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The 28th Colloquium of the Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems

International Geographical Union
Union Géographique Internationale

ONLINE CONFERENCE

Rural on the Move: Transitions, Transformations, Mobilities and Resistance

BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

23 - 25 August 2021, Croatia



IGU-CSRS 2021 CROATIA ZAGREB

**Rural on the Move:
Transitions, Transformations,
Mobilities and Resistance**

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**The 28th Colloquium of the Commission
on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (VIRTUAL)**

**International Geographical Union
Union Géographique Internationale**

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**University of Zagreb
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

11	Foreword
13	Thematic Sessions
25	Programme
33	Keynote Lecture
34	Abstracts
90	Field Seminar in 2022
92	List of Participants

FOREWORD

The Department of Geography, of the Faculty of Science, of the University of Zagreb welcomes you to the 28th Colloquium of the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (IGU-CSRS). After organizing successful conferences of the IGU Commission for Water Sustainability (2014) and the IGU Commission on Marginalization, Globalization and Regional and Local Responses (2012), we are pleased to host academics, scholars, researchers and students interested in the past, present and future of rural areas around the world. The Colloquium seeks to provide an open international forum to share knowledge, exchange ideas, and challenge perspectives regarding potential paths for achieving rural sustainability in the 21st century.

The Colloquium is taking place at a very turbulent time. The ongoing global pandemic of coronavirus disease (COVID -19) that has prevented us to meet during the last two years is a stark warning of the fragility and volatility of human society. Moreover, while disasters such as fires and floods are natural phenomena, their increasing geographic spread and severity are indicative of man's impact on nature evolving into threatening scenarios. Political unrest and rising socio-economic inequalities with devastating consequences for many people around the globe also remain a reality.

On the positive side, global awareness of the aforementioned challenges is increasing among numerous influential stakeholders and actors, including political leaders. However, the magnitude of the challenges requires that immediate action be taken by society as a whole. Scientific research is certainly part of the solution, and it is our academic responsibility to act proactively to find ways to a better future for all. This year's IGU-CSRS online colloquium, with more than fifty papers from all continents, is our small contribution to raising global awareness and offering possible answers to rural sustainability issues.

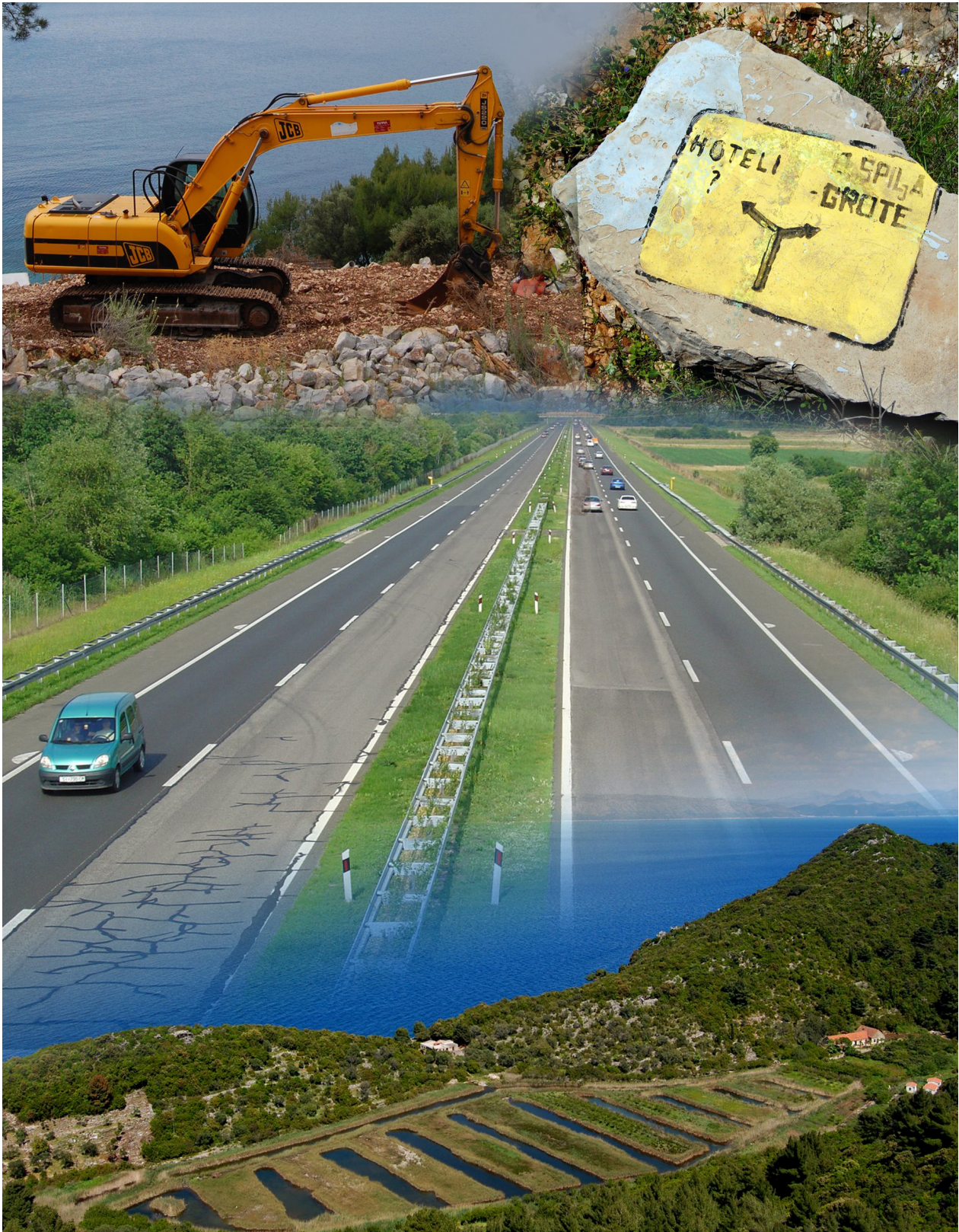
Organizing a conference is always a challenge, and this has been especially true in the last two years. We would like to thank all those who have supported us along the way, especially colleagues from the Department of Geography and the Faculty of Science, University of Zagreb, Croatian Geographical Society as well as members of the Steering Committee of the IGU-CSRS.

Finally, we would like to dedicate this Colloquium to two colleagues who have sadly passed away since our last meeting in 2019 in Minnesota, USA. Prof. Ana Firmino (Lisboa) (1954-2020) was a long-time member of our Commission and Steering Committee and organized the Colloquium in Portugal in 2015. Ana was truly a good spirit of our Commission. Valentina Valjak (Zagreb) (1988-2020) was just beginning to discover the wonderful world of rural geography after her first Colloquium in Minnesota. Valentina was greatly involved in organizing this year's meeting. We will miss them both very much.

On behalf of the Organizing Committee,
Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar Lukić
Zagreb, 4th August 2021

THEMATIC SESSIONS

Transitions, Transformations, Mobilities and Resistance



Session 1: Transitions

Transitions, in a geographical context, can have different meanings. Firstly, we use it to denote rural development processes in the (post)-transition countries (PTCs) of Central, Eastern, and Southeast Europe. Secondly, we use it to signify the changes taking place in transitional, liminal, and contact spaces encompassing rural areas around the world. An urban-rural fringe, city region, cross-border rural region, or culturally/ethnically/religiously mixed rural area are some examples that would be suitable, but the list is also open to other cases. This session welcomes papers that deal with either connotation of *transitions* from all parts of the world.

1. The term (post)-transition is used primarily to designate the countries of Central, Eastern, and Southeast Europe that underwent a change from a centrally-planned economy to a market-based economy in the 1990s. This overwhelming and, more often than not, shocking process had some shared and some very specific consequences for rural areas, which still influence their development more than 25 years later. Jordan (2015) argued that rural space is still today *one of the biggest problems* in PTCs, as they were already burdened with demographic and economic problems that resulted in a low quality of life during the communist/socialist era. For that reason, hopes for a positive outcome from the political turn, economic liberalisation, and EU integration were very high in rural areas of PTCs.

Although the transition in the 1990s opened a new window of opportunity by supporting the development of bottom-up initiatives, new governance models, entrepreneurship, and attracting foreign direct investments (which had some positive effects), the majority of rural areas did not see much of the benefit thereof in comparison to urban areas (Jordan, 2017; Kairytė, 2015; Št'astná, 2015). On the other hand, rural areas in city regions (Huemer and Kappeler, 2017; Lukić, 2012), along the main developmental axes between large urban centres or borders with more economically-developed countries, and tourist-oriented areas of the countryside experienced a positive dynamic (Havady-Nagy, 2017). As a consequence, after the 1990s, the polarisation of regional development in PTCs deepened, along with rising disparity and inequality. This has often resulted in (youth) outmigration and intensification of depopulation. In the greater part of rural areas in many PTCs, this has become the main developmental challenge for the future (Cosier et al., 2014; Lampič et al., 2015; Manić et al., 2015; Nejašmić et al., 2018; Plešivčák and Buček, 2017; Török, 2013).

Furthermore, the transition of agriculture has been an especially complex and sensitive issue. Changes in ownership (often through the extensive sale of agricultural land to foreign buyers that has sometimes led to *land grabbing*), diverse land restitution models, privatisation of cooperatives, state agricultural enterprises and processing capacities, has had different outcomes throughout the PTCs.

Some of the questions we invite you to discuss in your papers are:

- What are the main present-day challenges in the countryside of (post)-transition countries? What are examples of good practices in answering them?
- How can the gap in the developmental potentials be reduced between rural areas in PTCs and those in more economically-developed European states? How can agriculture and other economic sectors in PTCs become more competitive?

- How can a balance between extra-local and local actors in rural development be reached? How can a balance between economic growth, social welfare, and environmental protection be achieved?
- How can the social capital of rural areas in PTCs be strengthened to support integral development?
- In what way could bottom-up initiatives (e.g., LEADER, CLLD) bring more benefits to local rural communities?
- How can rural areas in PTCs be made attractive to young people? What strategies and governance models might work and why?
- What future is there for the countryside in PTCs?

2. Apart from the context of (post)-transition countries, the term *transition*, from a geographical point of view, also means the space between two larger or programmatically-different spaces.

In such transitional areas, conflicting interests often emerge between distinctive needs and functions affecting land use, and perceptions and representations of the rural and its developmental potentials. For example, the peri-urban fringe, rural or suburban areas in city regions are typical examples of transition spaces (Robinson et al., 2018). Furthermore, cross-border rural regions between two or more different countries, or the areas in coastal regions where the sea and land meet could also be considered transition spaces from a spatial perspective. Buffer zones around protected nature areas, where environmental protection and socio-economic development often collide, might also be great examples of transitional zones. The list is open to other similar or thematically-related cases that might be a good fit.

Possible questions to take into the consideration:

- What are the most pressing issues in city regions (including their rural areas) around the world? Which strategies have been used in order to avoid conflicts between different actors and stakeholders therein?
- What are good examples of cross-border cooperation in rural regions? How can cross-border cooperation be made a reality in a time of polarised politics and anxiety regarding border security?
- How can a balance be achieved between (over)tourism and natural heritage protection in buffer zones of protected natural areas?
- How should research transitional (rural) areas be approached? What are the most interesting questions in the research agenda of transitional spaces and places?

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Session 2: Transformations

There is, perhaps, a view of “the rural” as something that is not strongly affected by change. The different dimensions, however, that make up “the rural” are constantly transforming. This is especially visible in contemporary Europe, where rural areas are characterised by different processes of demographic and socio-economic restructuring, changes in environments and spatial identities, and technological change—bringing both opportunities and threats. These changes relate to shifts in policies aimed at rural areas and, simply put, changes in ways we think about “the rural”.

Five specific dimensions of transformations can be regarded in this context: economic change; social and demographic change; environmental change; technological/digital change; and political change. This session welcomes papers dealing with any and all such aspects of change in rural areas, worldwide. We also welcome other topics related to rural transformations.

Some of the questions we invite you to discuss in your papers are:

- What are the important challenges of different forms of economic diversification of rural areas?
- In light of differing demographic processes in rural areas, how can we achieve balance in terms of quality of life for the local population?
- What are the main challenges related to environmental change around the globe? What are examples of good practices in answering them?
- Which development possibilities arise from technological change in rural areas?
- How can we strengthen the interconnectedness of stakeholders and actors in rural areas so that theoretical concepts of endogenous, neo-endogenous, and bottom-up development are actually able to fulfil the theoretical promise?
- How can we adjust policy measures to different typologies of rural areas?
- What are key driving forces and uncertainties influencing future pathways for rural areas?

Although agriculture remains the dominant form of land use in rural areas (Rienks, 2008), it is becoming increasingly apparent that agriculture is not the main economic activity in many rural regions, and that economic diversification has changed the ways in which rural areas are perceived (Ilbery, 1998; Woods, 2005). Economic change encompasses different strands of economic diversification, stemming from the functioning of small and medium-sized enterprises in rural areas, and the general transition from productivism to post-productivism and consumption society. Tourism and recreation have especially, for decades, been a significant response to various challenges and threats to rural areas (Butler et al., 1998; Cawley and Gillmor, 2008; Hall et al., 2003).

Social and demographic change also reflects differently across the rural world. In general, rural areas in proximity to cities and coastal zones show stronger positive trends than urban areas. However, the majority of more-remote rural areas are

characterised by depopulation processes. The question of strategies of future development incorporates different possible ways to deal with shrinkage. This includes approaches aiming at reversing shrinking trends and stimulating population growth, or “coping with decline”, i.e., accepting shrinkage and adapting to its economic and social consequences (ESPON, 2017, 2). Globalisation processes also affect these trends worldwide (Woods, 2011). Furthermore, social and demographic change includes cultural change and changes in identities (Matišić and Pejnović, 2015).

Rural areas have multiple roles in relation to the environment. Apart from encompassing the natural environment, they can serve as buffer zones delineating certain areas (e.g., urban agglomerations, protected areas) and provide ecosystem services. Different roles can lead to various conflicts related to spatial and functional organisation. Demographic, cultural, and economic factors, physical characteristics of the environment itself, and their complex interactions all influence environmental and land-use changes. For example, in the context of the former communist/socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe, areas undergoing general depopulation trends and population ageing are often characterised by shrub encroachment and farmland abandonment, while flatlands and lowland areas have been undergoing higher rates of agricultural intensification (Cvitanović et al., 2017).

Technological/digital change has made many promises related to the development possibilities of rural areas. One of the aspects is the way we think about physical distance and transport accessibility, which has been changing with the pace of technological innovation (Clayton, 2009). However, digital change also results in the disappearance of numerous central services (e.g., post offices), which have a much higher significance in rural areas than in urban areas.

Bottom-up approaches to planning and development gained momentum in the 1990s. The most prominent example of this in the European Union context has been the LEADER approach, based on territorial partnerships between the public, civil, and private sectors. Although it has often been praised as a successful, innovative approach to rural development, there have been some disappointments. Its guiding principles have been regarded as overly idealistic and impractical, and a shift away from innovative projects has been noted. Some have posed the question of whether the LEADER programme is elitist or inclusive (Shucksmith, 2010; Marquardt et al., 2010; Dax et al., 2013; Thuesen, 2010; Lukić and Obad, 2016).

In the context of endogenous and exogenous development, along with raising the issue of neo-rural development, rural areas are searching for strategies for optimal planning and managing their development in the complex network of actors. While encouraging participative and community-led forms of planning can bring numerous positive results on local levels, devolution of powers and the shift from government to governance also requires a clarity of roles, and empowering local authorities to understand and accept new models of planning and development (Shucksmith, 2010).

Five dimensions of change reflect differently depending on the natural and social characteristics of rural areas, bringing the importance of typological approaches to the forefront—as instruments for the identification of territorial differences, for analysis and comparison of different areas, and development of appropriate strategies for the development of rural areas. Given the diversity and strength of rural transformations, the issue of the future of rural areas has come to the fore as well, leading to possible scenarios of rural development—scenarios that will reveal

links among various dimensions of change, diverse possibilities of development, and optimal policy measures.

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Session 3: Mobilities

The entire world seems to be on the move. Asylum seekers, international students, terrorists, members of diasporas, vacationers, business people, sports stars, refugees, backpackers, commuters, retired people, young mobile professionals, prostitutes, armies—these and many others fill the world's airports, buses, ships, and trains. The scale of it all is immense. (Sheller and Urry, 2006).

All these movements and migrations also have a spatial and temporal dimension. From North to South and South to North, from East to West and West to East, from rural to urban—and then back to (more-than-representational) rural (Halfacree, 2013)—sometimes temporary, sometimes seasonal or permanent...people have always been on the move, why should they stop now? It is not only people, however, that are moving in space. In the new mobility paradigm (Sheller and Urry, 2006) 'places are like ships, moving around and not necessarily staying in one location'. Barcus (2018) explained that the term 'mobilities turn' in Geography involves 'a shifting of conceptualizations of spatial mobilities and fosters questions about the linkages to social mobilities'.

This session is open to the exploration of both traditional and novel forms of migration and other mobilities, which involve "the rural", regardless of whether rural is understood to be a material, representational, or imagined place. Voluntary or forced migrations, motivated by production or consumption patterns, physical or virtual mobilities are just some of the examples that might also fit this session.

Migrations have traditionally been an important part of geographical inquiry, in which "the rural" has always played a very significant role. In the period of industrialisation and urbanisation during 19th and 20th century, out-migration from the countryside was the dominant demographic process. Migration to urban areas, despite all the challenges associated with reassembling social networks and finding opportunities for rural migrants (Barcus, 2018), clearly outweighed the costs of staying in the countryside in most cases. In the Global North, this unidirectional movement has been complemented by inverse movement over the last fifty years, recognised under different terms and concepts, such as ex-urban residential movement, rural-in migration, counter-urbanisation, amenity migrations, rural gentrification, and very recently, neo-rural in-migrations. Drivers and implications for the local community, and relations between locals and newcomers have been researched. An imaginary rural idyll has been recognised as having importance both for ex-urban dwellers and returning rural migrants (Cawely, 2018). However, there are many examples showing the unstable nature of assumptions that pro-rural migration is driven exclusively and/or predominantly by social representations of rurality, no matter how idyllic they might be (Jetzkowitz et al., 2007; Munkejord, 2006; Halfacree and Jesús Rivera, 2012). There is a plethora of evidence that cultural constructions of idealised rurality are usually intrinsically interwoven with global economic restructuring (especially the increase in itinerant entrepreneurs and/or service workers) and demographic trends (increases in the tendency of the population between 50 and 60 years of age to migrate to rural areas) (Nelson et al., 2010). Rivera (2013:28) proposed a more holistic view regarding understanding migrations 'as the complex connection of diverse factors: economic circumstances, spatial representations about the rural and the urban, expectations about rural life and the community, spatial and labour needs and restrictions...'

On the other hand, there are many parts of the world where depopulation of rural areas is still the most dominant process. In Europe, new EU Member States have often experienced (re)intensification of rural depopulation due to out-migration of young workers to more developed countries. Furthermore, the scale and intensity of refugee movements have had immense consequences for rural areas. Keyong (2018) has shown that one of the main outcomes of refugee influx in rural Turkey was not only concern, but confusion among the local rural population. First seen as a problem, refugees are more and more being perceived as a potential solution for the agricultural labour shortage. This transnational labour migration of a different (perhaps voluntary) kind is also common in many borderland areas, and involves complex and interconnected aspects for migrants, e.g., adaptation, impact on identities, transformations of ethnicity, and de-territorialisation (Kim, 2018).

This session welcomes contribution on various aspects of mobilities, migration, and movement involving local and global rural areas. We encourage you to think about:

- What are the current trends in mobilities and migration involving rural areas in your region?
- How can disciplinary boundaries in understanding motivations, paths, and consequences of traditional and novel forms of migrations and mobilities involving rural areas be crossed?
- When does migration start and when does it finish?
- How is mobility different from migration in the context of rural studies?
- Are there any differences in challenges of reassembling social networks and opportunities between urban and rural and returning rural migrants? If so (or not), why?
- Where are rural in-migrants running into tension and trouble regarding their expectations and everyday experiences? How does this contribute to forming new rural relations, images, etc.?
- What are the drivers and implications for the local community and relations between locals and newcomers?
- What is the role of the consumption society, involving leisure activities, tourism and recreation, second-homes etc., in mobilities and migrations to/from rural areas?
- How do advancements in transport and communication technologies influence patterns and forms of mobilities and migration involving rural areas?
- How do spatial representations combine with other factors to motivate and enable movement (Rivera, 2013:29)?
- What are the opportunities and threats presented by the influx of refugees in rural areas?

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Session 4: Geographies of Rural Resistance/s

The processes that rural communities have experienced in recent decades have cut across various forms of transition and transformation: global and local; technological and political; economic and social. This vast rural restructuring has been met with a myriad of rural responses—and the responses we especially wish to explore in this section can be summed up under the broad meaning of the term “resistance”.

Rural resistances to changes can be progressive or conservative and can be related to modernisation processes of all sorts. They can also, however, be regressive and aimed toward re-traditionalising relations and the radicalisation of *discourses of hate*. They can respond to global neoliberal interventions by resorting to technological innovation and competitive “agri-excellence”, as well as toward various practices of economic solidarity and community resilience.

In the face of dynamics that currently play out between global processes such as continuous deruralisation, the diminishing number of family farms, and the deadly consequences of climate crisis, those who are the least protected will be those who are the most affected. This section intends to politicise a broad scope of issues concerning contemporary rural existences and rural resistances.

We open this section to papers that combine critical theoretical perspectives with sound empirical research and hope for a rich and fruitful exchange of ideas. We especially invite papers that cross boundaries, both in geographical and in disciplinary terms.

Some of the issues that we hope will be discussed in your papers are:

- What kind of resistances to rural restructuring and other contemporary processes are there in rural social spaces? Where do these rural resistances stem from and what are their goals? Is the resistance rural-born or is it “imported” from or imposed by the “urban”?
- How does rural resistance against modernisation processes affect rural communities and their processes of change?
- Against whom are these resistances directed? Are these actors of grassroots, civil backgrounds, or institutional (or other) backgrounds, and how do they relate to each other? Are their motives and objectives economic, political, social, environmental, or a combination thereof? How do these different objectives interact and correspond, and how do their collisions or discrepancies impact rural people and communities?
- What kinds of political strengths do rural resistances require and offer? Is this solely a potential or are rural communities and initiatives already an active force in local, national, and transnational contexts? What sorts of strategies do such rural interventions employ?
- Are there any unexpected consequences of rural resistances and how they relate to differentiated, heterogeneous rural communities?

- How do certain types of rural resistances impact and shape the symbolic construction of the community in question? What “types” of cultural resources are used in creating rural resistances? What “kinds” of local identities/identifications are created by these processes of resistance and how do they affect them?
- How does research tackle these issues? What are examples of interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches in investigating rural resistances? How do rural communities benefit from such research?

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PROGRAMME

MONDAY, 23 August 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Socializing in Gather
ZOOM A 11:00 – 11:20 AM OPENING CEREMONY	Assoc. Prof. Aleksandar LUKIĆ – Local Organizing Committee Chair Prof. Mirko Planinić , Dean of Faculty of Science Prof. Nenad Buzjak , Head of Department of Geography Prof. Serge SCHMITZ, Dr. Valerià PAÛL – IGU CSRS - Co-Chairs
BREAK 11:20-11:30	
ZOOM A 11:30 – 12:30 MOBILITIES	Chair: Valerià PAÛL Fiona M. HASLAM MCKENZIE Employment-Related Geographic Mobility and the Mining Industry: Why Attempts to Disrupt Large Scale Transit Worker Accommodation Fail in Remote Australia Mary CAWLEY Labour Immigration to Rural Areas: Polish and Lithuanian Migrants in Rural Ireland Sanja KLEMPIĆ BOGADI and Sonja PODGORELEC How Migration Has Shaped the Demographic Picture of Rural Croatia? Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 12:30-12:45	
ZOOM A 12:45 – 13:45 MOBILITIES	Chair: Serge SCHMITZ Arjola ARAPI-GJINI, Judith MÖLLERS and Thomas HERZFELD ‘Kshu Èshtë Vendi’ (So is the Tradition): Social Embeddedness of Remittance Behaviour in Opoja, Kosovo Rebeka MESARIĆ ŽABČIĆ, Ivo TURK and Nikola ŠIMUNIĆ Rural Tourism in Međimurje County: Synergy of Partnership Between Diaspora, Economy and Local Community Suk Kyeong KANG Factors Affecting School Attendance Among the Children of Agricultural Migrant Workers in Turkey Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 13:45-14:15	

<p style="text-align: center;">ZOOM A</p> <p style="text-align: center;">14:15 – 15:30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MOBILITIES</p>	<p>Chair: Marcin WÓJCIK</p>
	<p>Holly R. BARCUS Rural Out-Migration and Place Elasticity: A Cross-National Comparison</p>
	<p>Tialda HAARTSEN and Aileen STOCKDALE[†] Staying Connected: Rural Stayers and 'Reverse' Place Elasticity</p>
	<p>Julia KIESLINGER, Stefan KORDEL and Tobias WEIDINGER Practising Rural (Im)mobilities: Insights from Ecuador and Germany</p>
	<p>Janine LÄPPLE, Judith MÖLLERS and Arjola ARAPI-GJINI Return Migrants as Agents of Change: A New Framework on Social Remittance Transfer with Evidence from Kosovo</p>
	<p>Synthesis and discussions</p>
<p>Socializing in Gather</p>	

MONDAY, 23 August 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Socializing in Gather
ZOOM B 11:30 – 12:30 AM RESISTANCE	Chair: Orlanda OBAD
	Daichi KOHMOTO The Ideal Form of Education as a Tool for Resistance to Rural Restructuring
	Diego CIDRÁS and Rubén Camilo LOIS GONZÁLEZ Urban Contributions to Rural-Born Resistances: Observations around Plantation Forestry in NW Spain
	Ivo TURK, Nikola ŠIMUNIĆ and Dražen ŽIVIĆ Traffic Isolation as the Factor of Negative Demographic Processes Leading to Demographic Resilience Decline: The Case of Podgorje Region (Adriatic Region of Croatia)
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 12:30-12:45	
ZOOM B 12:45 – 13:45 RESISTANCE	Chair: Nataša BOKAN
	Mateja SLOVENC Informal Farmers' Cooperation as a Form of Rural Resistance Through Farmers' Values Analysis
	Paulina TOBIASZ-LIS, Marcin WÓJCIK and Pamela JEZIORSKA-BIEL Cultural Heritage as an Expression of Rural Resistance. Case Study of Domachowo Village, Poland
	Valerià PAÜL, Roberto VILA and Alejandro OTERO Proposing a New Autonomous Region in Spain Against Rural Decline? Interrogating the Current Quest for Leon Split From Castile (2019-2020)
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 13:45-14:15	
ZOOM B 14:15 – 15:15 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Cornelia STEINHÄUSER
	César P. SOARES, Cornelia STEINHÄUSER and Tillmann K. BUTTSCHARDT Kūmara, Maís and Cassava: Socio-Environmental Inequalities and the Rural Transformation in New Zealand, Argentina, and Brazil
	Ana Maria S.M. BICALHO and Ana Paula C. ARAÚJO Dealing With Adversity: Apiculture in the Productivist Landscape of Mato Grosso do Sul State, Brazil
	Ana ZAZO-MORATALLA and Aaron NAPADENSKY-PASTENE The Dark Side of the Concepción Metropolitan Area Foodshed (Chile)
	Synthesis and discussions
Socializing in Gather	

TUESDAY, 24 August 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Socializing in Gather
ZOOM A 11:00 – 12:00 AM MOBILITIES	Chair: Milica SOLAREVIĆ
	Aileen STOCKDALE[†], Tialda HAARTSEN, Sara FERGUSON and Annett STEINFUHRER Geographies of Contemporary Rural Stayers
	Niamh McHUGH The Latest Driving Force of Rural Gentrification? How Digital Marketing is Influencing Processes of Rural Gentrification in the UK
	Serhii SVYNARETS and Tim LEIBERT Social Innovation Approaches to Support Integration of Non-EU Migrants in Rural Central Europe: Lessons Learned, Conclusions Drawn
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 12:00 – 12:15	
ZOOM A 12:15 – 13:00 AM KEYNOTE LECTURE	<p style="text-align: center;">Dr Andrew COPUS Shrinking - a slow car crash for rural Europe?</p> <p style="text-align: center;">University of Eastern Finland, Karelian Institute, Joensuu, Finland The James Hutton Institute, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK, Honorary Associate</p>
BREAK 13:00 – 13:30	
ZOOM A 13:30 – 14:30 MOBILITIES	Chair: Aleksandar LUKIĆ
	Frans THISSEN Grown up in the Countryside: Patterns of Territorial Attachment and the Migration Intention to Leave, to Stay or to Return
	Henk HOFSTEDE, Koen SALEMINK and Tialda HAARTSEN Predicting the Intention to Stay Among Young Adults in Rural Northwestern Europe: the Role of Structural Factors and Place Attachment
	Milica SOLAREVIĆ and Milka BUBALO-ŽIVKOVIĆ Daily Migrations in Rural Areas in Serbia: Quantity and Quality on the Move
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 14:30 – 14:45	
ZOOM A 14:45 – 15:45 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS/ RESISTANCE	Chair: Lou Angeli A. OCAMPO
	Scott William HOEFLE What is an Indigenous Population? Some Relational Doubts About Ethnic Territories in the Brazilian Amazon
	William G. MOSELEY and Eliza PESSERREAU Glyphosate as Mother's Little Helper: A Feminist Political Ecology of West Africa's Herbicide Revolution
	Ana ZAZO-MORATALLA and Isidora TRONCOSO-GONZÁLEZ Foodprint, Foodshed and Foodscape: Three Concepts for the Transition of Local Food Systems
	Synthesis and discussions
Socializing in Gather	

TUESDAY, 24 August 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Socializing in Gather
ZOOM B 11:00 – 12:00 AM TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Anica ČUKA
	Guy M ROBINSON and Bingjie SONG A Multifunctional Rural Transformation in South Australia? Examples from the Adelaide Hills and the Riverland
	Kikuchi TOSHIO, Tabayashi AKIRA and Tom WALDICHUK Commodification of Rural Spaces Owing to the Development of Organic Farming in the Kootenay Region, British Columbia, Canada
	Rebecca PEARSON and Douglas BARDSLEY Viticultural Landscapes and Regional Tourism in McLaren Vale, South Australia
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 12:00 – 12:15	
ZOOM B 13:30 – 14:30 TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Suk Kyeong KANG
	Helena PINA and Felisbela MARTINS What is the Strategic Positioning of Health and Wellness Tourism in the Development of the Douro Demarcated Region, A World Heritage Site?
	Salah EISA Transformations of Health Facilities and Its Demographics Effects in varied Egyptian Rural Localities
	Lou Angeli A. OCAMPO Reflections on Disaster Risk Perception and Evacuation in the Philippines
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 14:30 – 14:45	
ZOOM B 14:45 – 15:45 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Paulina TOBIASZ-LIS
	Arshad SALAH EISA Need and Readiness for Transition to Digital Education in the Egyptian Countryside
	Bernadett CSURGÓ Changing Roles of Rural Women: Creative Female Entrepreneurs in Rural Hungary
	Felipe DA SILVA MACHADO Decolonising Farmer Knowledge and Learning Environments in the Metropolitan Countryside of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
	Synthesis and discussions
Socializing in Gather	

WEDNESDAY, 25 August 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Socializing in Gather
ZOOM A 11:00 – 12:00 AM TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Hualou LONG
	Irit AMIT-COHEN Transformation in Rural Areas and Its Impact on Rural Landscape Planning. The Case of the Agricultural Cooperative Settlements in Israel
	Virginia ALBERDI NIEVES Climate Change on the Rural Areas Forest of Southern Andes
	Douglas BARDSLEY Transitioning Through Agricultural Biodiversity
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 12:00 – 12:15	
ZOOM A 12:15 – 13:15 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Frans THISSEN
	Bingjie SONG, Guy ROBINSON and Douglas BARDSLEY Hobby and Part-Time Farmers in a Multifunctional Landscape: Lifestyles, Environmentalism and Amenity
	Deepika VASHISHTHA Assessment of Rural Livelihood Sustainability and Challenges Faced by the Migrant Workers & Villagers due to COVID 19 Pandemic in Aligarh District: A Case Study from India
	Serge SCHMITZ and Adel BOUSSAID Puzzling out the Driving Forces of the Desertification in the High Algerian Steppe Plains
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 13:15 – 13:45	
ZOOM A 13:45 – 14:45 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Lana SLAVUJ BORČIĆ
	Ryo IIZUKA, Kei OTA and Toshio KIKUCHI Sustaining Strategies of Urban Agriculture Based on Interaction with Urban Residents in the Tokyo Metropolis
	Valerio BINI and Giacomo ZANOLIN The Rural Districts in Milan. An Opportunity for the Governance of Food at the Metropolitan Scale.
	Rubén BOGA GONZÁLEZ Geographical Indications from a Territorialized Food Studies Perspective: The Construction of an Emblematic Spanish PDO
	Synthesis and discussions
Socializing in Gather	

WEDNESDAY, 25 August 2021

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM	Socializing in Gather
ZOOM B 11:00 – 12:00 AM TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Fiona M. HASLAM MCKENZIE
	Vera GRAOVAC MATASSI, Ante BLAĆE and Anica ČUKA Rural Ageing in Croatia - The Example of Zadar County
	Doo-Chul KIM Can Regional Management Organizations Revitalize Dying Villages in Japan?
	Milena SEKULIĆ, Srđan TIMOTIJEVIĆ and Milica SOLAREVIĆ Can Population Policy Measures Address and Promote Rural Development in Serbia: Case Study of Vojvodina (Northern Serbia)?
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 12:00 – 12:15	
ZOOM B 12:15 – 13:15 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Ivo TURK
	Daniel MICHNIAK and Marek WIĘCKOWSKI Changes in Transport in Cross-Border Tourist Regions in the Polish-Slovak Borderland After 1989: An (Un)Sustainable Development?
	Damir JOSIPOVIĆ Border Region in Crisis: Transformation of the Slovenian-Croatian Peri-Pannonian Contact Zone
	Srđan TIMOTIJEVIĆ and Milena SEKULIĆ Sustainability of Rural Settlements Below 500 Inhabitants in Srem District Case Study (Northern Serbia)
	Synthesis and discussions
BREAK 13:15 - 13:45	
ZOOM B 13:45 – 14:45 TRANSITIONS/ TRANSFORMATIONS	Chair: Daniel MICHNIAK
	Anita BUŠLJETA TONKOVIĆ, Ivan BRLIĆ and Ema BAŠIĆ Modernization and (Post-)Transition Processes in Croatian Rural Areas Through a Case Study of the Rural Lika Area: An Emerging Scientific Project
	Janetta NESTOROVÀ DICKÀ and Alena GESSERT Rural and Non-Rural Regions in the Slovak Republic
	Florentina-Cristina MERCIU, Ioan IANOȘ, George MERCIU and George SECĂREANU Integrating Industrial Heritage in the Postsocialist Rural Regeneration. Rudaria Community as Case Study
	Synthesis and discussions
Socializing in Gather	

KEYNOTE LECTURE

Shrinking - a slow car crash for rural Europe?

Dr. Andrew COPUS

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Shrinking, as a demographic phenomenon, can appear like a slow car crash because it is characterised by slow running cycles which are very difficult to deflect or reverse. Selective out-migration inevitably results in an ageing population, with low fertility rates. Dwindling human capital impacts upon capacity for innovation. At the extreme, communities lose the critical mass of social capital needed for revival. Often, by the time local or regional stakeholders recognise the problem, it is almost too late to do much about it; the scale of in-migration required for mitigation is wildly beyond what might reasonably be expected. On the positive side, Green and Digital transitions may present a number of new opportunities for such areas, whilst behavioural changes associated with COVID 19 may accelerate favourable shifts in patterns of economic activity. The gravity, and the potential opportunities of the situation are acknowledged by a number of recent policy documents issued by the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Joint Research Centre, culminating in the Long Term Vision for Rural Europe. This presentation will explain key findings from a recent ESPON project (ESCAPE), which reviewed the evidence for rural shrinking, sought to understand the economic and social processes which drive it, and the principles upon which policy responses should be developed.

Short Bio

Andrew Copus is a part-time senior researcher at the Karelian Institute of the University of Eastern Finland. A Human Geographer by training, he graduated from the University of Wales in Aberystwyth. He has spent most of his career based in Scotland, initially with the University of Aberdeen, and subsequently with the Scottish Agricultural College, the University of the Highlands and Islands, and the James Hutton Institute. For ten years he was seconded, part-time, to Nordregio in Stockholm. His research interests are in rural development and rural policy, in recent years focusing on demographic aspects. He is a member of the Scottish Government's Expert Advisory Group on Migration and Population. He has participated in, and coordinated, a number of EU funded research projects (Horizon, ESPON), and has worked as a consultant for the European Commission and the European Parliament.

ABSTRACTS

CLIMATE CHANGE IN RURAL AREA FORESTS OF THE SOUTHERN ANDES

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The high biodiversity along with a great variety of ecosystems make the Andes Mountain one of most environmentally diverse regions in the world, with the most extreme ranges of types of landscapes, climate and forest formations on Earth. This is an area suitable for studying the possible effects of climate change on the spatial distribution of forest formations. For this, it is essential to understand the effects of climate change in the area, where climate observations indicate different climate scenarios in the future, for the current time period and for the period 2040–2069, with variations in temperatures and precipitation. The distribution of forests through predictive modelling was analysed using MaxEnt's maximum entropy method. The results indicate that most of the forest formations in the Andean forests analysed are expected to face significant problems in the near future, as a result of the loss of climate suitability in the current distribution area and the geographic change of potentially suitable areas in the future as reflected in the results.

TRANSFORMATION IN RURAL AREAS AND ITS IMPACT ON RURAL LANDSCAPE PLANNING: THE CASE OF AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVE SETTLEMENTS IN ISRAEL

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Progressing development trends threaten the continued existence of open space, natural resources, rural landscapes and cultural heritage sites within rural areas. These trends are evident in many countries worldwide; yet they are especially conspicuous and threatening in Israel, a small and densely populated country with limited land resources. Moreover, the present urban-biased development trends pose a threat to the continued existence of Israeli rural cooperative settlements (Kibbutz and Moshav), as universally unique settlement models and therefore very highly valued cultural heritage assets and cultural landscapes. The purpose of this paper is to offer the “missing link” in creating an integrated planning approach to the conservation of rural landscapes, settlements and agricultural lands, together with open landscapes and the increasing demands for urban development. Such a framework will utilise the prevailing act of planning authorities that, at present, rarely develop (or at least stabilise) the rural cultural landscape – its agricultural settlements and cultivated fields, as most are adjacent to natural reserves and open areas. To present this approach and to prove the missing planning framework for integrated plans regarding rural cultural landscape, this research included four stages: 1. A review of the theoretical background of the rural cultural landscape, its definitions, perceptions and management; 2. A review of Israel’s national statutory outline plans to identify and document the manner in which they treat and relate to open space resources and the rural cultural landscape; 3. To choose a case study followed by field survey to document the tangible cultural heritage of each settlement (Kibbutz and Moshav). This stage included classification of the different landscapes and heritage assets, and 4. Compiling and mapping the information of the first two stages, using a GIS system. The understandings and insights gained by this methodology served to draw the target product of the research, which was used to present a guiding framework for integrated conservation of heritage landscape fabrics. Recognition of agricultural areas, settlements and cultivated lands, as part of the open space and natural reserves, creates a continuous unique landscape. This continuum covers more than 80% of Israel’s landscape and therefore should be recognized not only as Rural Open Space, but also as Rural Cultural Landscapes. Within this continuum are several heritage complexes of the cooperative settlements, Kibbutz and Moshav, including the built texture and agricultural lands. These unique complexes could be referred to as heritage villages or focal points of rural heritage, while also distinguishing between the Moshav tangible heritage and the Kibbutz tangible heritage. Such recognition would lead to comprehensive planning relating to a continuous preservation space and would minimise destructive development within.

SO IS THE TRADITION 'KSHTU ĚSHTĚ VENDI': SOCIAL EMBEDDEDNESS OF MIGRATION AND REMITTANCE BEHAVIOUR IN RURAL KOSOVO

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Rural outmigration often results in remittance inflows (monetary and social). An expanding scholarly work on recipient-households' use of remittances asked how recipient households spend remittances for consumption, production and investment. Predominantly quantitative in nature, most micro-level remittance studies neglect the important question of why remittance transfers takes place, and what shapes remittance behaviour in the first place (Taylor, 1999). This paper contributes to filling this gap by linking patterns of sending and using remittance to existing social norms within a rural community. Opoja in southwestern Kosovo was chosen for the ethnographic field work. It provides rich insights not only due to its long history of rural outmigration and its strong dependency on remittance inflows, but also because, compared to other Kosovan regions, traditional norms have been maintained and still guide the everyday life in the villages. Following the conceptual framework of remittance scripts developed by Carling (2014), we analyse remittance transfers as composite and varied social transactions (not merely economic) that are better understood within a specific local context. Scripts describe a routine remittance behaviour shaped by expectations embedded in existing social norms and traditions. This paper analyses a rich qualitative 2016 database via thematic text analysis. The data consists of 28 qualitative life-story and semi-structured interviews and participant observations. The qualitative analysis explores the dynamics of rural outmigration and remittances on personal and community life and interlinkages with village traditions and social norms. The qualitative material and related outputs were analysed and prepared with the software MAXQDA version 12. Our analysis reveals that in the context of Kosovan rural communities, migrants send remittances as part of the 'reciprocal social obligation' aimed at maintaining social ties with their sending communities. Thus, the norm of reciprocity is a key concept in understanding remittance behaviour. The norm of redistribution entails that within the traditional households, remittances are placed under the management of those at the top of the patriarchal household hierarchy. Redistribution coupled with norms of obedience and deference to authority leave women and young people outside remittance-use decisions. Evidence of limited social remittances taking place between migrants and rural communities is linked to the norms of conformity and respect for traditions typically used by migrants to express allegiance to their rural community. In line with Levitt's (2010) description of an 'ossification effect', our analysis shows that migrants' preferences for traditional values reinforce conservatism and patriarchy rather than modernization and change. Last but not least, we find that people who favour change are those with very little or no migration background. In comparison to migrants, lack of a guaranteed source of additional income such as remittances, motivates these individuals to confront rather than conform to norms and traditions.

RURAL OUT-MIGRATION AND PLACE ELASTICITY: A CROSS-NATIONAL COMPARISON

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Rapid global urbanization continues to propel many rural residents towards growing cities, leaving behind their rural communities and livelihoods. Although motivated by many reasons, not least economic and educational opportunities available beyond their rural homes. Classic migration theory, specifically relevant to migration decision-making processes, underscores the importance of opportunities and losses, costs and benefits to potential migrants. Most studies focus on the measurable, quantifiable costs and benefits and migrant characteristics, such as demographic and economic characteristics. Place attachment and place identities are less quantifiable aspects of individual identities, formed by an individual or community based on experience in a particular place. The migration and (im)mobilities literatures, however, questions the linearity of this association, with increasing evidence that place attachments are experienced and expressed in myriad ways by individuals, families and communities. This presentation utilizes the concept of place elasticity to compare the place attachments of rural out-migrants in a Global North and a Global Middle country, the USA and Mongolia, specifically seeking to integrate our understandings of rural place attachments and imaginations in places at different levels of development. Data come from two case studies of place and mobility. The first case study centers on rural Appalachian (USA) respondents in eastern Kentucky, focusing on individuals who have migrated away from the region but remain closely associated with this place. Interviews took place at family reunions and in individual homes within the region. The second case study is situated in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia with ethnic minority migrant interviewees from rural places. Across the two studies, ethnographies, semi-structured interviews, participant observation, and questionnaires were employed to elicit understandings of place and mobility for out-migrants who maintain strong place identities. Our findings suggest that there are important elements of place attachments, when viewed through the lens of place elasticity that transcend Global North-Global Middle distinctions. Both sets of data, and both communities broadly, exhibit compelling elements of place elasticity as framed by portability, strong place bonds, and permanence. The intersection of place attachments and (im)mobilities literatures is growing. For rural places, place elasticities and place attachments can become an important element of conservation, preservation, and transformation of rural places. Connections to communities and places to which one feels deeply connected, has the potential to foster greater investment in social and economic infrastructure and more sensitive and appropriate rural policy development.

TRANSITIONING THROUGH AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY

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Global risks are challenging the sustainability of agricultural systems. Whole-of-landscape responses are required, but local definitions of biodiversity and conceptions of conservation often alienate farming communities, and land use policy goals are often juxtaposed, generating tensions within rural landscapes. Work with the farming community in the McLaren Vale, South Australia suggests that insufficient attention has been paid to the way that farmers perceive of and value biodiversity. Agricultural biodiversity offers a path for farming communities to transition to a reflexive modernity. Modern systems, including agriculture, have never truly incorporated the constraints of nature and as a result, risk is destabilising society (Bardsley and Knierim 2020). As a remedy to a First modernity that generates intractable risks as a necessary companion to development, Beck et al. (1994) framed the concept of an alternative reflexive modernity, where multiple, simultaneous cosmopolitan paths generate sophisticated, sustainable development forms. Walk-and-talk in-depth interviews were undertaken with leading farmers in the South Australian viticultural region of the McLaren Vale, an intensively managed rural landscape of vineyards, wineries, olive groves, almond orchards, quarries, townships, farmhouses and beaches. Seven important interrelated narratives frame the way that farmers conceive of and exploit biodiversity: Biodiversity for natural habitat; Biodiversity for resource management; Biodiversity for agricultural pest and weed suppression; Biodiversity to define the regional aesthetic; Holistic values of biodiversity; Biodiversity for production resilience; Biodiversity to improve marketing opportunities. Farmers' conceptions of biodiversity challenge traditional policy divisions between 'natural' and anthropogenic biodiversity, and represent a sophisticated understanding of agricultural and regional ecology. The dominant policy frameworks are not effectively defining, quantifying or supporting that biodiversity which is constantly being regenerated through farming practices. Better management of biodiversity on-farm in association with remnant vegetation on public lands has much to offer whole-of-landscape conservation outcomes to manage risk, but as farmer responses reflect, agricultural biodiversity can also improve productivity and property management (Bardsley et al., 2019). A new perspective on conservation which brings the landowners' values and goals within the envelope of analysis would motivate and support farmers to become a greater part of the ecological solution. As farmer definitions of biodiversity are included in policy, new connections between private landowners and biodiversity conservation are generated that have the potential to transition systems so that goals of sustainable development are normalised across rural landscapes.

DEALING WITH ADVERSITY: APICULTURE IN THE PRODUCTIVIST LANDSCAPE OF MATO GROSSO DO SUL STATE, BRAZIL

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This paper analyses the territoriality of beekeeping in Mato Grosso do Sul state, a world-class producer of farm commodities. Beekeeping depends on the presence of special ecological conditions involving botanical diversity and the absence of toxic aerial-born agrochemicals. These conditions are the exact opposite to those encountered in Brazilian productivist agriculture, where monoculture and heavy use of chemical crop protection predominate. The first issue addressed is to understand how apiculture can exist in such a hostile agrarian environment for bees. What are the capacities and knowledge of “nature”/ecological conditions that are mobilized by beekeepers to adapt their systems to local agrarian conditions? A second issue is to identify how beekeepers interact amongst themselves and with other actors in the apiculture system, from production to processing, and marketing to regulation. The interpretative framework is based on a nexus approach to beekeeping in terms of ecological, cultural and economic connectivity. Consequently, methods involve analysing how the intersection of these three dimensions gives rise to a specific nexus of beekeeping in the state of Mato Grosso do Sul. Research began with interviews of representatives of public institutions participating in the production system, such as regulators and inspectors of IAGRO, extension agents of AGRAER and members of the state apiculture council CSEAP. The health crisis provoked by Covid-19 in Brazil reduced the number of interviews that could be undertaken with beekeepers. Secondary data are used to situate apiculture in its regional context. Beekeeping in a region dominated by productivist agriculture demands methods for protecting the bees from the overspray of pesticides from surrounding farm activities. Beekeepers usually do not own their own land and contract places for their hives on the land of other farmers. The activity demands considerable knowledge of the lay of the land and of the diversity of plants and of their seasonal flowering throughout the state. The main product is honey, with 973,616 kilos produced in Mato Grosso do Sul in 2019 according to the Federal Statistical Bureau (IBGE). Production has expanded over time, professionalism has increased among beekeepers and their associations and norms and regulations have been established that are adapted to the ecological, economic and social conditions of the state.

THE RURAL DISTRICTS IN MILAN. AN OPPORTUNITY FOR FOOD GOVERNANCE AT THE METROPOLITAN SCALE

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In the city of Milan, a change has been taking place in urban food policies in the post-Expo 2015 period: from a stage characterized by spontaneity, the strategy has evolved to more structured action through the development of a formal Urban Food Policy (UFP) approved by the city. This paper presents the first results of research on the impact of the UFP, conducted in collaboration with public actors and local associations. The multifunctionality of peri-urban agriculture plays a central part in the contemporary debate on the UFP (Zasada, 2011), as it plays a role in linking food production with ecosystems, local communities and landscape services (Rega, 2019). In the last two decades, the debate on UFP (Pothukuchi and Kaufman, 1999), urban food planning (Morgan, 2009) and urban food policies (Moragues-Faus and Morgan, 2015) has emerged as a new theoretical framework for thinking about and planning peri-urban agriculture and urban-rural linkages. The research is part of Urbal (Urban-Driven Innovations for Sustainable Food Systems), an international project that uses participatory research in eight cities around the world to develop and test a holistic methodology to map impacts ranging from urban innovations to all dimensions of the sustainability of food systems (<https://www.urbalfood.org/the-project/>). In this framework, our research will focus specifically on the issue of rural districts, innovative actors aimed at supporting local-based agriculture and integrating rural and urban spaces. The paper investigates the effective role of rural districts in the governance of food production and distribution in Milan. In line with the ideas expounded by the theory of change, the project aims to understand if and to what extent the impacts that the actions of the rural districts in the framework of the UFP are having on a local scale and whether they are promoting socio-environmental change. The research is conducted through qualitative interviews and focus groups with the actors involved in the processes and has an ultimate aim in understanding if the instrument of the rural districts is a model that can be replicated in the other cities participating in the Urbal project.

MODERNIZATION AND (POST-)TRANSITION PROCESSES IN CROATIAN RURAL AREAS THROUGH A CASE STUDY OF THE RURAL LIKA AREA: AN EMERGING SCIENTIFIC PROJECT

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The aim of the project is to establish ideal-type interdisciplinary criteria for evaluating modernisation and (post-)transition processes in Croatian rural areas based on a case study of the rural Lika area. The proposed subject will be studied by employing contemporary modernization theories and development theories, using an innovative approach to methodology based on mixed methods. The topic that will be researched is the effect of (delayed) modernization and (post-)transition processes on Croatian rural areas. These processes will be studied by analysing historical sources, demographic data, economic indicators and through qualitative research: by conducting semi-structured interviews (microethnography) at the national level. The project is based on the assumption that known and scientifically evaluated negative modernization and (post-)transition processes of a specific rural area can serve as a laboratory for studying other rural areas, both the areas in which the mentioned process have significantly developed, and those areas whose basic indicators are positive. Therefore, the results of the project will be relevant with regard to development policies and they are expected to contribute to the socio-economic development of Croatian rural areas.

LABOUR IMMIGRATION TO RURAL AREAS: POLISH AND LITHUANIAN MIGRANTS IN RURAL IRELAND

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For several decades, immigrant workers have been recruited to meet labour shortages in rural areas of Western Europe and the United States, among other areas of the world (e.g., Barcus and Simmons, 2013; Fonseca, 2008). The purpose of this paper is to contribute to this research with reference to two groups for whom information is available at a relatively small geographical scale from the Irish census of population, Poles and Lithuanians. The research relates to the census periods 2002–2006 and 2006–2011 that cover years of rapid economic growth, followed by recession. From 1 May 2004, Polish and Lithuanian nationals and those of eight other accession states, had immediate access to the Irish labour market because of the high demand for labour. At an aggregate level, they were concentrated in particular forms of manual work in agriculture, food processing and service activities. At a theoretical level, the paper seeks to add information relating to the distribution of migrant labour under conditions of free movement, as distinct from recruitment on work permits to which greater restrictions on movement may apply. The methodology involved application of a number of indices (index of Dissimilarity, Hoover index, Simpson index), mapping using GIS and cluster analysis, broadly following Barcus and Simmons (2013). The findings reveal greater geographical concentration among Lithuanians than Poles and closer associations with intensive horticulture. Limited change took place in geographical distributions between rural areas over time. The findings point to continuity in the association of particular EU migrant labour groups in rural Ireland with particular sectors and locations. The Irish evidence adds new information relating to the sectoral and geographical distributions of freely-moving immigrant workers in the EU. Differences between nationality groups are identified. Further investigation involving qualitative methods is merited in order to gain greater understanding of the underlying reasons for the patterns that emerged.

URBAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO RURAL-BORN RESISTANCES: OBSERVATIONS AROUND PLANTATION FORESTRY IN NW SPAIN

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Policy-makers have progressively recognized that incentives and sanctions are not enough in controlling invasive alien species (IAS). Towards its complementation, researchers are proposing the heterogenization of policies, in particular, the involvement of new participants in IAS management. In a global context of urban migration, rural spaces aiming to constitute rural-born resistances to IAS may consider the strategic involvement of external participants to achieve their goals. For instance, it remains unclear how and to what extent urban actors could positively interact in these actions. This study analyses a regional but rural-born project against the expansion of blue gums (*Eucalyptus globulus*) in Galicia, NW Spain. The project, called *Brigadas Deseucaliptizadoras* (De-eucalyptization Brigades) is particularly relevant as it was designed and promoted in Froxán, one of the few recognized Indigenous Community of Conserved Areas (ICCA) in Europe. Following the principles of political ecology, the study will set the basis of the four types of collective action proposed by Graham et al. (2019). It will then formulate a mix of quantitative (questionnaires) and qualitative (interviews and participant observation) methods with the purpose of understanding the role and motivations of urban participants in the project. Our results show that the integration of external actors facilitates the replication and normalization of the project in small and peripheral rural communities at the regional scale. We conclude that this case responds to the organizational coalition system formulated by Graham et al. (2019), which can be an effective tool to collectively manage IAS.

CHANGING ROLES OF RURAL WOMEN: CREATIVE FEMALE ENTREPRENEURS IN RURAL HUNGARY

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The paper presents the main findings of the research on Creative female entrepreneurs in rural Hungary (supported by János Bolyai Research Fellowship of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences). The research analysed a new group of Hungarian rural society: creative female entrepreneurs such as female artisans, food producers and service providers. Over the last few decades, the Hungarian countryside has gone through many changes. Rurality and especially the rural idyll have become the object of consumption (Csurgó, 2016; Csurgó et al., 2019). Parallel with this process, it has seen a relative flourishing of small women's businesses engaged in the production of rural heritage-based products and services. Empirical studies all over from Europe show that rural heritage-based activities seem to be the most attractive field for rural women (Bessière, 1998; Anthopoulou, 2010). Most of the existing research focuses on gender relationships and the image of women in rural representation (Little and Austin, 1996; Brandth and Haugen, 2010). There is much less emphasis on how women represent or define 'rurality' through their activities. The paper seeks to understand how creative activities of women influence the role of women in the family and in the local society. The analysis also focuses on how rural heritage-based businesses are run by women to represent rurality to others. This paper is based on the analysis of 40 semi-structured interviews with female entrepreneurs from four rural micro-regions of Hungary. The data was collected between 2016 and 2019. The interview analysis shows that women are over-represented in rural heritage-based activities and initiatives. Women play a central role in heritage-based development, many tourism associations, guesthouses, local produce shops, local markets and local network groups. In almost all settlements in the studied regions, female entrepreneurs can be found producing traditional local products such as goat cheese, dairy products, jams, syrups, oils, local cakes, embroidery, ceramics, jewellery, bags, etc. They sell their products on site, in local markets or at regional festivals and often also in their online shops. These kinds of activities are becoming more and more popular among rural women. The data shows that the women chose self-employment due to the flexibility to create a balance between family and work obligations. They combine the role of a modern business woman with that of a traditional housewife and mother.

NEED AND READINESS FOR TRANSITION TO DIGITAL EDUCATION IN THE EGYPTIAN COUNTRYSIDE

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The introduction of technology and e-learning systems in schools is a nationwide initiative led by the Egyptian Ministry of Education (MOE). The digital transformation aims to provide students with the necessary tools to close the knowledge gap between students in different parts of Egypt. The World Bank Group's multi-donor program (infoDev) published a report on ICT in Egyptian Education in 2007, describing the factors influencing ICT adoption and citing the urban-rural divide as one of the limiting features: 'fewer numbers of schools and even fewer universities and higher institutions are available in rural communities, and there is a lack of infrastructure and facilities in rural areas'. The advantages of digital technologies in education are: the ability for fostering dialogic and emancipatory practices among participants; the ability to improve learning by complementing and connecting learning activities; intriguing learners by providing a potentially more engaging alternative; and facilitating immediate feedback for both learners and teachers. The study adopts an analytical, multidimensional approach and focuses on two main aspects: the need for transition and the readiness to achieve it. Egypt's rural population was quantified as 58% of Egypt's total population in the 2017 population census. According to 2015 data, 77% of Egypt's rural population between the ages of 15 and 59 did not use computers, the internet, or social media. As a step for the transition to digital education in Egypt, the National Strategic Plan for Education 2014/2030 envisages the quality of education and the expansion of ICT applications in planning, monitoring, evaluation, and decision-making. For example, through tablets and the internet, teachers can now access the Egyptian Knowledge Bank (EKB), the largest national education platform. Also, the Egypt Education Initiative (EEI) was launched in 2014 to improve the Egyptian education system through innovative methods using ICT applications. As an indicator of the transition from traditional to digital education, the Egyptian MOE introduced digitally-enhanced teaching and testing in six governorates in 2014. Unfortunately, the experiment revealed that many students were not receptive to the new methodology; in addition, devices often broke down and internet connections were unreliable. Another indicator for poor readiness was the 44% failure rate on exams administered using computers or tablets at elite secondary schools in Egypt in May 2018. In conclusion, the transition to digital education in Egyptian countryside will take several years and a huge concerted and sincere effort.

DECOLONISING FARMER KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS IN THE METROPOLITAN COUNTRYSIDE OF RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL

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Scholars have highlighted that the current agricultural knowledge and innovation system in Brazil, particularly national level agricultural institutions, are deeply attached to technologically-driven agricultural industrialisation (Gutberlet, 1999; Ricardio, 2011; Delgado, 2012). Borne (2010) argued that transdisciplinary research on alternative modernisation trajectories and pathways that enhance resilience receives insufficient funding. Pretty (1995) noted that this is particularly the case in countries with resource-intensive agriculture and regions where production is concentrated and specialised. In this context, researchers have revealed that transitions towards more sustainable agriculture require a new knowledge base, with new content, new forms of knowledge and new learning processes (Fonte, 2008; Lyon et al., 2011; Šūmane et al., 2018). Darnhofer et al. (2016) advocate a relational perspective that highlights the importance of open-ended learning and taking advantage of unexpected outcomes. This study discusses the resilience process through farming knowledge in the metropolitan countryside of Rio de Janeiro, where social actors are combining different types of knowledge and creating an environment of learning exchange and experience sharing. It demonstrates how knowledge and scientific information, combined with local farming practices, can build hybrid knowledge and empower farmers to share experiences and build community resilience. The research presents farmers' narratives that show how they combine different types of information and knowledge and share in networks beyond the local level, articulating and bringing together rural-urban interactions between the Rio de Janeiro metropolis and its countryside. The rural-urban interaction environment allows for a dynamic process of learning and information exchange. The research argues that the changing nature of agriculture and its links to other rural and urban sectors requires the development of mixed knowledge and learning networks that include both agricultural and non-agricultural stakeholders. In some cases, the study found that such mixed knowledge networks are operating, but in other cases, there are structural barriers to initiating and making them operational. These obstacles also point to the changes needed in agricultural research policy and rural extension services to respond better to farmers' learning and innovation needs (Chambers et al., 1989; Cash, 2001; Bicalho and Peixoto, 2016; Meek, 2019). The dynamic context and local specificity of the challenges facing agriculture require more inclusive, decolonial and participatory modes of governing the generation, integration and sharing of knowledge.

RURAL AGEING IN CROATIA – THE EXAMPLE OF ZADAR COUNTY

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Globally, people are living longer than ever before, and the population aged 65 and over is increasing faster than younger age cohorts. This is the result of decreased fertility and increased longevity. Croatia has also been faced with demographic ageing, and the population aged 65 and older currently outnumbers the population aged 0-15 years. The situation regarding demographic ageing is particularly severe in rural areas and rural ageing has multiple implications for rural communities and stakeholders. Rural areas have been at a disadvantage in terms of opportunities for economic development, often due to underdeveloped infrastructure and their distance from the main transport routes, making them less attractive for business investments. In the period of intensive industrial development of urban areas in Croatia after the Second World War, rural areas witnessed intensive labour migration toward the cities, which ultimately resulted in depopulation and ageing of rural areas. The literature indicates that the rural population is at higher risk of old-age poverty, solitude, and limited access to health care services. The aim of this paper is to analyse the demographic ageing of rural areas in Zadar County to determine the level of rural ageing, to indicate whether there are notable differences between rural areas on the islands and on the mainland, and to investigate any gender differences. We use methods of inferential statistics to test such differences. By using GIS tools, we will visualize the ageing indicators in the rural settlements of Zadar County and classify them according to the level of ageing, and to outline the existing and future implications of demographic ageing in the study area.

STAYING CONNECTED: RURAL STAYERS AND “REVERSE” PLACE ELASTICITY

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The recent past has seen unprecedented growth in information and communication technologies (ICTs) and transportation, which has done much to spatially transform migration, daily mobility, familial and social networks, and travel patterns. We can commute over considerable distances or work remotely from home and are able to physically and virtually visit co-workers, family and friends anywhere in the world. From a migration perspective, ICTs, especially online social media, have stretched place boundaries facilitating migration and enabling migrants to maintain place connections at greater distances. This has been termed ‘place elasticity’ by Barcus and Brunn (2010: 291) “...in essence living a virtual life in the [home or origin] community without being present” which lessens the loss of leaving. While place elasticity has been explored, this is almost always done from the migrants’ perspective, in international migration patterns. In this paper, we focus on the stayers’ perspective in an internal setting. Using a primary dataset consisting of approximately 3000 rural stayers in rural areas of the Netherlands, Germany and Northern Ireland as part of the funded STAYin(g)Rural research project, we ask: i) in what ways do stayers maintain contacts with friends and relatives who have moved?, and ii) to what extent does possessing friends and relatives elsewhere make it easier to stay in the home area? Specifically, our interest is in how remaining connected to others living outside of the home area enables staying within the home area. We term this “reverse” place elasticity: by maintaining near-constant virtual (ICTs) and occasional physical (personal visits) connections to friends and relatives elsewhere, the world comes to the stayer enabling them to remain in place. In other words, these connections lessen any personal sense of “being left behind”. This focus is increasingly relevant given current residential immobility trends and serves to inform the “new mobilities” paradigm (Sheller and Urry, 2006) literature, which alleges that in an increasingly mobile and connected world, particular aspects of mobility permit staying.

WHAT IS AN INDIGENOUS POPULATION? SOME RELATIONAL DOUBTS ABOUT ETHNIC TERRITORIES IN THE BRAZILIAN AMAZON

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This paper explores the future of the contradictory relationship between identity politics and environmental conservation in the Brazilian Amazon in a time of ultra-right federal government, which is pointedly nationalist, culturally conservative, racist and anti-environmentalist. First, ethnographic and philosophical objections to essentialized ethnic identity made by Frake (2013) and Latour (2013) are presented, with contemporary theories of hybrid relational identity and new census trends that permit identifying a diversity of social origins. Different rural social actors are identified in the Amazon according to their ethnic type and region of origin, agricultural systems, market articulation, settlement patterns, political identification and environmental ethics and worldview. Three groups are shown to be quite different from one another: isolated Amerindians, settlers from the Northeast and settlers from the South, while great ambiguity is shown to exist between indigenes and riverine peasants who have historically lived juxtaposed in areas of the Amazon that have been articulated to the capitalist world system for centuries. The Amazonian Amerindian and indigene movement COIAB is shown to have been a highly successful ethnic political movement, though its success was detrimental to a similar movement undertaken by the historic riverine peasantry that based its strategy of remaining in place on sustainable conservation territories. As riverine peasants also have pronounced Amerindian ancestry, the crux of the conflict between them and the other two subaltern actors turns on simplistic ethnic policy that sets aside lands (territories) for Amerindians in which non-indigenes cannot remain. This might have made sense in the past (and unfortunately once again today) in order to protect Amerindian groups living in remote areas from violent gold prospectors. However, along the main rivers of the Amazon, an ethnically complex population has existed for centuries, and it is hard to draw a fast line between riverine indigenes and peasants. Great injustice has occurred in a case from the Upper Amazon, while open conflict was replaced by uneasy co-existence in a second case from the Lower Tapajós. Against these cases, an alliance between indigenes and riverine peasants has occurred in the Middle Tapajós in reaction to changing national politics toward development, conservation and ethnic identity since the mid-2010s. This latter case of alliance shows hope that the historic population of the Amazon can overcome their differences and unite in order to struggle against the common enemy presently in control of the federal government.

PREDICTING THE INTENTION TO STAY AMONG YOUNG ADULTS IN RURAL NORTH-WEST EUROPE: THE ROLE OF STRUCTURAL FACTORS AND PLACE ATTACHMENT

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There is increasing interest in the reasons why young adults stay in rural areas. In particular, several quantitative studies have aimed to understand the factors that play a role in the decision to stay rural. Traditionally, migration research stresses the role of structural factors in areas, such as sufficient employment possibilities. Recently, migration research has also integrated non-economic factors such as emotional and psychological ties to place. Nevertheless, the staying rural literature highlights the need for greater attention to be given to both cultural factors, such as place attachment, and structural factors, such as employment and services. In addition, the development of staying theories is further undermined in two ways. First, there is a scarcity of studies that combine different regions. Second, there is a domination of studies that include a specific study population, such as early young adults or high-educated return migrants. Despite the importance of evaluating how factors work in specific circumstances, these two shortcomings demand that studies should go beyond a specific region and a specific sub-group. This paper analyses which factors play a role in the intention to stay by young adults in rural areas based on a small and combined quantitative dataset from three regions in Northern Ireland, Germany and the Netherlands. While controlling for the life course stage and the region, the results indicate that the factors of place attachment and structural factors both play a role in the predication of the intention to stay. However, it seems that belonging is more important in a trade-off with structural factors. In particular, it appears that the positive impact of a strong place attachment is mostly covered by the feeling that young adults belong to the local community, regardless of their actual social network.

SUSTAINING STRATEGIES OF URBAN AGRICULTURE BASED ON INTERACTION WITH URBAN RESIDENTS IN THE TOKYO METROPOLIS

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With rapid globalisation and urbanisation, urban agriculture is experiencing many changes, such as the preferences of consumers, who require greater food security. In many cities across the world, urban agriculture is also positioned for food production and community building. In Japan, interest in urban agriculture has increased steadily and has been supported by the enactment of a law in 2015 that is concerned with urban agriculture. In many academic fields including the geographical field, research on agriculture has been controversial since 2000s. Although examining the interactions of urban residents as consumers and the intentions for consuming urban agricultural space is imperative to examine the sustainability of urban agriculture, few studies have been conducted on the relationship between agricultural management or farmers and urban residents. The purpose of this study was to explore the interactions between farms and urban residents in the diversification of agricultural management based on a case study of Kodaira city in the Tokyo Metropolis. Since the area is an urban agricultural area where many independent farmers survive, it is suitable to explore the diversification of farming and communication with urban residents. Public survey data were analysed to illustrate the spatial distribution of agricultural management patterns and to classify them accordingly. Furthermore, farmers' decision-making in relation to adopting specific methods of agricultural management and interaction with urban residents from field research and interviews was revealed. The results revealed a definite pattern of interactions between farmers and urban residents based on agricultural management and the features of the area in Kodaira city. Such interaction styles prevent excessive competition among farms, attract regular customers and achieve sustainable management. Finally, urban agriculture in Kodaira city is founded on interactions with urban residents through the diversification of agricultural management.

A BORDER REGION IN CRISIS: SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION OF THE SLOVENIAN-CROATIAN PERI-PANNONIAN CONTACT ZONE

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The international border between Slovenia and Croatia has existed for almost three decades. Much has changed since the independence of both countries. In the turbulence of the late 1980s, the mutual boundary has passed through all phases from *de jure* interrepublic and interstate boundary (1991) to the boundary between the EU and non-EU member state (2004), the EURO and non-EURO zone country (2007), to the probably most closed boundary with Slovenia's accession to the Schengen Treaty area (2007) and the imposition of the security fence (since 2015). The article deals with the effects such a drastically changing function has on the area and people along both sides of the boundary. The research builds on the political geographic centre-periphery framework based on the work of Pounds, Rokkan, Lipset, Merkl, and Flora, and on border studies in contact zones in the works of Bufon, Minghi, Paasi, Tunjić et al., and employs both of them to the periphery within the periphery (after Merkl). The new research builds on and upgrades from the former since 2007. One of the main findings of the 2007 research deemed that the Slovenian Peri-Pannonian basin is the area most struck by the pronounced centralization processes of the novel Slovenian state. Furthermore, the peripheral regions were functionally and economically deteriorating and were largely disabled in achieving their developmental goals. One of the most important reasons for the emerging situation was the then absent administrative regionalization of Slovenia. In contrast to Croatia, which introduced the administrative level of counties in the early 1990s, Slovenia still lacks a suitable regional administrative response. In the meantime, as centralization continues, the emigration of the young and capable surges, the local municipalities face increasing depopulation, thus losing the societal tissue of already vulnerable communities. The paper aims to scrutinise the changes since 2007 in a comparative and cross-border perspective, and to evaluate the post-2008 crisis effects. Owing to the demographic and selected social and economic indicators, the research addresses data from both sides of the boundary in its Peri-Pannonian section from the Kolpa Valley to the Mura region at the municipality level. The author argues that the imposition of the Schengen treaty border regime has played a pivotal role in the further depopulation and peripherisation of both sides of the boundary, which could be improved by Croatia's accession to the Schengen area, the establishment of regions on the Slovenian part, and through more intensified cross-border cooperation.

FACTORS AFFECTING SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AMONG THE CHILDREN OF AGRICULTURAL MIGRANT WORKERS IN TURKEY

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The duration of compulsory education in Turkey is 12 years in total. Primary, middle and high school students are assigned to schools based on where they live. However, every year over a million agricultural seasonal workers move with their family for economic activities. Since they have a mobile life in which the whole family moves for seasonal work throughout Turkey and live in temporary residences for several months, so in the case of families with school-age children, there are many problems for their childrens' education. Despite policies such as the prohibition of child labour and financial support from the Turkish government to resolve these problems, the low educational attendance rate of school-aged children of seasonal migrant workers is still considered a serious social problem. Recently, many studies have been conducted on the education of children of seasonal workers, but studies have been conducted focusing primarily on the physical and other external environments that affect the education of school-age children. In order to resolve the educational problems of the children of seasonal workers, it is important to improve the external environment of the children, but at the same time, the willingness of these children to learn and their motivation to achieve should be diagnosed and evaluated. Therefore, this study examined student perspectives on the importance of education, student motivation to attend school and external factors preventing school attendance. This study collected data by in-depth interviews and questionnaires of seasonal workers and their children in 2019. The field survey commenced in June 2019 in Niğde Province. The study indicated that the low rate of school attendance among children of seasonal workers was due to the poor external environmental factors, low motivation to learn, and limited desire for academic achievement.

PRACTISING RURAL (IM)MOBILITIES: INSIGHTS FROM ECUADOR AND GERMANY

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For many years, population development in rural areas in the Global South and North has been framed with “ageing” and/or “decrease” due to out-migration of the young. More recently, however, the arrival of forced migrants, who are mandatorily accommodated in the countryside based on dispersal policies (e.g., in some European countries), and an increasing acknowledgement of circular rural urban movements (e.g., Latin America), have challenged the assumption of unidirectional flows and pointed towards the notion of rural (im)mobilities. Inspired by the “mobility turn” (Hannam et al., 2006) and the “new mobilities paradigm” (Sheller and Urry, 2006), social scientists have called for a more consequential consideration of mobility and mobilisations. However, since migration and mobility are “in tandem with new forms of exclusion, dislocation, immobility, segregation and stratification” (Tazzioli, 2018), other scholars instead have highlighted the dialectics and the relational, co-constitutive character of mobility and immobility, of being on the move and staying put (Adey, 2006; Franquesa, 2011). Accordingly, mobility and immobility as well as the underlying processes of (im)mobilisation should not be analysed separately, but as inherently interdependent. Drawing on the understanding of uneven geographies of (im)mobility (Brown and Gilmartin, 2019), the paper aims to provide empirical evidence about such processes taking into account both residential and everyday (im)mobility, and the underlying motivations of different protagonists (native-born and forced migrants) in different socio-spatial contexts, i.e., rural Ecuador and rural Germany. Methodologically, we conducted two long-term case studies by means of participatory and visual multi-method approaches. We reconstructed mobilities and staying put from a biographical perspective and tried to access subjective life-worlds to depict intersectionalities. The results show complex (im)mobility trajectories, (im)mobility interactions and arrangements for both cases, whereby one’s residential and everyday mobility could depend on another’s immobility or on structural obstacles. Onward and return residential mobility processes are diverse, while everyday mobility facilitated translocal living arrangements, resulting in temporary absence and presence in rural areas. The paper concludes by stating that decisions to move on or stay put are constantly negotiated in everyday life. We suggest an analytical framework that considers the relational character of the negotiation process with place(s), time(s) and social network(s) as crucial points of reference.

COMMODIFICATION OF RURAL SPACES OWING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF ORGANIC FARMING IN THE KOOTENAY REGION, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

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This paper examined the characteristics of the commodification of rural space in the Kootenay Region, mainly based on a field survey at case farms. There was a growing demand for fresh, high-quality, safe, and reliable produce from the region, which led to the development of organic farming. In other words, the commodification of rural space for adding value to agricultural products via organic farming and responding to local needs was a feature of the Kootenay Region. Important roles were played by the Kootenay Co-op, farmers' markets, and CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). This region had a small population and a small agricultural market. The high cost of transporting food products from other regions led to the expansion and development of safe and reliable food production for the local market. Other relevant factors for this local growth of agriculture included the cultural traditions represented by Doukhobors, Quakers, and the opponents of the Vietnam War; the recent influx of retired people with new values; and the recent increase in tourism. Common to them all was the cultural tradition of pacifism and environmental conservation, war resistance, community-building, and self-sufficiency, which became an important factor in the development of organic farming. The commodification of rural space in the Kootenay Region was characterized by the supply of agricultural products produced by organic farming, and a society that consisted of people with distinctive cultural traditions. The commodification of rural space in the form of residency in an isolated, peaceful, relatively warm, and scenic rural area may be another characteristic of this region. Many people who began organic farming were migrants from cities in other areas or regions. The number of retired immigrants has increased in recent years. There was also an increase in number of tourists. People are able to enjoy the attractions of both cities and villages, leading to a situation of urban-rural symbiosis. It can be understood that such an urban-rural symbiotic system was constructed through the developmental process of the Kootenay Region and its social and cultural characteristics.

CAN REGIONAL MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS REVITALIZE DYING VILLAGES IN JAPAN?

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Recently, the Japanese government initiated an administrative process that has resulted in the merging of municipalities across the country. Since then, the quality of services provided to inhabitants by the local government has declined, especially in depopulated areas. Prior to the merging, a small-sized rural municipality was apt to allow its residents to receive prompt public services, even though this was financially inefficient from an administrative perspective. Those benefits were a result of face-to-face relationships between municipal officers and residents, which allowed municipal officers to be easily acquainted with the residents' public service needs. Since the administrative agglomeration, however, residents have had to pay high costs to access public services, since the up-scaled local municipalities are responsible to an increased number of residents, with a lower available budget. These high costs for residents are exacerbated by the restricted involvement of municipal officers in community activities. Prior to the administrative agglomeration, municipal officers tended to act not only as members of the administrative system, but also as community members. However, after the administrative agglomeration, it became less likely that a municipal officer would be present in the community activities due to an increased amount of responsibility. As a result, it has been suggested that there may be a role for Regional Management Organizations (RMOs) in the revival of local governance. In many depopulated areas, the distance between local government and the local community has continued to grow, and this has led to the newly established local government transferring certain responsibilities, for example the maintenance of cultural heritage, to the local community. However, due to severe depopulation over the last 60 years, most local communities in Japan have lost their capabilities to self-organize, while local governments have replaced many of the local community roles in rural societies with increased subsidies from the central government. Furthermore, most depopulated local communities with rapidly ageing populations are no longer able to take charge of the transferred responsibilities from the newly established local government. In this paper, two cases of RMOs in Japan will be presented, which contrast sharply in terms of incorporation with traditional local communities. In order to clarify the reorganization process, the author examines a variety of community activities involved and the relations with local municipalities, arguing that rural Japan is on the process of transforming its original social structure.

HOW MIGRATION HAS SHAPED THE DEMOGRAPHIC PICTURE OF RURAL CROATIA

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Comparing demographic processes in the rural areas of Central European countries in recent decades as part of broader social ones, similar changes in lifestyle and social relations have been observed, determined by the dynamics of a particular social environment. Thus, in Croatia during the socialist period, the village and the rural way of life experienced a social and economic crisis due to the forcing of economy based on industrial production and the growth of cities, which continues even after the transition of the socio-political system. The deepening inequalities between rural and urban areas were mainly caused by inadequate reforms of agricultural production, lack of housing policy, and low investments in communal and social infrastructure. This has also reflected on demographic processes, and for many decades the rural areas of Croatia have been characterized by demographic decline, due to strong and continuous outmigration, resulting in natural decrease and ageing. Mountainous regions, small islands, and isolated inland areas have been exposed to strong depopulation for decades. Only those rural settlements surrounding large cities have experienced socioeconomic transformation, the expansion of residential zones and a population increase. The goal of various development strategies—balanced regional economic and demographic development with the aim of keeping the population in rural areas and improving the overall quality of life—have not yielded more significant positive results in the last 25 years. One of the major demographic and social issues faced by rural communities is the lack of young and educated residents with initiative and willingness to act. They are usually the first to leave the rural settlements. It could be expected that the population of small settlements in rural areas will die out in the coming years, regardless of attempts to implement more balanced regional development measures. Depopulation and ageing of the population will remain the main determinants of the future demographic development of rural areas and Croatia as a whole, indicating numerous potential problems for social and economic development. The local population, regardless of age and education, should be included in all projects so that they can actively participate in making decisions that will change their way of life.

THE IDEAL FORM OF EDUCATION AS A TOOL FOR RESISTANCE TO RURAL RESTRUCTURING

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The aim of this study is to present an ideal form of education as a tool for resistance to rural restructuring. School education is necessary for establishing the sustainability of rural systems. However, the consolidation of schools in many rural areas has had major negative impacts on the sustainability of local communities and the futurability of natural and cultural resource management. This study focuses mainly on education in remote rural areas of Japan, examining it from the viewpoints of education for sustainable development (ESD). History and the present situation of rural education in Japan are reviewed. Subsequently, ESD-related descriptions in the “Ninth Long-term Five-Year Research Promotion Plan” (FY 2019 - FY 2023) published in 2018 by the Japanese Federation for Education in Remote Rural Areas Research and some school visit surveys will be used to identify the challenges and potential of education in rural areas. Based on the results, relationship between education in rural areas and the five priority action areas of the “ESD for 2030” are examined. The results can be summarized in three points. First, there have been few studies combining education in remote rural areas and ESD, and there are few remote rural schools certified as UNESCO Associated Schools. Moreover, ESD has attracted little attention from the Japanese Federation for Education in Remote Rural Areas Research. Second, ESD based on local area learning needs to be systematic, organizing the qualities and abilities to be developed. Creating a curriculum is necessary. Organizing cooperation between schools and local communities, and construction of a system to stably implement local learning through cooperation are important. The development of learning under the keyword “Glocal” is effective. In addition, improving language expression by establishing opportunities to connect with others outside the area is necessary. Third, it is important to share the concept of building a society that makes the most of remote rural areas. Opportunities are needed to learn about the importance of regional diversity from the young people’s local activities, etc. in teacher training and classes, thereby positively transforming the view of other regions toward remote rural areas. Finally, an ideal form of education as a tool for resistance to rural restructuring is shown in a single figure.

RETURN MIGRANTS AS AGENTS OF CHANGE: A NEW FRAMEWORK ON SOCIAL REMITTANCE TRANSFER WITH EVIDENCE FROM KOSOVO

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An emerging literature has shown that migrants transfer not only money but also ideas, as for instance notions of liberal democracy or know-how to their countries of origin. It is widely accepted today that these so-called social remittances have the potential to induce wide-ranging positive changes in migrant-sending communities. Although much less researched compared to monetary remittances, social remittances might play an equally important role in transforming rural areas by planting much needed seeds of 'modernization' and development. This promise of a possible positive impact recently led to an increase in studies in the field of social remittances, which however, still exhibits significant research gaps both on a theoretical and an empirical level. Firstly, a comprehensive theory of social remittances is lacking, and the process of social remittance transfer is hardly understood so far. Secondly, empirical social remittance research to date has rarely attempted to compare rural and urban areas, although they certainly provide very different structural environments for social remittance transfer. Further theoretical development and empirical analysis are therefore urgently needed. This study aims at contributing to close these research gaps and investigates the question under which circumstances return migrants transfer social remittances and become agents of change in their countries of origin. Drawing on social remittance as well as entrepreneurship and acculturation literature, we first present a new theoretical framework on the individual and societal determinants of the acquisition and diffusion of social remittances. We then discuss strikingly different empirical results on how migrants influence urban and rural areas after their return. We draw on ethnographic results of two independent studies in Kosovo to compare social remittance transfer patterns in the urban centre of Pristina with those observed in the rural region of Opoja. We show that urban and rural areas attract return migrants with very different socio-economic profiles. Whereas our participants in Pristina were female, young and highly-skilled, returnees in Opoja were predominantly male pensioners with only basic education. Accordingly, we also find striking differences in the remitting behaviour itself. The majority of urban respondents actively transferred social remittances, including notions of gender-equality or open-mindedness. Their rural counterparts in Opoja, in contrast, were found to be even hampering social change, while only transferring social remittances that did not threaten the strictly hierarchical patriarchal society.

THE LATEST DRIVING FORCE OF RURAL GENTRIFICATION? HOW DIGITAL MARKETING IS INFLUENCING PROCESSES OF RURAL GENTRIFICATION IN THE UK

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Estate agents have received “surprisingly little attention in the literature” within contemporary studies of rural gentrification, despite their important role in attracting homebuyers to rural areas through their marketing strategies (Bridge, 2001: 88; Smith, 2002; Phillips, 2005). The digital marketing of real estate has become a central part of the industry; in this current age of digitalisation, estate agencies have ‘found a home online’, with their online presence becoming their most significant tool in engaging homebuyers and ultimately attracting customers. The marketing of rural properties is critical to the process of rural gentrification as it is often the first step in the movement of people to these rural areas. Through the use of semi-structured interviews with estate agencies, questionnaire surveys with homeowners, and social media and website analysis, this paper presents data from estate agents and homebuyers. These results are reflective of three case study sites examined located across the UK, which varied in their levels of rurality and social composition. It was found that the real estate industry in rural areas is undergoing dramatic structural change. This is due to the prominence of digital marketing, the increased mobility of this industry, and the expectation of estate agents to meet clients at a time and place which is convenient to them. The ability of estate agents to extend their reach and influence through digital marketing technologies was found to influence migration patterns, especially amongst urban to rural homebuyers. These homebuyers were also found to originate from not only the local area, but regionally, nationally and even internationally; with the most affluent buyers originating from London and the South East. The motivations of these buyers to migrate to these rural areas was primarily the pursuit of a rural lifestyle, such as schooling and the ability to pursue rural pursuits. However, financial motivations were also a factor through the presence of Airbnb’s and land purchasing. It can clearly be seen that the contemporary focus of this paper is situated in a nexus of scholarship which is interlinked through the subjects of digital marketing, real estate, and the rural, all of which is underpinned by rural gentrification. This paper further supports and demonstrates that the “impact of digital technologies on residential real estate demands close study” due to the significant influence of estate agents and digital marketing upon rural mobilities (Fields and Rogers, 2019: 1).

EMPLOYMENT-RELATED GEOGRAPHIC MOBILITY AND THE MINING INDUSTRY: WHY ATTEMPTS TO DISRUPT LARGE SCALE TRANSIT WORKER ACCOMMODATION FAIL IN REMOTE AUSTRALIA

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There has been considerable antagonism to long distance commuting (LDC), particularly fly-in/fly-out (FIFO), as an employment-related geographic mobility strategy for the resources industries in Australia. Equally unpopular at the local level is the use by companies of Transit Worker Accommodation (TWA), where many of the LDC workers reside while at work. In line with neoliberal principles, it is far more cost effective for mining companies to build Transit Worker Accommodation (TWA) for employees, rather than provide housing and encourage employees to move with their families to nearby mining towns. It is vehemently argued by local community leaders that TWA and FIFO workforce strategies undermine sustainable and viable regional communities. An important, but relatively small mining town in remote Western Australia is keen to invoke local planning laws that will inhibit broad usage of TWA and therefore encourage a higher proportion of residential workers living in the town. This paper will explore the options available to the local town planners. The theoretical insights discussed in this paper address the conflicting notions of worker mobility and community 'stickiness' within the context of neoliberal policy principles that encourage market-lead decision-making and discourage government intervention. Mixed methods were utilised for this research. A spatial scan of maps and drone imaging was undertaken to identify the number and scale of TWA in the local government area and their proximity to mining operations. A comprehensive literature review was carried out to understand the fatigue, safety and industrial relations implications of daily commutes across often isolated and unsealed roads. Follow-up interviews were conducted with trade unions, industry groups, mining company representatives, local leaders and workforce representatives. In addition, housing and accommodation availability and occupancy data for the town was reviewed. Thirty interviews were recorded and analysed for thematic trends and these were then tested against worker safety laws, industrial relations legislation and employment justice guidelines to assess the feasibility of developing a cadre of locally-based drive-in/drive out workers in the community. The findings of the research show that, for a range of reasons, it is not possible or legally allowable to encourage resources industry workers who work long shifts to commute by road in remote locations. Despite the best intentions, TWA appears to be an efficient, safe and viable solution to remote area workforce accommodation, especially in a mono-economy. The research concludes with evidence to show that there are a myriad of reasons why TWA will endure, even though it is universally unpopular with the workforce and the local communities.

INTEGRATING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE IN POSTSOCIALIST RURAL REGENERATION: THE RUDARIA COMMUNITY AS A CASE STUDY

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Romanian villages are the most important losers of the transition from the communist to the market economy and democracy. The most important and relevant resources should be identified to move the rural regeneration process forward. Industrial heritage could have at least two directions to be valorised: one regarding the rehabilitation of its initial function, and the second in its transformation into a strong tourism element. In our case study, the key elements are watermills, considered proto-industrial heritage assets due to the long history of the milling industry, especially in the mountain areas. The aim of the study is to highlight the role of cultural regeneration in revitalizing the Rudaria rural area, where 22 watermills are located and are still in use today. The methodology consists of evaluating the watermills as proto-industrial elements and assessing their values classification as historic monuments (rarity value, architectural, scientific, cultural, social, etc.) in order to determine whether they represent territorial identity elements and must be preserved and valorised in a sustainable manner. The main concern is the preservation of the watermills and the imminent risk of flooding caused by the Rudaria River. Over time, some of the watermills have been impacted by floods. An important issue is related to the low income of the local community, which primarily practices subsistence agriculture (livestock and cereals). In this context, the rural regeneration process is a necessity to ensure the conservation of the watermills (interventions to avoid degradation/loss of watermills) and the reuse of watermills as cultural goods (open-air museum, accreditation of a European cultural route of the watermills). Rural regeneration projects will also be related to the diversification of traditional local art exhibitions, including commercialization of handcraft products, and gastronomic fairs. Through the development of these activities, family revenues are expected to increase, with an extension of entrepreneurship initiatives aimed at halting the demographic decline that strongly affects the rural community of Rudaria.

RURAL TOURISM IN MEĐIMURJE COUNTY: SYNERGY OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE DIASPORA, ECONOMY AND LOCAL COMMUNITY

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Rural tourism entails all the activities that take place in a rural area. In recent decades, that form of tourism has also emerged in the north of the Republic of Croatia, in Međimurje County. Following this consideration, the rural homeland is extremely important for the development of Croatian society through various sectors of the economy, in the form of investments in that area and for the emigrated Croats and returnees. Through the rural tourism of Međimurje County, diaspora tourism is also promoted in Croatia, and with Croatia joining the European Union, great development opportunities are offered. Emigrants from Međimurje County, who maintain close relations with the homeland, emerge in the role of investors or consumers of rural tourism through both objective and subjective elements that are products of tradition, and through cultural services offered by individuals or communities. One of the basic bonds Croatian emigrants have with the homeland is, among others, heritage, development of the rural area with content that area offers, and local community tourism. This research paper proposes a pilot programme that could be applied to other parts of the Republic of Croatia, with great potential for rural and diaspora tourism. Diaspora with cultural and economic strength should become an imperative for further development and the promoter of its homeland in the world. Following that, rural tourism represents a strong potential for developing Croatian society through the tertiary sector. Through the analysis of the current state and the rural tourism offer in Međimurje County, it will be shown how certain economies have aimed to preserve the current rural tradition with the purpose of the synergy of the partnership between diaspora, economy and the local community. Expected results and contribution of the research paper can be distinguished as: academic (dissemination of the research results, promoting new methodology) and practical (conclusions that may serve in the preparation of special programmes and programme contents adapted to the target local and diaspora groups: youth, students, pensioners).

CHANGES IN TRANSPORT IN CROSS-BORDER TOURIST REGIONS IN THE POLISH-SLOVAK BORDERLAND AFTER 1989: AN (UN)SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

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The Polish-Slovak borderland is a mountainous area with extraordinary natural conditions for tourism development. There are three national parks that have equivalents on both sides of the border (Tatras, Pieniny and Bieszczady/Poloniny) and an additional two on the Polish side of the border (Babia Góra and Magura). The Polish-Slovak border, the mountainous relief and environmental protection have been a barrier to the development of transport and tourism. Political and economic changes after 1989 contributed to the development of cross-border transport and tourism in both parts of the borderland. The construction of new cross-border roads have enabled the development of more intensive contacts of inhabitants and the development of cross-border tourism. Unfortunately, we have also observed the process of the increased personal vehicle use, deregulation of the railways and declines in public transport in this area. In this paper, we will try to develop some concepts linking sustainable development with transport and tourism. Elements of conflict between sustainability and transport development and elements of transport injustice are underlined. The main aim is to analyse the theoretical aspects of the relationship between transport and tourism and to assess selected changes in cross-border transport that have influenced tourism in the Polish-Slovak tourism regions. We aim to answer the questions concerning changes in transport infrastructure (based on the analysis of the cross-border projects) and public transport (based on the analysis of timetables of the cross-border public transport connections) in the borderland over the past thirty years, and whether these changes are in accordance with sustainable development goals. The objective here is twofold: to highlight the interactions between tourism, transport, borders and sustainability in mountainous areas on the one hand, and to illustrate the (un)sustainability of public transport on the other. The main question posed by the authors is: Is public transport in cross-border tourist regions in the Polish-Slovak borderland sustainable?

GLYPHOSATE AS MOTHER'S LITTLE HELPER: A FEMINIST POLITICAL ECOLOGY OF WEST AFRICA'S HERBICIDE REVOLUTION

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Architects of the New Green Revolution for Africa (GR4A) have sought to improve food production and nutrition by encouraging small farmers to purchase improved seeds and inputs and increasingly sell their crops at market. While the discourse often depicts African farmers as slow to adopt outside technologies, it ignores a long history of strategic adoption by these actors. Furthermore, there are many shifts happening in global agricultural input and commodity markets that overshadow the GR4A as a force for change, suggesting that the green 'revolution' may be a ripple in a larger shifting sea. During fieldwork in southwest Burkina Faso in 2019, we found that 92% of 141 female farmers interviewed are now using herbicides on a routine basis, representing a dramatic increase from previous decades. What factors are driving this uptick in herbicide use by female farmers? Using a feminist political ecology framework, we explain this shift as primarily driven by three factors: 1) women have limited control over household labor and thus face serious labor constraints in their own farming efforts; 2) the rise of generic herbicide production in India and China since the early 2000s means that this labor-saving technology is increasingly affordable in West African markets, and 3) artisanal gold production has siphoned labor away from farming systems across West Africa, further constraining female farmers' access to labor. While increasing herbicide use is a rational response to labor constraints, it also contributes to growing health risks as well as the spread of herbicide resistant weeds. Findings are based on semi-structured interviews with 141 randomly sampled female rice farmers.

RURAL AND NON-RURAL REGIONS IN THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

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Identifying rural, non-rural or urban areas in Slovakia, Central Europe, is a complex task due to the extensive transformation of the countryside in recent decades. The processes of suburbanization, which started in Slovakia in the 1990s after the change of the political regime, have also contributed to this complexity. Therefore, the identification of rural/urban regions is even more difficult. The objective of this present paper is to create a rurality index for delimitation of rural typology municipalities and to develop alternative rurality indices, derived from quantitative analysis, which conceptualize the measures of rurality in the context of more than one dimension. Definitions of rurality by population density provide inadequate information about the nature of the contemporary rural communities. The requirement of an alternative approach arises which is stimulated by several factors. The changed meaning and interpretation of the term 'rural' refers to changes in agriculture and the rural economies transforming the social and demographic structure of rural areas, and also to environmental changes. The research focuses on the application of a multidimensional approach to delimitation of rural and non-rural areas, where the aim is to establish a rurality index that presents a more comprehensive definition of rurality. The rurality index presents a rurality level constructed by a set of variables, and Factor Analysis that was created as a basis for rurality indices and quartiles of municipalities, ranging from extreme rural to extreme non-rural categories. The initial rurality index confirmed the distribution of rural and non-rural municipalities in Slovakia. Additional information via secondary dimensions has been provided and it is now possible to evaluate the rurality or non-rurality of municipalities according to alternative dimensions of rurality. This two-dimensional approach offers a new classification of the rural districts of Slovakia, particularly with a view towards refining definitions at either end of the rural-urban continuum. Rural typology can serve to give deeper knowledge on the present state of the residential system and rural development assumptions. Results of rural and non-rural determination analyses can be used as an instrument for political identification of most rural areas and to improve their exercisability. This paper shows that the rurality index makes an invaluable contribution to the debate on what is rural and what is not rural. Agreeing with Waldorf (2006), the rurality index is particularly beneficial for both research and policy: rurality is treated as a relative attribute, making it possible to investigate trajectories of rurality over time.

REFLECTIONS ON DISASTER RISK PERCEPTION AND EVACUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES

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The Philippines is among the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Reliance on the natural environment for subsistence means that many local communities in rural areas are exposed to different socio-natural hazards. This human-environment relation has resulted in the development of a local knowledge system that facilitates adaptation, while it has also resulted in difficulties in implementing evacuation measures due to the prime importance given to livelihood assets and activities. Evacuation in times of danger is a complex choice. Recorded casualties are often of people who refuse to evacuate despite official warnings. The familiarity through previous experiences with relatively benign hazard occurrences tends to decrease risk perception and make communities unprepared for extreme events. This paper reflects on how to effectively communicate risks by investigating the kinds of knowledge that are relevant in an individual's decision-making relating to evacuation. It presents insights on the importance of building on existing local social networks and hierarchies in transferring knowledge and promoting disaster culture. The paper is based on a survey of gold miners conducted in a landslide-prone community in Benguet, and the preliminary investigation of the evacuation experience in the recent Taal Volcano unrest.

PROPOSING A NEW AUTONOMOUS REGION IN SPAIN AGAINST RURAL DECLINE? INVESTIGATING THE CURRENT QUEST TO SPLIT LEON FROM CASTILE (2019-2020)

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Spain consists of 17 autonomous regions, rapidly created in the late 1970s and early 1980s after the death of the dictator Franco, in the early current democratic period. Interestingly, several of these autonomous regions were not based on previous historic and/or administrative regions, but created at that time in light of the current political circumstances. A case in point is Castile and Leon, constituted as an autonomous region in 1983, basically consisting of the amalgamation of previous territories — traditionally called 'kingdoms'. Since that time, there has been a movement for the creation of a single autonomous region for Leon under several circumstances, with different periods when regionalists (mainly, the Union of the People of Leon, the UPL party) have played a major role. Since late 2019, the movement for a Leon Region has gained momentum, based on reasons related to the historic and cultural particularities of the region. In any case, it is worth mentioning that there is an emerging narrative focused on the rural character of Leon, opposed to the most dynamic urban areas of the Castile and Leon region. In particular, the claim states that Leon is characterised by depopulation, low demographic densities, ageing and economic stagnation, while Valladolid (the unofficial but de facto capital city of Castile and Leon) is increasing its population and economic activity. This paper aims to elucidate to what extent the rural geographical arguments are relevant for this political move, considering both conceptual frameworks on political geography (i.e., regional-building theorisation) and on rural geography (i.e., rural conflicts). Semi-structured qualitative interviews were carried out with stakeholders related to this political move.

VITICULTURAL LANDSCAPES AND REGIONAL TOURISM IN MCLAREN VALE, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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Tourism is an important driver of economic diversification in rural landscapes. However, as the tourism industry continues to grow, it can create various challenges for the sustainable management of regional landscapes. Yet if successfully managed, tourism can serve as a unique opportunity to improve landscape management, sustainability, and overall resilience. To inform policy and practice, this research considers how tourism could sustainably support agrarian landscapes. To do this, it investigates the linkages between tourism and landscape management within an important Australian food and wine region, McLaren Vale in South Australia. The McLaren Vale region's mixed-use landscape enables this research to consider the diverse ways that landscapes are interacting with contemporary local, inter-regional and international tourism. This research presents the initial findings from both a visitor survey and a series of semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders across the food, wine, tourism and environmental management industries in the McLaren Vale region. By using a mixed methods approach, a holistic analysis is generated of how both host (supply) and guest (demand) actors perceive and engage with tourism in regional landscapes. Further, this research draws on theory by Budowski (1976) to consider what management strategies might be required to mitigate conflict amongst competing interests and to achieve symbiotic relationships between the tourism industry and various regional stakeholders. This data highlights the key risks and discusses contemporary and possible future opportunities for strengthening the link between tourism and agriculture, whilst supporting more sustainable and resilient rural systems.

WHAT IS THE STRATEGIC POSITIONING OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS TOURISM IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE DOURO DEMARCATED REGION, A WORLD HERITAGE SITE?

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In a wine-growing region such as the Douro region (NE Portugal) where vineyards and tourism sustain the main development policies, what is the strategic positioning of Health and Wellness tourism? This is the topic addressed in this paper, as this activity may, in fact, become one of the drivers of regional development, which has been neglected until now. The definition of Health and Wellness Tourism is not consensual, and different approaches have been recorded over time. In the 21st century, though, it has acquired greater relevance in Portugal and is now considered a strategic product. Wellbeing and wellness tourism includes the medical component, hot baths, spas and thalassotherapy (Turismo de Portugal, 2013), but what is the existing scenario in the Douro Demarcated Region (DDR)? This is a world-renowned region due to the excellence of its wines and heritage (landscape, architectural, gastronomic, social and cultural). It is implanted in the Douro-Beiras greywacke schist complex, home to mineral and hot water springs associated with major tectonic structures, such as the Penacova-Régua-Verin and the Manteigas-Vilariça-Bragança faults, or other related geological features, giving rise also to the region's sulphuric, sodium, bicarbonate and fluoridated waters. Traditionally restricted to therapeutic purposes, hot baths (spas) have recently become associated with wellbeing. In the DDR, although there are not many of these units, a few have a long, noteworthy history. This is the case of Caldas do Moledo (Peso da Régua), which, although closed in 2010, is expected to be recovered by the city council. In operation, some units are found on the Manteigas-Vilariça-Bragança axis, such as Caldas de Carlão (privately-run), S. Lourenço (managed by the Carrazeda de Ansiães municipality), and the Longroiva Baths and Spa (Meda), an old thermal bath that, after being publicly-run, was completely renovated and is now a modern private health and wellness hub. Health and wellness tourism, in fact, has enormous potential for regional development, especially if supported by strong marketing, capable of retaining the Portuguese diaspora and the regional population, in addition to attracting stressed urban residents and, increasingly, foreign visitors. In this paper, we employed a methodology that combines documentary research with fieldwork, including a photographic survey and semi-structured interviews with the region's main agents. Revitalization is essential so as to mitigate demographic decline but, especially, to take a renewed advantage of the region's historical possibilities, now under a new paradigm where health is combined with wellbeing.

A MULTIFUNCTIONAL RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA? EXAMPLES FROM THE ADELAIDE HILLS, FLEURIEU AND RIVERLAND

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Government support for the growth of multifunctional rural development (MRD) has been strong in both the European Union (expressed in Pillar Two of the Common Agricultural Policy) and more recently in China (as part of the rural vitalization policy). However, its emergence can be recognized in other countries despite the lack of explicit supporting policy. One such example is Australia, where a dominant neo-liberal approach to agricultural and rural development has largely precluded direct government measures to promote MRD aside from some enhancement of ecological functions. Nevertheless, especially in peri-urban fringes, there is growing evidence for acknowledging multifunctionality on farms and in the wider countryside. Elsewhere, productivist landscapes dominate the agricultural sector, but this provides opportunities for investigating how both productivist and more multifunctional rural areas are transitioning along a spectrum from weak MRD (e.g. productivist) to strong MRD (e.g. well-developed social, cultural and ecological functions and farm-based diversification alongside traditional agricultural production functions). This paper draws upon the ongoing research in several parts of South Australia to examine the notion of possible transitions from weak to strong MRD, specifically focusing on the individual farm level to assess the extent of multifunctional agriculture (MFA) as a driver of MRD. It is hypothesized that the Adelaide Hills (largely within the peri-urban fringes of the state capital Adelaide and combining intensive horticulture with broadacre farming, cultural heritage, and farm-based processing and tourism) represents relatively strong MFA/MRD. In contrast, the Riverland (in the Murray-Darling Basin c200+ km northeast of Adelaide and the country's largest wine-producing region and an important producer of citrus and nuts), has relatively weak MFA/MRD. Somewhere in the middle of the spectrum lies the Fleurieu Peninsula (extending from 50 to 110 km south of Adelaide) where tourist development is introducing new functions to a landscape previously dominated by broadacre farming. Using an approach based on structuration theory and applying transition theory to MFA/MRD, the paper reports the initial results from semi-structured interviews with key informants in government departments, producer organizations, businesses and individual farmers to make a preliminary mapping of the multifunctional trajectories of the study areas. The paper also elaborates future follow-up research using detailed questionnaire surveys to farmers and focus groups to enable secondary hypotheses to be tested, notably whether multifunctionality is featuring as a strategy by farmers to adapt to observable climate changes (hotter, drier and more weather extremes).

GEOGRAPHICAL INDICATIONS FROM A TERRITORIALISED FOOD STUDIES PERSPECTIVE: THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN EMBLEMATIC SPANISH PDO

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Geographical Indications' (GI) research presents many perspectives within social sciences and more specifically in food studies. However, this research is commonly devoted to economic issues and fails to focus on spatial and territorial dimensions. Importantly, there is also a divide between the Anglophone and the Francophone research on GIs. On the one hand, the Anglophone literature on Alternative Food Networks (AFN) has proposed a critical understanding of how multiple factors are combined within a GI, acknowledging the tensions and power relations that may be present (Woods, 2007). On the other hand, the Francophone tradition, which has been developed attached to the institutional construction of GI both in France and at the European Union level, is more concerned with the originality of productive regions or 'terroirs'. There have been scarce contacts between such sets, making it pertinent to consider both together (Mancini, 2012; Bowen and Muterbaugh, 2014). This study attempts to bridge the gap between both traditions on food studies. By focusing on a case study, the construction of a Protected Denomination of Origin for the well known "Padrón peppers", we develop a qualitative study to question under what territorial factors and mechanisms a GI can succeed or fail. The results highlight three main factors that are substantial for the case study GI development: the institutional landscape, the negotiation of the qualities of the foodstuff, and the collective action of farmers.

TRANSFORMATIONS OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND THEIR DEMOGRAPHIC EFFECTS IN RURAL LOCALITIES IN EGYPT

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The current study aims to investigate the evolutionary track of health care facilities in rural Egypt and the effectiveness of their functional transformation on demographic characteristics of the Egyptian rural population. The final purpose of the study is to promote sustainable environmental and social conditions that lead to enduring gains in population health. The basic formal health care facilities in the Egyptian countryside are: primary health units, primary health centres, and in some cases, rural integrated hospitals. Their total number reached nearly 5000 in 2017, accumulated over long period that began in 1904 in the form of outpatient eye clinics outside large towns. The expected demographic effects of the rural health care services are indicated essentially in: infant mortality rate, life expectancy at birth, population pyramid type, and population growth rate. The rural localities refer to areas defined by official authorities where rural activities and a rural population exist. Spatial types of rural localities differ from a single small village to a compact or a large area in districts, governorates, regions, and entire countries. Egypt has 4,496 villages inhabited by about 54,771,000 individuals that represent 57% of the total population in 2017 as estimated by the Central Agency for Population Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). Six rural localities at the administrative district level, similar in population and settlement size, are chosen to represent environmental variations in the Egyptian countryside: the first is Motoobas district on the Mediterranean coast, the second is the Al-Shohadaa district on Rosetta Branch within the mid-Nile Delta, the third is Kafr Saqr in the eastern Nile Delta, the fourth is Al-Saff in middle Egypt near Greater Cairo, the fifth is Gerga district, one of most populous and poor rural localities in Upper Egypt, and the Sixth is Kom Ombo district in the southern inhabited area of the Nile Valley in Egypt. Data are compiled from various official sources, field reports carried out and published in media pages, field observations by the author, by reviewing related studies. An evolutionary approach is adopted to follow up phases of transformation in primary health care facilities and the impact of their services on the rural population within Egyptian villages. An environmental approach is also taken to analyse spatial disparities of primary health care services and their demographic effects in the six selected rural localities. Statistical and cartographic tools are used to highlight discussion points and clarify results regarding transformation mechanisms and outcomes relevant to rural population health.

PUZZLING OUT THE DRIVING FORCES OF DESERTIFICATION IN THE HIGH ALGERIAN STEPPE PLAINS

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The sedentarisation of shepherds at the margins of the dessert and the introduction of private land ownership in the high Algerian Steppe plains has led to deep transformations of the way of dwelling that increase desertification. There is an urgent need to understand this process of transformation and its drivers, which are more anthropogenic than natural, to mitigate the destruction of this fragile geosystem. Based on field observations, an oral survey with 188 household heads and statistical analyses, the paper describes the process of desertification where short term economic strategies and political misunderstanding are the key elements. Agro-sylvo-pastoral practices that are no longer in balance with the environment increase the desertification. The demise of transhumance, which involve grazing year round around the house, causes stress to local resources. And all the more so because former nomads started to cultivate lands, including on the chott, that are not suitable to growing crops, destroying the indigenous vegetation that fed the sheep. Moreover, the import of water and fodder breaks the link with local environment, requiring shepherds to limit the size of their herds. Consequently, these practices contribute to overgrazing. The transformation of the way of inhabiting and exploitation are greatly determined by the capital of the household, which allows for compensation of local shortages. Assembling the pieces of the puzzle also requires underlining the amateurism of political leaders and administrations who have little experience with the local geosystem, who took several unsuccessful measures and who never get the time, due to political instability, to learn from their mistakes. The paper shows that the sedentarisation occurring in this fragile environment with low soil fertility is creating rural systems that are less resilient to climate fluctuations and severely impacting both the environment and the poorest people.

CAN POPULATION POLICY MEASURES ADDRESS AND PROMOTE RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN SERBIA: A CASE STUDY OF VOJVODINA (NORTHERN SERBIA)?

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One of the greatest social and development problems in Serbia is the rapidly decreasing rural population (depopulation of rural areas) that exceeds the level of decrease in the agricultural population and the total population of the country. One of the measures of the population policy of the Government of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina is precisely a measure that promotes the return of young people to rural settlements, while also promoting rural development in Vojvodina and Serbia. Young people are increasingly leaving rural areas to seek a better quality of life, villages demographics are empty, lagging behind in economic development, and it remains difficult for the elderly population to survive in such conditions. For five years in a row, the Vojvodina Government has been allocating funds for the purchase of houses in rural areas for young married couples. The Country House Purchase Programme is one of the most current incentive programmes implemented by the Gender Institute. The aim of the paper is to determine the relations between this population policy measure and its role in rural development and rural revitalization. One of the main tasks is related to the question – can rural development be encouraged through the arrival of families in Vojvodina rural areas, and should this measure be applied in the coming years? The methodology is based on analysis of data obtained from the Provincial Department of Social Policy, Demographics and Gender Equality referring to public invitations and activities in recent years. The analysis included data on the number of couples, the settlements where the houses were located, the funds allocated, and the conditions that couples had to meet in order to obtain a home. Regarding the demographic and developing trends, it could be significant to promote and implement this measure in other parts of Serbia, especially in southern and eastern Serbia.

INFORMAL FARMER COOPERATION AS A FORM OF RURAL RESISTANCE THROUGH FARMER VALUES ANALYSIS

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Joint activities between farms can bring several economic, environmental, and social benefits, as well as some limitations. All advantages and constraints considered, researchers and politicians expect farmers will collaborate in various fields. Nevertheless, the farmers' uptake to joint arrangements in Agri-environmental and other Schemes of European Common Agricultural Politics is low. The literature suggests that for the promotion of farmer cooperation and its implementation, scientific, governmental, and other spheres need to understand that the agro-ecosystem and farming management are complex and adaptive and increasingly heterogeneous. Further, it is vital to take into account the reasons why farmers act as they do. By doing so, it is relevant to study the existing local inter-farm cooperation. The paper aims to detect and eventually understand past, present, and potential collaborations among farmers in the northeasternmost part of Slovenia, in the Pomurje region. The case study location is identified as an area with a recognized need for increased farmer cooperation and delivery of landscape conservation. The data collection method was a semi-structured in-depth interview. The paper sheds light on farmers' values and emotions. This viewpoint is significant. Social values have an important role in establishing and structuring collective actions. Cooperation among farmers also produces positive and/or negative social and affective values. In the paper, the process of valuing others and themselves is considered by the concepts of a "good farmer" and Sayer's "moral economy". The research showed that farmers cooperate firmly and informally with selected individuals. New forms of formal cooperation are rarely present; farmers from different agricultural industries sometimes plan to cooperate economically. The results suggest that heterogeneity of rural communities, deagrarisation, market conditions, and subsidy policies steadily affect the relationship between farmers, and consequently, their culture of collaboration.

KŪMARA, MAÍS AND CASSAVA: SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL INEQUALITIES AND THE RURAL TRANSFORMATION IN NEW ZEALAND, ARGENTINA, AND BRAZIL

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The constant socio-environmental crises highlight the increasing need to rethink society's production and consumption patterns, prompting a different look at the foundations that support the debate on the development of countries. In this scenario, situations involving deforestation of green areas, as well as contamination of soils, water resources, and food through the use of pesticides, are linked to the agricultural industrialization process and are held responsible for deepening the socio-environmental inequalities. A fair discussion on the transition to a more sustainable model calls to rethink the production dynamics, labour in rural areas, the concentration of existing land, and the availability of resources and opportunities, particularly for rural populations with lower socioeconomic conditions. This research seeks to deepen this discussion by answering the following question: What is the influence of the industrialization of agriculture regarding the socio-environmental inequalities? A comparative analysis is carried out to examine how the process of industrialization of three traditional crops occurred in three different countries: New Zealand, Argentina, and Brazil. Respectively, kūmara (*Ipomoea batatas* (L.) Lam.), maize (*Zea mays* L.), and manioc (*Manihot esculenta* Crantz). Inequalities are defined here both in terms of outcomes and opportunities. Therefore, starting from a historical bibliographic analysis aiming to analyse the possible socio-environmental inequalities, we reconstruct how traditional populations cultivated those crops, used it for their livelihoods, and how the cultivation processes were industrialized. Further, leaning on secondary data, we seek to analyse its effect on socio-environmental inequalities based on proxy indicators and the capabilities approach to discuss the extent that selected inequalities are impacting the lives of the rural populations and the availability of ecosystem services. The conclusions of this research can contribute to the understanding of the interactions between socio-environmental inequality in rural areas. This study aims to intersect the different dimensions of transformation.

DAILY MIGRATIONS IN RURAL AREAS IN SERBIA: QUANTITY AND QUALITY ON THE MOVE

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Daily migrations represent one of the most intense and significant forms of spatial mobility in developed and modern societies. Intense processes of industrialization and urbanization during the second half of the 20th century led to important spatial and demographic changes in Serbia, which further led to increased internal (daily) migrations on the rural-urban relation. In Serbia, as a developing country, these migrations are an important form of economic and social connections between rural and urban areas, regarding that the direction and intensity of daily migrations and the socio-demographic characteristics of daily migrants shape the space and contribute to the determination of functional regions. According to the results of the last two censuses in Serbia, more than two thirds of daily migrants come from rural areas, respectively 75.15% in 2002 and 70.12% in 2011. The analysis is focused on the Region of Vojvodina (Northern Serbia), which gathers almost a third of the total daily migrant population in Serbia (28.02%, Census 2011). The results show that the daily migrations of pupils and students are more frequent than the daily migrations of the working population, which is the result of the influence of the Novi Sad gravity zone (university, economic and youth centre). The network of settlements, socio-economic conditions and transport connectivity are important drivers of daily migration in rural areas. Further, factors related to individuals are especially important because, as Kellerman (2012, 6) points out, daily migrations are two-way, frequent, form the daily life routine and consist of physical and/or virtual mobility. The objective of the research starts from the fact that daily migrants are often potential migrants, conditioned by the daily travel costs, the costs of possible movement, distance to work or school, psychological, environmental factors, family and professional roles. It is important to analyse as many quantitative indicators as possible to improve the broader qualitative analysis of daily migrations that substantially shape the development and revitalization of rural areas. One of the key research problems is the lack or the small amount of official statistical data and unclear typology of settlements. The research methodology is based on census and survey data analysed using SPSS software. The survey was conducted in rural settlements in five municipalities in Vojvodina, with the highest number of daily migrants from rural settlements. The results represent a significant contribution to local rural action plans and regional development policies in Serbia, with an emphasis on sustainability of rural areas.

HOBBY AND PART-TIME FARMERS IN A MULTIFUNCTIONAL LANDSCAPE: LIFESTYLES, ENVIRONMENTALISM AND AMENITY

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Hobby farming is making an increasing contribution to economic, ecological and social aspects of agricultural development in developed countries, especially in peri-urban areas. Although there recently has been renewed interest in examining the characteristics of hobby farming, studies have rarely attempted to consider its role in multifunctional landscapes near major cities. This paper reports on research in the Adelaide Hills, South Australia, which used questionnaire surveys and semi-structured interviews to investigate hobby farming and its relationship to part- and full-time farming. It examines the role of hobbyists in contributing to an evolving multifunctional landscape, and also considers key differences between hobby and part-time farmers. Hobby farmers are often recent, well-educated, urban-rural migrants who transfer capital investments from urban areas to the peri-urban fringe. Here they engage in a wide range of on-farm and off-farm activities, with an emphasis on pro-environmental actions, while making only a small contribution to the multifunctional economy. In contrast, part-time farmers usually have a farming background and are more focused on deriving income from their farms, often developing farm-based enterprises that may contribute up to half of household income. The analysis examines the focus of hobbyists and part-time farmers on environmental improvements, their identification of risks, key outcomes for their farms, and the main factors affecting their decision making. While hobby farmers are essentially seeking benefit from the amenity value of the peri-urban fringe and contribute to environmental aspects of multifunctionality, part-time farmers are a more integral component of the local economy.

GEOGRAPHIES OF CONTEMPORARY RURAL STAYERS

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Increasing scholarly attention is given to immobility studies in response to recent declines in national migration rates. This is reflective of a “mobility turn” (Urry, 2007) in population geography, which acknowledges that moving and staying are not static or rigid dichotomies, but instead are relational, even entangled, practices (Coulter et al., 2016; Halfacree and Rivera, 2012). Immobility studies, however, remain limited in volume, content and recognition of multiple stayer types. Moreover, to date, these studies largely treat mobility and immobility as separate processes and focus on the stayers’ agency distinguishing between “still” (an active choice) and “stuck” (resulting from constraints). Notwithstanding general acknowledgement that a continuum of stayer types probably exists, few studies seek to identify the diversity of types that may exist between these two poles. This paper presents a typology of rural stayers based on an initial cluster analysis of data obtained from an extensive household survey conducted in rural areas of the Netherlands, Germany and Northern Ireland as part of the funded STAYin(g)Rural research project. The typology is based on respondents’ past residential histories, residential preferences including intended future moves, and degree of agency in their residential decision-making. Nine distinctive types of rural stayers are identified. These are examined in terms of the factors deemed important in the decision to stay (giving rise to distinctive stayer type “palm prints”), demographic and socio-economic characteristics, and spatial variations. We conclude that stayer types are not reducible to the “still” and “stuck” narratives. Instead, a variety of types are evident, which not only reflect diverse residential histories but also different life stages.

SOCIAL INNOVATION APPROACHES TO SUPPORT INTEGRATION OF NON-EU MIGRANTS IN RURAL CENTRAL EUROPE: LESSONS LEARNED, CONCLUSIONS DRAWN

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Many rural regions in Central Europe are facing profound demographic challenges: depopulation, ageing, skills shortages. But rural areas in the region have also emerged as new immigration destinations for both regular and irregular migrants from non-EU countries. For many regions, this new wave of immigration represents the first major migration movement. It is, however, still unclear if rural areas only represent a stopover on the way to major cities. The ARRIVAL REGIONS project (Interreg Central Europe) aims to develop social innovation approaches to turn integration into a success story and to encourage migrants to stay in rural areas. We understand social innovations as novel approaches to meet social needs of non-EU nationals that are vital for their successful integration. The project will develop a “tool box” of transferable approaches to promote the labour market and societal integration of non-EU migrants and to overcome prejudices. One key pillar of the project is transnational learning and cooperation which includes study visits to initiatives that address the challenges mentioned above. Our paper is based on study visits to initiatives that have developed innovative approaches to promote the integration of non-EU migrants in rural areas of Germany, Italy, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden. We present and critically evaluate the approaches, discuss the lessons learnt for our project area, and propose ideas for social innovation-based approaches to create and strengthen local welcoming cultures. The arrival of non EU-migrants in general, and of refugees in particular, is a controversial topic in many rural regions in Central Europe. Against this backdrop, we find that vital success factors of initiatives and projects supporting non EU-migrants include a clear focus on local structures and needs, the involvement of key actors (e.g., mayors) and an enlarged target group, i.e., that the services also open for locals. Challenges include the low density of volunteers and members of the respective target groups, but also questions of the sustainability of service provision, which often lead to professionalization, i.e., a transition from volunteer-based approaches to models based on paid employment that make the initiatives both dependent on third-party funding and vulnerable for politically motivated attacks on their financial basis. In that sense, we believe that replication of best practices in other regions is difficult, because their success is context-dependent. However, after a thorough analysis of success factors and challenges, they can serve as important inspirations for the development of tailor-made local approaches.

GROWN UP IN THE COUNTRYSIDE: PATTERNS OF TERRITORIAL ATTACHMENT AND THE MIGRATION INTENTION TO LEAVE, STAY OR RETURN

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Policy makers in Dutch rural regions confronted with population decline are worried about the selective out-migration of highly educated youth born and raised in the region. Apart from hard structural factors, like the availability of higher education in the region and employment opportunities, soft cultural factors, like specific patterns of local and regional attachment are seen as relevant for the decision to leave, stay or return. However, to improve our understanding of migration decisions by young adults with respect to their rural home-region, we have to be aware that the transition into adulthood is not as linear and clear-cut as often presented. By focussing on three different stages in the transition into adulthood of youth growing up in a Dutch rural region confronted with population decline (NUTS 3 region NL 225, called the Achterhoek), and through a combination of quantitative and qualitative analysis, we explore the role of local and regional attachment concerning the decision to leave, stay or return. The analysis includes three datasets that refer to the three stages: 1. A quantitative analysis (logistic regression analysis) of survey data on 198 secondary school pupils in the region and a qualitative analysis of interviews of 8 pupils (a selection from the 198 pupils); 2. A qualitative analysis of interviews of three students who attend higher education and are living in the Amsterdam region but were born and raised in the Achterhoek; 3. A qualitative analysis of 10 interviews of higher educated young adults, living and working in the Achterhoek, belonging to two groups: five who have always stayed in the region and five who have returned to their home region after finishing higher education. The results expand our knowledge about the importance of perceived employment opportunities and local and regional attachment regarding the intention/decision to stay, leave or return to the home-region. The role of local attachment to family and friends and the changing character of local and regional attachment to the home-region in the transition into adulthood is explained in detail. The consequences for regional policies to induce higher educated young adults to stay in the region are explored.

SUSTAINABILITY OF RURAL SETTLEMENTS BELOW 500 INHABITANTS IN A SREM DISTRICT CASE STUDY (NORTHERN SERBIA)

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In recent decades, younger generations have rapidly been leaving the countryside and agriculture, reflecting the demographic and sociological processes of contemporary society. In addition to depopulation, as the process of emptying the rural areas, one of the most significant structural changes in the rural population is deagrarianization, the abandonment of agriculture as a main occupation. After the 1991 Census, later than most European countries, the globalization of society and the growth of non-agricultural professions put the Republic of Serbia in place with a majority of the urban population (about 51%), and further declining trend of rural inhabitants. Regardless of the positive geographical location, the process of negative demographic conditions did not bypass the Srem district. Of the total number of rural settlements, 46% have fewer than 1,000 while 18 settlements have fewer than 500 inhabitants, and the population is mostly elderly with an average age of 48.66 years (Republic of Serbia, 42.2). This imposes the task of the research, as a theoretical basis for the necessary development of agriculture and rural areas (agrarian and rural development), whose foundations lie in demographic development, with a complex population policy of returning to the countryside and finding hidden potential within the settlements as adequate secondary activities in the economic market. The paper covers a comparative analysis of municipal data in the Srem district in the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina (Northern Serbia). Many changes have taken place on the socio-political stage since the late 20th century, which have manifested on the demographic scene, and the topic follows the period of the past few decades. The survey methodology is based on the demographic and statistical analysis of the 1971 to 2011 Censuses, shown by municipal results.

CULTURAL HERITAGE AS AN EXPRESSION OF RURAL RESISTANCE: EXAMPLES FROM POLAND

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In Poland, as in other countries, rural areas are in a time of transition. Since the beginning of the market economy in the 1990s, we have observed the emergence of a multifunctional rural regime in Poland, which influences new non-productive functions in local economies and new lifestyles reflected in the rural landscape. At the same time, in parallel to changing frames of contemporary rural life, the return to cultural roots of local communities is also a well-marked trend. The analysis of the content of the narratives on the villages as “places” makes it possible to emphasize that the local culture is expressed in the ways people inhabit and shape their land, which owing to their memory, concepts and efforts, turns it into “places”. Local development plans often pay much attention to search for what was forgotten or lost or make efforts to preserve the traditions shaping the local communities in the past. The aim of this paper is to discuss the role of cultural heritage in the local development of rural communities and various social, economic and landscape-related effects, using the case study of 12 villages within the smallest folklore microregion – Biskupizna in a traditional rural region of Greater Poland (Wielkopolska). The paper is based on data gathered both in the field (observation, individual in-depth interviews, focus group, research walks) and in desk research (review of literature and documents on local development strategies). The research shows that preservation of cultural heritage stimulates local social relations and entrepreneurship. A culture-based approach to local development restores the balance between the environment, economy and society, but also offers a promise of less disturbed and more equitable development for members of local communities. Presented practices could be interpreted as a definite reaction to the consumption patterns of the new “rurality” that dominates mass culture and are promoted, in particular, by the domestic and foreign mass media. Focusing on the local culture allows for interpretation of villages as “places”, original constructs – simultaneous processes and effects of collaboration of people with the immediate neighbourhood in definite civilizational conditioning – a highly fascinating and, at the same time, necessary perspective to describe, explain and interpret local development in the future research.

TRAFFIC ISOLATION AS THE FACTOR OF NEGATIVE DEMOGRAPHIC PROCESSES LEADING TO DEMOGRAPHIC RESILIENCE DECLINE: THE CASE OF THE PODGORJE REGION (ADRIATIC REGION OF CROATIA)

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Croatian rural areas encompass 86–89% of the Croatian territory, and 42–48% of the Croatian population. The spatial frame of this research captures the Podgorje region, which includes larger parts of an administrative town (Senj) and 2 municipalities (Karlobag and Starigrad) with 24 settlements in total. Podgorje is located in the zone of the overlapping nodal-functional regions of Rijeka, to which its northern part gravitates, and Zadar, to which its southern part gravitates. Despite its central position in the geographical context of Adriatic Croatia, the Podgorje region is suffering negative demographic processes and trends as a significant area of transport isolation (average travel distance is about 120 minutes to Rijeka or Zadar, and about 75 minutes to Gospić). This paper uses combined statistical-mathematical methods of demographic analysis with GIS methods (IDW method) to analyse the interdependency of transport accessibility of Podgorje and the neighbouring leading regional centres, and the negative demographic processes and trends that have destabilized this region and converted it into a rural periphery of Adriatic Croatia. Overall depopulation has been ongoing continuously since 1910 when the largest population was recorded (16,782 residents), with the exception of one inter-census period (1981–1991). Over these hundred years, the population has since been nearly halved. According to the latest 2011 Census, Podgorje had only 8,894 inhabitants. This natural depopulation has been present in Podgorje for many years, negatively influencing the demographic conditions. The aging of the population is in a very advanced stage. In 1971, the aging index was 58, whilst according to the last census in 2011, the value of this demographic indicator has risen to as much as 187.8. When analysing the Podgorje area at the local government level directed towards the Adriatic Sea (coastline – 82 local government units in total), Podgorje has the most unfavourable demographic indicators (aging index of Senj, Karlobag and Starigrad are over 177.0; index of population change of Senj and Karlobag is less than 93.0, etc.). The processes of littoralisation and industrialization of the coast of Podgorje failed. Those processes were intended to lay the foundations for the development of a functional network of settlements, which would have created and preserved both functions and the population. The absence of these processes has led to demographic resilience decline in this area.

ASSESSMENT OF RURAL LIVELIHOOD SUSTAINABILITY AND CHALLENGES FACED BY THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND VILLAGERS DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN THE ALIGARH DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY FROM INDIA

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India is predominantly a rural country with more than two third of its population and nearly 70 percent of the workforce residing in rural areas. It has been experiencing numerous changes in all major domains, particularly after the new economic policy reforms of the 1990s. However, the economic status of rural areas has not improved as expected and thus rural issues have been in central debate.

One of them is the sustainability of rural livelihoods. This study consists of two parts: the first part assesses the status of rural livelihoods sustainability in the Aligarh district, known for its fertile agricultural plains, while the second part is devoted to understanding the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent lockdown on reverse migrants and local villagers belonging to this area. It tries to analyse their livelihood challenges they faced during this crisis. Both secondary and primary data have been incorporated. The main findings of this paper reveal that the nationwide lockdown brought a perilous situation for migrants, particularly those who were landless and unskilled. No block could make its place in the accumulating category. All were found in the adapting and surviving category due to their lower human, social and financial capital and higher vulnerability. The comparison between pre- and post-Covid-19 livelihood sustainability analysis reveals far reaching effects of this pandemic on the population.

THE DARK SIDE OF THE CONCEPCIÓN METROPOLITAN AREA FOODSHED (CHILE)

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Cities are unaware about the scope and agrofood conflicts associated to their foodsheds, which support their daily consumption. They are supplied by fresh produce through diverse food systems that merge in the urban space from different productive, fragmented and disperse territories. As fragmentation and distance increases between the consumer space and that of the suppliers making up the foodshed, the lack of awareness is greater concerning the reality of the other side of the chain regarding sustainability, social and spatial justice or the level of agro-environmental conflict associated to this productivity. The Metropolitan Area of Concepción (AMC, in Spanish) in Chile is taken as the case study, and the objective is proposed to identify the foodshed of Vega Monumental, a logistical node and the main supplier of street markets and other fresh produce distribution spaces in the AMC, to reveal the types of agrofood conflicts present in the suppliers' production territories, serving as the starting point for further analysis of this kind of conflict in Chile. In addition, the hypothesis is that, unlike what may have been considered with respect to the sustainability of fresh produce bought in street markets, these are not exempt from being part of environmental conflicts in their production spaces. This is an aspect that is left invisible for urbanites who access them under the presumption of them being more sustainable. The results indicate that the AMC foodshed, albeit fragmented and distanced, is still traceable and with a national scale. The hypothesis made is confirmed and the fact that the current domestic fresh produce food system increases the existing inequalities between the countryside and the city is discussed, with the negative externalities deeply rooted in the production spaces, passing the positive externalities to the cities. Finally, three types of agrofood conflicts are reviewed: water, productivity and infrastructure, which allow looking in greater depth at the classification of neoextractivist agro-environmental conflict.

FOODPRINT, FOODSHED AND FOODSCAPE: THREE CONCEPTS FOR THE TRANSITION OF LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

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The transition of Local Food Systems towards a more sustainable urban-rural system has been addressed in recent decades by the international literature on different disciplines and areas of expertise: health science, economics, sociology, agriculture and urbanism or rural studies. However, some concepts are still fuzzy, as are the conceptual relationships among them. Three key terms in the study of Local Food System transitions are selected here to clarify this: foodprint, foodshed and foodscape. A framework to differentiate and connect the conceptual and methodological implications of these three terms from a spatial perspective is the main objective of this paper. A first group of papers was selected by applying a systematic search in two scientific repositories: Web of Knowledge and Scopus. Subsequently, relevant publications were identified, along with the citation network found among the authors, to build the conceptual cluster related to each term. Results will show the findings of each concept, while the discussion will show the relationship among them. First, the term foodprint was addressed from the theoretical and methodological framework of the Ecological Footprint, developed by Wackernagel and Rees (1996). Due to the lack of a spatial perspective, Billen et al. (2009) works with the actual surface that produces food. Accordingly, the foodprint can be a theoretical estimation and also an empirical measurement of emissions and/or resources involved in food production, distribution and consumption, including soil and land. Second, foodshed is presented as a geographic term rooted to the territory (Kloppenburg et al., 1996; Hedberg, 2020), defined by the flow of food from production space to consumption space, and related to the idea of traceability in a given space (Peters et al., 2009a, 2009b; Lengnick et al., 2015; Saavedra et al., 2017; Galzki et al., 2017; Swiader et al., 2018). This connotation positions the term as pivotal for the promotion and strengthening of Local Food Systems. Finally, the term foodscape can be understood as the visible urban part of the foodshed (Miewald and McCann, 2014; Vonthron et al., 2020). It addresses the urban provision of food and the factors that shape access to the population. In this context, the commensal community can be a force that shapes the limits of a local foodshed, as it connects authentically with a city's hinterland. Together, these concepts build a comprehensive conceptual and analytical tool to understand and foster the transition to a Local Food System.

FIELD SEMINAR IN 2022

Field excursions have been a hallmark of past IGU-CSRS Colloquiums. They have become an integral part of our conferences, providing participants with a comprehensive understanding of rural areas around the world.

Due to COVID-19, the excursion to rural Croatia will be organized by Local Organizing Committee in July 2022, immediately preceding the Centennial Congress of IGU in Paris (to be held July 18-22, 2022). Paris is only a short and relatively affordable flight (or even bus/train ride) away from Zagreb, which will hopefully be especially beneficial for our colleagues from far-flung corners of the world planning to attend Centennial Congress.

The field seminar in 2022 will provide a unique opportunity to get to know rural Croatia better. As a country in transition, still marked by the consequences of the recent transformation from a centrally planned economy to a market economy, and as a crossroads between the Central, Mediterranean and Southeast Europe, Croatia offers numerous examples of the changes taking place in our part of Europe.

Croatia's rural areas face enormous challenges in achieving a sustainable future, as they are severely affected by depopulation and out-migration, despite Croatia's recent access to key EU instruments (e.g. Regional and Cohesion Policy, Common Agricultural Policy etc.) and greater integration into international and global relations and trends. Moreover, Croatia's rural areas face many universal challenges, such as the conversion of land into peri-urban and tourist areas, the conflict between nature/cultural protection and (over)tourism, the expansion of the second-home market, migrant flows, etc.

The fieldwork will include representative cases of both challenges and innovative responses in the three geographical regions of Croatia: Zagreb and Peri-Pannonia (lowlands), Dinaric (mountains) and the Adriatic (coast).

Further information will be announced in the following months.

Photos:

1, 4, 5 - Ivor Vodanović / 2, 3, - Aleksandar Lukić / 6, 7, 9 - pxhere.com / 8 - populationdata.net



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THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
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