

Agriculture and Food

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

July 2022

Social problems and agrifood dynamics have a strong global dimension. RC40 is a platform for interacting with a diverse, inclusive, international intellectual community. As our network grows, our ability to support one another and make a positive difference expands. This newsletter, like other RC40 efforts, aim to strengthen engagement and advance pathways for professional development and impact.

The July 2023 ISA World Congress will be held in Melbourne, Australia. The conference will be hybrid, which introduces flexibility. My hope is that RC40 will have a strong contingent of participants in-person and online. As detailed below in the newsletter, RC40 is sponsoring many sessions, and all of you are encouraged to present a paper. The call for abstracts is open until September 30, 2022. Go to <https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2023/cfp.cgi> to submit an abstract.

In this newsletter you will find reports on a range of recent and upcoming initiatives including the recent International Rural Sociological Association (IRSA) World Congress. The October 2022 Leipzig RC40 mini-conference, which is being organized by Atakan Buke, Jose José Ribeiro, Mustafa Koc and others. This mini-conference is significant for many reasons including the effort of RC40 to organize an international conference outside of the ISA conferences that does not coincide with European Society for Rural Sociology, IRSA, or Rural Sociological Society. Based on the number of papers submitted and the strength of those submissions, all indications are that we have substantial convening capacity. Our ongoing effort to convene online RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshops speaks to our commitment to focus on professional development outside of USA, EU and other existing territories characterized by strong infrastructure for intellectual exchange and career advancement. As detailed below, we anticipate producing events in the Middle East and in Southern Africa in 2023. Allison Loconto (previous RC40 President) has been appointed as Editor in Chief of the International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food, RC40's journal. This change brings new ideas and new energy. You are invited to get involved as an author or reviewer. Establishment of the RC40 Weblog (blog for short) - <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/blog>. Angga Diawartama, RC40 Executive Committee, has created a blog to allow people to share ideas and promote their work to a wider audience. If you're interested in sharing your ideas, contact Angga at dwiartama@office.itb.ac.id and make your voice heard.

Lastly, please be aware of upcoming RC40 Executive Committee (EC) elections. Next year we will initiate the election cycle, according to our statutes - <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/statutes>. We will elect a new President and Secretary/Treasurer, as well as a new Executive Committee. The process begins with nominations. Self-nominations are most welcome beginning in January 2023. Playing a leadership role in RC40 is a great way to express yourself, build lasting relationships, and contribute to strengthening the analysis and the development of agrifood systems.

RC40 is a member-organized, member-run, and member-financed organization. Please circulate this newsletter and encourage colleagues and students to get involved.

Best regards on behalf of the entire RC40 Executive Committee.

Steven

Steven Wolf, USA (President) - saw44@cornell.edu

Hilde Bjørkhaug, Norway (Secretary/Treasurer) - hilde.bjorkhaug@ntnu.no

Michael Carolan, USA

Angga Dwiartama, Indonesia

Maki Hatanaka, USA (past-Secretary/Treasurer)

Midori Hiraga, Japan

Katharine Legun, Netherlands

Allison-Marie Loconto, France (past-President)

Forthcoming RC40 activities

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



XX ISA World Congress of Sociology, June 25-July 1, 2023

The deadline to submit an abstract is **September 30, 2022, 24.00GMT**

The conference will be hybrid.

RC40 is organizing 13 sessions at this major conference. All submissions are made through the conference website. **See next page for session titles.**

If you are not familiar with how the ISA World Congress is organized or how you can organize RC40 activities within the Congress, please consult the website or contact Steven Wolf, saw44@cornell.edu. The World Congress is a platform for you to advance your own interests and projects. All are welcome.

We are able to offer a small number of Congress registration grants to ISA/RC40 members. Visit the conference website for information and guidelines. <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023/deadlines-2023>

We are looking forward to seeing you at this important event for our RC40 community!

The world conference is a milestone for ISA and the research committees. In addition to professional dissemination and learning, the conference is a time for transferring roles and tasks to new members. This takes place at business meetings during the conference. RC40 also likes to be known for its good environment and social activities at these gatherings and you can expect an invitation to a reception and dinner to advance our fellowship and create opportunities for old and new members to interact.

RC40 sessions at the XX ISA World Congress of Sociology

Full details and submission at ISA webpage

<https://isaconf.confex.com/isaconf/wc2023/webprogrampreliminary/Symposium763.html>

- **Accountability and Sustainable Transitions: Toward an Integrated Analysis of Sociopolitical and Ecological Risks**

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?

- **African Food Sustainability in a Post-COVID World**

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 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 environment 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.

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. African production of its own food is one of the basic aspects.

- **Alternative Food Futures: Connecting Research with Citizen Politics**

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?

- **Digital Agriculture: Critical Analyses of Innovation Dynamics**

Digital agriculture is characterized by much talk of innovation, revolution, transformation, disruption....And, simultaneously, there are good reasons to interpret digital agriculture as an extension or intensification of existing commitments and relations. This conference session explores what, specifically, is expected to change, and how are these changes expected to unfold in local and global contexts? Papers that address questions of innovation, ownership, decision making power, labor processes, diets, environment, regulation, resistance and more are welcome. By clarifying diverse "theories of change", this session will advance understanding of innovation dynamics and political economic relations in the agrifood sector.

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

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.

- **Food System Shocks and Food Security Vulnerabilities: Moving Beyond Business As Usual**

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.

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.

- **Food and Social Change**

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.

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; 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.

- **Good Farm Animal Welfare in Sustainable Food Systems**

Food production is operating in a field of tension between the demands of more efficient production, producers’ economic conditions and public perceptions that good Animal Welfare 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 ask 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**

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?

- **Post Pandemic Agricultural Economy :a Policy Initiative of the Government of the Countries**

The global economy in the 21st century has suffered a sudden blow COVID 19. The intense effect of the same been observed in non-formal economy. The landless agricultural workers , marginalized men and women village community suffered a setback. Their earning pattern compelled the National and the State Government for a sustainable policy stance. The policy makers proposed for innovative policies resulting in sustainable policy initiative for the marginalized class . The need based socio-economic practices are evolved to overcome the sudden financial constrains among the agricultural community .A threefold policies evolved for the worst effected agro-economic community like ;.1) the rural economic status through innovative policy stances and 2)creating employment opportunities for the rural agro-based women community 3) making opportunities for the return migrants working group. The present theme invites proposals from the researchers during post pandemic era proposed for the revival of the women`s economy from agricultural families. .The main focus of the paper is to narrate the shift in women occupation as a mode of survival during the post COVID era.

- **Social Cohesion and Adaptation Strategies in Independence Development Village**

The independence of the village reflects the strong will of the village community to move forward to meet their needs, the development of the pattern of independence that has been carried out so far is sufficient to support the change of village society. On the other hand, there is often a failure to achieve program goals due to rejection from the community regarding conflicts and cultural situations. This research seeks to provide solutions by studying and exploring the potential for social cohesion and community adaptation strategies for the development of village economic independence.

The main problem in alleviating poverty is how the community can afford it standing and empowered on the natural resources available around them, exploration on social cohesion and adaptation strategies to be further tuned into smart practices in empowering rural communities as a strategic effort to reduce poverty and strengthen local economic independence.

- **The COVID-19 Pandemic and the Agri-Food System(s): Debating Past, Present, and Future**

The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed multiple flaws in our food system. Global food supplies largely rely on long-distance food chains, many of which have been disrupted due to lockdowns and trade restrictions. The pandemic has sharply exposed the vulnerabilities of capitalist-industrial agri-food relations, and has significantly intensified them. At the same time, we have also seen that agri-food relations can be resilient, as people have experienced new forms of solidarity. The scope, depth, and intensity of current agri-food related problems - as well as the continuous search for alternatives - requires to (re)think the major themes of the sociology of agriculture and food: the globalization of agri-food; the reconfiguration of socio-ecological linkages between agri-food and nature; the politics of agriculture and food; and the methodological and theoretical ways we make sense of these.

This RC40 session aims to revisit these themes with a specific focus on what the pandemic has revealed about them.

- **The Potential of Food Movements and Intersectional Food Inequalities**

With varied goals and constituencies, social movements have mobilized against injustices within the food system and built alternative food practices. Peasant movements have denounced class inequalities in access to land, credits, and production policies. Alliances between agrarian and feminist movements have explored connections between these agendas. Food justice movements emerged in the USA denouncing institutional racism in the food system. Decolonial struggles for territorial rights and food sovereignty led by indigenous movements and black rural communities in Latin America also fight for autonomy to reproduce culturally appropriated foodways. There is an open debate regarding the emancipatory potential of food movements. The ambivalences of peasant movements are also under debate, such as how to reconcile the defense of family farming with the fight against gender inequalities (Agarwal 2014); the importance of not defaulting to the use of technology tout-court (Kloppenborg 2014); the need to engage with international and domestic markets, as well as with the state, in order to shape an alternative agrarian development model that responds to global challenges (Edelman et al. 2014).

The session invites papers working on the emancipatory potentials and limitations of food movements in addressing multiple dimensional and intersectional food inequalities.

ISA RC40 Mini-Conference, 19-21 October 2022

Research Center Global Dynamics at Leipzig University (Leipzig, Germany)

Title: Food System in the (Post-)Pandemic World: Disruptions, Vulnerability, Resilience, and Alternatives
Abstract submission is closed, stay tuned for the latest news on the program and the opportunity to join online as an audience.

By the deadline, the mini-conference received 33 great abstracts on a diversity of studies related to the pandemic: Food (in)security; Migrant labour; Supply chains; Alternative food networks; Social and indigenous movements; and State responses.

44 authors represent 5 continents, 32 institutions, a great mix of young and established scholars and a good gender balance.

The program is being finalized upon final confirmations from speakers and includes an opening panel on October 19 (5-7 pm Central European Time (UTC+1)), paper presentations on October 20-21 and a closing panel on October 21.

We are very much looking forward to this event!



ISA RC40 Mini-Conference

THE FOOD SYSTEM
in the (Post-)Pandemic World:
Disruptions, Vulnerability, Resilience, and Alternatives

October 19-21, 2022 | Leipzig, Germany

The mini-conference is also financially supported by Academics in Solidarity (at Freie Universität Berlin, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research), and within the framework of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, funded by the Federal Foreign Office and private foundations. The conference presents the opinions of different scholars and does not necessarily reflect the views of these institutions.

ISA RC40 Sociology of Agriculture and Food

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG
Research Center Global Dynamics

Collaborative Research Centre 1099
Processes of Segmentation
Under the Global Condition

RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshops (Online)

Stay tuned for news and call for abstracts to RC40 Early Career Agrifood Researcher Workshop focused on southern Africa and the middle east & northern Africa.

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.

We plan to host events focused on the Middle East and North Africa and Southern Africa in 2022 and 2023.

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



<https://pixabay.com/photos/laptop-apple-macbook-computer-2561018/>

All early career researchers with geographically relevant research 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.

Past RC40 activities

IRSA 2022 XV World Congress of Rural Sociology

The RC40 Executive Committee initiated joint planning with the Australasia Agri-Food Research Network (AFRN) to organize a series of hybrid sessions within the IRSA World Congress - <https://www.irsas2022.com/program/> - in order to strengthen ties among kindred academic associations and to allow for global participation in a world constrained by COVID, carbon emissions, and economic inequality.

Kiah Smith, RC40 Australia/New Zealand Regional Representative, and Katharine Legun (RC40 Exec Committee) played key leadership roles, and we very much appreciate Stewart Lockie, IRSA World Congress Program Chair, and the IRSA Congress hosts and administration team supporting this effort.

The RC40/AFRN sponsored hybrid sessions were:

- Financialisation, food security and rural sustainability
- Exploring social realities in the quest for responsible digital agri-'cultures'
- Keynote address by Prof Nora McKeon
- Food systems beyond the pandemic
- Panel/workshop: Theories of change in digital agriculture



Photos by IRSA Cairns
<https://www.irsas2022.com/image-gallery/>

Over 120 people registered for these free, online sessions, which indicates substantial interest in these topics and in this mode of interaction. Online attendance in the sessions was considerably lower than 120, which highlights the challenges of working across timezones and capturing busy people's attention when they remain in their offices and in their homes carrying on professional and domestic duties. The lessons and practices that emerge from the pandemic remain unclear. RC40, as a global association, will need to continue to experiment to understand how to support our members and attract new ones.

Regardless of the meta-lessons of the IRSA hybrid initiative, the sessions were interesting and lively.

Many thanks to all!

For those who had the opportunity to participate physically, the conference provided a welcome meeting with colleagues for professional and social chat and the opportunity to wander between many interesting paper sessions and panels. The local hosts had also planned varied field trips where you could gain insight into the region's large sugar production, formerly important dairy areas on the tablelands or indigenous knowledge about the rainforest's food and medicine and stories and walks in the landscapes. All very good!

Many thanks to Stewart and his wonderful team for great collaboration and hosting of IRSA!



RC40 Events & Conferences Calendar

You can also contribute to the RC40 events calendar. Information on RC40-relevant events, conferences or seminars can be e-mailed Angga Dwiartama at dwiartama@sith.itb.ac.id to be uploaded to the calendar.

You will find the Events & Conferences calendar on our website <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/conferences>



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Sociology of Agriculture and Food

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RC40 Events Calendar

Upcoming Events Month Agenda Map

20 October Thursday	20 October 21 October The Research Center Global Dynami...	RC40 Mini-conference - The Food System in the (...) The COVID-19 pandemic has once again illuminated multiple flaws in our food system. Food supplies largely
25 June Sunday	25 June, 2023 01 July, 2023 Melbourne VIC, Australia	ISA World Congress https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/conferences/world-congress/melbourne-2023

Uncategorised Conference Symposium

RC40 Membership

Are you sure you that are a full member of RC40? You can check your status at <https://www.isa-sociology.org/en/isa-members/my-account>

- **Some of our friends have active memberships in ISA but have forgotten to renew their membership in RC40**
- **Some of our friends have active memberships in RC40 but have not updated their membership in ISA.**

None of these gives RC40 benefits such as support for activities from ISA or contributes to the most possible slots at ISA conferences and forums.

Only members in ISA and RC40 'count' as members in this way. This is for your information.

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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New member spotlight

Surdez Muriel, new member of the RC 40

I am a professor at the social sciences Department of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. I was trained in political sciences and in sociology. My current research interest is in sociology of professions and of public policies. Among my recent project, one studied the reforms of veterinary public health and food safety in Switzerland. It examined how state veterinarians involved in these reforms faced current problems, especially antimicrobial resistance. So that's how I got interested in food and agriculture issues.



I am now pursuing work on the development and implementation of national plans against antimicrobial resistance, considering the not always easy relationships between animal health, agricultural, environmental and human health policies. I have just been involved in the project Ramses, initiated by French colleagues based at CIRAD in Montpellier. It aims to study the challenges of antibiotic resistance in southern countries, particularly in Africa. I plan to stay in Ivory Coast in 2023.

More broadly, I study the way in which professional groups manage the transformations of their field of activity in order to preserve their positions vis-à-vis competitors. For instance, this leads me to analyze the arrival of online platforms in the hotel sector. In short, my research skills are at the crossroads of the sociology of professions, of public action and of social problems.

Recent publications:

Neveu, E., Surdez, M. (eds) (2020). Globalizing Issues. How Claims, Frames, and Problems Cross Borders. Palgrave Macmillan
<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-52044-1>

Surdez, M., Hobeika, A., Piquerez, L. (2020). Torn between responsibility and loyalty: how the veterinarian profession designs antibiotic resistance policies that shake its foundations. Review of Agricultural, Food and Environmental Studies.

Lifelong Achievement Award to Salete Cavalcanti

Professor Salete Cavalcanti from the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil, has received Anpocs Award for Academic Excellence. Anpocs is the National Association of Graduate Studies and Research in Social Sciences in Brazil.

Salete is a past RC-40 executive board member and for many, many years she has been an important contributor and inspiration to our community. We congratulate her on the award and her achievements and are looking forward to experiencing her further engagement with RC40.



A clip of the opening in which Salete receives the award, as can be seen on the RC40 webpage: <https://www.isa-agrifood.com/forum/rc40-announcements/anpocs-academic-excellence-award-for-prof-salete-cavalcanti>

For the full opening ceremony, please follow the link below:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gRimLUSgFXY>

New Sociology of Agrifood Working Group at SASA

Establishment of the working group 'Rural Sociology, Agriculture and Food' within the South Africa Sociological Association (SASA)

Most Africans live in rural areas and are employed in the agricultural sector. However, many of them are poor and continue to experience mass starvation and malnutrition due to complex social, economic, and political factors that affect existing food systems. Food systems involve the production, processing, packaging, distribution, marketing, purchasing, consumption, and waste of food. The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and Russia's invasion of Ukraine have, arguably, further worsened the already challenged rural food systems in Africa. For example, shortage of labour force due to the large numbers of persons affected by the SAR-2 virus, have exacerbated production and purchasing trends. Likewise, rising fuel prices due to the global fuel crisis caused by the ongoing war have led to higher costs in transportation, processing, distribution, and purchasing, among others.

Appreciating the important role food systems play within the African rural sociological context and the need to promote the development of Africa's early career researchers; Sheila Manka (Africa's regional representative) has over the last year led an effort that has seen to the establishment of a "Rural Sociology, Agriculture and Food" working group within the South Africa Sociological Association (SASA). This new group aims to promote scholarship on Africa's Food systems by:

- bringing together scholars around the African continent to discuss cutting-edge scientific research.
- engaging African scholars in intellectual debates that stimulate professional exchanges and collaborative research projects.
- establishing a strong network of African scholars and activities that will increase the visibility and representation of RC40 in most African countries.

These objectives are in concert with those of RC40¹ and furthermore present a unique avenue through which membership and representation of Africans within international associations can be gained.

¹ The three RC40 objectives are: developing mutual support, promoting professional development, and creating a shared platform for intellectual exchange and impact; enhancing an international, interdisciplinary community of scholars and practitioners interested in analysis and improvements of agri-food systems; promoting and encouraging scientific analysis of the social organization of agriculture.

Most recently, at the 27th Annual SASA meeting, the newly established working group hosted an engaging interdisciplinary panel that was focused on exploring various ways that might promote food security amid ongoing global social and political concerns.

The panel chaired by Prof. Kiran Odhav (Sociology-North-west University, Mahikeng) included Dr. Gerelene Jagganath (Senior Lecturer, Anthropology- University of KwaZulu-Natal), Prof. Lere Amusan (Department Chair, Political Studies and International Relations- North-West University, Mafikeng), Dr. Fridah Mubichi-Kut (Professor of Practice, Applied Economics, and Policy- Cornell University), Dr. Sheila Manka (Lecturer, Sociology-North-West University, Mahikeng Campus) and Dr. Steven Wolf (Associate Professor, Department of Natural Resources and the Environment - Cornell University).



What's next on the "Rural Sociology, Agriculture and Food" working agenda?

The working group's advisory committee is looking forward to organizing and hosting a virtual workshop for early career African researchers (graduate students, post-docs, young faculty, and professionals) interested in writing and publishing in high-quality journals later this year.

**To learn more about the "Rural Sociology, Agriculture and Food" contact Sheila Manka at manka@ngoh@yahoo.com



#ALL4
CLIMATE
ITALY
2021



THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY OF ROME



Eating for 1.5°C: Round Table on Climate Change and Sustainable Diets

A webinar was organized on 1 October 2021 by the Food Studies Program of The American University of Rome (AUR) to launch the [Special Issue on Sustainable Food Systems – Sustainable Diets of the international Journal of Sociology of Food and Agriculture](#).

The webinar was part of the official events organized under the “All4Climate – Italy 2021” sponsored by the Italian Ministry for Ecological Transition, in view of the “Pre-COP 26” preparatory ministerial meeting held in Milan and the United Nations Climate Conference COP26 in November of the same year, hosted in Glasgow by the UK in partnership with Italy.

The goal of the webinar was to show case research initially presented at the Conference on Sustainable Food Systems Sustainable Diets held by The American University of Rome in 2019 and to provide space for students’ views and reflections on climate change and sustainable diets. The unequivocal evidence on how dietary composition affects Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the direction of considering sustainable production and consumption as one of the fundamentally necessary mitigation paths were the driving motives for both the Conference and the webinar.

Colin Sage opened the webinar by recalling the impact of the food systems and diets on multiple planetary boundaries and the need for radical transformation, as pointed out by the Eat-Lancet Report on Healthy Diets from Sustainable Food Systems and the latest IPCC Assessment Report. He asked: are our choices on livestock and lifestyle either to eat our way to Armageddon or to develop a symbiotic food system for all? Can we create a new planetary imaginary and ethics of mutualism to secure a social foundation within an ecological ceiling for all?

The complexity and hurdles of policy-making striving towards achieving sustainability goals was well illustrated by the cases presented by Alessandra Narciso, from her article co-authored with Maria Fonte, and by Bálint Bálasz with their focus on Europe and by Donald Rose for the United States. Alessandra Narciso pointed out the difficulties being encountered by the European Commission in proposing measures to incorporate sustainability through labelling, and in particular in reconciling the front-of-pack voluntary labels with the existing measures such as Geographic Indication protection for agri-food products. With the same sustainability goal, Bálint Bálasz reported, through the case of Hungary, on the bottlenecks experienced by different stakeholders in the production and consumption of legumes, despite their benefits for human health and for soils, in replacement of soybean imports. Evidence on how corporations shape government policies undermining the sustainability of diets in the U.S. was provided by Donald Rose.

Sustainable diets imply changes not only in what we eat and produce, but also changes in our food environments, as articulated through different cases by Dalia Mattioni and by Kata Fodor's research on the organization of the urban spaces. Kata Fodor unearthed the existing spatial dimensions of contemporary food practices and their potential for contributing to shorter supply chains and ultimately to healthier diets. Charitable food provisioning as a growing part of the food environment was reported by Tara Kenny who pointed out its influence on diets and the need of its re-evaluation in a perspective of sustainable diets and not just limited to reducing food waste and improving economic efficiency.

Finally, a radical paradigm shift was called for by Valentina Peveri based on her field experience and case study of a perennial root tuber crop in Ethiopia: from the simplified ecologies of our current food system based on monocultural thinking to multispecies assemblages and forest-like intricacies. A radical transformation was also the tacit plea by the students who, in the vein of Greta Thurnberg, were disappointed about the ineffectual 'Blah, Blah, Blah' in the climate negotiations.

How can we move ahead? This was the question at the end of the presentations that Harriet Friedmann saw as having emerged from the various contributions and from her participation in the 2019 Conference as a keynote speaker, together with Tim Lang and Colin Sage. Her visionary points were that firstly, there is a main conflict between the corporate food system and agroecology, the latter having now entered the official discourse arena at global level. Yet, it is important in field-based agriculture to re-establish the relation between legumes and grains, both for our diets and for the soil. The corporate sector, instead, while trying to capture the discourses on sustainability, is devising new products like meat substitutes. As had been noted during the presentation by Donald Rose, the same conglomerates in the meat industry were now investing in meat substitutes. She pointed out that if we can get rid of subsidies for fossil fuels and for the production of surplus calories, then livestock would be much less of a problem given the changes that would follow in relative prices.

Above all, in her view, we have to think of diverse farming systems that are inclusive of animals, even though in much smaller numbers, as well as of a different vision of governance. We need to move to a vision of bio-cultural landscapes and governance organized around these landscapes (such as temperate forests, tropical forests, grasslands, etc.) so that there would be a shift away from state system and its borders, a move towards ecosystems of governance that are nested and overlapping. We also need to abandon the modernist categories of urban, rural and wild, re-establish a farmers' centered knowledge and reorganization of science away from agronomy, captured by the corporate world, towards ecology and agroecology. To the question posed by the students "Where do we start", she ended with a positive note by replying "From where you are, become educated" and citing the many examples of initiatives as resistance and as possibilities of reconfiguring our food system.

M.G. Quieti
14 April 2022

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Letter from our new Chief Editor, IJSAF Allison Marie Loconto

Dear RC40 members,

This is the first of a number of updates that I will be writing to you about RC40's **International Journal of the Sociology of Agriculture and Food** (IJSAF). I have been nominated to serve as Chief Editor from 1 January 2022 until 31 December 2025.

In the first issue that will be published under my Editorship – was published on 30 April 2022 – I and my Associate Editors Claire Marris and Katerina Psarikidou included an editorial introduction that will help orient readers and authors as to the vision we see for the development of the IJSAF journal during our mandate. We will publish this vision also in the RC40 newsletter in the fall.

Therefore, for this newsletter article, I would like to reflect upon what the Journal has achieved under the mandate of our out-going Chief Editor Ray Jussaume, whom we thank immensely for all of his work.

Ray began his mandate in 2018 and was assisted by Claire and Katerina, which offers us a strong continuity in the management of the journal. During this period, he opened up our new online manuscript submission website that is hosted by Open Journal Systems (OJS). This decision to maintain open access and to partner with a system that supports this idea is fully in line with the decision of RC40 members to remain open and freely available not only to our members of the association, but also to anyone who is looking for top scholarship in the sociology of agriculture and food.

This policy has meant that authors remain the copyright holders for their articles. This year, I have added the Creative Commons copyrights to the journal articles, so that all articles will have the [CC Attribution 4.0](#) (Gold Open Access to the Europeans).

Through our liaison work with Ray, Macy (editorial assistant at MSU), Claire and Katerina, IJSAF was able to set up DOIs for all article and the possibility to link your ORCID numbers to your articles. We have expanded the inclusion of our journal into important databases that will help us to develop impact factors for our papers (i.e., [Agricola \(USDA\)](#), [CAB Abstracts](#), in the [SocINDEX of EBSCO](#) and [Scopus](#)).

Ray also renewed the IJSAF [Editorial Board](#) in line with the RC40 practices of geographic and gender inclusivity.

As you can see below, since moving to the OJS platform, we have been able to track the abstract and full text views on our website. This will improve our knowledge about core and emerging topics for the journal as we try to push the envelope on the knowledge co-production and sharing within the RC40 community.

In sum, all of these activities have prepared us well to continue to develop IJSAF in the coming years. We want to thus take a moment to thank Ray, Macy, Claire and Katerina for all of their

work and we are happy that we will continue to have their inputs in different capacities over the coming years.

Finally, I want to introduce the last issue published under Ray's Editorship – [Vol. 27 No. 2 \(2021\)](#). In this issue we have three articles that explore different policy and institutional aspects of food system transformations from Finland's attempts to valorize legumes ([Kaljonen et al.](#)), from the international strategic partnerships of agricultural colleges in the United States ([Lacy et al.](#)) and from efforts to reduce food waste in school canteens in Japan ([Nomura and Feuer](#)). We have an actor-network analysis of Bangladesh's Aquaculture Hatchery's ([Butcher et al.](#)), which highlights the socio-technical challenges of food systems transformations.

The issue closes with two empirically driven theoretical developments that are important for understanding how food system transformations are occurring and could potentially position change for more equitable systems in the future. [Zwart et al.](#) explore how participatory action research in Belgium can shape what sustainability means – particularly related to the ways in which partnerships are embedded in social practices. [Stock](#) uses ethnography from the Midwest region of the United States to broaden understandings of justice to include ethics of care and the importance of food utopias in shaping food futures.

All of these articles are excellent and demonstrate both the quality and the timeliness of IJSF to both academic and public debates.

I encourage you all to read the most recent issue and to submit your own work to the journal! Please also click on the accept button when you receive the invitation to be a reviewer 😊

While the April 2022 issue (Vol. 28(1)) is closed, we are still accepting articles that could be published in the October 2022 (Vol 28(2)) and in the regular issues next year.

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.

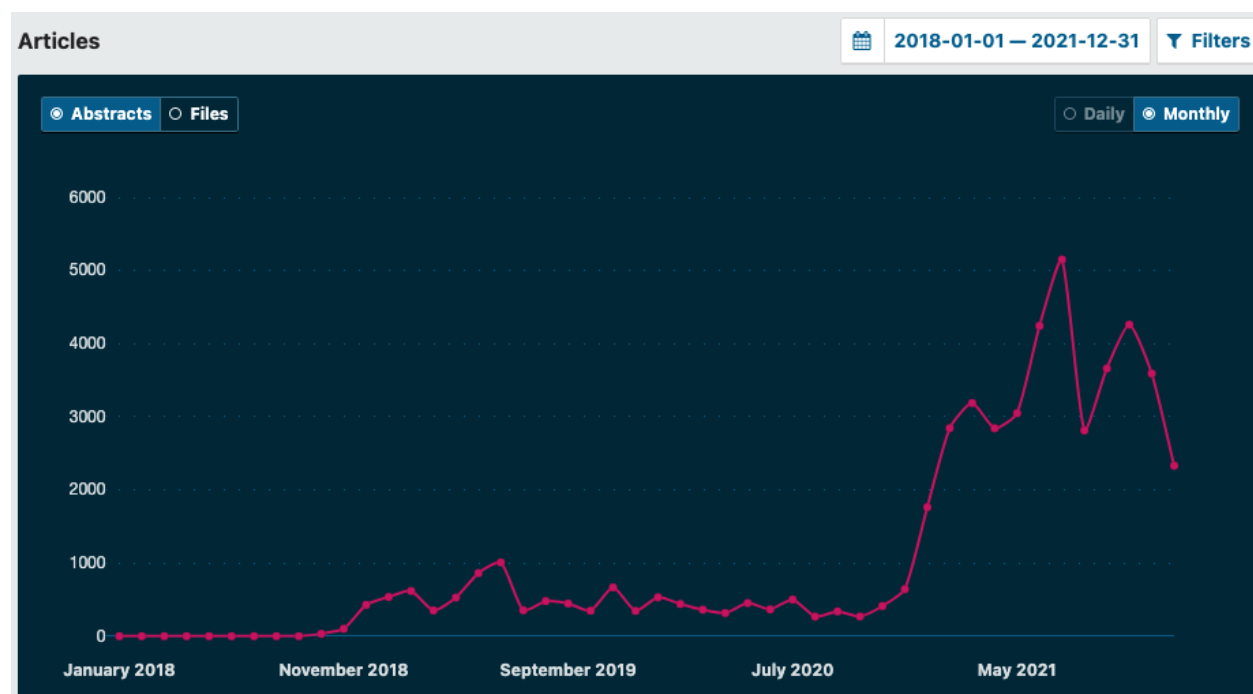
Best regards,

Allison Marie LOCONTO

Chief Editor, IJSF

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

Article Details - Top 10 visited articles of 308 articles visited over the period of 2018-2021



Title	Abstract Views	File Views	PDF	HTML	Other	Total
Search by title, author and ID						
Morris et al. _Substitution and food system de-animalisation: The case of non-dairy milk	1502	1369	1369	0	0	2871
Loconto et al. _Defining agroecology: Exploring the circulation of knowledge in FAO's Global Dialogue	1391	1366	1366	0	0	2757
Ikejima _Measuring Elderly People's Food Access in Urban Food Environments: The Potential Benefits of Urban Agriculture	873	1005	1005	0	0	1878
Juárez et al. _Transformative Social Innovation for Food Sovereignty: The Disruptive Alternative	1157	656	656	0	0	1813
Boafo Expanding Cashew Nut Exporting from Ghana's Breadbasket: A Political Ecology of Changing Land Access and Use, and Impacts for Local Food Systems	705	1039	1039	0	0	1744
Balázs et al. _The Emergence, dynamics and agency of social innovation in seed exchange networks	961	656	656	0	0	1617
Veen _Practices of Food Provisioning in Alternative Food Networks: How Different Practitioners Engage in Different Practices, Depending on Their Emotional Energy	794	810	810	0	0	1604
Kropp _Urban Food Movements and Their Transformative Capacities	970	601	601	0	0	1571
Soysal Al et al. _In-between Anxiety and Hope: Trusting an Alternative Among 'Alternatives' in the (Post) Organic Food Market in Turkey	765	782	782	0	0	1547
Lang _The Sustainable Diet Question: Reasserting societal dynamics into the debate about a Good Diet	846	530	530	0	0	1376