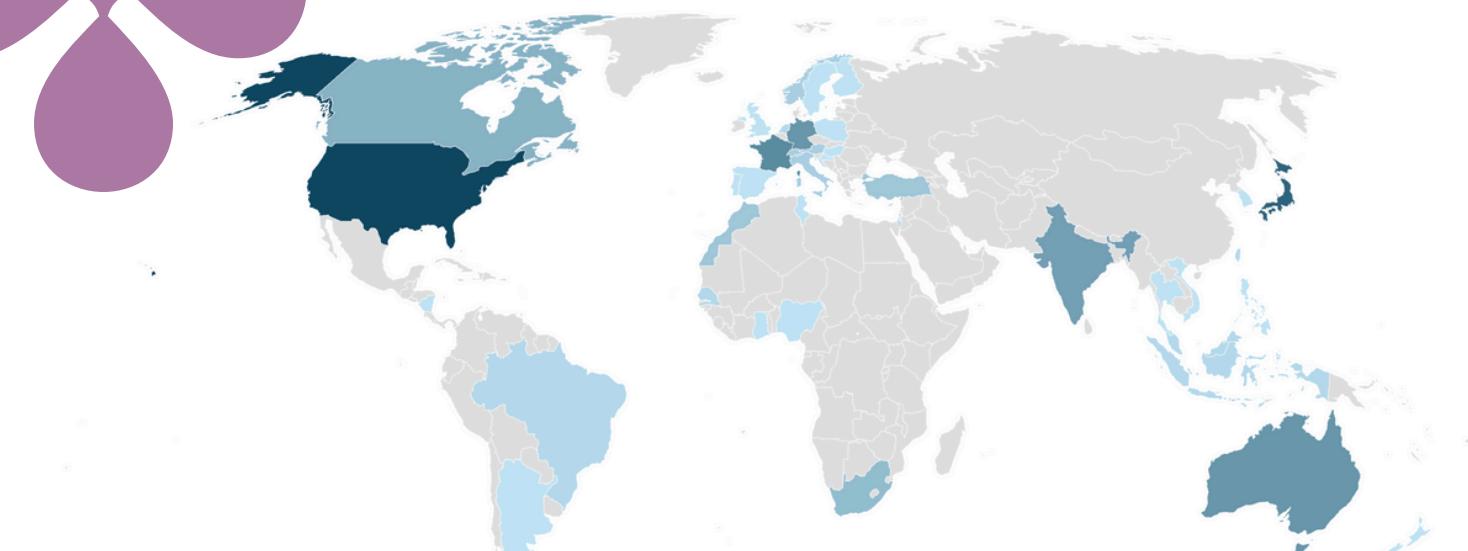
41 **20+** **140**

Countries

Disciplines

Total

Members

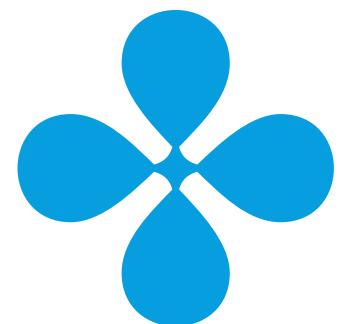


PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

Katharine Legun

As we wrap up this past year, there is, frankly, a lot to be apprehensive about, but some wonderful things also happened in the RC40. We had some online meetings where we discussed some books, talked about some research, and reflected on the state of our institutions. We shared some news in our digest, and shifted to a new email address. Perhaps the biggest events in 2025 was when we got together in Rabat for the ISA Forum. We had such an exciting lineup of sessions, with colleagues joining us from all over the world. We saw sessions on alternative agriculture, experimentation, governance, climate change, crisis, groundwater, and migrant work, to name a few of the big themes. We had great talks by early-career, mid-career and senior researchers, and were joined by people outside academia, like Ceren Ababay Tosyali and Nuran Torun Atış, who joined us from the International Labour Organization in Turkey.

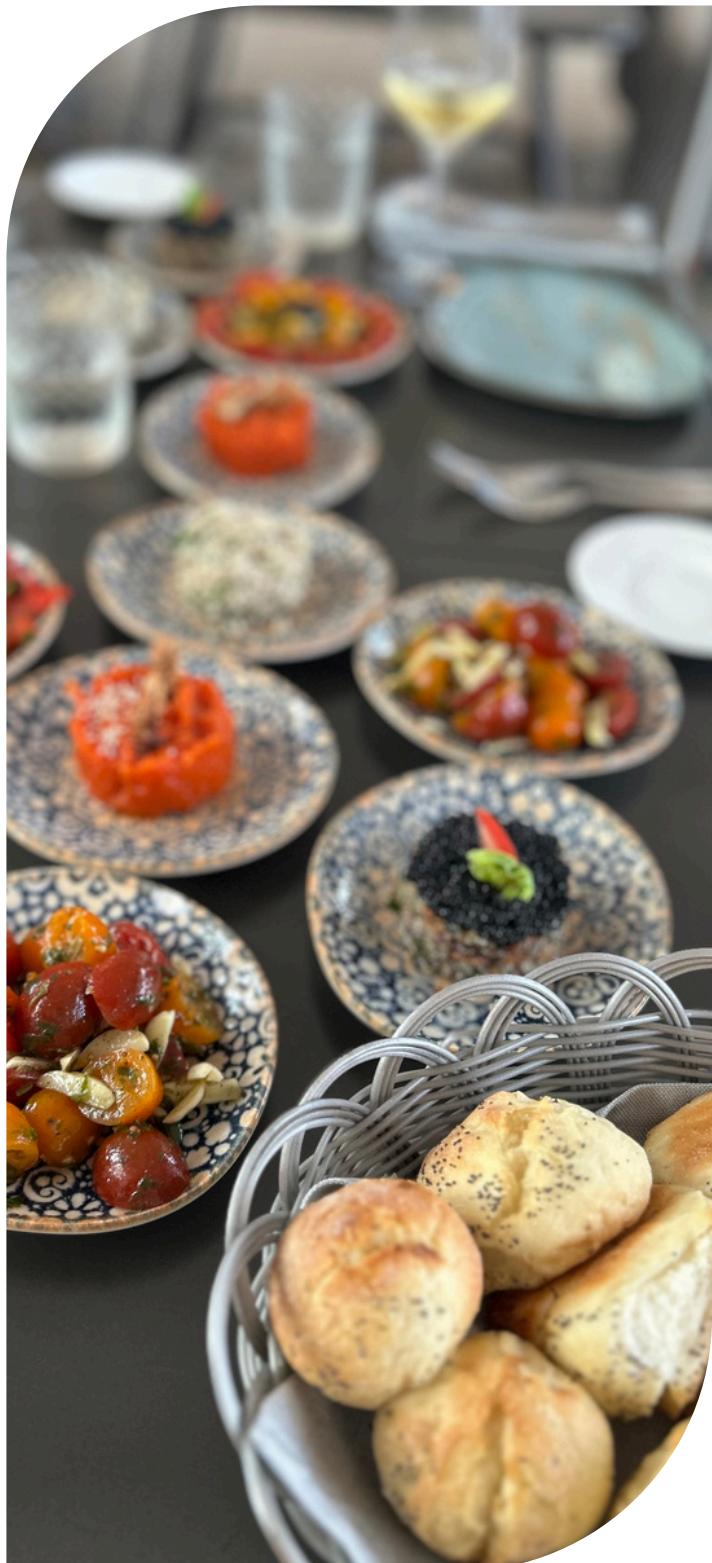
We also spent some time reflecting on the sociology of agriculture and food, and our own organization. We had a great session on decolonizing the sociology of agriculture and food, organized by Marvin Joseph Montefrio, Winifredo Dagli, and Angga Dwiartama, and another intergenerational dialogue on the future of the RC40 organized by Atakan Büke and Mustafa Koc. During these conversations, one things that stuck out to me, is the important contributions of political economic analysis to our work, and the challenges to critical disciplinary practices within our broader professional environments. On the other hand, we see the elaboration of our approaches in a variety of new directions, and the roundtable highlighted growing interests in feminist theory, decolonization, and science and technology studies (STS). Another comment that stuck out to me was a need to develop more middle-range theories that connect case-based research to broader theoretical insights.



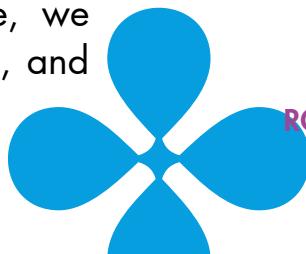
CONTD.

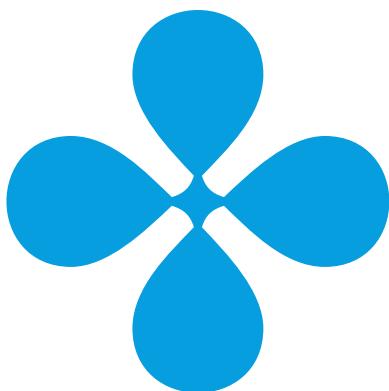
Looking ahead, one topic we have been discussing in the RC40, and related to these themes in Rabat, is the accessibility of our activities. Many times during the conference in Rabat, a remark I heard from those joining us from the region was that this was a particularly accessible conference due to the location. Travel was affordable, and the visa process, simple and straightforward. Having conferences outside of North America and Europe is meaningful and important.

We also need to make use of the virtual spaces that serve us and enable us to work together using fewer resources. We have seen conference funding drop across our academic communities, and a number of people had to drop out of the ISA Forum due to financial crises at their institutions. While being together in person is important, and the conference format is central to progressing ideas and extending knowledge about our domain, we also want to think of ways to be active online. We have maintained a number of online activities this past year, including our book club, a meeting about changing political and institutional environments, and a paper workshop. We want to extend these online activities, focusing particularly on things like mentorship. Collegiality, critical reflection, solidarity and friendship in our professional lives is essential for now and for our future.



On behalf of the executive committee, we wish you a smooth conclusion to 2025, and a good start to 2026.





MEET THE EXEC

PEOPLE BEHIND THE RC40 COMMITTEE

KATHARINE 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 Teknologie, 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

Centre for Studies in Food Security
Toronto Metropolitan University,
atakanbuke@yerkure.org

Atakan is an associate member at Centre for Studies in Food Security at Toronto Metropolitan University. His research interests include the agrarian/peasant question, food regime and agrifood system 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 MUBICI-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).

SECRETARY AND TREASURER'S REPORT

Kiah Smith

The 5th ISA Forum in Morocco was a huge success, thank you to everyone who participated. In terms of RC40 administration, I am proud to report on the strong level of support that we have been able to provide to students, early career researchers and Global South scholars during 2025. This demonstrates our ongoing commitment to creating an enabling environment for underrepresented groups that are integral to strengthening a vibrant and inclusive food and agricultural research network. This includes:

- 20+ RC40 sessions and 170 in-person papers at the ISA Forum in Rabat.
- 18 registration grants for ECRs and category B/C scholars.
- ISA activity grant (1120 Euros) allocated to the young scholars' workshop in Paris before the ISA Forum in Rabat and before the ESRS meeting in Riga.

I'd also like to draw your attention to two new initiatives of the ISA Research Council designed to expand engagement and inclusion for and between ISA members around the world.

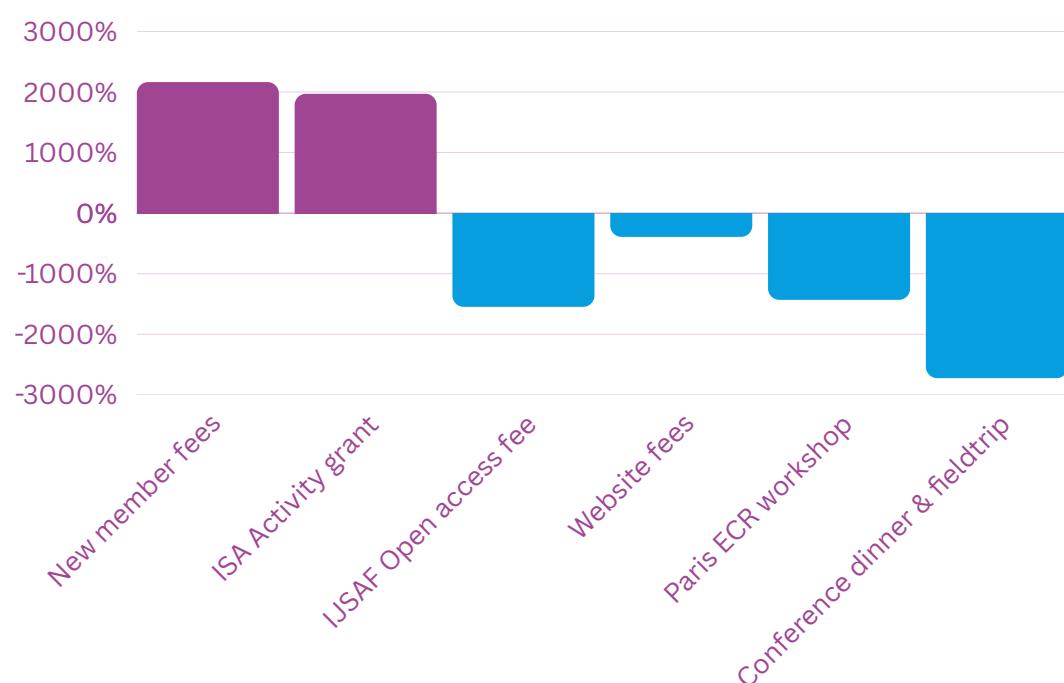
- **"Sociology In..." podcasts.** These easy listening pieces provide the introduction to sociologies in the voices of people who are immersed in their streams of the discipline. Collectively, these podcasts from National Association members contribute towards the legacy of building resilient sociologies. LISTEN HERE - <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/national-associations/na-regular-members/sociology-in>
- **Webinar series** - <https://members.isa-sociology.org/benefits/webinars>. More webinars are planned, and we welcome RC40 members to reach out if you have an idea for how RC40 might contribute to an online session such as this in the future.

The ISA Research Council is currently in the process of revising the **Aims and Requirements for RCs** which was first created in 1997. Following a discussion on this at the Research Council meeting in Rabat, it was determined that further online meetings will be held in quarter four of 2025, in order to discuss the proposed changes in detail. A vote on the adoption of the document will be postponed until the January 2026 meeting. We will inform RC40 members of any relevant final changes next year.

2025 income balance includes balance transferred from previous year, new ISA memberships, and the ISA Activity Grant (pink). Expenditure includes RC40 website fees, IJSAF costs and ISA Rabat activities (blue). All figures in AUD.

Current financial position

June 2025- December 2025



\$6,709

Balance from 2024

\$5,731

Current balance

Sources

- ISA memberships:** Financial contributions from the ISA are based on member numbers, and are paid every two years. This year we grew above 100 members, moving RC40 into a higher tier for ISA payments. We have had 46 new or return members this year, taking us to a new total of 140 members.
- 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. This year we received 1120 Euros. This is not shown in our total balance calculations, as it is still pending final release by ISA.
- ISA registration grants:** We distributed 1830 Euros in registration grants to RC40 members to attend the ISA Forum in Rabat. It is not shown in our financial calculations, as this was administered by ISA directly.

32%

32% of registrations are new or returning members in 2025

In Good Faith: Ensuring a better and more transparent decision-making process in RC40

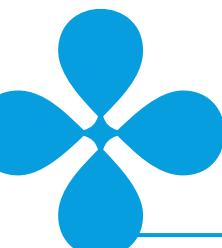
ANGGA DWIARTAMA

In light of the current global issue and its development in RC40 specifically, and in the International Sociological Association (ISA) in general, the Executive Committee (EC) of RC40 sees an urgent need to be more transparent, accommodative, and democratic in every aspect of our decision-making processes. This is based on the understanding that RC40 members have the rights and responsibilities to contribute their thoughts and ideas in the organization's strategic decisions and statements, be they political or not.

In our tradition, the RC40 has for so long implemented best practices in sharing our thoughts and opinions, through the regular business meetings, forums, email correspondences, online surveys, as well as other formal/informal communication channels. We appreciate the active involvement of members, and we always seek to build a convivial and constructive dialogue within RC40. For some, however, the communication processes can be overwhelming, and so EC takes the responsibility to make technical and managerial decisions on behalf of RC40 members.

This notwithstanding, there has never been any written procedure on how these processes are, and should be, conducted to bring balance between transparency and efficiency of decision-making. We want to take the current opportunity to raise the importance of a clear decision-making process, in order to avoid any miscommunications and disputes in the future.

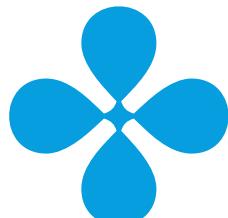
“THIS PROCEDURE IS NOT INTENDED TO MAKE THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS RIGID AND BUREAUCRATIC. INSTEAD, IT SHOULD BE SEEN AS A WAY TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY, TO BRING BACK THE CORDIALITY OF RC40 DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES, AND TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYONE'S VOICES CAN BE HEARD”

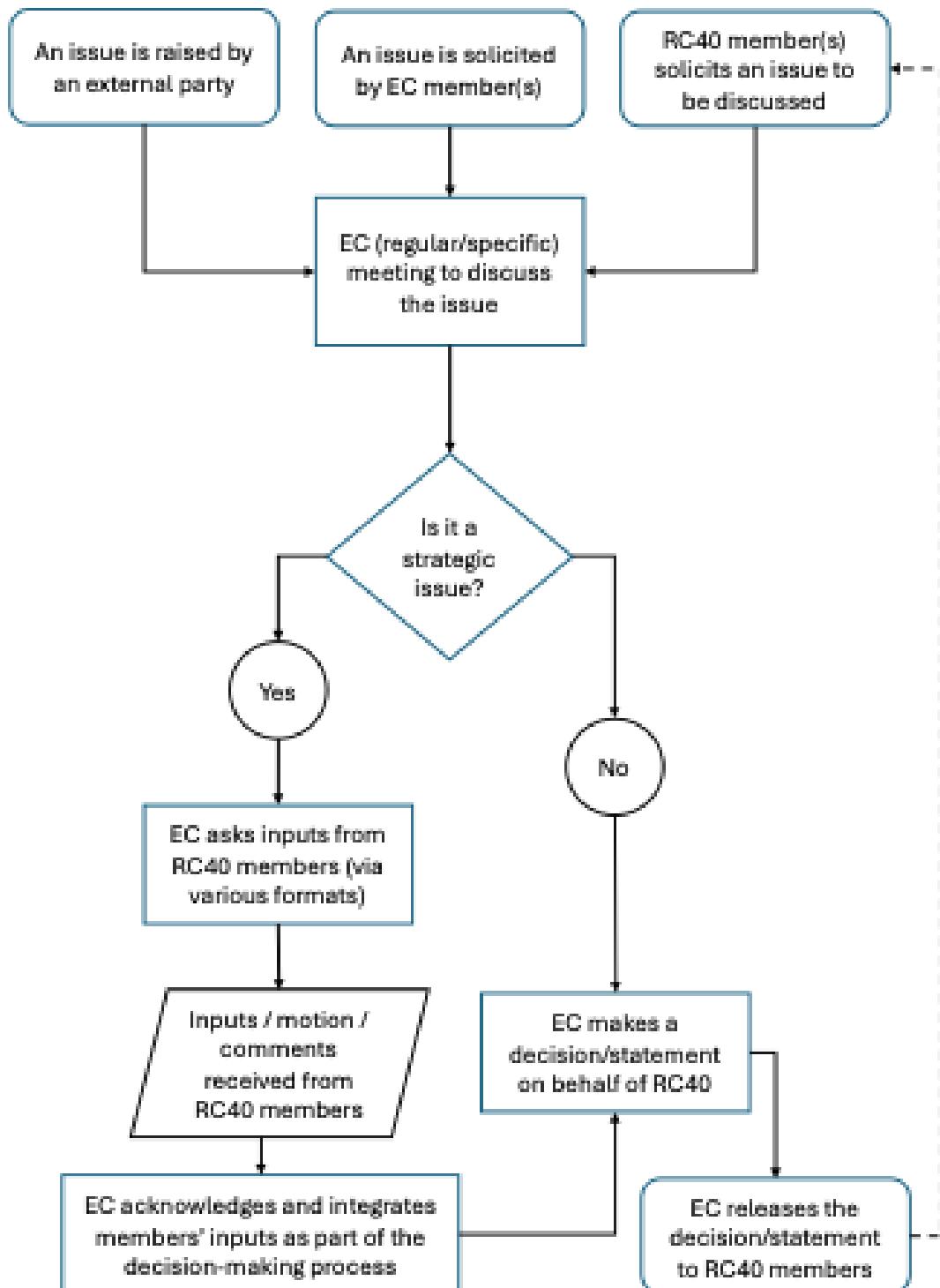


PROPOSED EC DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

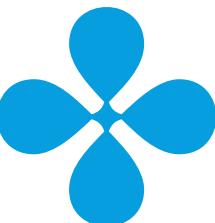
- When an issue develops that requires a response from RC40, a member can raise that issue to the EC to be discussed in their regular meeting or, if required, in a specific issue-related meeting. An external party can also solicit an issue to be responded by RC40 through a similar mechanism.
- EC will then decide whether the issue is considered strategic (whether political/not), such that involves the reputation and values of RC40 and its members.
- If an issue is considered non-strategic, which means that it only needs a technical/managerial response, EC can discuss the issue internally and make a decision accordingly. The decision to consider an issue non-strategic requires a consensus from all EC members.
- If an issue is considered strategic, EC is obliged to raise this issue to the RC40 members. EC will ask inputs from members through the most effective and preferable formats (e.g., online/offline meetings, surveys, email correspondences, etc.).
- Inputs, opinions, comments, and motions should be made in good standing, and constructive for EC to make a decision in regard to the issue. Any decision/statement made by EC, in this case, should consider all inputs provided by RC40 members, provided that they are clear and reasonable.
- EC has the obligation to disclose and disseminate any decision/statement made on behalf of RC40 via the available platform (e.g., business meetings, newsletters, website, etc.).
- If there is any dispute to the decision, or if the decision raises more issues, then RC40 can start the whole process.

For those interested to talk more about this, we're planning an online discussion via video conference on **20th January 2026**. See below for details on how to register.





WE INVITE ALL INTERESTED RC40 MEMBERS TO JOIN US IN AN OPEN DISCUSSION ON THIS PROPOSED PROCESS. 20TH JANUARY 2026, REGISTER [HERE](#)



Regional update: Who is Governing the Global Food System?

A Joint RC40-RC17-ESRS PhD Summer School

TARA DOURIAN, PHD CANDIDATE, INRAE - PARIS

I applied to the ISA-ESRS PhD summer school in the midst of a meticulous phase of data analysis for my PhD. The school's theme was both attractive and timely. I felt a mounting urge to reconnect with the "bigger picture" of global food systems, at a time when I was feeling submerged by my case-based interpretations. I must admit, the task of having to produce a full draft paper within a few months seemed to be quite daunting at first! I hesitated but welcomed the challenge as an opportunity to produce and share some preliminary findings from my thesis.

With the diverse mentors and PhD students who took part, the rich discussions, and the overall supportive environment, I keep a good memory of those few days in Paris. I particularly appreciated the format of both having to adopt the role of the commentator alongside an established researcher, and the role of being on the receiving end of the feedback. This exercise was a useful reminder that becoming a researcher is also about acts of peer review. It also served as excellent practice in light of the forthcoming ISA forum in Rabat at the time, where this work was to be presented. It was extremely insightful to see how this very raw and until then, personal material was perceived and understood by others. I left the school feeling confident and convinced that it contributed, albeit in a small way, to better understanding the governance of food systems. The product of this work is now under review for publication so I feel quite thankful for this early feedback! Lastly, it was lovely to get to know people from this community, particularly as a novice RC40 member and an ISA forum-first timer.

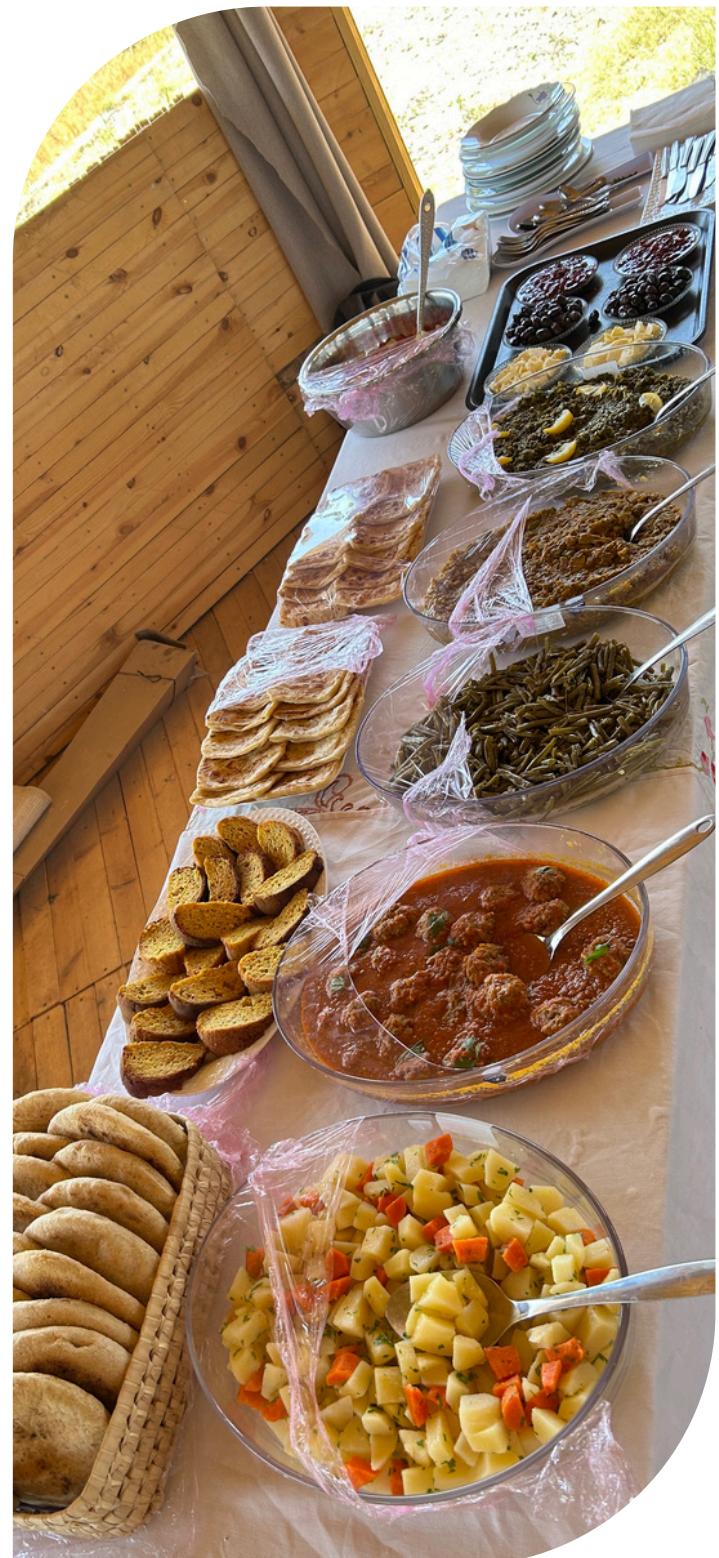
The 2025 Paris summer school critically engaged EMCRs and established sociologists in dialogue around how global governance systems influencing food might more efficiently address sustainability pathways that protect social and biophysical environments in the Anthropocene, for the health and wellbeing of the present and future generations. Who is governing global food systems? What levels of organization are emerging? What can we learn from different schools of thought in the social sciences? How can we know that we are on a better track?

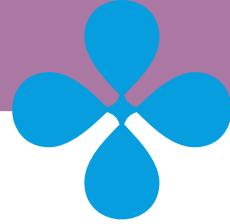
REFLECTIONS FROM RABAT

Hemal Thakker, School of International Affairs, Sciences Po, Paris

Attending the International Sociological Association Conference in Morocco was genuinely an invigorating experience for me as a PhD researcher working on agroecological transitions at the sub-national level. The visit to the agroecological farm was a wonderful start to the week. It was very powerful to see how ideas we often debate in seminar rooms take shape in concrete practices: changes in cropping systems, marketing channels, support groups and relationships with consumers. Hearing directly from the farmer - who plays a key role in the Moroccan food sovereignty movement - made the notion of "transition" feel less abstract and much more connected to everyday decisions and constraints (especially how he grapples with the famous socio-technical lock-ins).

The discussions with fellow researchers were just as important. I especially valued the exchanges around governance, sustainability challenges and agroecology, which resonate strongly with my own work. After my presentation I received a lot of thoughtful feedback, as well as references of fellow researchers and projects already working on similar questions.





CONTD...

The way the programme was structured also contributed a lot to the experience. The sessions were clear, well organised and never felt too long. There was always time for questions and genuine conversation rather than only one-way presentations. If I may offer one small suggestion, it would be to avoid scheduling lunch-time sessions because the days can then become very long and it becomes difficult to maintain the same level of attention without any breaks.

I particularly appreciated the closing dinner at the restaurant. In a way, it created a before-after effect: the farm visit had grounded our discussions in real world practices, and the evening then offered a relaxed space to reconnect with those insights and to deepen conversations with other researchers, including some who joined us later. That combination of shared field experience and unhurried discussion over a meal made the workshop especially meaningful for me, both intellectually and in terms of my longer term trajectory as an ECR.



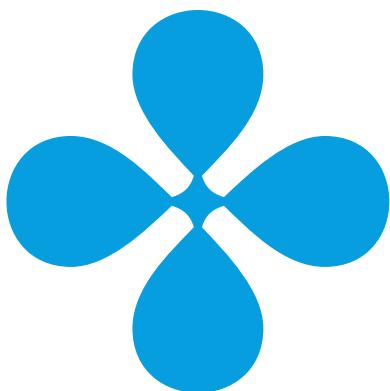
HAPPY SNAPS

Thank you to everyone who joined us - at the field trip, dinner and the many ad hoc social gatherings along the way.

Recipe: Moroccan vegetable cakes

3 oeufs
1/4 verre de l'huile végétale
sel
2 petit sachets de levure
carotte et courgette
oignon et poivre
un peu de l'huile vegetale (a l'assiette))
... et fournir





YOUR INSIGHTS FROM RABAT

ACTIONS FOR RC40

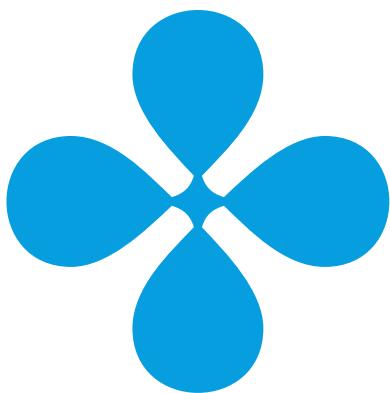
SURVEY AND ROUNDTABLE KEY TAKEAWAYS

The survey of RC40 members revealed a vibrant yet fragmented network, rich in ideas but constrained by dispersed interests and limited theoretical cohesion. Members valued RC40's strong foundations in critical political economy but urged greater engagement with feminist theory, global food system dynamics, and collaborative, comparative research. Many noted that isolated case studies and structural barriers—such as conference costs, ISA membership, and language limitations—hinder inclusivity and impact. Respondents called for broader regional representation and stronger connections with allied associations, ISA committees, and Science and Technology Studies (STS) scholars. Overall, there was a shared desire to revitalise RC40 as an interdisciplinary hub advancing critical, globally relevant scholarship on food and agriculture.

The roundtable discussion reaffirmed RC40's identity as a collegial and critical space for agrifood scholarship, while recognising the need to evolve beyond critique toward constructive engagement and practical approaches. Participants highlighted the risk of exclusivity and declining institutional support for rural sociology, emphasising the importance of accessibility, mentorship, and collaboration through digital and hybrid formats. They called for partnerships with related organisations, including the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS), and for initiatives that balance critical analysis with participation in food system solutions. The discussion underscored RC40's commitment to renew its structures for a more inclusive, connected, and action-oriented future.

"A VERY MEMORABLE DISCUSSION FOR ME WAS DURING THE DECOLONIAL SESSION. THE NEED TO BREAK AWAY FROM THE TERM DECOLONIAL ITSELF WAS MENTIONED ... MAYBE INTRODUCE AN ENTIRELY NEW NARRATIVE, SUCH AS 'AUTONOMY'. OTHERS PREFERRED THE TERM PLURIVERSAL. THE NEED TO DECOLONISE BOTH RESEARCH AND THE DISCIPLINE OF SOCIOLOGY ITSELF IS IMPORTANT."

IDA YAMASWARI



YOUR INSIGHTS FROM RABAT

ACTIONS FOR RC40

PROPOSED ACTIONS FOR 2026

1. Strengthen Community through Regular Meetings

RC40 can aim to hold more in-person meetings to sustain and grow membership, re-establishing regional events that can better connect members as a scientific community. A separate online thematic series can invite members to propose and lead discussions.

A working group will review RC40's participation in ISA Forums and explore additional engagement models. Collaboration with the RC40-affiliated journal will continue through co-badged special sections to enhance visibility and shared outputs.

2. Expand EMCR Mentorship Initiatives

RC40 can strengthen support for EMCRs through structured mentorship, virtual writing retreats, and mentored write-shops. Clearer mentor-mentee matching can be supported by an updated membership database and enhanced "Who We Are" profiles on the website. Regular skills development programs and Senior-Junior webinars can enable members to share research and build collaboration. Senior scholars can be encouraged to pre-review papers for emerging researchers, helping build publishing capacity and inclusivity.

Together, these actions aim to strengthen RC40 as a connected, inclusive, and collaborative global hub for critical scholarship on food and agriculture.

STRENGTHENING MENTORING IN RC40

Atakan Buke, on behalf of the Mentoring working group

Given global socio-ecological crises and shifting modes of knowledge production, the evolving academic landscape imposes new demands on scholars both inside and outside academia. For emerging and early-career researchers especially, navigating this environment requires not only disciplinary and methodological grounding but also a broad set of academic and professional skills. These include, among others, building a cohesive research and teaching portfolio, engaging in inter- and transdisciplinary collaborations, securing third-party funding for research, developing a sustainable publication strategy, and cultivating a scholarly voice that is also socio-ecologically and politically influential. Within this context, RC40 has always served as a kind of “school” for its community and for the broader agrifood scholarship. This has involved not only senior researchers offering generous, careful feedback to early-career colleagues but also sustained peer-to-peer exchange. Our mini-conferences and RC40-sponsored sessions at various gatherings have consistently acted as essential spaces for intellectual apprenticeship, collective learning, and horizontal mentoring. Over the years, these practices have been further enriched by regional workshops, early-career write-shops, summer schools, and online collaborative events, all of which have fostered a mentoring culture rooted in solidarity, reciprocity, and shared critical commitments. In short, mentoring has always been understood as a fundamental element for maintaining critical agrifood studies as a collective craft within RC40.

Building on these experiences and discussions at the ISA Forum in Rabat, an informal mentoring working group has been established within the RC40 Executive Committee. This initiative aims to respond to the evolving demands of the academic landscape outlined above by developing a more systematic and strengthened approach to RC40’s collective mentoring. Its purpose is to explore with the broader membership how mentoring can be made more robust, inclusive, and effective across the community. Some of the key questions we aim to address include:

- How can we define what “mentoring” means within RC40, and clarify the expectations of mentors and mentees?
- How can we identify mentoring needs across our diverse membership, inclusively and effectively?
- How can we support long-term, one-to-one mentoring relationships as well as event-based interactions?
- How can we best link regional and thematic clusters to ensure mentoring stays rooted in local contexts while fostering cross-regional collaboration?
- What forms of feedback are best for members to review drafts of papers or projects?
- Can we use speed-mentoring at in-person gatherings to help early-career scholars connect with potential mentors?

We invite all RC40 members, early-career and senior colleagues alike, to participate in shaping a more robust and systematic mentoring culture within our community. We are excited to hear your thoughts, whether you are interested in mentoring or seeking guidance as a mentee. **If you would like to share your ideas or join our working group, please reach out to Atakan (atakanbuke@yerkure.org), Madeleine (mfairbai@ucsc.edu), or Cynthia (cynthiagharios@gmail.com).**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026

XVI World Congress of Rural Sociology

July 19-23
Porto Alegre, Brazil

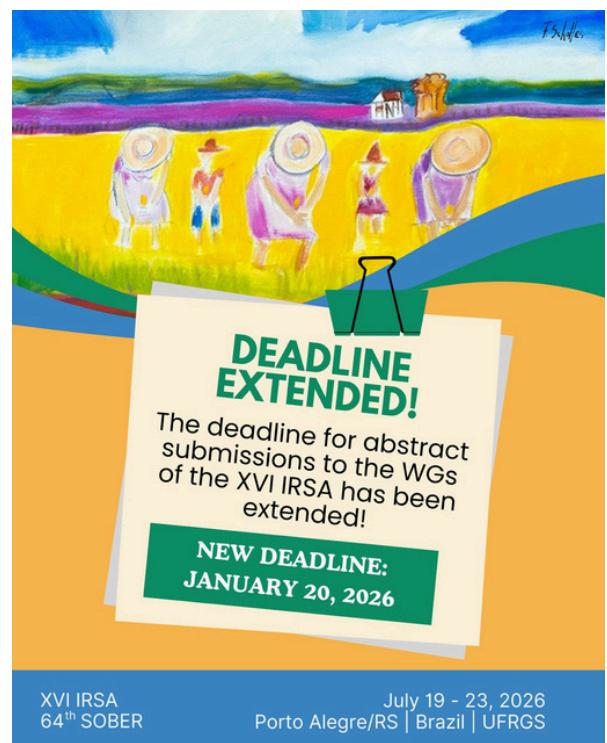
2027

XXI World Congress of Sociology

4-10 July
Gwangju, Korea

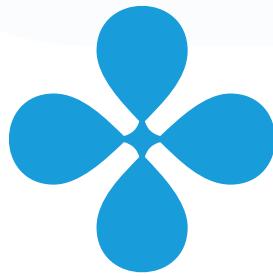
In 2026, Porto Alegre will once again be at the center of discussions about the future of rural areas. This city has become internationally known for its innovative experiences in participatory democracy, including the first editions of the World Social Forum. The metropolitan region of Porto Alegre is also home to some of the most consolidated experiences of rural settlements, where agrarian reform cooperatives are responsible for the largest area for organic rice in Latin America. In 2024, the city witnessed the largest climate catastrophe in its history, a flood that left 183 dead and thousands homeless. But, once again, the solidarity of the population and civil society guaranteed the conditions to resist and rebuild the city. Among the main innovations is a network of more than 300 "solidarity kitchens" that are revolutionizing the conditions of access to healthy food for the most vulnerable social groups, and which has served as inspiration for the construction of new food policies. In short, Porto Alegre has historically been a locus of innovative action, where the protagonism of rural and urban social movements, in partnership with other state and non-state actors, has put the construction of more sustainable, healthy and fair food systems in the foreground. The main axis of discussion will be "*Politics for Nature, Food and Nutrition in times of uncertainty and climate change*".

**All roads lead to
Porto Alegre -
Call for Abstracts
extended HERE**



RC40 BOOK CLUB

Madeleine Fairbairn



To join the book club - sign up [HERE](#)

What is the RC40 book club?

The RC40 book club meets twice a year to discuss recent texts with relevance to the sociology of agriculture and food. Our last two sessions were co-organized by Executive Committee members Katharine Legun and Madeleine Fairbairn. The book club has an open format and welcomes participants from all over the world and every career stage. After each meeting we write a book review that summarizes our discussion and is structured around quotes from the meeting discussion. We publish these reviews in the International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF) with all participants listed as co-authors.

Why should I attend the book club?

This is an awesome way to stay abreast of recent literature and to meet colleagues from all over the world! It is also a way to gain a new publication. Our recent review of *Real Food, Real Facts: Processed Food and the Politics of Knowledge* by Charlotte Biltekoff has recently been accepted to IJSAF, and we are currently working on writing up a review based on our discussion of *Plantation Worlds* by Maan Barua. Read our review [HERE](#).

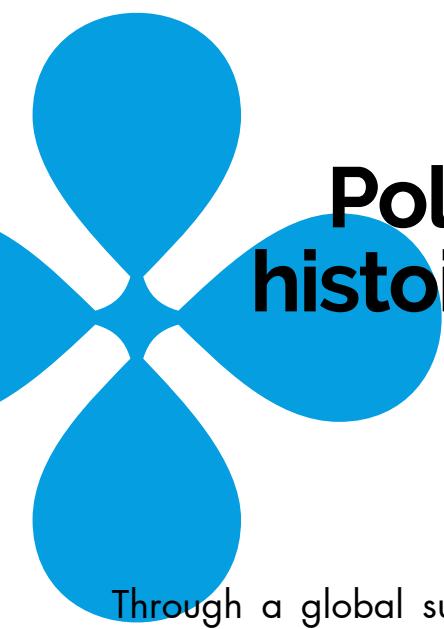
What are we reading next?

We have planned our next meeting for January 15th at 20:00 CET. This meeting will be to discuss Jennifer Clapp's book, *Titans of Industrial Agriculture*. We will soon send out an invite with a link to the meeting. Please see the description below. If you would like to read the book and join our meeting, but are unable to access the book, please email Katharine (Katharine.legun@wur.nl). Other books on our list of possibilities for next year include Xaq Frohlich's *From Label to Table: Regulating Food in America in the Information Age* and Kelly Alexander's *Truffles and Trash: Recirculating Food in a Social Welfare State*.

Are you interested in hosting a meeting?

Have you read a book related to the sociology of agriculture and food that prompted thoughts and questions that you would like to talk about? Do you have a book at the top of your reading list that you won't get to without an incentive? Do you have a colleague in another time zone that you would like to connect with through a small and fun project? You too can host an RC40 book club meeting! We are happy to support anyone who would like to host a meeting as part of the book club series. Please get in touch with Katharine (Katharine.legun@wur.nl) if you would like to host a discussion.

New Book Corner



Politiques agricoles: Théories, histoires, réformes, expériences

Contributing author: Prof Kate Sekine, Aichi Gakuin University

Volume I – II, Paris: Classiques Garnier

ISBN: 978-2-406-18457-7

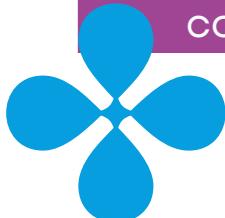
DOI: 10.48611/isbn.978-2-406-18459-1

Through a global survey of contemporary agricultural policy after the COVID-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the book assesses the legitimacy of dominant problem definitions and interventions. It also revisits the theoretical foundations, historical evolutions, and reforms of agricultural policies, and provides different experiences in countries in Europe, North and South America, Asia-Pacific, and Africa. It reveals that agricultural policies in different continents reflect common challenges such as climate change, geopolitical issues, further market liberalization, and new social and environmental objectives anchored in heterogeneous socio-historical situations and compromises of actors and institutions. Kae Sekine, a member of RC40, contributed a chapter that analyzes the evolution of Japanese agri-food and rural policies and their implications since 1945, as well as the socioeconomic and political mechanisms behind it. It points out that under the latest geopolitical tension, recent administrations have progressively revised pacifist policies and shifted to a new regime that echoes wartime posture.

This 1,230-pages-long book, written in French, is published in two volumes and available in both electronic and printed versions. To order the volumes or each chapter, please visit the publisher's [website](#). It is recommended to scholars and students studying agriculture and food policies as well as the sociology of agriculture and food, agricultural economics, political science, and experts and policymakers worldwide.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

4
ways to
connect



RC40, and ISA more generally, has instituted a number of changes to how we communicate with members. In addition to our twice-yearly newsletters, you can keep up to date with RC40 news and events online:

Email us:
isa-rc40@isa-sociology.org



RC40 Digest:
Please send info
to RC40.digest@gmail.com



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



Bluesky:
<https://bsky.app/profile/isa-rc40.bsky.social>

CONTRIBUTE TO RC40

Books, news and blog stories wanted!

BLOG

Aside from the RC40 Forum where members can submit news directly (although through a moderated process), we are inviting all members to contribute short stories or information about events/conferences via our **Community Blog**. Please send your ideas to Anga, dwiartama@itb.ac.id

We are currently compiling a list of books recently published by our members. If you've had a book come out in the last year (2024), please email the title and a cover image to Madeleine, mfairbai@ucsc.edu

BOOKS

CHECK

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. Please circulate this invitation to join the RC40 to your networks!

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

