



The European Society of Rural Sociology

## ESRS Summerschool 2014

Theoretical Approaches to the  
Ecologisation of Agrifood Systems and  
Rural Landscapes

8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of September  
Le Pradel, Ardèche, France

Transitions towards more sustainable agrifood systems and rural landscapes are at the core of societal demands, technological but also social innovations and renewed public policies at various scales. In rural sociology they are addressed through different theoretical frameworks and the main objective of the ESRS PhD Summer School this year, is to discuss these competing and sometimes articulated frameworks and thereby to help the PhD students to clarify their own theoretical choices and to position them in relation to other theoretical frameworks that are used in rural sociology.

For students who are rather at the beginning of their PhD, the aim will be to help them organize their state of the art and clarify their problematisation, while for students who are more advanced, it would rather be a discussion of their results in the light of existing literature and/or possibly the preparation of a future article. All the participants should have an interest in the theoretical frameworks that will be structuring the discussion, i.e. mainly Socio-Ecological Systems/Resilience theories, Food Regime Theory, Transition Theories, Actor Network Theory, and Social Studies of Science and Knowledge.

Besides plenary lectures on these different theories, other lectures will also address transversal themes such as the role of civil society in these transitions and the production and circulation of knowledge. The emergence of new forms of social innovation and civic food networks in the agrifood sector also raises new research questions. Does the increasing involvement of civil society in agricultural and food issues allow framing differently the issue of ecologisation? Does it allow reconnecting agriculture and food which have historically been addressed separately by public policies?

In terms of production and circulation of knowledge, the ecologisation of agricultural practices and agrifood systems implies many different kinds of knowledge, which raises the transversal issue of the production and the circulation of these different kinds of knowledge (scientific, lay, empirical, etc.) between and among the social actors involved in the situations analyzed by the PhD students. In a period characterized by a certain criticism and skepticism against science and scientists, what role does play scientific knowledge (agronomical, zootechnical, ecological, biological, sociological, etc.) in the ecologisation of the agrifood systems? What kind of circulation and exchanges of knowledge between the different kinds of collective and individual actors can be observed within these processes of ecologisation?

## Plenary senior researchers' conferences:

- Henk Renting – *The role of civil society as driving force for transition processes in agri-food systems*
- David Goodman – *Food Regime Theory Revisited*
- Christian Deverre – *The greening of European agri-food systems: promise and facts*
- Henry Buller – *The shifting nature of agricultural ethics*
- Yuna Chiffolleau – *Actor-network theory and social network analysis applied to short food chains*
- Gianluca Brunori – *European food systems facing scarcity: new battlefields for food wars.*
- Charalambos Kasimis - *Rural resilience to crisis in Greece connected to the internal and external mobilities to rural areas*
- Nathalie Jas - *Bridging STS and Environmental Justice Litteratures, Questioning Intensive Agri-Food Systems*

The Summerschool will be structured around different moments, in order to favor interactions between students and with the senior researchers in a constructive and friendly atmosphere:

- plenary workshops based on students' short presentations of their own work and theoretical frameworks
- 1 or 2 senior researchers' conferences everyday (on the theoretical frameworks mentioned above and their specificities and complementarities as well as on 2 or 3 key transversal themes),
- parallel workshops with 3 or 4 students and one senior researcher in order to work more thoroughly on these theoretical frameworks and their difficulties in applying/discussing them,
- 2 slots of 1.5 hours for each student for individualized work with her/his "tutor" (see below)
- field visits in the region, focused on civil food networks, organic agriculture, urban-rural relationships, biodiversity conservation

## Senior researchers' tutors for students' work (who will stay the whole duration):

Several senior researchers (5 or 6) will accompany the students during the whole week. Students' presentations will be commented and discussed in the workshops, and each student will also be separately supervised by a tutor (one tutor for 2 to 3 students).

The applying students are expected to prepare a working paper and send it to their tutor before the Summerschool in order to better prepare the interactions and the supervising work.

Senior researchers – "tutors": Henry Buller, David Goodman, Henk Renting, Christian Deverre plus Claire Lamine and Elsa Faugère as local organizers.

## In order to apply...

→ PhD students have to submit an **abstract** (Thesis' title, 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> year, main research questions, theoretical framework, methodology, type of empirical data, first results and elements of discussion) – maximum 800 words and a 1 page CV by 5<sup>th</sup> of June to [clamine@avignon.inra.fr](mailto:clamine@avignon.inra.fr) and [elsa.faugere@avignon.inra.fr](mailto:elsa.faugere@avignon.inra.fr)

Selection will be done by the 15<sup>th</sup> of June

→ The students who are selected (about 10) will have to send their working paper (a future article or a chapter of their thesis, 15 to 30 pages) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of August

→ There is no registration fee and the accommodation and food is free for the whole duration of the summerschool.

Options will also be suggested for those who want to visit the region after the summerschool.

This 2014 ESRS PhD Summerschool will take place in the historical place of Le Pradel, Ardèche, created by the agronomist Olivier de Serres in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. <http://www.olivier-de-serres.org/pradel.php>  
(from both Marseille Provence or Lyon international airports: 1h40 of car, or train to Montélimar and then 35 minutes of public bus (SNCF) to St-Jean le Centenier from 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> of September (participants are to arrive on the 7<sup>th</sup>).