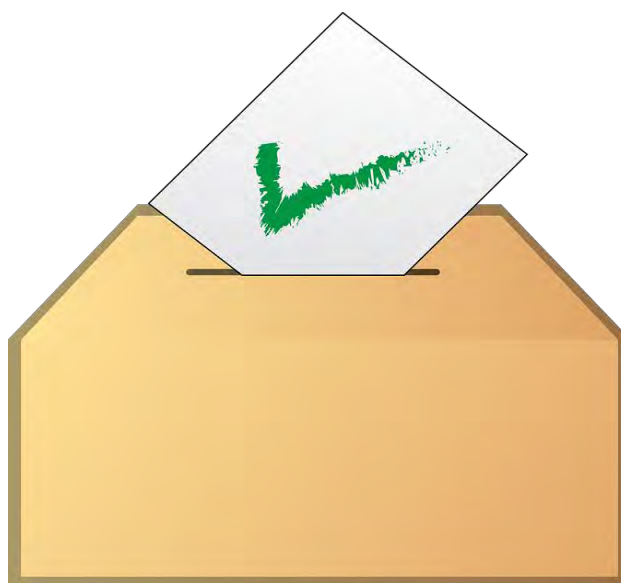


Agriculture and Food

The E-Newsletter of the ISA Research Committee on Agriculture and Food (RC40)
Volume 16 Number 2

2022



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Secretary's Welcome

Greetings members and friends of RC40. We are approaching the final semester of the current Executive Committee of RC40.

Elections for the next Executive Committee for RC40 will thus be the first and most important topic of this newsletter. The call for Nominations is out for Elections for the President, Secretary/Treasurer, Executive Committee and a Junior Seat. Nominate good candidates – others or yourself – to serve on the executive committee for the forthcoming four-year period. The criteria for being elected is to be a member of RC40 (and ISA) in good standing. Also, remember that to vote for your candidate to the Committee you must be a member yourself.

In this newsletter, we share stories from the sitting committee. The members of today's board tell of both the high professional and personal benefits and joy of participating.

Other matters in the newsletter are reports from activities in RC40 the previous semester. We organized a mini-conference in Leipzig and started a book club! We were also visible at the IRSA conference in Cairns.

In the first half of 2023, there will be two new workshops on article writing for young scholars in two new regions. We also aim to arrange some web-based gatherings where we combine the academic and the social.

You will see that there will be a lot of RC40 activity at the world congress in Melbourne with many diverse sessions set up by our session organizers. The sessions receive a high number of abstract submissions and unfortunately, we could not accommodate all.

The transition to the new officers will be made at the RC40 Business Meeting, which will be held at the Melbourne ISA World Congress in late June 2023. The Business Meeting is where we reflect critically, lay plans, and collectively advance shared governance of RC40. Come join us!

Hoping for high interest in the election!

Kind regards,
Hilde Bjørkhaug

Election for the next Executive Committee 2023-2027

Call for nominations: We seek to identify people to stand for election for RC40 leadership. This leadership group will lead the membership and keep the organization moving ahead.

This call for Nominations is for:

- President
- Secretary/Treasurer
- Executive Committee (four seats)
- Dedicated early career scholar seat.

Nominate qualified candidates – others or yourself – to serve in the leadership group for the forthcoming four-year period.

Nominated candidates shall be regular members of RC40 during the period of serving. Regular members are individuals in good standing within the ISA (members of ISA and RC40).

For more information on RC40, statues and activities and membership – visit our webpage <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/about>

Send nominations to RC40 Secretary Hilde Bjørkhaug
by **February 15, 2023**

Regards

Hilde Bjørkhaug

My story: How RC40 changed my professional life

Stories from the current Executive CCommittee

Allison Loconto

I first joined RC40 as a graduate student upon the advice of my mentors. I really enjoyed the cross-generational dialogue that was always promoted within RC40, which is why I not only stayed in the RC40, but also why I wanted to become more active in the group. I became president of RC40 at the ISA World Congress in Yokohama in 2014 and I served my four-year term with Maki Hatanaka as secretary/treasurer and an excellent EC who supported us to revise the statutes of the RC, to revitalize the journal and to become more active across the ISA by participating in the ISA Forum for the first time in Vienna in 2016. This leadership experience motivated me personally to become more involved in the ISA itself by serving on the ISA's Executive Committee from 2018-2023. My role as journal liaison on the current RC40 EC inspired me to take over as the new Chief Editor for IJSAF as we strive to continue the positive trend in the journal's trajectory. I remain committed to the RC40 community and I am looking forward to working with a new IJSAF liaison on the new EC who will be able to bring even more ideas to our brilliant editorial team and community.

Photoes:

Allison Loconto and Doug Constance (missing from the photo but present at the table: Steven Wolf, Marie-Christine Renard and Sarah Bowen) – discussing *Divided Spirits* and tasting Mezcal. ISA World Congress in Toronto 2016.

Allison churning butter at the Delhi Organic Market during fieldwork in 2017.

Spoiler – butter was not churned, I didn't have the arm strength (and the ice wasn't cold enough) ...



Angga Dwiartama

My first engagement with RC40 was during my doctoral study at the University of Otago, New Zealand, circa-2011. I benefitted from the active involvement of my PhD supervisors, mentors, and fellow students in RC40, from which I learned to appreciate the value of network and collegiality that are cherished in this organization. I began to get involved professionally in RC40 when I put my name as an executive member of RC40 *Executive Committee* for the 2019-2023. There, I found my passion to build a stronger communication media for this network and have worked to improve the RC40 website (www.isa-agrifood.com), community blog pages, and co-manage the RC40 social media at Twitter (@ISA_RC40). I am keen to work together with like-minded members, and see the ISA World Congress in Melbourne in June 2023 as a way to connect and plan strategies to increase the visibility of RC40 in the wider academic community.

Photos

Angga presenting at IRSA 2022 in Cairns

Mini-conference dinner in Leipzig 2022



Hilde Bjørkhaug

My first encounter with RC40 was when, as a young PhD candidate, I was encouraged by my mentors to attend the ISA world conference in Brisbane Australia in 2002. Here I asked to be included in a community of established and new scholars who enthusiastically presented their own and gave input and encouragement to others. The very special social spirit that was in the research group mersmak and I have followed RC30 through ISA and other 40 sponsored activities since then. There are, among other things, RC40 events at ESRS and IRSA's conferences where I myself have been involved in organizing workshops and have contributed to publishing activities such as co-editor responsibility for special issues in IJSAF. I was elected to the RC40 executive committee in 2014-2019 and was elected secretary/treasurer in 2019-2023. As secretary/treasurer, I am responsible for newsletters, have contributed to the operation of RC40's website and I keep track of the finances. I was responsible for the coordination of RC40 sessions in the ISA virtual forum in Porto Alegre (2021) and had the pleasure of supporting the environment at the University of Leipzig in conducting the Rc40 mini-conference in 2022. The professional gatherings in RC40, meetings with old and new friends, always gives me a lot of energy and reminds me why I have chosen a profession and lifestyle as a researcher. I bet that energy flows over to new generations.

Maki Hatanaka

I served as Secretary and Treasurer of RC40 from 2014-2018 and a member of its Executive Board from 2018-2023. As Secretary/Treasurer, I was responsible for managing the RC40's budget, organizing social events and banquets, and publishing newsletters. Since my time as a graduate student, RC40 has been a place where I get to meet with sociologists from across the world working on similar issues as me. I have always found RC40 to be a fascinating scholarly organization and look forward to the various meetings it sponsors. Through the activities and programs of RC40, I have come to be friends with many scholars from different regions/countries, which is a tremendous asset to me. RC40 is a very unique organization in that regard, and there are so many opportunities to initiate something meaningful on a global scale.



Memories from a mini-conference Maki organized (RC40/RSS joint conference) The RC40 banquet in Toronto (ISA World Congress 2019) below.



Michael Carolan

I have been a member of the RC40 Executive Committee (EC) since 2019. During that time, I had the pleasure of learning about RC40 and its commitment to expanding intellectual communities in the name of critical agrifood scholarship, with a particular interest in helping mentor junior scholars. I am especially proud of having provided support in one of the first RC40 Early Career Agrifood Workshops. I came to RC40 later in my career. My early mentors were not involved in this network and, thus, I did not come to appreciate its value as a welcoming space for interdisciplinary exchange until recently. I point to my example as a teachable moment and would encourage others to get involved with RC40 as early as possible. RC40 and its journal IJSAF offer important platforms for stimulating debate and forming lifelong friendships.

Steven Wolf

I joined RC40 in the mid-1990s as a graduate student at University of Wisconsin, Madison. The welcome I received from leaders in the field to join academic debates and the relations I built with peers remain vivid memories. As a PhD student, a postdoctoral researcher, and as a faculty member, I drew on the RC40 network to organize international workshops and edit books. As an RC40 Executive Committee member (2014-2018) and now as President (2019-2023), I have had a chance to invest in strengthening this unique intellectual community. In recent years, I have worked to expand the RC40 Regional Representative network, institutionalize the RC40 Early Career Agrifood Workshops, deepen linkages between RC40 and our journal IJSAF, and encourage the Executive Committee and all RC40 members and affiliates to initiate new efforts such as the RC40 Blog and the RC40 book club. The academic conference hosted in October 2022 by University of Leipzig was a particularly gratifying event, and I look forward to the ISA World Congress in Melbourne in June 2023. For me, RC40 is a platform to stimulate ideas, exchange research results, support professional development, and celebrate agrifood fellowship. I encourage you to invest in building your ties with this diverse and welcoming group of people.



Steven and others at the RC40 mini-conference concerned at ESRS 2019 in Trondheim.

RC40 Membership

Former or not jet a member of RC40?

It could be that your membership in RC40 has expired, your membership in ISA expired - or both. Both must be in place to be considered regular members of RC40.

Visit the ISA homepage to check your status!

<https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/membership/individual-membership>

Only regular members provide RC40 benefits such as support for activities from ISA or contribute to the most possible slots at ISA conferences and forums.

Only members in ISA and RC40 'count' as members in this way.

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!



JOIN US! > SOCIOLOGY of AGRICULTURE and FOOD (RC40)

+

INTERNATIONAL SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

An international intellectual community to support:

- Academic research
- Professional development
- Engaged scholarship
- Good times!

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 twitter.com/ISA_RC40

RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshops (Online)

The next RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshop will take place on February 3, 2023 focused on the Middle East and North Africa (Applications closed).

About the workshops:

These one-day virtual workshops aim to strengthen early career agrifood researchers' ability to publish research articles in English language journals.

RC40 organized the first event in this series in 2020 focusing on East Asia. We hosted an event focused on Latin America in 2021.

These events are coordinated by RC40 Regional Representatives, a global network of agrifood research leaders - <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/links>.

All early career researchers are welcome to apply to participate. All are encouraged to promote these events to support the professional development of the next generation of leaders in our field.



The call is out for the Southern Africa event taking place April 2023.

The Research Committee on Sociological Association invites early-career researchers from the Sub-Saharan Africa region (or PhD candidates whose studies focus on the region) for an online workshop aiming to produce high-quality articles for publication in international agri-food journals.

The aim of this workshop is to support early-career agri-food researchers in moving their papers for successful publication in international journals. The objective is to provide feedback on the works-in-progress (i.e., constructive feedback on draft papers), and advise the authors on some strategies to adopt for publishing. This is NOT a traditional research seminar with presentations/questions. Successful participants will submit their papers and receive individual comments on them before and during the workshop from both mentors and peers. During the workshop, participants will spend time examining some of the common issues and opportunities identified in reviewed manuscripts as well as tactics that can improve the manuscript's publication success. After the workshop, participants will receive continued support from faculty mentors to ensure they successfully publish their papers.

Who can apply:

We welcome applications from RC40 members, African Rural Sociologists, and people interested in contributing towards the development of a strong interdisciplinary food systems research network.

- Early-career agri-food researchers from Africa whose works are focused on food systems (production, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing, purchasing, consumption, and waste of food).
- Ph.D. candidates, young faculty & researchers working and living in Africa, and those who have earned their PhDs in the last seven years and not managed to publish their works in international journals are highly encouraged to apply.

Workshop Format

This workshop will follow six phases:

1. **Application (Deadline Jan. 30th, 2023):** Interested participants submit an online application form that will include a short bio (up to 200 words), a CV (including any published work), and an abstract (up to 400 words) of a paper proposition focusing on contemporary agri-food/ food systems issue;
2. **Invitation to participate in the workshop (Feb.10, 2023):** Successful applicants will be notified and invited to submit well-written draft papers that will be supported by the workshop;
3. **Working papers (Mar. 30th,2023):** Workshop participants will submit well-written draft papers (6,000 – 9,000 words) that will be reviewed by faculty mentors and peers ahead of the workshop;
4. **Online workshop (Apr. 2023):** Participants will participate in a two-day intensive workshop;
5. **Conference presentation (Jun. – Aug. 2023):** Workshop participants will receive support to attend and present their working papers at an international conference;
6. **Special issue publication:** Participants will receive continued support to ensure the successful completion and publication of their final papers in The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food.

Submit your application here using the following link:

https://cornell.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0DPNqkFGhWMirP0

If you have questions, please contact:

Dr. Manka N. Sheila épse Nkamta: manka_ngoh@yahoo.com

Dr. Fridah Mubichi-Kut: mfm96@Cornell.edu

R040 Book Club

Are you looking for new ways to stay on top of new publications in the sociology of agriculture and food? Do you want to have some engaged conversations with others in the field about critical agri-food issues? The Research Committee on Agriculture and Food (RC 40) of the International Sociological Association is starting a critical engagement book club.

Join us!

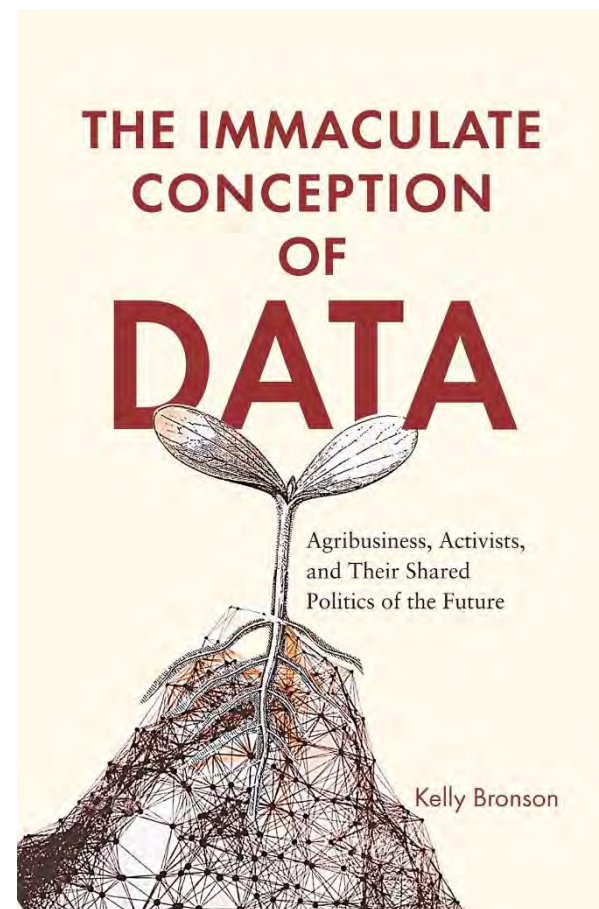
On EC member Katharine Legun's initiative, a book club has been launched! More than 50 people have signed up for the club and the first meeting has been held to discuss Kelly Bronson's *The Immaculate Conception of data*. You might be interested in this initiative.

To find out more, please read the attached, and to sign-up, please complete this online form:

<https://my.forms.app/katharinelegun/bookclub>.

The form reveals other suggested reads as well as enables you to suggest future readings.

See the information below and sign up for future discussions of sociology literature on agriculture and food.





Agriculture and Food Critical Engagement Book Club

Are you finding it hard to catch up on the latest social science research in agriculture and food? Do you enjoy and benefit from critical discussion and engagement with others? Do you want to update your course syllabi with some hot new titles?

The Research Committee on Agriculture and Food (RC40) of the International Sociological Association is organizing a book club to begin in the fall of 2022. Our goals for the book club are to support engagement with new work in the sociology of agriculture and food, and to facilitate the collaborative exchange of knowledge across diverse scholars. We would like to include participants from a range of career stages or types of employment, and who may be able to draw from different experiences and intellectual resources in contributing to the discussions about the text. You do not need to be a member of RC40 to participate. Members of RC40 and those interested in learning more about RC40 are welcome. We do want to make sure there is enough common ground to engage meaningfully in a discussion, so are only looking for participants who are committed to engaging deeply and critically with texts and their implications for agriculture and food, with a mind towards justice, equity and sustainability.

The plan: Our first book will be *The Immaculate Conception of Data* by Kelly Bronson. We will meet to discuss the book in early November (we will take a poll to find a date and time that work). Prior to our meeting, we will send out an email with discussion topics and solicit input for additional topics from book club members. Details about the book, and other titles that we may cover in the future, are included below. We also welcome and appreciate any additional book suggestions. Participation is free. Wherever possible, we will see if we can also schedule a Q & A with the book author as part of the book club activities. If there is interest and energy among participants, we will also prepare edited comments from the book club discussions to be submitted for possible publication in the RC-40 journal, *International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF)*, as a novel form of book review. If you have any questions, please email Katharine Legun (Katharine.legun@wur.nl). If you would like to participate but aren't sure you will be able to access a copy of the book, please get in touch with Katharine.

Please sign up for the book club here: <https://my.forms.app/katharinelegun/bookclub>. Even if you are unable to participate this fall, but would like to be involved with future book club meetings, please sign up. We have included space for you to indicate whether you would be interested in other titles and when you might be likely to have availability to participate. If you have any trouble using the form, please sent Katharine an email (Katharine.legun(at)wur.nl).

XX ISA World Congress of Sociology



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

Melbourne, Australia | June 25-July 1, 2023
Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre
www.isa-sociology.org



RC40 ISA World Congress Sessions, Melbourne, Australia June 25-July 1, 2023

RC40 has organized a series of 14 sessions featuring 123 accepted abstracts. See descriptions of the sessions below. These sessions include an Integrated Session and two Joint Sessions, co-produced with other ISA Research Committees. We also will host a Roundtable allowing for small group discussions and a highly interactive program. Beyond these sessions, RC40 will organize a reception/dinner/party of some sort as well as a Business Meeting (i.e., a meeting dedicated to administrative matters and strategic planning. Please plan on joining the World Congress. The event will be hybrid, so travel is not necessary to participate. This is an important opportunity for intellectual exchange and strengthening our union. See <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023> for details.

For those attending – registration grants are available:

ISA provides some registrations grant for members in good standing and visible in the program. Please inform your presenters about the upcoming deadline of January 31, 2023, for seeking such grants.

Applications are to be sent to:

RC40 Program Coordinators for XX ISA World Congress 2023:

Steven WOLF, saw44@cornell.edu

Matt COMI, comi.matthew@marshfieldresearch.org

TASA's 2023 ISA Bursary seeks to support the attendance of 5 higher degree research students and early career researchers from Category B and Category C countries in the Asia-Pacific Region. <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/grants-23>

For all presenters following deadlines apply:

Early Registration: 22 March 2023 **Presenter Registration:** 22 March

2023 **Cancellations:** 1 May 2023 *Deadlines enforced at 24:00 GM

RC40 Sessions (including ISA Joint and ISA Integrated Sessions)

Alternative Food Futures: Connecting Research with Citizen Politics

Organizers: Kiah Smith (k.smith2@uq.edu.au) and Alana Mann

Research into new ways of doing food futures differently is not only academic; it is also a political project aimed at demonstrating new ways of sharing, thinking and doing that emerge from active engagement between and among diverse civic food

experiments. Examples can be found across movements for food justice, food sovereignty, agroecology, the right to food and solidarity/care economy (etc), all of which occupy an important place at the intersection of sociologies of food and/or futures.

This session invites researchers to share insights that can help make connections between personal and collective visions for future societies, justice and food system reform. In particular, we are interested to hear from studies that give citizen food politics a central space in creating new stories about food, and so progress understandings of how alternative practices for sustainable and just food futures might better inform policy or activism. What new stories for food futures are emerging, and by whom, and how might these be mobilised to challenge existing food power relations? What methods (e.g. scenarios, citizen science) can praxis-oriented researchers use to progress work at this nexus?

Food System Shocks and Food Security Vulnerabilities: Moving Beyond Business as Usual

Organizers: Carol Richards - c6.richards@qut.edu.au – and Rudolf Messner

The global food system has experienced a number of shocks recently, drawing renewed attention to global food security vulnerabilities. At the production and distribution end of the food supply chain (ie. the availability of food), the impact of wars in Yemen and Ukraine, severe climate events such as floods and fires and the impact of Covid-19 have added a new set of challenges. At the ‘consumption’ end (ie. access to food), many advanced capitalist economies are experiencing cost-of-living crises that impede access to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for many households.

Concerns about food security vulnerabilities are well founded. In 2021, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation’s State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World revealed that world hunger increased in 2020. Despite previous gains in food security, between 720 and 811 million people in the world experienced hunger in 2020, an increase of 161 million since 2019. At the same time, nearly 2.37 billion people lacked access to adequate food in 2020 – an increase of 320 million over a one-year period.

With availability and access to food simultaneously under threat, how do farmers, civil society, business, nation states and the global community respond to food security in the 2020s?

We invite papers that engage with the concept of food security in all of its forms, across different scales (global, national, local, household), perspectives and theoretical lenses.

Prosumption in Post-COVID-19 societies: An Integrative Session

Participating RCs: RC02, RC17, RC24, RC40, RC52.

Coordinated by: Davide Arcidiacono, Allison Loconto, , Lara Maestripietri, and Antonello Podda

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought back to the foreground of public debate the slowmoving phenomenon of “prosumption” (a term formed by combining producer and consumer, coined by Toffler in 1970), which blurs producers’ and consumers’ "work" in contemporary economies. Degrowth models or debate about other alternative economic paradigms imply that existing actors will have to take on more and/or different roles in many sectors – particularly those related to energy, mobility, and food. These changing roles also mean changes in the types of knowledge,

expertise, and services that prosumers are expected to have, which in turn condition the value of their labour. This integrative session will broaden debate among sociologists from across five research committees (agriculture and food, economy and society, environment, organizations, and professions) trying to explore a number of interdependencies, synergies, and conflicts that emerge through prosumption, in order to understand how the phenomenon is emerging and shaping diverse sectors of the economy in contemporary societies from around the world. Our session will foster debate around the question of: what forms might prosumption take in diverse economic paradigms that are emerging to deal with the realities of a post-COVID world? Can certain organizational forms also emerge to reduce the inequalities and exploitation of some current forms of prosumption? What challenges does the concept of prosumer pose to the regulation of the economy? How does this concept redefine the power and structure of value chains? What can be its concrete social impact in post-covid societies?

Agri-Food Sustainability in a Post-COVID World

Organizers: Kiran Odhav (kiran.odhav@nwu.ac.za) and Sheila Manka

While Africa may have escaped the worst effects of COVID19, its endemic crises relating to poverty, malnutrition and hunger continues amidst a myriad of other problems. The global effects of the Ukraine war will most likely affect Africa severely at the most basic level: sustenance and livelihoods.

This sessions calls for papers focussing on such a crises, particularly in the area of food, agriculture and livelihoods for ordinary Africans. With the tenuous post-COVID world emerging and its resultant re-ordering of the social order, African social policy needs to resolutely create the environments for a better life for all. The call here is for papers on alternative forms of livelihoods that suggest greater development of local, regional and continental networks and production lines for sustenance and for a sustainable future for Africa's mass populations.

One alternative is in the area of indigenous foods that can serve to rekindle local economies and assist towards livelihoods but also for a healthier intake of food as contrasted to the manufactured variety of foods that are imported to Africa. The indigenous food market is operational but may not survive for long with the hegemonic thrust of western products in African settings. The session calls for how alternative forms of food chains can be developed, what associational forms are needed and how they can be sustained in the long-term.

Food and Social Change

Organizers: Eloísa Martin (eloisamartin@hotmail.com) and Renata Motta

Social change has been key to social thought since its origins, either with the European "founding fathers" of sociology or with Ibn Khaldun in the 14th century. While social change appeared in the origins of the social studies of food, and currently appears as a background discussion, there is little systematization to discuss social change through food. This is precisely the aim of this session: using food as a productive lens to understand broader social dynamics by contributing to a key theoretical debate in sociology.

Methodologically, approaches to social change vary from comparative historical perspectives to purely theoretical models. Modernity (in its various definitions, criticisms, and derivations) has guided debates around social change, frequently from a normative perspective. By bringing food to the centre of this debate, the session would critically approach the two classical perspectives on this topic, that is, whether social change is predictable, irreversible and, ultimately, evolutionist, or if

change is related to unpredictable social transformations, which leads to unexpected results.

We welcome proposals conducted at the micro-level of social interactions, when food consumption is a means of, for instance, “doing family” and “doing gender”; at the meso-level, in which the role of political organizations, socio-economic institutions and scientific knowledge regulate food practices; and at the macro-level, in which global market dynamics, international health standards, and cultural discourses impinge on food production, exchange and consumption. Such a combination of a range of theorization and research is most promising to grasp dynamics of social change.

Good Farm Animal Welfare in Sustainable Food Systems

Organizers: Hilde Bjørkhaug (hilde.bjorkhaug@ntnu.no) and Bruce Muirhead

Good animal welfare (AW) in an ethically sound animal livestock production system is a basic premise in a sustainable food system. Societal values and attitudes have an important influence on food production and any shift in social attitudes about AW provides both significant risks and opportunities in food production. Food production is operating in a field of tension between the demands of more efficient production, producers' economic conditions and public perceptions that good AW is potentially compromised by farming intensification. This is evident in changing societal attitudes to intensifying livestock production with attention to AW issues in food production escalating dramatically. The separation between farmers and consumers, urban and rural citizens, and manufacturers and governing authorities is increasing. Therefore, the potential for escalation of public concern over AW, increasing demands on farmers (justified or unjustified) and increasing positioning of decision-making outside the farm itself and into the control of retailers, consumers, civil society organisations, and more distant authorities, combine to provide a compelling subject for research. The current situation raises questions about the content of AW evaluations and whom is getting the power to make them. This session calls for papers that address the changing nature of AW in society and in the food industry and asks what premises exist or enable good farm AW in sustainable food systems; What are the drivers, and where do we go?

Organizing through Standards and Value Hierarchies – Joint Session RC40 and RC17 (Sociology of Organization)

Nadine Arnold (nadine.arnold@mykolab.com) and Allison Loconto

This session is a follow-up to our past session “Governing Value(s) and Organizing through Standards”, which sparked a lively debate on the intersections between valuation and standardization. While standards have been acknowledged as a fundamental form of organizing, its interrelation with value(s) is still empirically underexamined and undertheorized. In the context of natural resources, standards are particularly mobilized to account for abstract values, such as biodiversity, health, equality, sustainability or transparency. At the same time, how these natural resources are ‘valued’ and codified into hierarchies of value within standards with consequences for the use of standards to organize sectors, industries, value chains, built environments and nature. This time we invite contributions that explore the role of values and organization in an expanded way in the context of ongoing standardization. Instead of limiting attention to organization, we ask what role meta-organizations (organizations whose members are organizations) play in the creation, adoption, and diffusion of values-based standards. Who are these meta-organizations and how, and with what consequences do they participate in the

construction of natural resources' value? In addition, and instead of limiting attention to the construction and accentuation of values, we ask what values are prioritized and, more importantly, what values are ignored and subordinated? What values are at the bottom of the hierarchy and what becomes valueless when standards organize production, farming, extraction, or conservation?

Extending Critical Approaches to Agtech and Foodtech: Dialoguing Insights from the Insides and Outsides of Technology Design Projects

Organizers: Karly Burch (karly.burch@otago.ac.nz) and Katharine Legun

AgTech and FoodTech investment has been growing at a frenetic pace, and in ways which often exacerbate existing inequities in food and agriculture. Critical social scientists can often find themselves in a race to keep-up with the pace of innovation and to ensure empirical insights on the social implications of new technologies are included in deliberations about AgTech and FoodTech trajectories. At the same time, many critical social scientists find themselves included within technology design projects that reflect funding trends toward interdisciplinarity and transdisciplinarity. Such scholars often do their best to apply critical social scientific insights in spaces where their response-abilities may be compromised (Burch et al. forthcoming; Liboiron 2017). This can make it difficult for social scientists engaged in technology design to effectively shape technological trajectories in ways that lead to more equitable outcomes in AgTech and FoodTech.

This session is as an opportunity for social scientists working in the AgTech and FoodTech space to gather, share their research and collectively strategize about the kinds of scholarship that will be necessary to critically understand and more effectively shape current technological trajectories in food and agriculture.

This session will be organized as short presentations followed by longer discussion periods. We invite submissions which address, but are not limited to:

- Key topics in AgTech and FoodTech that require more attention.
- The main challenges facing social scientists in AgTech and FoodTech.
- Opportunities for social scientists to collaboratively address these key topics/challenges.
- Critical theories/methods that can support social scientists in addressing these key topics/challenges.

Exploring the emerging landscape of agtech innovation: venture capital, intermediaries, and the limits of "green capitalism" (formerly titled Digital Agriculture: Critical Analyses of Innovation Dynamics)

Organizers: Steven Wolf (saw44@cornell.edu) and Sarah Sippel

Agri-food entrepreneurs, venture capital firms, and a range of supporting organizations have become highly visible elements of agri-food innovation systems. In 2021, investors put \$51.7bn into agtech, an 85% increase over 2020 (AgFunder, 2022).

As these actors bring new money, new commitments, and new relationships into agri-food innovation systems, in this session we want to address the following questions: is there potential for these actors to reinforce, alter, and/or remake the trajectory of agri-food systems and relevant socioecological relations? Is there potential to positively affect the structure of agriculture, farmers' capacity to capture value in markets, rural communities, and socioecological relations at various spatial

scales? And is there potential for much of the current agtech hype to blow over and leave behind a more disciplined set of actors and a more sober discourse?

Approaching finance from a critical, but non-deterministic perspective, we are interested in exploring the limits of “green capitalism”. A second set of questions we want to address asks therefore: for what classes of socioecological problems and in what institutional contexts is a Silicon Valley-like model of innovation relevant for social problem solving? How plastic is the Silicon Valley model and what kinds of adaptations/hacks are possible? And, how do we understand the interplay between entrepreneurial modes of innovation and traditional agrifood R&D advanced by the public sector and corporate actors?

From an academic point of view, studying agtech opens up opportunities to contribute to literatures on financialization; sustainable agrifood transitions; construction of environmental markets; the relationship between on-farm labor/knowledge and off-farm labor/knowledge; digital agriculture futures; innovation system dynamics; and the future of the corporate agrifood regime.

Accountability and Sustainable Transitions: Toward an Integrated Analysis of Sociopolitical and Ecological Risks – Joint Session, RC40, TG04 (Sociology of Risk and Uncertainty), RC17 (Sociology of Organization) and RC24 (Environment and Society)

Organizers: Steven Wolf (saw44@cornell.edu), Rolf Lindskog (RC24), Nadine Arnold (RC17) and Jens Zinn (TG04)

In the face of ecological catastrophe and widening economic inequality, it is essential to analyze authoritative knowledge and institutional capacity to define problems and allocate responsibility in relation to ecological, economic, and socio-political risks. With the broader discourses on the ‘Anthropocene/Capitalocene’ and ‘sustainable development’ accountability has become crucial for justifying (in)actions and the external assessments of (in)actions.

Therefore, this session explores the role of accountability as part of governance mechanisms such as information management, the allocation of incentives and sanctions, empowerment, and the emergence of new values, and innovations. The session addresses questions relating to the way in which accountability supports feedbacks that change socioecological relations and mitigates risks as well as mechanism through which governments, corporations, civil society and social movement organizations, political parties, investors, critics, and consumers perform engagement with sustainability in order to “sustain the unsustainable.” Given that different parties use a variety of tools to demand and give accounts, we ask how they regulate socioeconomic relations and shape system change. What do these instruments make transparent and sanctionable? Who do they give a voice to and who do they care for? What are the underlying objectives and motivations of accountability mechanisms, and what unintended and unforeseeable consequences do they have on people, organizations, socioecological relations, and politics?

Speakers include guests:

Michelle Maloney, Australian Earth Laws Alliance -

<https://www.earthlaws.org.au/about-us/aela-team/michellemaloney/>

Jonathan Fox, American University - <https://www.american.edu/sis/faculty/fox.cfm>

RC40 Sociology of Agriculture and Food Roundtables

Organizers: Matt Comi (comi.matthew@marshfieldresearch.org) and Steven Wolf

We have organized 5 parallel discussions organized around 20 accepted abstracts. All are invited to participate in this rich, interactive session. Join the discussion at the table(s) that suit you. The format will allow for discussion, debate, and networking.

RC40 Business Meeting

Organizers: RC40 Executive Committee

This session is dedicated to discussing the administration and programming of RC40. We will review the last 5 years and discuss ideas for future strategy and programming. We will also install the new slate of elected leaders. All are invited to attend and participate.

New seminar series for RC40 members

We are now planning a new series of seminars for our rc40 members. The purpose of the seminar is professional input, discussion followed by social interaction. The seminar will take place online. The first theme is Canada's special system for regulating its dairy production. We will invite someone who works in the sector to talk about the system, RC40 member Bruce Muirhead will introduce the topic and contribute experience from many years of research on dairy sector in Canada and internationally. Stay tuned for time and date.

About Supply Management. By Bruce Muirhead

What is supply management? It is a quintessentially Canadian system, in that Canada is the only country in the world to have it in place. It covers the poultry sector – meat chickens and turkeys, eggs and dairy. Supply management was introduced, in the case of dairy in the 1960s and for the other sectors, in the 1970s. It was designed to address the perennial issue of over-production that characterized those products. Indirectly, it was to deal with the problem of declining farmer incomes that came as prices plunged because of too much product hitting the market.

How does supply management work? It is comprised of production discipline, achieved through quotas. Farmers are not permitted to produce, say, eggs, unless they own quota that matches the number of birds in their barns, or kilograms of milk solids, in the case of dairy farms. Quota is finite, created by a Crown corporation in Canada, the Farm Products Marketing Board in the case of the poultry sectors, and the Canadian Dairy Commission for milk. Quota can also be reduced if conditions warrant. However, after a half-century of managing demand in these sectors, a high level of accuracy and efficiency has been achieved.

As well, exports from the affected sectors are not permitted, according to WTO rules, and imports, beyond a tariff rate quote are discouraged. While some may claim that this makes Canadian dairy and poultry farmers inefficient, this could not be further from the truth. They are incredibly efficient, as with stable incomes achieved through a negotiated price, farmers are able to invest in expensive technologies like milking robots and the latest in egg equipment, allowing them to do their jobs much more efficaciously.

Finally, under supply management an annual price is negotiated and set by, say, Egg Farmers of Canada or the federal Canadian Dairy Commission. In the case of eggs, about 25 audit points are considered including such things as the price of fuel, insurance, feed, electricity costs, and so on. The idea is to allow the farmer under this regulated system to make a profit. The negotiated price is the one that supermarkets, for example, must pay for the commodity. If they then want to use eggs or dairy as price leaders, they can, but it comes out of their profit and does not affect the price the farmer receives for their commodity. Importantly, supply management does not mean consumers pay a higher price for dairy, eggs or poultry than is generally the norm internationally, but it does mean stability of income an occupation for farmers and rural areas.

Supply management works very well for all concerned – consumers and farmers – and is an effective system of agricultural marketing that has worked well for more than a half century. Beyond providing a bedrock of stability in rural Canadian communities, the system has worked effectively to mediate power asymmetries in supply chains and ensure safe, stable, and healthy domestic foodstuffs at a fair price.



Forthcoming ESRS conference



**XXIXth European Society for
Rural Sociology Congress**
Crises and the futures of rural areas
Rennes, France. July 3 – 7, 2023

The call for papers is open for 32 working groups at The ESRS congress in Rennes, France July 3-7 2023.

Submit your abstract by January 31, 2023

Follow the link:

<https://esrs2023.institut-agro-rennes-angers.fr/call-papers>

Crises and the futures of rural areas

The past months and years have led us to questioning the nature of what we consider normal and what we consider a crisis. The COVID crisis, the war and its consequences, the climate crisis, they are all changing the way we think about the world and act in it. How do these rapid changes affect rural areas, and the ways rural areas are imagined? Is the rural newly in crisis or should it be considered as having long – or perhaps always – been in crisis, in sometimes under-illuminated ways? Or can we still think of the rural as a place of stability? Which crises pervade the rural and where and when did these crises originate? With regard to the currently most pressing crises, which of the things that were taken for granted about the rural are now being questioned? And, conversely, which new challenges and new paths and futures for the rural have been opened?

- What concepts, institutions, ideas, practices, hierarchies and divides **have we been taking for granted in ways that are no longer possible**? What are the new insecurities we'll have to think and live with? What are the solids which have "melted into the air"?
- **Resilience, adaptation, restoration, sustainability, solidarity, wellbeing**: once these were buzzwords. What do we make of these concepts now – are they still useful? Do we need to rethink them or come up with brand new concepts? What is the role of **language** in the construction of rural sociological knowledge? Do crisis contexts require different **methods** of analysis?
- The current crises take place globally, but we still tend to think of the local/the rural as recipients, as the places where crisis arrives and must be dealt with. Can we change this? Can we think of the **rural as an active agent of change**? Will these changes endure beyond the crises and change established spatial relations?
- What is the **place of rural areas** in times of crisis? What mobilities and new spatial patterns are emerging out of the crisis? What values are people looking for in the rural? Can the rural fulfil these affective needs, given its historical imbrication with evolving forms of capitalism and colonialism? What challenges and opportunities does the rural as place of refuge bring for people and places?
- What are the **meanings of the rural** in these 'new normal' times? Have the social, cultural, economic and political representations of the rural changed with the current crises?
- What are we learning about the global, national and regional **centre-periphery relations** throughout the multiple crises? How are these relations and their attributes shifting? What impacts do these crises have on the periphery and what does it even mean, to be on the periphery these days?
- How do these developments affect **agriculture and farming families**? What new dynamics emerge in the agriculture and food systems? What adaptation to the change in food chains can we expect? How has farming been affected by lockdowns, labour shortages, logistical issues, digitalisation and other changes?
- What **futures** can we discern, in and from this time of crisis, for rural areas, in terms of food production, (mental) health, energy, community, planning, tourism, nature preservation, education, technology, diversity, ...? Will the rural areas be able to benefit from energy transitions and how? Will the crises produce alternative trajectories to neoliberal policies, or will these merely take new shapes?

RC40 Mini-Conference October 19–21, 2022



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG
Research Centre Global Dynamics |
ReCentGlobe



Sociology of
Agriculture and Food

The Food System in the (Post-) Pandemic World: Leipzig, Germany Disruptions, Vulnerability, Resilience, and Alternatives

In October 2022 we organized what we believe to be the first independent RC-40 mini-conference, ever. Independent in the sense that we were not linked to ISA, or any other ongoing conference event. The conference took place at the University of Leipzig. A total of 46 participants from 37 different universities, research institutions and social movements from all over the world were hosted during the conference. When it opened 26 papers would be presented and two round table discussions accommodated for.

The RC40 president, Steven Wolf, had the honour of opening the conference. A hybrid session moderated by Sarah Ruth Sippel with representatives from alternative food networks from various parts of the world, presented and reflected on the food system in the (post-) pandemic world from their experiences. Covid revealed many weaknesses in the food system, but also showed that there are many great local initiatives and that consumers opened their eyes to the value of shorter food chains and the presence of local producers. It was a very interesting meeting that gave a lot of insight and contributed to good discussions. In many ways, this opening of the conference provided a very important context and point of reference for the overall theme in the coming days.





Two intense conference days were held under the session headings THE PANDEMIC AND FOOD (IN)SECURITY, THE PANDEMIC AND MIGRANT LABOUR, SUPPLY CHAINS DURING THE PANDEMIC, RESPONSES TO COVID-19, COVID-19 AND ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS, COVID-19 AND SOCIAL, LOCAL, & INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS and THE PANDEMIC, FOOD SYSTEMS AND TRANSFORMATION.

The overarching theme is food security - what does it really mean, and should quality criteria also be linked to the operationalization and goal achievement of security? Precarity is evident on small - and larger farms, both for farmers and their permanent and seasonal workers. Examples were given of many strong, resilient food systems that show that crises such as covid 19 do not necessarily lead to increased insecurity for people when it comes to access to food. Whether the many promising initiatives that

emerged and were developed can mark real competition to the major market players will be interesting to evaluate in the later post-pandemic era. It is fair to hope for more diversity.

The conference closed with another hybrid roundtable session moderated by Atakan Büke, where several more participants checked in to take part in a conversation about where we want the RC 40 to move forward. The inclusive good collegial community was again emphasized as an important value for RC40. That there is a lot of very good empirical work being done among our members another. Thoughts were also aired about lack of, or the need to challenge ourselves more when it comes to theorizing in sociology about agriculture and food. On this matter, you can all accept the challenge!

Allison Loconto, our new editor for IJSAF also stopped by to welcome new and old authors to submit articles. We need good articles for the regular issues that we publish, but if you have a suggestion for special issues, just contact Allison to air the idea. We hope that there will be some articles from this mini-conference for IJSAF.

We thank the University of Leipzig, The ReCentGlobe institute, Academics in Solidarity and PSI for supporting the conference. I had the pleasure of contributing to this event where Atakan Büke, José Duarte Ribeiro, Moritz Dolinga and Sarah Ruth Sippel were responsible for the successful outcome. RC40 would like to thank you for a very well-conducted conference, a model that clearly can be repeated!

By Hilde Bjørkhaug
Photos by local organisers.



RC40 Website Report (21/12/2022)

By Angga Dwiartama

RC40 website (www.isa-agrifood.com) acts as a medium to promote the organization to the wider audience, disseminate information from RC40 members to others, and as a communication platform within the RC40 circle. The website consists of several static pages on the profile of RC40, the IJSAF page, current and past executive board members, and links to other organizations and journal's website. Recently, we also added a page containing various RC40 promotional materials (flyers, banner, etc.) that can be downloaded in high resolution for printing and further promotions (<https://www.isa-agrifood.com/projects-8>).

The website also has three dynamic pages (ones that are routinely updated), which are meant as a platform to channel information from and for members. They are: (1) RC40 Events Calendar; (2) RC40 Listserv; and (3) RC40 Weblog. The RC40 Events Calendar is a page containing RC40's, members' or our networks' upcoming events. It was designed to be a collaborative event calendar where every member (with a moderated process) can fill in an event they would like to promote to the network. However, due to technical issues, the procedure changes slightly – members should contact RC40 web admin to get their events posted (Figure 1). After an event is posted, members can have the events linked to their calendar or share this event further to their colleagues by a hit of a button.

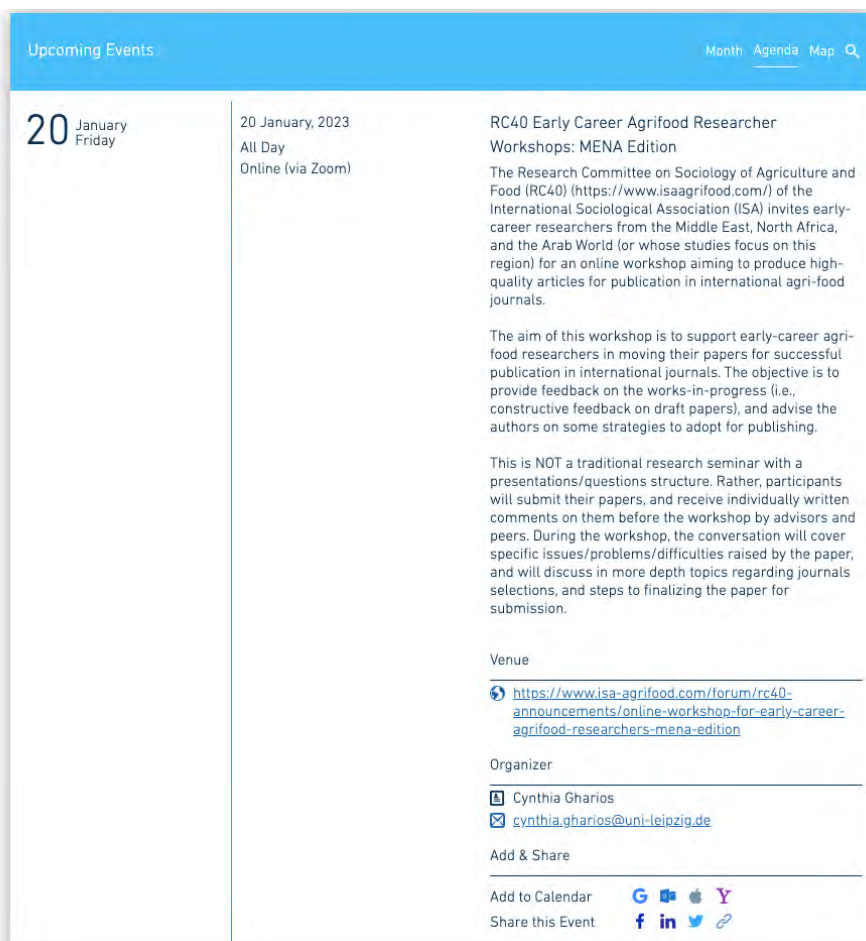


Figure 1. Upcoming events with a feature to add to calendar and share event

The RC40 Listserv is a place for members to share news about call for proposals, descriptions of events, job vacancy, or basically anything worth sharing. The posts are not moderated, but web admin may delete inappropriate posts from time to time. When a member has subscribed to our website, they will receive a new notification through their email (or web app, later on this), every time a new post appears. In total, the forums have been viewed by over 2,000 visitors.

Lastly, the RC40 Weblog is meant as a way to share a more in-depth story, idea, thought, or book/article promo to the audience. There are two ways of writing in the Blog. Members can write a post directly (moderated), or they can contact RC40 web admin to have their piece posted in the Blog. There are currently nine blogposts since the start of this platform, with a total of 1,764 views from site visitors. Figure 2 shows blog visits over the year, as compared to last year.

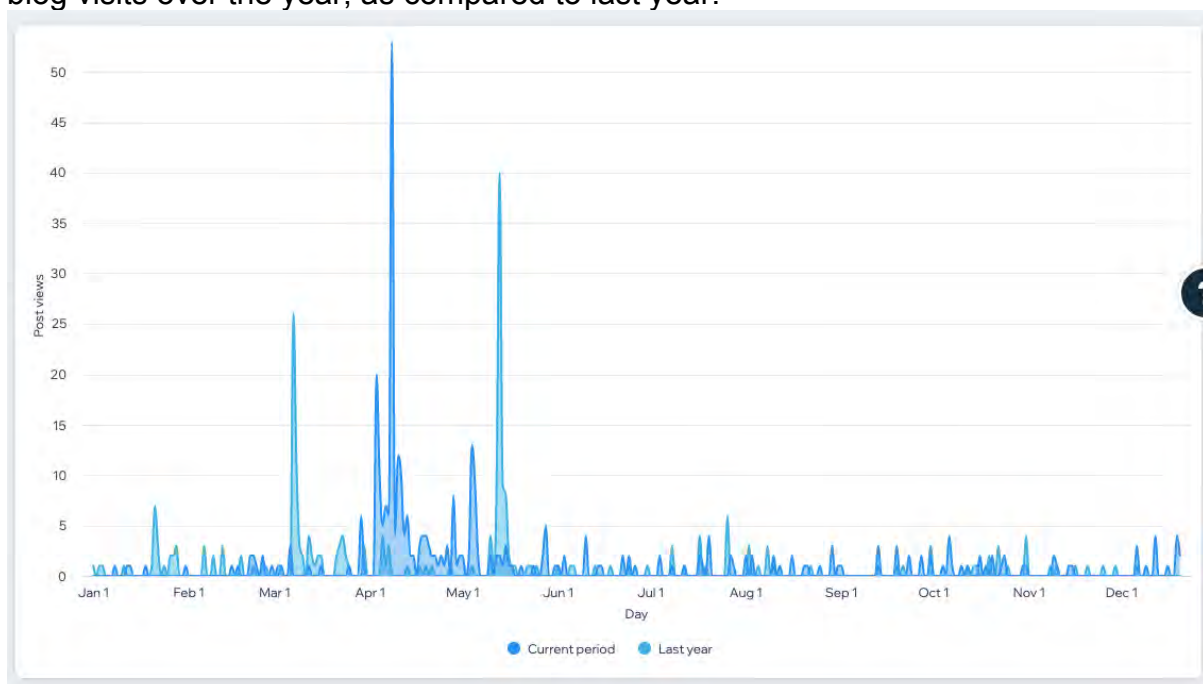
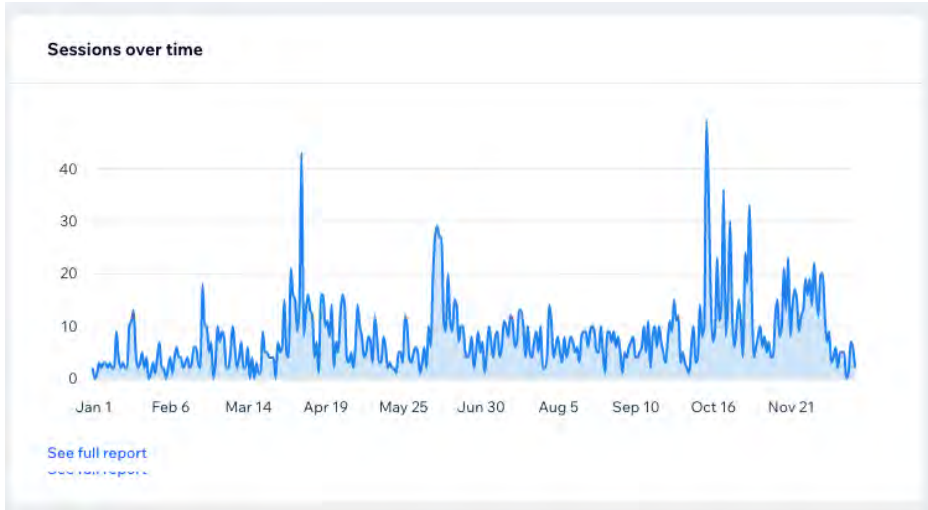
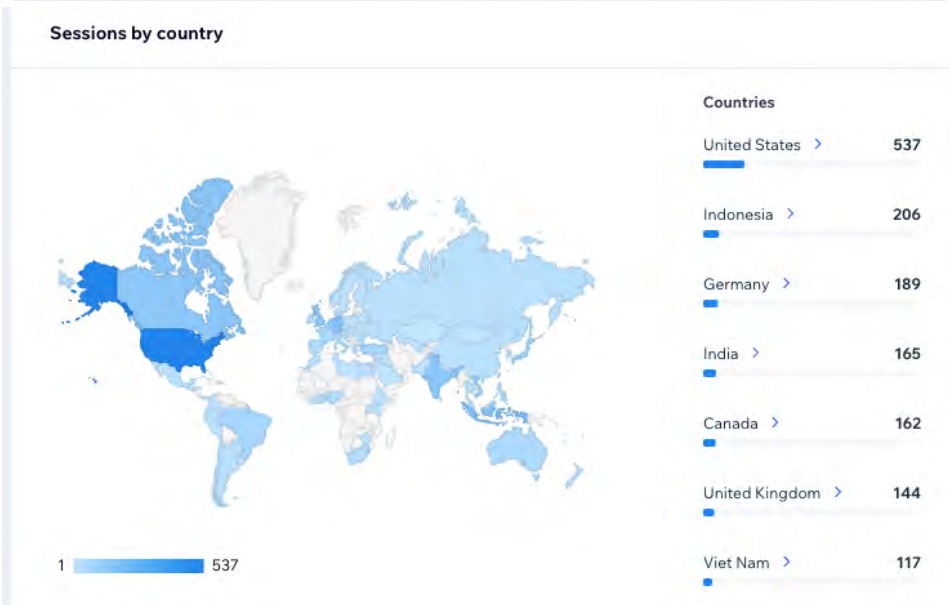


Figure 2. Blog visits over the year as compared to last year

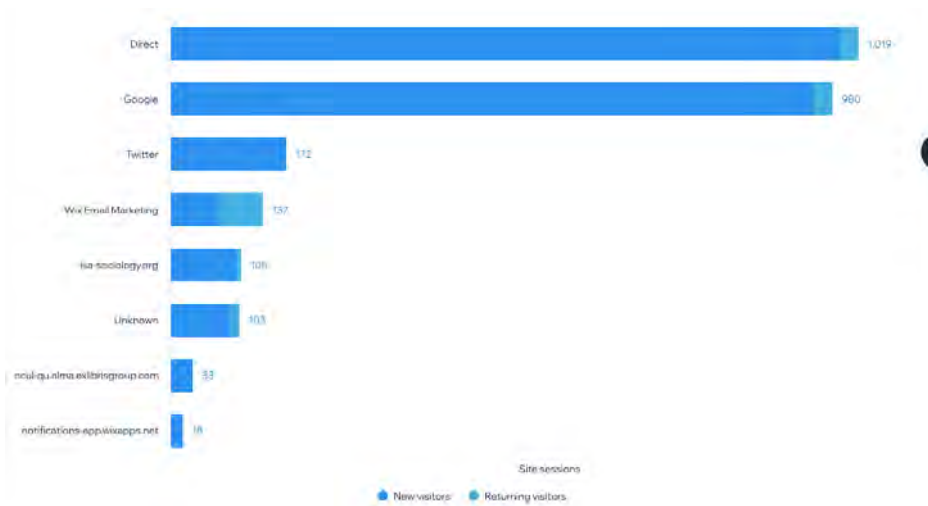
RC40 website is known widely, not only by RC40 members, but also by users that choose subscribe to the website for updates. Based on our web data, there are currently 526 site members/subscribers of RC40 website. This means that news and updates posted in the website can reach to a wider audience, not limited only to RC40 members. Traffic for our website varies from time to time, and is relatively spread across the globe, as can be seen in Figure 3a and 3b. Visitors to the website are mostly new (not recurring), which is good in terms of campaign, and they mostly visited RC40 website through direct click (which means that our visitors received information about RC40 website and then visited deliberately).



(a)



(b)



(c)

Figure 3. Site visits across time, space, and by methods of visiting

We would also like to inform members that our RC40 website is linked to a web application (App) that can be downloaded from App Store (for iPhone) and Play Store (for Android). Members can register to this web app (by Wix) through the link as follows: <http://wix.to/s0D9CH4?ref=mam> .

In addition to this web app, our RC40 website is also linked to our Social Media (Twitter) through @ISA_RC40. We currently have 276 followers (not much, but we're making our way up!). Our twitter also connects to ISA's and other RCs' twitter accounts, so we'll be sure to re-tweet important news for our followers to know.

Lastly, RC40 Website and Social Media Admin has been in touch with ISA Social Media Manager (along with other RC admins), and we have agreed to build a connection for future promotions and web engagements. Your inputs are highly welcome!

News from the journal IJSAF



Dear RC40 members,

The year of 2022 is closing and we have had a busy year at the IJSAF. We have a couple of key announcements before we all take a much-needed break.

First, we have stayed on track with our publishing objectives – releasing the first issue of 2022 in the spring and the second issue in the fall. We have adopted an “open issue” approach whereby we publish the issue with the first articles that are available and include additional articles as they are accepted so that there is not a long delay to publication for our authors and our readers have early access to the latest research results.

Second, we are happy to announce a new Associate Editor to the core editorial team of IJSAF. Angga Dwiartama of the Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB) in Indonesia is replacing Claire Marris who has stepped down after more than 5 years on the editorial team. Please join me in thanking Claire for her service and we plan to continue to rely upon her expertise through other engagements with the journal. Angga brings with him experience from serving on the RC40 Executive Committee and a solid publication record in the field through Guest Editing two special issues in Agriculture and Human Values. As a new addition to the team, he complements the expertise of Katerina Psarikidou and myself. At the journal, he will be expanding our efforts on science communication by forging stronger linkages between the articles published in the journal and the [RC40 Blog](#).

Third, our efforts to increase the visibility of the journal continue and we encourage you to visit the journal website (www.ijsaf.org) in order to see the Scimago Q-category score for IJSAF. We are listed within Cultural Studies.

Fourth, we continue to keep track of the abstract and full text views on our website. The reports demonstrate positive trends. We clearly have some classic articles that are consistently consulted, but we also see that our newly published articles are being read.

Finally, we will be holding a meeting of the IJSAF [Editorial Board](#) early in the new year in order to discuss the Editorial orientation for the journal, proposals for special issues and the general health of the journal. If you missed our Editorial, you can read it online or directly in this newsletter! (<https://doi.org/10.48416/ijsaf.v28i1.467>)

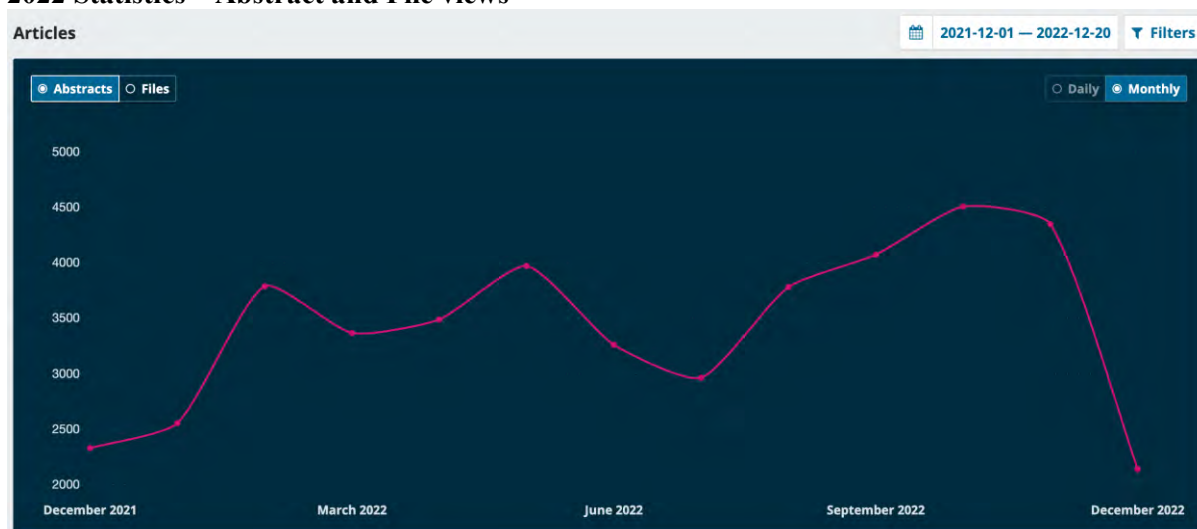
I encourage you all to read the most recent issue [October 2022 \(Vol 28\(2\)\)](#) and to submit your own work to the journal. We are also accepting proposals for Special Issues that will ideally be published in the summer each year. We typically will publish the papers from a session at one of our key conferences (IRSA, ISA and regional conferences). We are also interested in publishing those papers from participants in the RC40 events – like the early career workshops. Please don't hesitate to contact the journal at editor@ijsaf.org with your proposals.

Please also click on the accept button when you receive the invitation to be a reviewer. I want to recognize here that we have an excellent pool of reviewers within the RC40/IJSAF community. Despite the considerable slowdown that most journals experienced with reviewers since the beginning of the COVID epidemic, we have been very lucky at IJSAF to receive on time and extremely helpful reports from our reviewers. Both the authors and the editors thank you for your hard work and care in this activity that is fundamental to the scientific integrity of our field.

Best regards,
Allison Marie LOCONTO
Chief Editor, IJSAF

Research Professor, French National Research Institute for Agriculture Food and Environment (INRAE) Deputy Director, Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Science, Innovation and Society (LISIS), Gustave Eiffel University

2022 Statistics – Abstract and File views

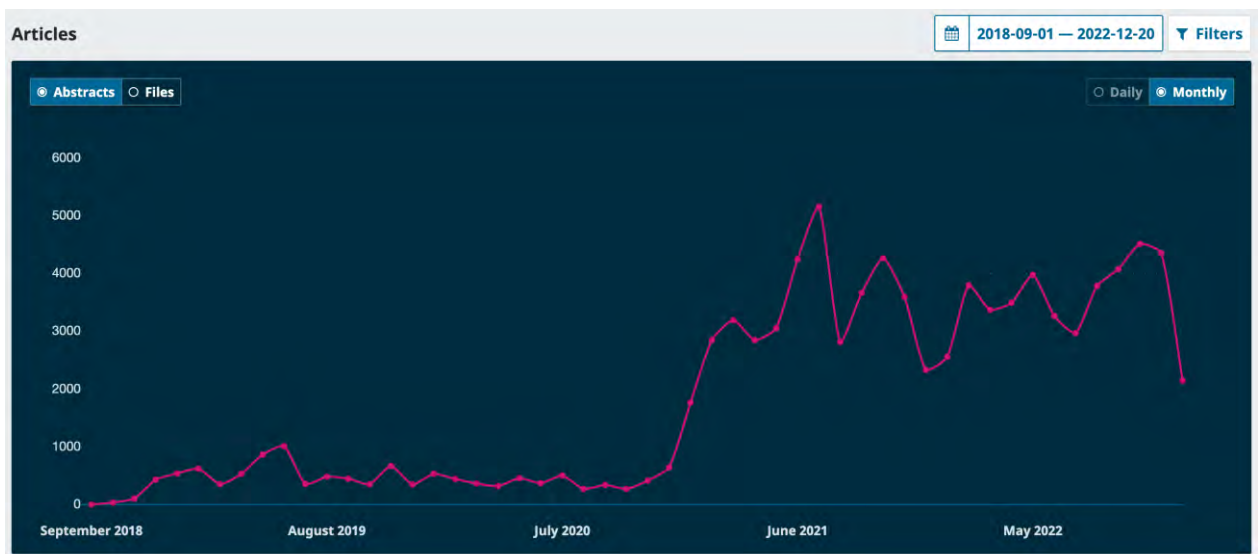


Top 30 article views from December 2021 – December 2022

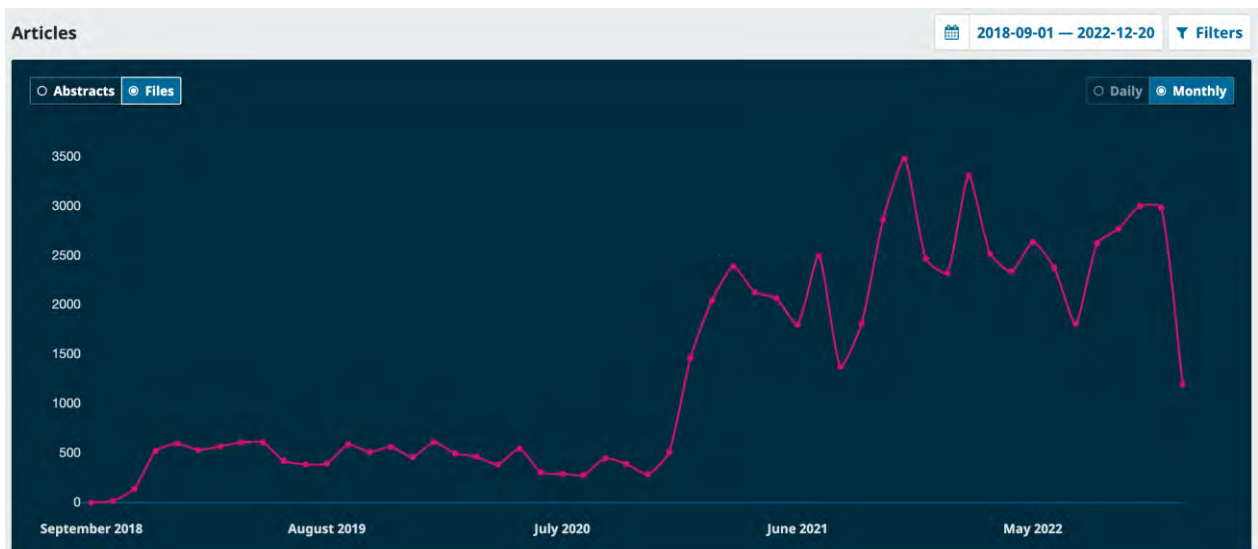
	Author Title	Abstract Views	File Views	% Downloads from abstract views	Total
1	Allen et al. Women and Food Chains: The Gendered Politics of Food	1008	737	73%	1745
2	Renting et al. Building Food Democracy: Exploring Civic Food Networks and Newly Emerging Forms of Food Citizenship	999	579	58%	1578
3	Kaljonen et al. Policy mixes for more vital legume value chains: Evaluation across competing policy frames	1299	207	16%	1506
4	Sonnino et al. Sustainable Food Security: An Emerging Research and Policy Agenda	831	525	63%	1356
5	Burch et al. Supermarket Own Brands, Supply Chains and the Transformation of the Agri-food System	844	415	49%	1259
6	Narciso et al. Making Farm-to-Fork Front-of-the-Pack: Labelling a Sustainable European Diet	709	492	69%	1201
7	Juárez et al. Transformative Social Innovation for Food Sovereignty: The Disruptive Alternative	623	343	55%	966
8	Loconto et al. Defining agroecology: Exploring the circulation of knowledge in FAO's Global Dialogue	608	344	57%	952
9	Weiler et al. Parallel Precarity: : A Comparison of U.S. and Canadian Agricultural Guestworker Programs	718	225	31%	943
10	Morris et al. Substitution and food system de-animalisation: The case of non-dairy milk	532	357	67%	889
11	Vanhonacker et al. Segmentation Based on Consumers' Perceived Importance and Attitude toward Farm Animal Welfare	544	324	60%	868

12	Lang The Sustainable Diet Question: Reasserting societal dynamics into the debate about a Good Diet	518	346	67%	864
13	Scrinis et al. The Emerging Nano-Corporate Paradigm: Nanotechnology and the Transformation of Nature, Food and Agri-Food Systems	574	287	50%	861
14	Boafo Expanding Cashew Nut Exporting from Ghana's Breadbasket: A Political Ecology of Changing Land Access and Use, and Impacts for Local Food Systems	377	426	113%	803
15	Standal et al. Understanding low-carbon food consumption transformation through social practice theory: The case of community supported agriculture in Norway	478	302	63%	780
16	Mayfield et al. Consumption of Welfare-friendly Food Products in Great Britain, Italy and Sweden, and How It May Be Influenced by Consumer Attitudes to, and Behaviour towards, Animal Welfare Attributes	499	275	55%	774
17	Loconto et al. Towards a Renewed Sociology of Agriculture and Food: Editorial Introduction	399	295	74%	694
18	Lawrence et al. The Question of Food Security	80	578	723%	658
19	Sage et al. Sustainable Food Systems <--> Sustainable Diets	390	262	67%	652
20	Rose et al. Livestock Industry Practices that Impact Sustainable Diets in the United States	351	289	82%	640
21	Fodor The Hybridization of Food Spaces: Changing Spatial Logics in Urban Food Systems and Prospects for Sustainable Diets	328	286	87%	614
22	Balázs et al. Transitions of Legume-based Agrifood Systems - Stakeholders' view from Hungary	320	281	88%	601
23	Bill Pritchard et al. Circuits of Capital and Transnational Corporate Spatial Behaviour: Nestlé in Southeast Asia	358	231	65%	589
24	Preibisch Migrant Workers and Changing Work-place Regimes in Contemporary Agricultural Production in Canada	370	214	58%	584
25	Carolán The Food and Human Security Index: Rethinking Food Security and 'Growth'	330	252	76%	582
26	Balázs et al. The Emergence, dynamics and agency of social innovation in seed exchange networks	422	144	34%	566
27	Kropp Urban Food Movements and Their Transformative Capacities	309	247	80%	556
28	Rancatore Problems in Food Security Data Collection Practices with an illustration from northern Ghana	310	245	79%	555
29	Zafer Yenil Food TNCs, Intellectual Property Investments and Post-Fordist Food Consumption: The Case of Unilever and Nestlé in Turkey	387	156	40%	543
30	Soysal Al et al. In-between Anxiety and Hope: Trusting an Alternative Among 'Alternatives' in the (Post) Organic Food Market in Turkey	214	310	145%	524

Number of Abstract views per month from September 2018 – December 2022



Number of File views (PDF downloads) per month from September 2018 – December 2022



Article Details - Top 15 visited articles of 322 articles visited over the period of 2018-2022

	Author Title	Abstract Views	File Views	% Downloads from abstract views	Total
1	Morris et al. Substitution and food system de-animalisation: The case of non-dairy milk	1993	1699	85%	3692
2	Loconto et al. Defining agroecology: Exploring the circulation of knowledge in FAO's Global Dialogue	1970	1679	85%	3649
3	Allen et al. Women and Food Chains: The Gendered Politics of Food	1693	1244	73%	2937
4	Juárez et al. Transformative Social Innovation for Food Sovereignty: The Disruptive Alternative	1769	990	56%	2759
5	Boafo Expanding Cashew Nut Exporting from Ghana's Breadbasket: A Political Ecology of Changing Land Access and Use, and Impacts for Local Food Systems	1062	1441	136%	2503
6	Renting et al. Building Food Democracy: Exploring Civic Food Networks and Newly Emerging Forms of Food Citizenship	1557	937	60%	2494
7	Sonnino et al. Sustainable Food Security: An Emerging Research and Policy Agenda	1562	881	56%	2443
8	Ikejima Measuring Elderly People's Food Access in Urban Food Environments: The Potential Benefits of Urban Agriculture	1041	1187	114%	2228
9	Burch et al. Supermarket Own Brands, Supply Chains and the Transformation of the Agri-food System	1445	771	53%	2216
10	Balázs et al. The Emergence, dynamics and agency of social innovation in seed exchange networks	1363	790	58%	2153
11	Lang The Sustainable Diet Question: Reasserting societal dynamics into the debate about a Good Diet	1307	819	63%	2126
12	Kropp Urban Food Movements and Their Transformative Capacities	1262	836	66%	2098
13	Soysal Al et al. In-between Anxiety and Hope: Trusting an Alternative Among 'Alternatives' in the (Post) Organic Food Market in Turkey	955	1081	113%	2036
14	Narciso et al. Making Farm-to-Fork Front-of-the-Pack: Labelling a Sustainable European Diet	1196	814	68%	2010
15	Veen Practices of Food Provisioning in Alternative Food Networks: How Different Practitioners Engage in Different Practices, Depending on Their Emotional Energy	935	942	101%	1877

IJSAF Budget 2022

	Income (USD)	Expenses (USD)
Yearly Allocation		
Contribution from RC40	840.77	
Contribution from INRAE/LISIS	3000	
Running Costs		
OJS Invoice #1623 (Domain renewal/platform fees)		727.67
Copyediting Vol. 28 1 Invoice		1500
OJS Invoice # 1921 (Gateway fees)		113.10
Copyediting Vol. 28 2 Invoice		1500
Total	3840.77	3840.77
Balance	0	0

Budget Justification:

In 2022, we spent 3000 EUR on copyediting, which covered copyediting for 13 articles. These invoices were paid directly by INRAE/LISIS to the copy editor – who has committed to working with IJSAF until the end of the current mandate.

The domain hosting, platform and gateway fees were charged by the Open Journal Systems platform, which handles the www.ijsaf.org website, archives and automatic doi registration. These invoices were paid directly by the RC40 Secretary/Treasurer with the income received from the EBSCO royalties.

These same running costs are expected for 2023 and INRAE/LISIS has already dedicated 6.000 EUR to support the copyediting costs for 24 articles.



Towards a Renewed Sociology of Agriculture and Food: Editorial Introduction

Paper first received: 01 January 2022; Accepted: 24 April 2022; Published in final form: 30 April 2022

<https://doi.org/10.48416/ij saf.v28i1.467>

Allison Marie LOCONTO,^{1,2} Katerina PSARIKIDOU,³ and Claire MARRIS^{1,2}

Abstract

“The Sociology of Agriculture and Food” (SAF) is a polysemic phrase. It represents a sub-discipline within the field of sociology, an epistemic community and a network of colleagues. This, the first editorial introduction of the new IJSAF editorial team, initiates what will be a four-year journey on the path of renewing the sociology of agriculture and food. This short essay provides the backstory for the team’s mandate, it introduces the research themes and enigmas that interest the editorial team and it positions the articles in this first issue as a first engagement with the renewed scientific program. It also introduces the new approach to better integrating the activities of the scholarly society (RC40) with the journal, in an attempt to increase the geographic and epistemic inclusivity of both.

¹ Université Gustave Eiffel, LISIS, CNRS, INRAE, F 77454 Marne-La-Vallée, France

² Institut national de recherche pour l’agriculture, l’alimentation et l’environnement (INRAE), UMR 1326, F 77454 Marne-La-Vallée, France

³ Science Policy Research Unit (SPRU), University of Sussex Business School

Corresponding author: Allison Loconto, allison-marie.loconto@inrae.fr

Bibliographical notes

Allison Loconto is Deputy Director of the Interdisciplinary Laboratory for Science, Innovation and Society (LISIS) and a Research Professor at the French National Institute for Research on Agriculture, Food and Environment (INRAE). She is a member of the Multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee of the Sustainable Food Systems Programme of the One Planet Network (UN Environment), a Board Member of Commerce Equitable France and a member of the National Committee for Organic Agriculture (INAO). Allison is an Executive Committee member of the International Sociological Association (ISA), a member of the Network of Organic Agriculture Researchers in Africa (NOARA) and the President of the Francophone Research Network on Fair Trade (FairNESS). Previously, she was a Science, Technology and Society Fellow at Harvard University and a Visiting Scientist at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Allison’s research focuses on the governance of transitions to sustainable food systems, specifically on the metrics, models, standards and systems of certification that are part of emerging institutional innovations.

Katerina Psarikidou is lecturer in Sustainable Development at SPRU. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and is also co-mobiliser for SPRU’s ‘Science, Politics and Decision-Making’ research cluster. Katerina is a fellow for the Sussex Sustainability Research Programme, and a visiting research fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies (IFZ, Austria) and the University of Crete (Greece). She sits at the Executive Committee of the UK Association for Studies in Innovation, Science and Technology (AsSIST UK). She is a social scientist interested in the politics of sustainable development, particularly in relation to the politics of science, research and innovation. Her research revolves around the study of the sustainability and innovation potential of alternative agro-food networks and low-carbon mobility practices, also by situating them in the wider political economic landscape of power and inequalities. She is passionate about developing research alongside non-academic organisations, especially from the third sector.

Claire Marris is a Senior Researcher in Science and Technology Studies at the French research institute for agriculture, food and the environment (INRAE). She was previously a Senior Research Fellow at City, University of London and King’s College London. Her research is in the area of social scientific study of bioscience, with a particular focus on the nature, role and translational possibilities of advanced biosciences and biotechnology, in particular genetic modification and synthetic biology. Claire is interested in the ways in which a field of bioscience, such as synthetic biology, comes to be defined and problematized in different scientific, regulatory, political and public arenas, through for example risk regulation, R&D policy, public engagement activities, and organized opposition by social groups. Her most influential research has focused on understandings of science, risk and uncertainty among publics, scientists, and risk regulators.

Introduction

“The Sociology of Agriculture and Food” (SAF) is a polysemic phrase. It represents a sub-discipline within the field of sociology, an epistemic community and a network of colleagues. This, the first editorial introduction of the new IJSAF editorial team, initiates what will be a four-year journey on the path of renewing the sociology of agriculture and food. This short essay provides the backstory for the team’s mandate, it introduces the research themes and enigmas that interest the editorial team and it positions the articles in this first issue as a first engagement with the renewed scientific program. It also introduces the new approach to better integrating the activities of the scholarly society (RC40) with the journal, in an attempt to increase the geographic and epistemic inclusivity of both.

SAF as a sub-discipline?

In the very first editorial published by IJSAF in 1991, Alessandro Bonanno (1991) explained the origins of the first scientific programme of SAF. Specifically, the ‘sociology of agriculture’ emerged from its parent discipline ‘rural sociology’. While rural sociology was concerned mostly with the study of rurality – rural peoples, cultures, landscapes, and economies – the sociology of agriculture was concerned with the multi-scalar nature of agriculture. Agriculture in the 20th century was global – but it was also local and regional. It was rural, but also increasingly urban. More importantly, agriculture cut across these scales and spaces – particularly when the question of food was introduced into the study of agriculture.

Based originally in neo-marxist, neo-weberian, phenomenology, dialectical and critical theory (The Frankfurt School), SAF scholars developed a uniquely critical voice about the politics and impacts of the ways that we produce, trade, and consume the products of the land and water. For example, even from the studies published in the 1980s and 1990s, the practices of agriculture and food were considered not just culture phenomenon, but also objects of sciences and technology. In this way, sociologists interrogated the social relations between humans and nature through attempts to control that nature through agriculture, fishing and forestry. At the same time, they began to question the forms of knowledge that drove societies to organise these relationships in increasingly exploitative ways (Bonanno et al., 1994).

What Bonanno tells us, is that the creation of IJSAF was marked by the addition of questions around food – thus tying together the social questions of production and consumption in complex agri-food systems. Thus, we see from the very beginning a systemic focus to the study of agriculture and food. These systems were seen as forms of governing that shaped not just the global economy, but also could teach us important lessons about the role of the State, the private sector and an increasingly active civil society. The legacy of SAF in this area is clearly seen today, for example, in contemporary theories of food systems (see: HLPE, 2017), whose roots are found in the commodity system analysis of Friedland (1984). Even contemporary discussions of food systems transitions or transformations (see: Maye and Duncan, 2017) build upon fundamental ideas first put forward in the food regime theory of Friedman and McMichael (1989).

SAF today draws upon a wider range of sociological theories to understand the complex interrelations between production and consumption, food and agriculture, and ultimately humans and nature. Increasingly, the political economy focus of SAF has been complemented with emerging theories in economic sociology, cultural sociology and social movement theories. With the creation of IJSAF, SAF also opened itself up to other disciplines, particularly anthropology, economics, geography, political science, sciences and technology studies, transition studies and systems agronomy. It is indeed through this interdisciplinary dialogue that an epistemic community has emerged around SAF.

SAF as an epistemic community?

Epistemic communities are the called-upon experts who can shed light on the interlocked issues and advise on policy decisions, especially for conditions of high uncertainty. An epistemic community is “a network of professionals with recognized expertise and competence in a particular domain and an authoritative claim to policy-relevant knowledge within that domain or issue-area” (Haas, 1992: 3). It can be made of people from different disciplines or professions so long as they have a “common set of principled and causal beliefs,” “shared notions of validity,” a “shared policy enterprise,” and are “recognized expertise within that domain”. Unlike other groups who may also offer policy advice, epistemic communities share principled and causal beliefs, which raises them to a certain ethical standard to act in the



interest of society at large (Haas, 1992).

SAF scholars recognise that the knowledge epistemic communities create is socially constructed, and incomplete, hence there might be forms of partiality or 'invisible colleges' that dominate (Crane, 1981). For this reason, in our belief about the role of the journal, we try to expose these epistemic devices or machineries of knowledge creation (Cetina, 2009) through our approach to publishing from the range of disciplines that are part of the SAF epistemic community. Specifically, we intend to continue the efforts of IJSAF's prior editors by publishing those papers that have a strong theoretical and empirical contributions to the important questions and controversies around agriculture and food. Revealing the methods, processes and analytical devices that are emblematic of our epistemic community will strengthen our collective voice as we continue to engage in public policy debates around sustainable food systems and food security, as we have done in the past (Preston, 2020; CSM, 2016).

Indeed, SAF scholars have long played a role in policy advice – particularly at national and international levels, but they have also been highly active in the agrifood movements that they study. In 2010, this public engagement side of SAF scholars was explained in an article in *Rural Sociology* by Bill Friedland (2010). *Alternative Agrifood Researchers without Borders* was at once an attempt to establish an epistemic community that focused on the progressive goals of reducing inequalities and expanding political and social participation. It was call for valuing the knowledge of non-academic researchers and activists as a way to challenge established academic paradigms. While this call was largely applauded and a mentoring programme was even set up for a short period of time, the movement did not gain ground. But that is not to say that the idea is not at the heart of SAF, but rather that the political opportunity for such an effort was there (at least not yet).

The new IJSAF editorial team supports these historic efforts to open up the knowledge produced around agriculture and food – particularly through its open access policy for the journal that consists of leaving the copyright with the Authors and by authorising reuse and distribution through the Creative Commons [Attribution 4.0](#) licence. The IJSAF team also supports the valorisation of diverse knowledges as the three editors are trained not only in SAF, but also in sciences and technology studies (STS). We first began to collaborate by organising a panel at the 2018 annual meeting of the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology (EASST). The focus of the event was on 'meetings' and we argued that food is at the heart of all kinds of meetings. We wanted to explore how food could bring together research across diverse themes, approaches and disciplines in order to create new alignments, intersections and networks in STS approaches to food. We found that the research objects and concerns over inequalities, power and intersections between health, environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects of food and agriculture were completely in line with SAF scholars. The differences were found mostly in the theoretical resources that were used to understand the phenomena. The questions that we were interested in understanding – and which we remain interested in understanding – are at the intersections of the STS concerns around knowledge, expertise, value(s), power and the SAF concerns over inequities, exploitation and transformative power of agrifood networks. While STS scholars have always found a place in the SAF community (Busch and Juska, 1997), with our mandate, we would like to continue to expand the dialogue between SAF and STS

SAF as a network of colleagues

IJSAF is the official journal of the International Sociological Association's Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC40). What does this mean? It means that the journal is only one form of knowledge creation in the epistemic community. RC40 acts as a network of colleagues across six continents – who meet regularly (about every two years) to advance SAF knowledge and to strengthen ties the transformative agrifood movements in the places where our conferences are held via field trips.

We see a clear role for IJSAF in maintaining our scientific dialogue in between these meetings by publishing papers that are published and read by RC40 members and non-members alike. We maintain the high quality of articles that we publish through an international Editorial Board that includes the top scholars in this sub-discipline from the different regions of the world. IJSAF is a collegial effort; we rely upon members of the network to participate in our rigorous double blind peer review.

As an Editorial Team, we maintain the commitment to publishing two regular issues per year. We also are actively soliciting proposals for Special Issues that will ideally be published in the summer each year. For example, we will typically publish the papers from a session at one of our key conferences (IRSA, ISA and regional conferences) as a special issue. We are also interested in publishing those papers from participants in the RC40 events – like the early career workshops. We also plan to increase the publicity of the articles that are published in the journal by offering to publish a blog about the findings on the RC40 webpage. Thus, dear reader, we encourage you to send us papers and special issue proposals that will keep IJSAF at the cutting edge of this exciting field.

Conclusions

To conclude this first editorial introduction, we want to introduce the articles of the first issue of the 28th volume of IJSAF. These articles reflect the scientific focus that we introduced above as they deal with the political economy concerns of agrifood systems, as well as the knowledge politics of contemporary alternatives to the global food system.

The first two articles are concerned with the environmental intersections of SAF. Standal and Westskog (2022) use social practice theory to explain how a dialectical relationship forms between consumers' food and energy practices in Norway. They demonstrate that community supported agriculture (CSA) participation can reorient consumers towards values of sharing and frugality, but the broader political economy of unsustainable consumption within which CSAs are embedded weakens the power of CSAs.

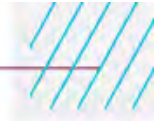
Häyrynen et al. (2022) offer an environmental take on the concept of centre and periphery by exploring the division of labour and professions according to spatial location and industrial sector in Sardinia, Italy and Kainuu, Finland. Here too, the authors argue that the farming areas are embedded in contemporary capitalism, which conditions the pro-environmental behaviours. However, by examining organic farming, they are able to distinguish the technical from the symbolic to show that the modernist approach to standards is not a standardised story of diffusion, instead official requirements must also adapt to local contexts and cultural spheres.

The last three articles expand on these tensions around knowledge co-production. Li (2022) continues the discussion about organic standards, but this time in China. She explores how ambiguity in non-certified organic opens up a contingent space for participation and negotiating boundaries between "traditional" and "scientific" organic practices. She argues that the growers' reputation, public exposure, and consumers' judgement on the moral compass of producers are all influential factors in maintaining legitimacy for this non-certified form of organic.

Rancatore (2022) also addresses this question of legitimate knowledge by exploring the continuous call by governments, researchers and activists for more and better data on food security. Based on fieldwork in Ghana, Rancatore argues that there are practical and theoretical problems in this call for data, which relies mostly on researchers working in non-governmental organisations. Institutional demands for proof appear to dominate discussions that do not recognise the need to separate efforts to produce knowledge from their own interests in managing food security. The results suggest that the valuing of local knowledge is not just a good practice, but fundamental to understanding the complexities of food security.

Wattnem et al., (2022) address the question of knowledge through an examination of the harmonization of quality standards in the cocoa sector. They argue that the adoption of harmonized quality standards might provide new tools for new origins and farmers to make claims to superior quality. The changing terms of debate around quality in the sector offer opportunities to change the power dynamics in the sector - particularly who will profit or pay the most for superior quality cocoa. Beyond this, the new forms of knowledge needed to evaluate quality according to the harmonized standard are often found in producing countries rather than the consuming countries.

Read together, these articles demonstrate not just the importance of considering the intersections of knowledge and political economy in our research about agriculture, food and the environment; but also the important international nature of these intersections and indeed tensions. We are proud to open up this issue with these papers and we hope that IJSAF and the RC40 community can be strengthened over the coming years so to contribute to change within academic, public and policy debates around agriculture and food.



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