



Agriculture and Food

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

Volume 11 Number 1

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From the President

Allison Marie Loconto
President, RC40
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The first six months of 2017 have been a whirlwind of 'fake news', terror attacks, retreats from globally negotiated agreements, and the passing of Zygmunt Bauman whose concept of 'liquid modernity' seems a rather fitting critique of the early 2017 global society.

In the world of food and agriculture, it seems that the megamergers in the Ag Industry are on track with the Dow Chemical-Dupont merger (worth \$130 billion) receiving approval in the US just this month, while the Bayer-Monsanto deal (valued at \$74 billion) still under antitrust scrutiny in the EU and the ChemChina-Syngenta buyout (worth \$44 billion) is slated to close by June and a merger of this new giant with Sinochem is planned for 2018. At the same time, the European Food Safety Authority declared – based on advice provided by an EPA official allegedly linked to Monsanto and in opposition to the World Health Organization – that there are no links between glyphosate and cancer. This start to the year feels surreal when reflecting upon how quickly the progress that we made in 2016 could be turned back.

Yet, I remain hopeful for the rest of 2017. We have many conferences coming up this summer and fall that should help us to reinforce the resistance – both in terms of scientific conferences and social movements. This September, in Nyéléni Village, Sélingué, Mali, 10 years after the first declaration of the Forum for Food Sovereignty, farmers, peasants, and

activists should be meeting again to renew their efforts towards achieving food sovereignty for all. The first meeting of Agroecology Europe will take place in Lyon, France in October and the Organic World Congress will take place in New Delhi, India in November. Each of these conferences will provide opportunities for researchers and practitioners to get together to discuss current initiatives and to try to find collective solutions for moving forward. Indeed, I am just back from the 1st Global Conference of the 10YFP Sustainable Food Systems Program that was held in South Africa. This conference provided space for both scientists and practitioners (from both civil society and the private sector) to propose collaborative work on knowledge creation and action towards making food systems sustainable. I have to admit that I was impressed by the experiences coming out of Africa as our colleagues there are creating exciting ways to keep traditional knowledge and innovate in both sustainable production and consumption. I was impressed by the number of people whom I met with social science backgrounds – there seems to be real momentum building in the recognition of a need for a sociological perspective in African food systems (please see our section on the regional representatives).

In light of the growing populism and a political retreat from globalization that is currently building around the world (despite the economic consolidation and the increasing global reach of the power of just a few agri-businesses), these are interesting times to reflect on how we as sociologists of agriculture and food can help to make sense of the promises, contradictions and bizarre alliances that are emerging.

Can this crisis of (neo)liberalism provide the political opportunity that we need to be able to transform our food systems into more sustainable ones? What about the changing balance of global power? Will the retreat of the US provide breathing room to other countries who have been far more progressive in addressing questions of climate change, agroecology and deforestation? I hope that we are able to discuss these questions when we meet in our national and regional meetings this summer.

Before signing off, I want to provide a little background for some of the very important announcements found in this newsletter.

First, we have a new network of regional representatives who are ready to animate RC40 activities around the globe. Please contact them to learn more about what can be planned in your region and how you might help!

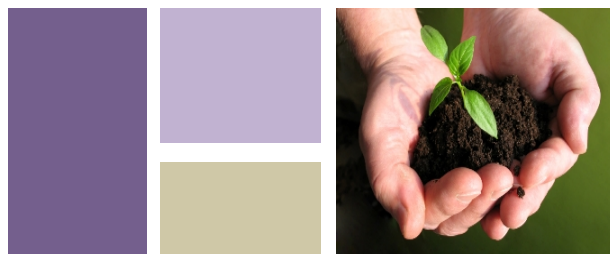
Second, we are launching two calls for proposals this summer. As you will recall, following our Business meeting last summer in Toronto we launched a survey about the International Journal for the Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF). The results, which we reported back to you on in our December newsletter were favorable towards the continued investment and improvement in the Journal.

We are happy to report that we have submitted a request for IJSAF to be indexed by Thomas Reuters and we are awaiting their response. More importantly though, we are publishing a call for Editors who are interested in actively working towards a new vision for IJSAF. As part of this transition process towards a renewed journal that will unfold over the next year, the RC40 Board is currently preparing new terms of reference for the Editorial Team which will make the roles and responsibilities of the RC40 Board and the Editors vis-à-vis the Journal and each other more transparent.

The second call for proposals that we are launching this summer is for the first RC40 Summer School that will be held in conjunction with the ISA 2018 meeting in Toronto. We are looking for exciting proposals that can provide an opportunity for our junior colleagues to become more active in the RC40 community.

If you want to be a part of these exciting new initiatives within RC40 – please send in your applications!!

Finally, we would like to make RC40 more visible to both members and the outside world. Therefore, we are going to work this fall on building a web presence for RC40. If you have any good ideas on how to do this or if you want to help, please contact RC40 Secretary, Maki Hatanaka at maki.hatanaka@shsu.edu.



RC40 Regional Representatives

Steven Wolf

RC40 Executive Board Member, Cornell University, saw44@cornell.edu

In the RC-40 business meeting in Toronto in August 2016 it was decided to refresh the network of RC-40 Regional Representatives. Through this effort we aim to welcome a new generation of leaders, animate regional networks of agrifood researchers, and strengthen our collective. We extend hearty thanks to Maria, John, Geoff, Yoshi, Bishnu, and Reidar for many years of leadership and service in their role as Regional Representatives, and we know they will continue to contribute.

RC-40 Regional Representatives (outgoing 2016)

Latin America	John Wilkinson	jwilkins@uol.com.br
Australia/New Zealand	Geoffrey Lawrence	g.lawrence@mailbox.uq.edu.au
East Asia	Yoshimitsu Taniguchi	tani@akita-pu.ac.jp
South Asia	Bishnu C. Barik	bishnu_barik@rediffmail.com
Northern Europe	Reidar Almås	reidar.almas@rural.no
Southern Europe	Maria Fonte	mfonte@unina.it

See below for brief biographies and contact information for the recently appointed Regional Representatives. We are pleased to have expanded the number of regions represented as part of this process of renewal. We are now in the process of formalizing the Terms of Reference for the network of Regional Representatives. Working in partnership with these individuals, the Board is moving to establish term limits and formal processes for renewing appointments and identifying successors. Additionally, while recognizing diversity in structure and functions of regional networks, we will aim to articulate some basic expectations and aspirations to ground the work. All members are encouraged to reach out to Regional Representatives in which they want to be recognized as active to ensure they receive relevant communications and to share their ideas for regional activities.

Sociology of Agrifood (RC-40) Regional Representatives (May 2017)

Australia/New Zealand	Katharine Legun	katharine.legun@otago.ac.nz
Africa	Adolphus Naswem	angolnaswem@gmail.com
East Asia	Mima Nishiyama	mima@cc.utsunomiya-u.ac.jp
Latin America	Paulo Niederle	pauloniederle@gmail.com
Middle East	Zulkuf Aydin	zulkuf@metu.edu.tr
North America	André Magnan	Andre.Magnan@uregina.ca
Northern Europe	Tuija Mononen	tuija.mononen@uef.fi
South Asia	Verma Smita	Verma.smita.lko@gmail.com
Southern Europe	Guadalupe Ramos Truchero	guadalupe.ramos@uva.es

Australasian Regional Representative - Katharine Legun

Katharine Legun is a Lecturer in Sociology at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand. She completed her PhD in 2013 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she focused on new patterns in the apple industry around plant variety rights and cooperative marketing. Her work focuses broadly on plants and industrial change in capitalist agricultural systems, as well as agricultural auditing and environmental governance. She is involved with the Australasian Agri-Food Research Network (<https://afrn.co>) and the Sociological Association of Aotearoa (New Zealand) (<http://www.saanz.net>), and teaches environmental sociology, social theory, and science and technology studies.

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**Africa Regional Representative - Dr. Adolphus Angol Naswem**

Dr. Adolphus A. Naswem is a Senior Lecturer and rural sociologist with research interest in the role of socio-cultural factors in agricultural and rural development, social capital and sustainable agricultural and rural development. He is currently the Head of Department, Agricultural Extension and Communication at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi, Benue State Nigeria. He is also the Vice-President II of the Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria (RuSAN)

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**East Asia Regional Representative - Mima Nishiyama, PhD.**

Mima Nishiyama is Associate professor, Utsunomiya University in Japan. I was graduated from Chiba University, graduated from the graduate school at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. I was a visiting researcher, at department of Rural Sociology, University of Wisconsin (2003 - 2004). My specialty is agricultural economics and rural sociology. Particularly, I conduct an empirical research committee on regional cooperation between food and agriculture (local food system). And I engage in research of regional resource management and sustainable development of society and cooperation between rural and urban city by social business. In recent years, I conduct and participate some projects in order to link the efforts of local residents with the interest of food as entrance to the sustainable development of agriculture and rural resources unique to the region, with the theme of alternative food system and social business, in the US, France, Korea, the UK, and some areas in Japan as research fields.

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Latin America Regional Representative - Paulo Niederle

Paulo Andre Niederle is a professor of Rural and Economic Sociology in the Graduate courses of Sociology (www.ufrgs.br/ppgs) and Rural Development (www.ufrgs.br/pgdr) at Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre, Brazil. In this university, he coordinates the Research Group on Family Farming and Rural Development (www.ufrgs.br/agriculturafamiliar/). He also coordinates the Working Group on Family Farming of the Brazilian Society of Rural Economics and Sociology (SOBER). His research interests focus on alternative food markets, family farming, public policies, agro-ecology and social theory.

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**North America Regional Representative - André Magnan**

André Magnan is Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology and Social Studies at the University of Regina. His research and teaching interests include the sociology of agrifood systems, globalization and development, and sociological theory. Dr. Magnan has two principle areas of research. First, he has examined the history and politics of grain marketing on the Canadian prairies, with a focus on the rise and fall of the Canadian Wheat Board, one of Canada's most important agricultural institutions. Dr. Magnan's research on the history of the Canada-UK wheat trade and the CWB has recently been published as a book entitled, *When Wheat was King*, by UBC Press. His second area of research focus is the financialization of agrifood systems. Here Dr. Magnan has examined changing patterns of farm structure and ownership in Canada and Australia, documenting how financial investors of different stripes are buying farmland on a large scale. Part of a multi-year study funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, this research aims to understand how new patterns of farmland ownership could affect family farmers, rural communities, and the agricultural industry.

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**Southern Europe Representative - Guadalupe Ramos-Truchero, Ph. D.,**

Guadalupe Ramos-Truchero University of the Basque Country (Spain), Sociology; Degree, University of Salamanca (Spain), Sociology; Associate Professor, University of Valladolid (Spain). Her research career starts in Rural Sociology and Agriculture to study the socioeconomic impact of rural development policies in Europe and the transfer in small family farms in the Basque Country. Later, her research has been directed toward other areas such as employment and the company where she has worked on job quality, job satisfaction, equal opportunities or agricultural cooperatives. Among the new projects is the study of inequalities in access to food and food education through eco-educational gardens. She develops these topics as a member of the Research Group of Sociology of Food at the University of Oviedo (Spain). She has completed research stages as a PhD researcher at the University of Helsinki (2001) and the Rural Economy Research Centre TEAGASC (Agricultural and Food Development Authority) in Dublin (2002) and as a Visiting professor at the University of Manchester (2010) and Kansas State University (2014).

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Northern Europe Regional Representative- Tuija Mononen

Tuija Mononen has degrees of Doctor of Social Sciences (2008, Social Geography, Univ of Joensuu), and Licentiate of Philosophy (2001, geography, Univ of Joensuu). Her doctoral dissertation (Networks of organic production – study on transformation in the Finnish organic production networks, orig. in Finnish) got an excellent grade (Eximia cum laude approbatur). Mononen's previous academic appointments have been a trainee, research secretary, doctoral student, researcher and senior researcher (1st March.1993-31st July 2011) in Karelian Institute, University of Joensuu. She has worked as a content strategy, study planner and part-time teacher in University of Helsinki, Ruralia Institute (Eco Studies, esp. origin and development of organic production, food chains, development of global agri-food system) in years 2005-2010. She has been teaching mainly with e-learning platforms (WebCT, Blackboard, Moodle) since 2005. She is also lecturing in the Universities of Oulu, Vaasa, Tampere and Helsinki. From 1st August 2011 she has worked as a University (senior) researcher in the Department of Geographical and Historical Studies, University of Eastern Finland. Nowadays she is mainly concentrating in research, but is at the moment a responsible teacher of an advanced course "Food and Society" in UEF. Mononen has been involved in agri-food research since 1996 and mining research since 2009. Her academic interest covers societal questions of mining industry, community experiences and impacts of mining, social license to operate, and food issues – esp. organic production - as well as rural research and actor networks.

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**South Asia Regional Representative - Verma Smita**

I express my deep gratitude for nominating me as Regional Representative of Asia. I feel privileged to introduce myself as Associate Professor in Sociology specialized in Gender Studies and gerontology. Frankly speaking, I have done very little on gender and agriculture. In fact, very little work has been done in India on these research areas of vital concern. As many of you are aware that Indian Agriculture is totally different to that of west. Indian agriculture reflects on mixed pattern of capitalism (production purely for market) and Pre-capitalist (for family consumption and very little for market). Majority population depends on agriculture for subsistence. Food consumption pattern varies from one region to another governed mainly by the regional climatic condition and shaped by dominant culture of the society. Hence, one could come across varieties of food items across the regions. With the impacts of modernization one could come across the big Malls in the metropolitan cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Kolkata, Bangalore and Chennai which in the language of West called Food Chain Supply Malls. But in the small cities and villages one could see the retail shops managed by local trading community provide the services. As I have narrated above, joining RC-40 would provide me a platform to engage myself in new areas of research which is very vital concern of Indian society to face the new challenges in the coming days. I will try to popularize this discipline among the sociology researchers in the country and encourage them to join our Research Committee.

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CALL FOR EDITORS



International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food

Published by the [School of Planning and Geography](#), Cardiff University (UK) and the [Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters](#) and the [Lifelong Learning Society](#), Florida Atlantic University (USA).

Frequency: 3 issues per year (February, June, October)

ISSN: 0798-1759

Editors: Mara Miele, Farshad Araghi and Vaughan Higgins

<http://www.ijsaf.org/>

The *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* (IJSAF) provides a forum for debates about international issues related to food and agriculture, and welcomes contributions from the social sciences, including sociology, science and technology studies, human geography, political science, and consumer, management and environmental studies. It welcomes interdisciplinary approaches to social, cultural, political and environmental aspects of food production and consumption as well as processes of agricultural change. All articles published in this journal undergo internal editorial scrutiny and external, triple-blind peer review.

IJSAF is the official journal of the [Research Committee on Sociology of Agriculture and Food \(RC-40\)](#) of the International Sociological Association (ISA). As part of the RC40 Board's efforts to increase the visibility and quality of the journal, we are soliciting applications for a new Editor-in-Chief, for an (initial) term of 5 years.

The Editor-in-Chief will be responsible for proposing a new Editorial Team (appointed with RC40 Board approval) that can include the following roles:

- Editor-in-Chief
- Assistant Editor
- Special Issues Editor
- Engagement Editor (book reviews, engagement with practitioners, and new types of articles)

The following qualifications are required for the application to be competitive:

- Be members of RC-40 and hold a tenured position or equivalent in an academic or non-academic setting. Applications from underrepresented groups and regions are encouraged.
- Strategic vision for the positioning and further improvement of the journal
- Demonstration of understanding of the mission of the journal indicated through prior involvement with the journal as author, reviewer and/or editorial board member
- Strong research record and evidence of leadership in the field
- Adequate financial and time support granted to the applicant from their organization
- Ability to communicate in writing in more than one RC40 language is an asset

Prospective Editors-in-Chief should submit an application package by **1 September 2017**. Each application package should include:

- A 2-5 page proposal, outlining a strategic vision for managing the journal, a proposed Editorial Team, and a budget proposal
- A full CV for each applicant
- A letter of support from the applicant's organization

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

Key Dates:

- 1 September 2017 - Full application package due
- September-October, 2017 - Applications reviewed
- 31 October 2017 - Successful applicant(s) alerted
- January 1, 2018 – Official start date of new Editor(s)

**Application materials should be sent to the RC40 President:
Allison Loconto: allison-marie.loconto@inra.fr**

Call for Proposals

First Quadrennial RC40 Summer School

Toronto, Canada July, 2018

The Research Committee on the Sociology of Agriculture and Food (RC40) promotes and encourages scientific analysis of the social organization of agriculture and food systems.

As part of RC40's efforts to increase member engagement and to encourage greater involvement of students from around the world in our network, RC40 would like to host a Summer School in conjunction with the ISA World Congress in Toronto, Canada from 15-21 July 2018.

The 2018 World Congress will focus on how scholars, public intellectuals, policy makers, journalists and activists from diverse fields can and do contribute to our understanding of power, violence and justice. The RC40 Summer School intends to take up the World Congress theme as it is experienced and known in agriculture and food systems.

RC40 will provide seed funding for the Summer School organization (US\$500), but the full funding for the summer school should be secured by the organizers. We expect that the organizers will secure funds that can facilitate the participation of junior scholars from developing countries. A member of the RC40 Board will be available to assist the conveners in the organization of the Summer School to ensure its success.

Interested scholars and groups of scholars should submit a 2-5-page proposal that includes the following information:

- Proposed theme of the summer school
- Co-sponsors and partner organizations
- Justification of how the summer school theme links to the ISA World Congress theme
- List of confirmed and proposed speakers and topics
- Learning outcomes and Pedagogical method
- Estimated Budget, including all proposed and secured funding
- A full CV of the lead organizers

Proposals should be submitted to the RC40 Board by **1 September 2017**.

Key Dates:

- 1 September 2017 - Proposals due
- September-October, 2017 - Proposals reviewed
- 31 October 2017 - Successful proposals communicated

**Application materials should be sent to the RC40
Secretary: Maki Hatanaka: maki.hatanaka@shsu.edu**

Formation of the African Rural Sociological Network (ARSN)!!

The African Rural sociological Network (ARSN) was formed during the International Rural Sociologists Association (IRSA) meeting in Toronto, Canada (August 2016). The primary purpose is to mobilize rural sociologists, or other scholars who are in the relevant disciplines who are interested in rural development in Africa.

Please note that the Network can be accessed on the following platforms:

Linkedin:

Group: African Rural Sociologist Network

Associated email: arsn.info@gmail.com

Facebook page:

African Rural Sociologist Network

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=african%20rural%20sociologist%20network>

You may freely share information on projects you are involved in, or conferences and workshops that could be of interest to the group.

For more information on ARSN please contact **Mary Fridah K. Mubuchi**: mkmp99@mail.missouri.edu; arsn.info@gmail.com

XIX ISA WORLD CONGRESS OF SOCIOLOGY

Toronto, Canada | July 15-21, 2018 | Metro Toronto Convention Center



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS
April 25 - Sept 30, 2017

XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology abstract submission is open. RC40 will (co)sponsor 9 sessions in Toronto that include:

- Agriculture Justice: A New Frontier of Collective and Intersectional Battle
- Assessing Effect of Demonetization on Agriculture of Small Farmers in India and the Other Third World Countries
- Food Regime Analysis in an Asian Context
- Food Sovereignty and Land Grabbing
- Metrics in Environmental Governance: Toward a Critical Analysis of Accountability
- Neoliberal Agriculture and Distress Peasants: Why They Commit Suicide
- Prosumers and Social Innovation in Alternative Food Networks
- Techno-Politics in Agriculture and Food Under (and After?) Capitalism
- The Role and Significance of Geographical Indication As a Tool for the Development and Democratization of Agri-Food

For abstract submission, please go to:

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2018/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium477.html>

Upcoming Events

XIX ISA World Congress of Sociology

Power, Violence and Justice: Reflections, Responses and Responsibilities

July 15-21, 2018

Toronto, Canada

<http://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/toronto-2018/>

Abstract Submission Due: September 30, 2017

X Congress of the Latin American Rural Sociology Association

Organizing/facilitating organization: ALASRU

November 25-30, 2018

Locations: Montevideo - Uruguay

Website: <http://www.alasru.org/index.php/congresos>

Abstract submission: Sept 1 2017 – Dec. 15 2017

III International Conference: Agriculture and Food in an Urbanizing Society

Organizing/facilitating organization: UFRGS

September 17 – 21, 2018

Locations: Porto Alegre, Brazil

Website: www.agricultureinurbanizingsociety.com

Abstract submission due: March 2018

26th Annual National Congress of the Rural Sociological Association of Nigeria (RuSAN)

October 16 and 19, 2017

Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike, Abia State, NIGERIA

Abstract submission: August, 25, 2017 (to: rusancongress@gmail.com)

Canadian Association of Food Studies Meeting

(during the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences)

May 26-June 1, 2018

Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada

www.congress2018.ca

The call for papers will be issued in October, 2017.

RC40 Executive Council (2014-2018)

Office	Officer	Organizational Affiliation	Email
President	Allison Loconto	National Institute for Agricultural Research	amloconto@versailles.inra.fr
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RC40 Regional Representatives

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Southern Europe	Guadalupe Ramos Truchero	guadalupe.ramos@uva.es

From the Secretary

Maki Hatanaka (maki.hatanaka@shsu.edu)

[1] About the Listserv of the RC-40:

Beginning fall 2014, RC40 has established its listserv using the Yahoo Groups. We hope to use this listserv to enhance communication and interaction among the RC40 members.

List Logistics:

- To join the RC40 listserv, send your message to: rc40_food_and_ag_soc-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.
- To post messages to the list membership, send your message to: rc40_food_and_ag_soc@yahoogroups.com.

[2] About the membership fee:

Membership to the International Sociological Association (ISA) and RC40 covers a four year period. To apply for membership and see the fee structure, please go to http://www.isa-sociology.org/memb_i/index.htm.

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For more information contact:

Editor: Maki Hatanaka,
RC40 Secretary/Treasurer
Sam Houston State University

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