

7th Biennial Conference  
of the European Rural History Organisation [EURHO]

# Rural History 2025

9 – 12 September Coimbra

Faculty of Arts and Humanities & Faculty of Economics,  
University of Coimbra, Portugal





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**DESIGN**

B2 Design

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**ISBN**

978-989-36441-0-2

Coimbra, 2025

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## Conference Program & Abstracts of all Sessions & Papers

Faculty of Arts and Humanities & Faculty of Economics,  
University of Coimbra, Portugal



UIDB/00460/2025



UIDB/00311/2025





Morning light in Penafiel, 1920, Domingos Alvão, Lisbon Digital Newspaper Library

## Greetings from the President of the EURHO

PRESIDENT OF EURHO **Prof. Dr. Enikő  
Rüsz- Fogarasi** Vice-dean of the  
Faculty of History and Philosophy,  
of the Babes-Bolyai University

## ***Dear Conference Participants!***

As I write these lines, I am filled with memories of our wonderful gathering in Uppsala three years ago. I still remember the evening walk through the quiet streets, deep in conversation with colleagues—moments like those remind us that this is much more than an academic meeting. It is truly astonishing how fast time passes. It has already been two years since the previous text-book was finalized, and we held our conference in Cluj-Napoca. And now, here we are again—another opportunity for those of us engaged in rural history to meet, to present our work, and to envision the future together.

The Rural History Conference has long been a cornerstone of EURHO's activity, hosted by numerous cities across Europe. This year, it has traveled from the eastern part of the continent to its westernmost region, bringing with it the spirit of exchange and discovery that defines our field.

Each gathering presents a remarkable opportunity for researchers from around the world to come together and share their work. But this event is far more than a traditional academic conference: it includes engaging workshops, thought-provoking keynotes, book launches, and invaluable opportunities for collaboration. While European scholars primarily attended the earlier conferences, we now take great joy in welcoming participants from other continents as well—an evolution that enriches our perspectives and deepens the impact of our work. These global exchanges have borne fruit in inspiring ways: regional associations dedicated to rural history are emerging in many parts of the world. Let us recall that the idea of the South American association was born in Cluj and has since launched its events—a wonderful witness to the generative power of our gatherings.

A special welcome goes to young researchers and first-time participants—your fresh perspectives are vital to the future of rural history. We are excited to see your work and to build new connections across generations and disciplines.

One of the great gifts of these conferences is the chance to encounter a new place, a new country, a new culture, a new landscape—a new rural history hinterland. Each edition leaves us not only with new knowledge but also with a renewed experience of rural societies and their rich diversity.

If we look back at the history of our meetings, it is clear that we are part of an increasing and evolving network. The number of participants has grown with each edition, drawing in more countries and more continents. At the same time, our intellectual lens has widened, embracing new disciplines, methodologies, and perspectives. Interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches are increasingly present, allowing us to address complex questions with greater depth and scope.

This evolution is not only a success of our community but also a reflection of the urgent relevance of rural history in today's world. In a time marked by climate change, social fragmentation, and questions of sustainability, rural history offers not only a deeper understanding of the past but also tools for resilience in the present and future.

It is worth highlighting that participation in the conference also includes membership in EURHO. Every registered participant becomes part of our growing organization and gains access to the collective benefits of our shared work and vision.

The success of our network and events also depends greatly on the leadership of EURHO. I would like to express particular gratitude to Brigitte Semanek, who continues to be the heart of our organization—our connector, our communicator, and our problem solver. The updates and news she provides are of great value to us all, keeping us informed and united.

Let us also take a moment to thank the local organizing team here in Coimbra, whose vision and dedication made this event possible. Hosting a conference is no small task, and we are grateful for their generosity and professionalism.

Reading the program of the Coimbra conference, I am once again filled with anticipation. We are gathered in a city and a country of extraordinary cultural heritage, and we are about to embark on a program that promises new opportunities, new insights, and new collaborations in rural history.

Let us use this time not only to share research but to forge connections - across borders, disciplines, and generations. Together, we continue to shape not only a field of study, but a global intellectual community.

Finally, I believe in the wisdom of a traditional proverb that says:

***“The land does not forget those who listen to it.”***

*Good luck, meaningful meetings and discussions!  
Let's meet in Coimbra in September!*

Cluj-Napoca, 23 June 2025

## Welcome to Coimbra

### Dulce Freire

CHAIR OF THE PORTUGUESE ORGANISING COMMITTEE **Dulce Freire**, University of Coimbra, Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Economics

What is rural? What is rural history? For the past 15 years, hundreds of researchers have regularly gathered at EURHO conferences, recognising that simple questions require more than simplistic answers. EURHO conferences have become landmark events in the History calendar and beyond. The growing relevance of these conferences is confirmed by the increasing number of participants who, every two years, bring different languages, territories, knowledge, experiences, sources and perspectives. Testimonies from the past have become a resource for exploring and explaining issues raised by different disciplines, thereby expanding the scope of questions, methodologies and analytical approaches to our heritage.

Around 500 researchers from 40 countries are expected to gather at the University of Coimbra in 2025. The programme consists of three plenary sessions and 124 parallel sessions. The plenary sessions will feature lectures by guest speakers Inês Amorim and Richard W. Hoyle. The issues they will discuss reflect their scientific curiosity, as well as the historiographical dynamics of their respective countries over the last few decades — a period during which research has shifted from a national focus to an increasingly international, interdisciplinary and comparative one. The third plenary session is a roundtable aimed at encouraging critical thinking on changes in the study of the rural past. Some argue that a revolution is underway, driven by innovations in genetics, artificial intelligence or image (re)creation. As we approach the 100-year anniversary of the *Annales movement's* inception, might history be about to take another turn?

The parallel sessions, some of which are split into two or three parts, demonstrate the vitality taking place, as well as showing how approaches are improving our understanding of rural communities and territories from the inside out. Relations with the outside world are also considered, but from a more rural perspective, whether through the nearest city, centralised state decisions, technological hegemony, destination countries for emigration, or the markets that sustain value chains. The programme includes classic themes in rural history, such as access to land, the unequal distribution of wealth, working conditions, revolts and violence. However, alongside landowners and peasants, there are now also more women with varied responsibilities, seasonal workers of different ethnicities, slaves in various locations, and immigrants and emigrants moving around. Further insights come from production: researchers have paid more attention to what is produced in rural areas than to what is consumed there. Despite papers addressing consumption or food scarcity, this remains the trend. However, other perspectives are emerging, covering topics such as the presence of animals (including insects and other pests), different crops and weeds, forests and timber, and water, as well as the changing environment. Many more avenues of innovation are lurking in the hundreds of papers under discussion during the four-day conference.

	<p>In addition to the 'Meet the Author' sessions, which focused on recently published books, the Coimbra conference introduced 'Meet the Project' sessions. This is because it is important to consider not only the results, but also the process. 'Meet the Project' provides an opportunity to shed more light on how the subjects are conceived and how methodologies are implemented. Specific doubts and challenges are highlighted, confirming the experimental nature inherent in all scientific fields.</p> <p>The 2025 EURHO programme reflects the diversity of research trends that are converging on rural history. Still, as always, developing robust, diverse and plausible explanations of the past remains inextricably linked to access to historical sources, as well as the ability to connect dispersed, fragmented and local data. Like a lightning rod, rural history is firmly rooted in empirical exploration, yet it directs interpretative ambitions towards the universe.</p> <p>As organisers, we are proud to be hosting this conference at the University of Coimbra, and we hope that you will all enjoy participating. We are sure the encounters and exchanges promise to be much more stimulating than anticipated!</p> <p>Coimbra, 22 July 2025</p>
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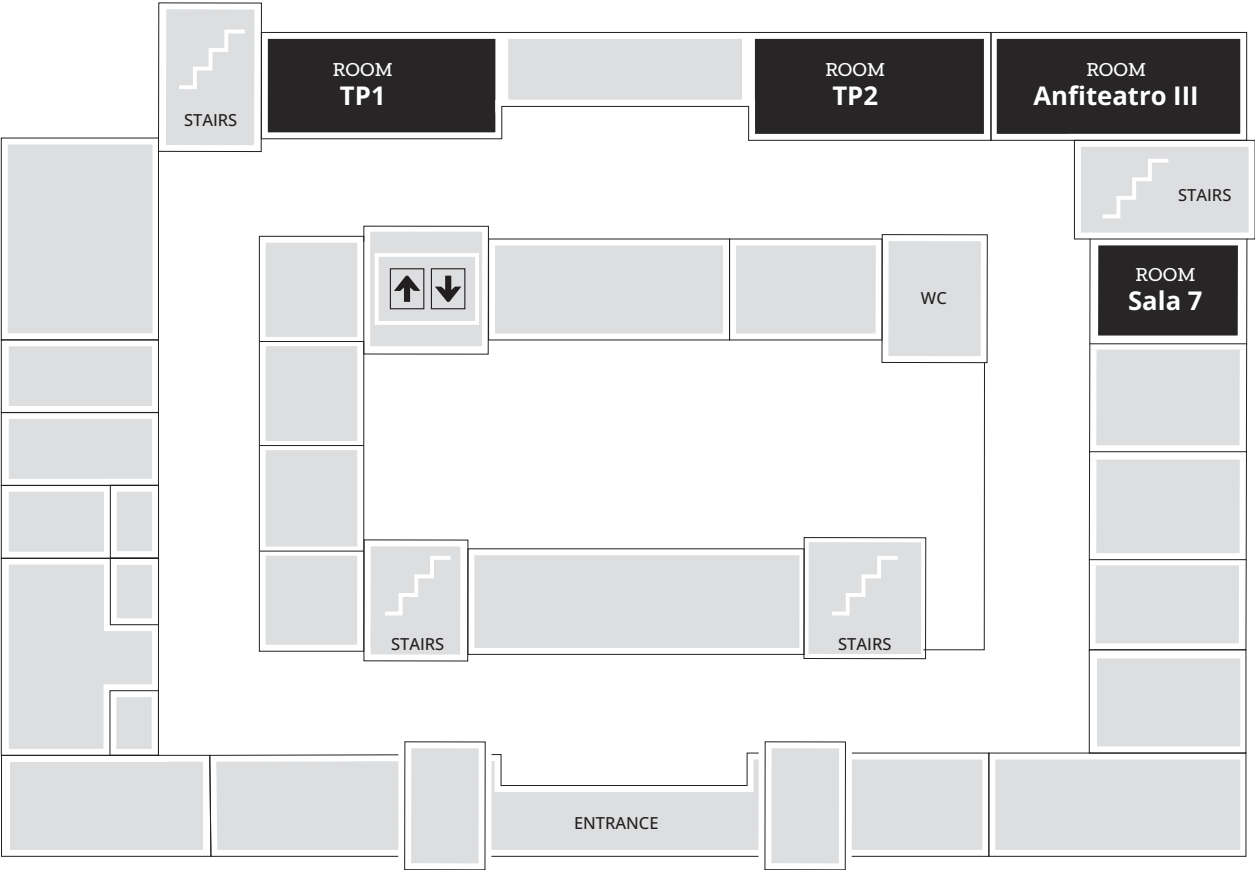
*At the rustic window, in Autumn, 1913, Domingos Alvão, Lisbon Digital Newspaper Library*

<b>Practicalities</b>	
<b>Refreshments &amp; lunch</b>	<p>At both the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Economics, the coffee breaks will be served close-by. Near the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and of the Faculty of Economics, participants will find several convenient lunch options (including vegan and vegetarian options). The University offers several canteens in the surrounding area of the faculties, in addition to cafeterias located within the faculties buildings. Other nearby options include restaurants and pastry shops serving light meals, soft drinks, coffee and tea, and a variety of Portuguese sweets.</p> <p>More detailed information can be found on the conference website.</p>
<b>Internet</b>	<p>Both at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities and the Faculty of Economics it is possible to use Eduroam.</p>
<b>Welcome &amp; Close cocktails</b>	<p>The Conference Welcome Cocktail will take place on the terrace of the Museu Nacional Machado de Castro, at the end of the first day of the Conference, Tuesday, 9 September. The event will conclude with a Closing Cocktail on Friday, 12 September, at the Faculty of Economics, taking place in the faculty gardens.</p>
<b>Excursions</b>	<p>The study visits are scheduled to take place concurrently on the afternoon of Tuesday, September 11, with departures following lunch. Participation is restricted to those who registered in advance. Buses will leave from Rua Larga 2 (opposite the Chemistry Department of the University of Coimbra, close to the Faculty of Arts and Humanities) at 2:30 p.m. Visits to the city of Coimbra are on foot and start at 2:30 p.m. Participants will be informed of the meeting point for each visit in due course. Participants are requested to be punctual at the meeting points defined for the start of each visit.</p>

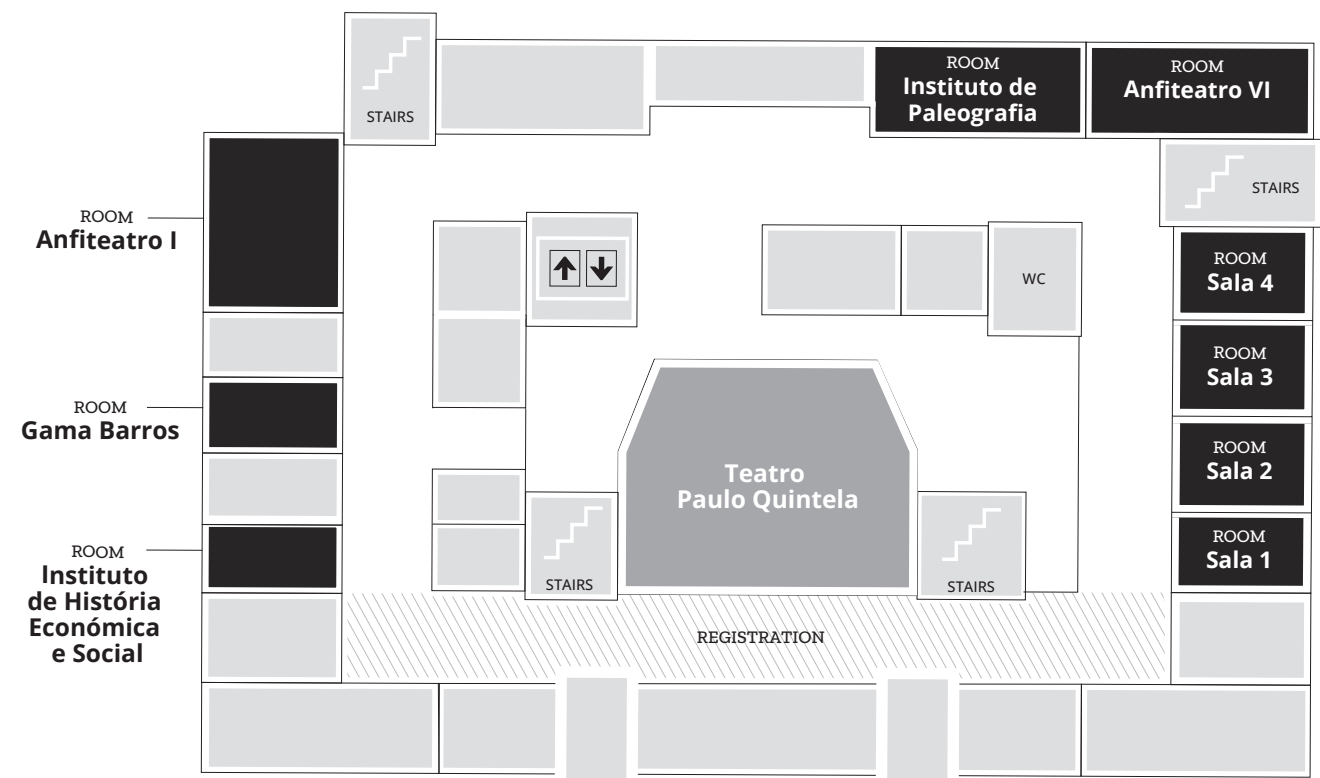
Faculty of Arts  
and Humanities

With over a century of existence, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (Faculdade de Letras da Universidade de Coimbra, FLUC) is, within the University of Coimbra, the school of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences. FLUC is one of the most prestigious educational institutions in Portugal, with a rich history, a strong international outlook, and a continuous commitment to innovation through concrete practices aimed at making it a point of reference. It is a vibrant and engaged faculty. To study at FLUC is to experience an intense cultural journey, to engage with a vast diversity of knowledge. Above all, it is a path that prepares students to face the challenges of the future.

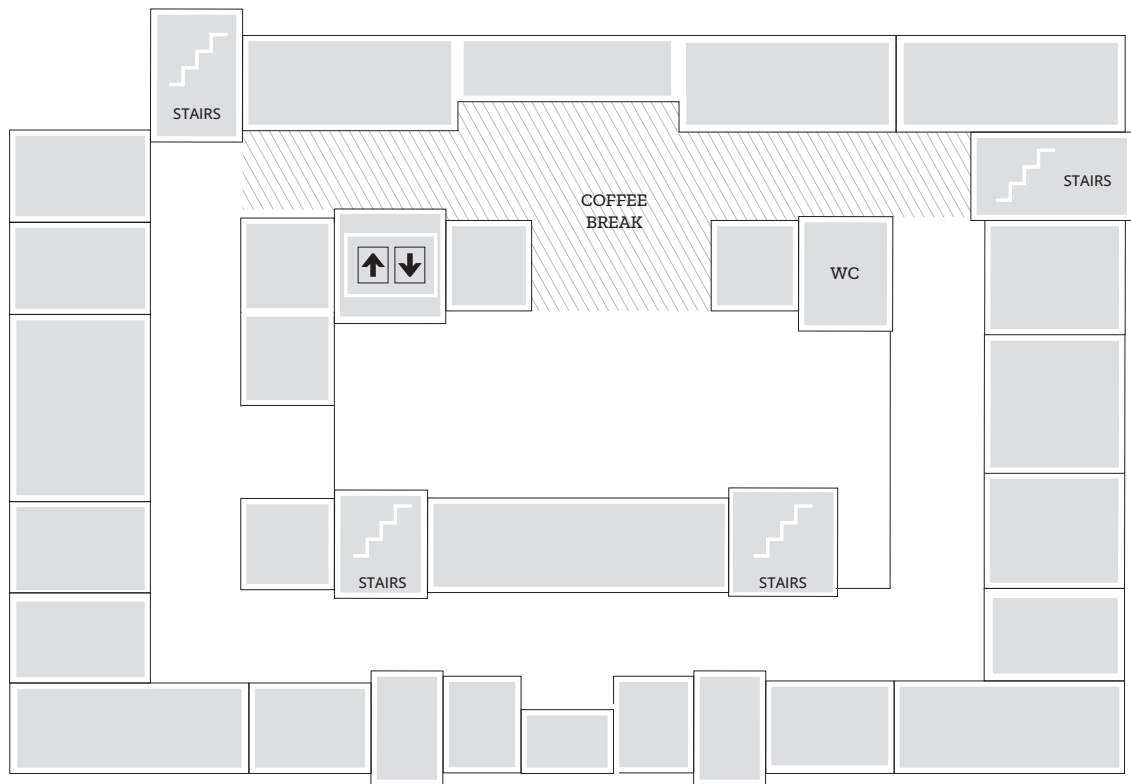
Floor 4



Floor 3



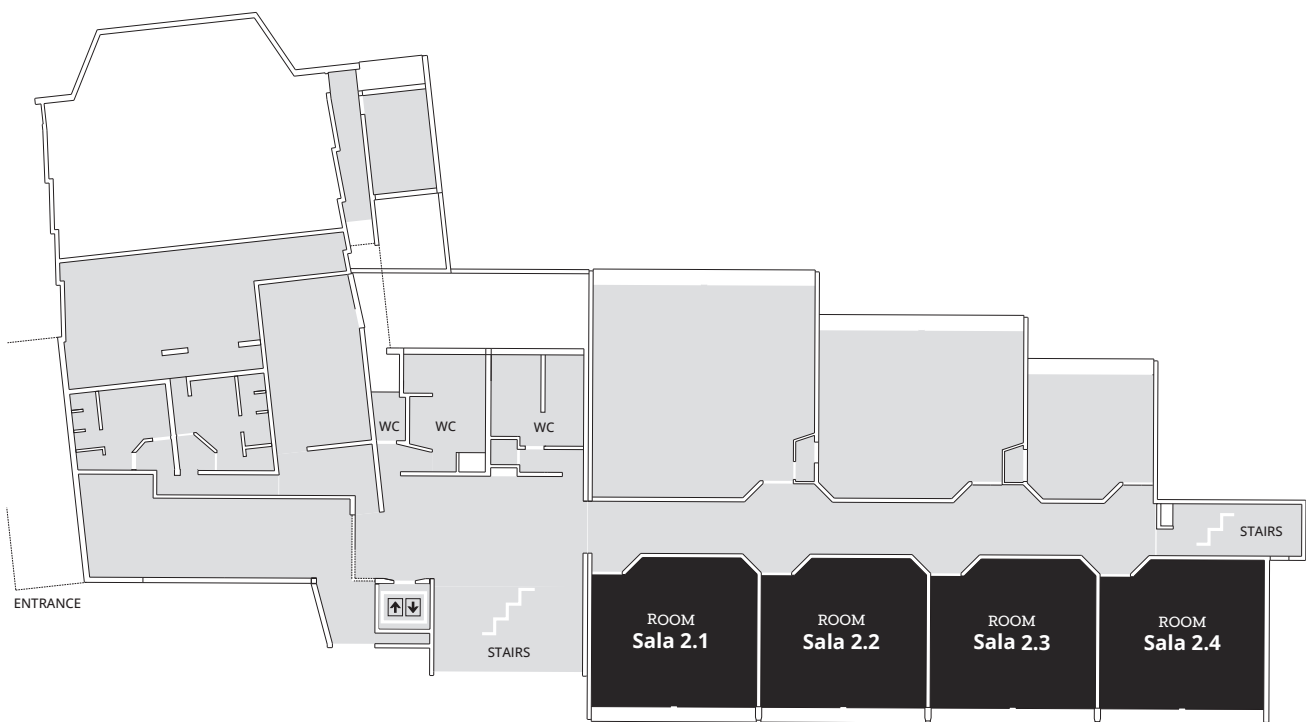
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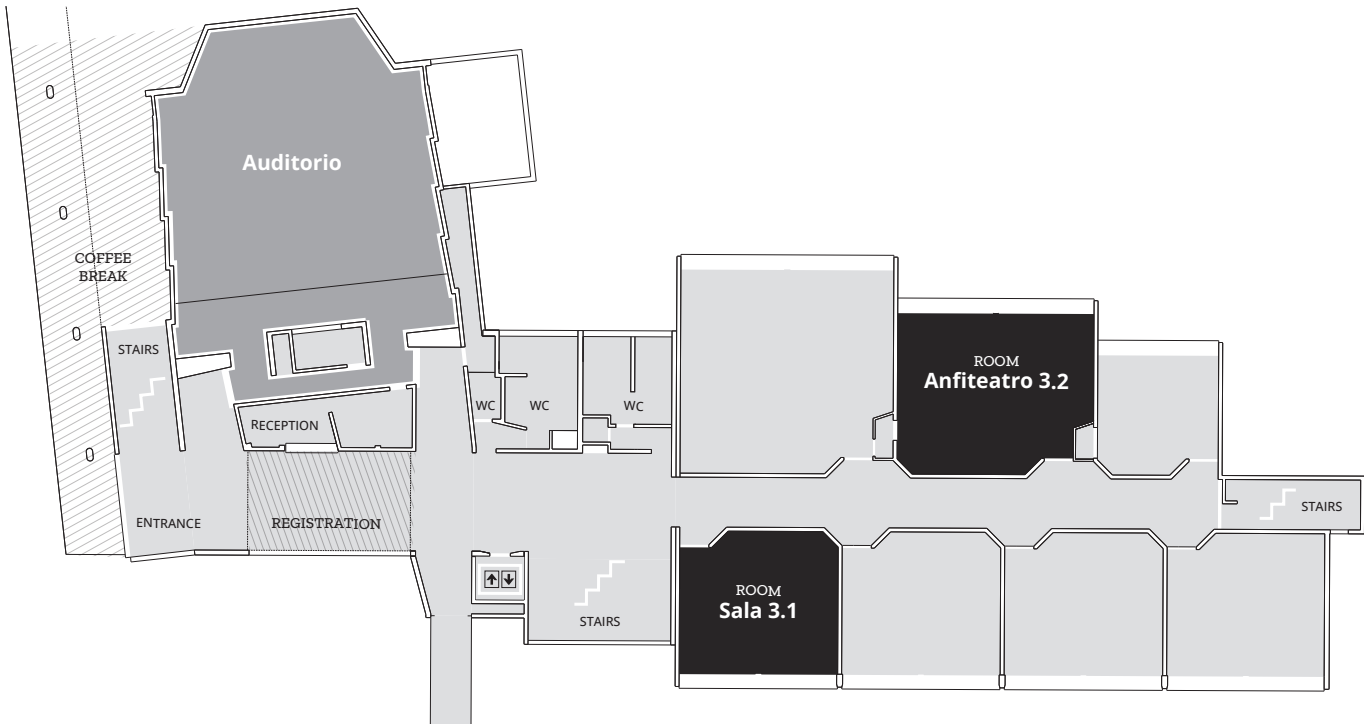
## Faculty of Economics

Established in 1972, the Faculty of Economics (Faculdade de Economia da Universidade de Coimbra, FEUC) is one of the eight faculties that comprise the University of Coimbra. Today, a significant part of FEUC's academic offering focuses on postgraduate education. The faculty's facilities are in the Olivais area of the city and include spacious buildings for academic activities, open social spaces, and a sizeable landscaped area. With a student population of 2,627, supported by 129 academic staff and 30 administrative personnel, FEUC maintains an ideal size and effective logistics to ensure high-quality services within an academic environment marked by closeness and accessibility. Its highly qualified teaching staff, dedicated to their academic roles, is notably youthful, which encourages a relationship between students and lecturers that is both open and intellectually demanding.

### Floor 2



Floor 3



Floor 4



<b>Eurho</b>	<p>The EURHO is a non-profit organisation concerned to promote the study of all aspects of rural history in Europe and beyond. It organises, through its members, a bi-annual international conference, runs the website <a href="http://www.ruralhistory.eu">www.ruralhistory.eu</a> and publishes the Rural History Newsletter. Membership is open to scientific institutions concerned with the furtherance of rural history and to individuals who attend the organisation's conferences. The EURHO has evolved from the recent initiatives in the field of international rural history such as the research network CORN (Comparative Rural History of the North-Sea Area), the rural network of the European Social Science History Conference and the ESF-COST Action PROGRESSORE (Programme for the Study of European Rural Societies). The EURHO has its legal seat at the institute of Rural History in St. Pölten, Austria which provides administrative services to the organization. The current officers are President Enikő Rűsz-Fogarasi, Vice-Presidents Dulce Freire and Zsuzsanna Varga; Secretary Brigitte Semanek; Treasurer Laurent Herment.</p>
<b>University of Coimbra</b>	<p>Founded in 1290, the University of Coimbra (UC) is one of the oldest universities in continuous operation worldwide. With over seven centuries of history, the UC has played a fundamental role in the production and dissemination of knowledge, integrating teaching, research, and community service. With approximately 30,000 students across eight faculties, the University promotes economic and social development, environmental protection, social justice, and an informed and responsible citizenship. Its mission is guided by scientific excellence, critical thinking, and cultural enrichment. In recognition of its historical, architectural, and educational significance, the University of Coimbra was designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2013, further affirming its status as a global reference in higher education.</p>
<b>Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies</b>	<p>The Centre for Interdisciplinary Studies (Centro de Estudos Interdisciplinares, CEIS20) is a research unit of the University of Coimbra, affiliated with the Institute for Interdisciplinary Research and funded since 1998 by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT). Comprising eight research groups, the Centre's scientific output reflects both the individual dynamism of each group and the intersections of their activities, within a framework of interdisciplinary awareness. This interdisciplinary approach is understood as a methodological resource for the knowledge and theoretical innovation required by the Centre's research focus. In the field of advanced training and knowledge transfer, CEIS20 has offered, since 2011, the 3rd Cycle (Doctoral) Programme in Contemporary Studies. In addition to this, the Centre provides other forms of postgraduate education and offers training to early-career researchers, fostering advanced research practices. It also hosts a significant number of Portuguese and international postdoctoral researchers.</p>

## Centre for the History of Society and Culture

The Centre for the History of Society and Culture (Centro de História da Sociedade e da Cultura, CHSC) is a Research and Development Unit accredited by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology. It is physically and administratively based at the University of Coimbra and is affiliated with the Faculty of Arts and Humanities of the same institution. As the successor of the Centre for Historical Studies, created in the 1970s, the CHSC was formally established in 1976. Initially affiliated with the National Institute for Scientific Research (INIC), it later came under the auspices of the National Board for Scientific and Technological Research (JNICT) and, since 1997, has been integrated into the FCT. Over nearly five decades of existence, the CHSC has demonstrated a stable organisational model and made a significant contribution to the advancement of historical knowledge. The impact of its work is evident in its integration into international research networks, its role in hosting and/or developing innovative knowledge transfer projects, and in the publication of numerous scholarly works — most notably the *Revista de História da Sociedade e da Cultura*, which has been published continuously since 2001.



*Rural worker resting at the door of a house, 1975, Inácio Ludgero, Mário Soares and Maria Barroso Foundation*

## Conference Organisers

### Internacional Scientific Committee

#### Dulce Freire

Professor, University of Coimbra, Portugal, Chair of the International Scientific Committee and the Portuguese Organising Committee

#### Carlos Manuel Faísca

Professor, University of Coimbra, Portugal, Chair of the International Scientific Committee and the Portuguese Organising Committee

#### Aleksander Panjek

Professor, University of Primorska, Slovenia

#### Álvaro Garrido

Professor, University of Coimbra, Portugal

#### Anna Maria Stagno

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#### Juan Pan-Montojo

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#### Margarida Sobral Neto

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#### Patrick Svensson

Professor, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

#### Pedro C. Carvalho

Professor University of Coimbra, Portugal

#### Peter A. Coclanis

Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States of America

#### Peter Moser

Director, Archives of Rural History, Bern, Switzerland

#### Tim Soens

Professor, University of Antwerp, Belgium

#### Zsuzsanna Varga

Professor, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest, Hungary

### Local Organising Committee

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Center for Interdisciplinary Studies & Faculty of Economics

#### Carlos Manuel Faísca

Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, Faculty of Arts and Humanities

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Center for Interdisciplinary Studies

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#### José Luís Barbosa

Center for the History of Society and Culture & Faculty of Arts and Humanities

#### Ricardo Costeira da Silva

Center for Interdisciplinary Studies & Faculty of Arts and Humanities

### Secretarial Support

#### Mónica Lourenço

#### Joana Sobral

9 September FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES	10 September FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES	11 September FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES	12 September FACULTY OF ECONOMICS
8h15 – 9h00 <b>OPEN SESSION</b>			
9h00 – 11h00 <b>EURHO Board Meeting / PARALLEL SESSIONS 1</b>	8h30 – 10h30 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 3</b>	8h30 – 10h30 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 7</b>	8h30 – 10h30 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 9</b>
	10h30 – 11h00 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	10h30 – 11h00 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	10h30 – 11h00 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
11h00 – 11h30 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>			
11h30 – 13h00 <b>ROUNDTABLE</b>	11h00 – 13h00 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 4</b>	11h00 – 13h00 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 8</b>	11h00 – 13h00 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 10</b>
13h00 – 14h30 <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	13h00 – 14h30 <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	13h00 – 14h30 <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	13h00 – 14h30 <b>LUNCH BREAK</b>
14h30 – 16h30 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 2</b>	14h30 – 16h30 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 5</b>	14h30 – 18h00 <b>PARALLEL VISITS</b>	14h30 – 16h30 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 11</b>
16h30 – 17h00 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	16h30 – 17h00 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>	<b>1.</b> Lower Mondego River <b>2.</b> From Seed to Plate <b>3.</b> Changing Rural Territories <b>4.</b> Building the city of Coimbra <b>5.</b> Itinerary of Coimbra's House-Museums <b>6.</b> History of the University of Coimbra	16h30 – 17h00 <b>COFFEE BREAK</b>
17h00 – 17h45 <b>EURHO General Assembly</b>	17h00 – 19h00 <b>PARALLEL SESSIONS 6</b>		17h00 – 18h00 <b>Keynote 2</b> <b>Richard W. Hoyle,</b> University of Reading
18h00 – 19h00 <b>Keynote 1</b> <b>Inês Amorim,</b> University of Porto			18h00 – 19h00 <b>CONFERENCE CLOSE SESSION</b>
19h30 - 21h00 <b>CONFERENCE WELCOME COCKTAIL</b>  Terrace of the Machado de Castro Museum			19h00 – 20h00 <b>CONFERENCE CLOSING COCKTAIL</b>  Gardens of the Faculty of Economics

## Special Conference Events

### Welcome and closing cocktail

On the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, the Conference Welcome Cocktail will be held on the terrace of the Museu Nacional Machado de Castro. The Conference Closing Cocktail will take place on the afternoon of the 12<sup>th</sup> of September and will be served at the Faculty of Economics.

## Excursions

### *Study Visit 1* Lower Mondego River Area and Salt Museum

In addition to being the longest of the Portuguese rivers (that is, having their source and mouth in Portugal), the Mondego can be understood as a symbolic border between the north and south of Mainland Portugal. Furthermore, it was a historical route for transport and exchange of natural products between two geomorphologically distinct areas and two complementary geoeconomies: from the lowlands and seascapes west of Coimbra, to the eastern rougher soils and environments of the agro-forestry-pastoral complex of mountain landscapes. This study trip will travel through the Lower Mondego region, between Coimbra and Figueira da Foz, in which will be discussed its historical and contemporary dynamics, covering topics such as human landscapes, sustainability, floods, hydraulic works, agriculture, the planting of species such as rice or tourism. Finally, nearby the Atlantic, at the river mouth, with a visit to the museum centre and surrounding area of *salines*, the group will be presented with the topic of salt production.

### *Study Visit 2* From Seed to Plate: The Europe's Northernmost rice-growing region

This fieldtrip is focused on the Estarreja area (Aveiro region) that is the northernmost location where rice has been cultivated in Portugal and is also one of the oldest. The earliest records of rice production date back to the early 19th century, with the crop gaining socio-economic significance, as in other parts of the country, particularly from the early 20th century onwards. However, due to less favourable climatic conditions and a highly fragmented landownership structure, local rice cultivation declined when the "green revolution" brought significant productivity increases further south. The lower yields of local landraces and a lack of capital largely contributed to the near extinction of Estarreja's rice sector. Currently, the Estarreja municipality is working to revitalize this heritage, primarily as a means of territorial promotion. This visit will explore the entire rice production chain, from agricultural cultivation to industrial processing and final consumption, including a visit to a former rice milling factory that has been converted into a museum.

### *Study Visit 3* Changing Rural Territories: Long-term Perspectives on Heritage and Innovation

This visit explores the transformations in rural territories around the Serra de Sicó area (slightly south of the city of Coimbra) over the past 2000 years. Departing from the town of Condeixa-a-Nova, the itinerary follows Roman vestiges embedded in landscapes, infrastructures, artefacts, and cultural values. While these remains highlight the centrality of these territories during

	<p>the Roman Empire, they also reveal the profound changes that shaped the centuries following its decline. The itinerary includes a visit to the Fernando Namora House-Museum. As a physician, writer, and painter, Fernando Namora observed and documented rural daily life in the second half of the 20th century, a period marked by structural transformations in Portugal's economy and society. So, this visit offers a glimpse into the social and economic changes that have taken place in rural areas over the long term.</p>
<p><b>Study Visit 4</b>  <b>Building the city of Coimbra:</b>  <b>The Roman marks through time</b></p>	<p>In Coimbra there is one of the best preserved Roman cryptoporticus in the Iberian Peninsula. After being crucial to building the Roman city, this monumental structure now serves as the foundation of the Machado de Castro National Museum. The walking tour includes a descent into the cryptoporticus, an exploration of the museum's collections, and a visit to other areas associated with the construction of this urban space.</p>
<p><b>Study Visit 5</b>  <b>Between the rural and the urban: Itinerary of Coimbra's House-Museums</b></p>	<p>The itinerary includes visits to the homes of three important intellectuals in 20th century Portuguese literature and science. The tour begins at the house museum of Miguel Torga, an essential writer for understanding the soul of rural Portugal. The next stop is the Bissaya Barreto House Museum, an impressive architectural and artistic ensemble that also reveals the dimension of this doctor's social and scientific work. The visit ends at the former home of João Cochofel (poet, writer, essayist and literary critic), which was a privileged meeting place for the neo-realist movement in Coimbra and is now a cultural and artistic space of the Municipality of Coimbra. All in all, these visits offer plural visions of the city and its cultural debates during the decades between dictatorship and democracy in Portugal.</p>
<p><b>Study Visit 6</b>  <b>University of Coimbra:</b>  <b>Education, science and the city</b></p>	<p>Founded in 1290, the University of Coimbra, classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2014, has influenced the organisation and development of the city in several ways. This visit explores the impacts of the university's infrastructure on urban space, from the first buildings still preserved to the new constructions of the mid-20th century, which forced the destruction of medieval neighbourhoods. This walking itinerary through the history of the university includes the impacts of the Enlightenment reforms on science and teaching, visible in buildings as the first laboratories, the astronomical observatory and the botanical garden.</p>

## Keynote Speakers

The keynote speakers at this edition will be **Inês Amorim** (University of Porto, Portugal) and **Richard W. Hoyle** (University of Reading, United Kingdom).

### KEYNOTE 1

**Inês Amorim**

*Inês Amorim is a Full Professor at the Faculty of Arts of the University of Porto, Portugal, a lecturer in the Department of History, Politics and International Studies, and Director of the master's degree in History and Heritage. She has been the Scientific Coordinator of CITCEM – Transdisciplinary Research Center for Culture, Space and Memory since March 2023. She has participated in different interdisciplinary projects and collaborates with researchers from different scientific areas (Anthropology, Biology, Economics, Geography and Information Science), in teams formed by researchers from different universities, such as England, Germany, France, Canada, Norway, Spain, Italy, United States, Ireland, Denmark, India, Timor, among others. Her main interests are focused on economic and social history, environmental history, climate history, credit, consumption, poverty and well-being, as well as the area of maritime heritage.*

### Farmer agency in early modern times: individual and collective efforts

Agricultural agency is a term imported from current agricultural services policy, encompassing several objectives: land access, crop selection and forest management, credit and loan programs, disaster management, and agricultural market management, among others. The perspective is to assess the capacity of agricultural producers to make decisions about their livelihoods and environmental stewardship. This concept focuses on farmers ability to select, act, and effect change, whether individually or through collective efforts.

Applying this perspective to the Portuguese Modern Period may risk becoming anachronistic, but we consider it a challenge in reviewing current historiography and gathering indicators about decision-making within agricultural communities, whatever their nature. The main constraints stem from the nature of the information sources (primary sources and their producers) and locating potential capacity-building opportunities within the interstices of the powers that controlled land and agricultural resources. The approach is easier to carry out if we conduct a top-down analysis, particularly of monastic institutions, which deal with local farmers, but it is still possible to map locations where opportunities are observed for farmers to select and implement changes (bottom-up).

## KEYNOTE 2

**Richard Hoyle**

Richard Hoyle is Visiting Professor of Economic History at the University of Reading (UK) where he was Professor of Rural History 2000-14. He was latterly Professor of Local and Regional History at the University of London, 2014-16. He served as editor of *Agricultural History Review* 1999-2020 and is general editor of the Boydell Studies in Rural History (<https://boydellandbrewer.com/books/series/boydell-studies-in-rural-history/>). He was one of the team that organised the first Rural History Conference in Brighton in 2010 and served as the founding president of EURHO, 2010-15. He manages the on-line library LIBRAL <https://boydellandbrewer.com/books/series/boydell-studies-in-rural-history/>). In April 2025 he was elected President of the British Agricultural History Society.

As an agricultural and rural historian, he has ranged widely. Recent publications include a new account of the British agricultural revolution in the *Oxford Handbook of Agricultural History* (ed.) Whayne (2024) and an essay on the uses of accounts on late eighteenth-century agriculture in a volume on accounts edited by Joly and D'Onofrio in the Boydell series (2025). Much recent work is directed towards aspects of the grain trade, but he continues to be active in earlier periods and his next book will be *Landlords and tenants in Tawney's century; tenurial change in England, 1540-1640*. [www.rwhoyle.org.uk](http://www.rwhoyle.org.uk)

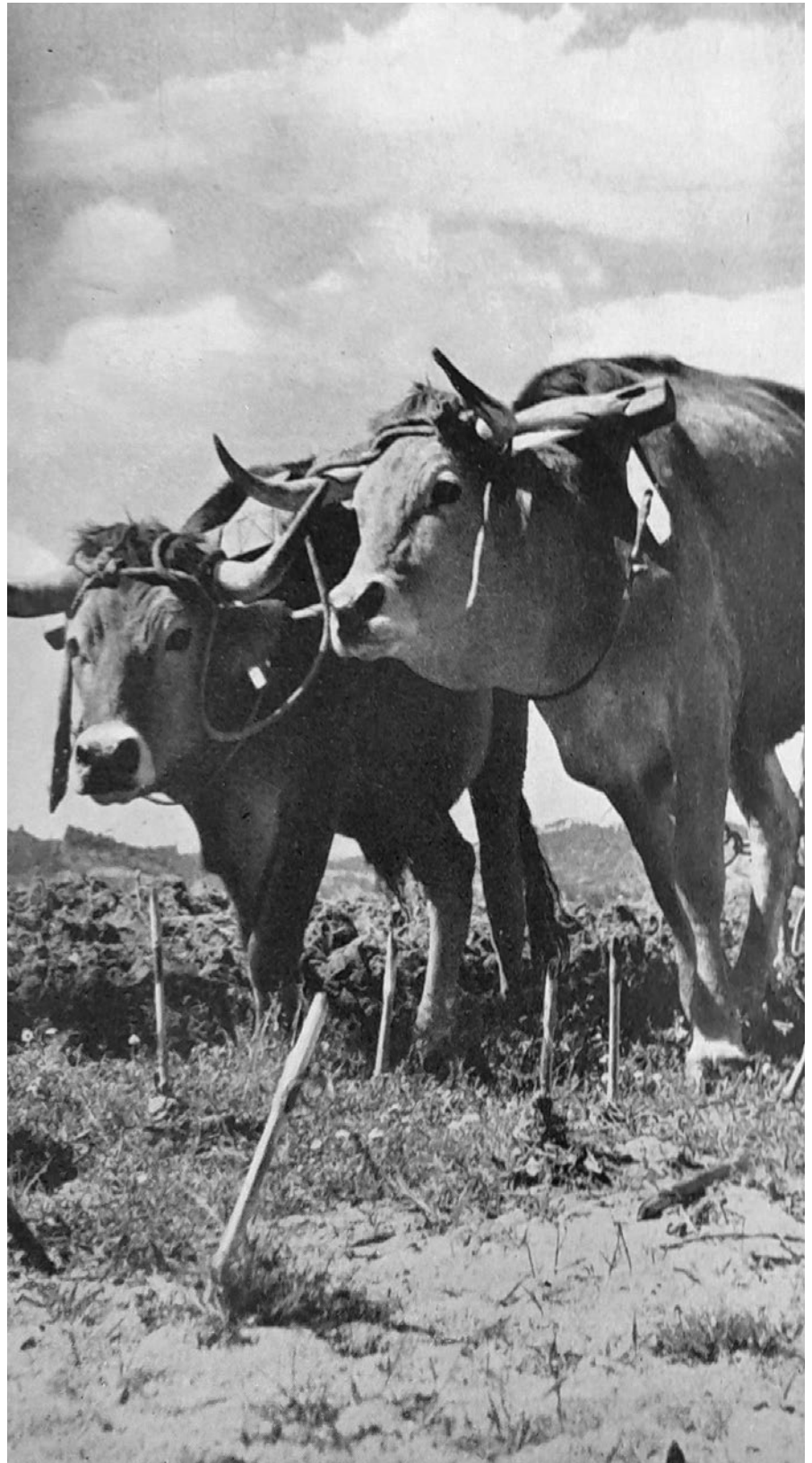
**Arthur Young,  
Sir George Sinclair and  
the agricultural origins  
of quantitative  
social science**

This plenary is about information and description. It explains the way in which the gathering of information about British agriculture became increasingly sophisticated and quantitative in character in the thirty or so years after 1780. At the end of the eighteenth century, English society was largely without statistics. There were no national population figures nor a clear sense of whether population was growing. Most parishes did not know how large they were. No agricultural data was collected. What was available was customs data, and contemporaries watched the balance of trade in agricultural products with anxiety but without really understanding what the figures meant.

Our account starts with Arthur Young (1741-1820) – the best known of the late eighteenth-century British agronomists and a natural quantifier, but his methods, especially as seen in his published agricultural Tours – appear slapdash. And yet Young has been claimed as the pioneer of sampling and we have largely overlooked how he used his data. He was certainly an early adopter of the circulated questionnaire, designed to gather structured and consistent evidence of conditions.

Sir John Sinclair (1754-1835) launched a very different approach to data gathering by sending Scottish clergy a questionnaire about their parishes. Their returns formed the basis of the Statistical Survey of Scotland. Sinclair intended to extend this approach to England, but had to be satisfied with the largely qualitative General Views sponsored by the Board of Agriculture. But these also espoused the idea of structured data in a consistent framework.

We shall show how, in the hands of the younger generation of contributors – individuals who are now little known – the General Views increasingly drew on fieldwork and became data rich and highly quantitative, employing a recognizable social science methodology.



*Tilling the land, 1953, Varela Pêcurto, National Library of Portugal*

**Tuesday, 9th September 2025**

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 9h00 – 11h00 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 1**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>1.1. Lands and natural spaces of the royal estate: categories, agencies, and rights in the Iberian world (15th-18th centuries)</b> María Carolina Jurado, Manuel Bastias Saavedra	1.1.1. The Royal Wood Factory and the centralisation of the exploitation of the Leiria Pine Forest (1723-1807) Diogo Moreno	1.1.2. Royal authority over colonial grasslands: contested claims during the 16th century viceroyalty of Peru Carolina Jurado	1.1.3. Royal domain and fief in Early Modern Sicily: the case of Camopetro Giacomo Pace Gravina	1.1.4. Ownership and responsibility: the Spanish Crown's claim to vacant inheritances (Italy and Spanish America, 17th-18th centuries) Alessandro Buono	1.1.5. The construction of the (theoretical) eminent domain of the Crowns of Castile and Portugal over woodlands for shipbuilding in the Iberian Peninsula (XV-XVIIIth centuries) Koldo Trapaga-Monchet	Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>1.2. Quality over time and across regions: evidence from the olive oil sector</b> Ramon Ramon-Muñoz, Silvia A. Conca Messina, Ana Duarte Rodrigues	1.2.1. A matter of quality: harvesting olives in the southern Italian countryside, late 18th - early 19th centuries Gaia Bruno	1.2.2. Rescuing traditional olive cultivars in Portugal for a more sustainable future Patricia Trindade Monteiro, Ana Duarte Rodrigues	1.2.3. Between divergence and convergence: regional patterns of technological change in Spain's olive oil industry since the mid-19th century Ramon Ramon-Muñoz	1.2.4. Conquering quality: the transformation of the Italian olive oil sector from the 19th century to the present day Rita d'Errico, Silvia A. Conca Messina		TP2, 4th floor
<b>1.3. Old and new configurations of rural Brazil: capital, social movements and education</b> Maria Cristina dos Santos, Luiz Bezerra, Paulino José Orso	1.3.1. Agribusiness and education in Brazil Paulino José Orso	1.3.2. The struggle for education in the Brazilian countryside: from pedagogical ruralism to the Escola da Terra Program Luiz Bezerra Neto	1.3.3. The socio-historical and economic composition of rural Brazil: the protagonism of subjects in the struggle for land and education Maria Cristina dos Santos			TP1, 4th floor
<b>1.4. Mutual construction and intertwining between community and hacienda in the Hispanic-Lusitanian worlds, 18th-20th centuries (Americas, Asia and the Caribbean) 1</b> Eric Léonard, Antonio Escobar Ohmstede, Marta Martín Gabaldón	1.4.1. An overview of water conflicts between villages and haciendas in the central valleys of Oaxaca, Mexico, 19th to 20th century Olivia P. Topete Pozas	1.4.2. Pueblos, haciendas and ranchos between the river valleys and the monte in Northwestern New Spain: spaces, resources, and boundaries in the Mayo river basin Cynthia Radding	1.4.3. An unique system of transmission of property rights over land in a Brazilian civil parish during the 19th century Manoela Pedroza	1.4.4. Haciendas and indigenous communities in the dispute and collaboration in the management of water and territory: the valleys of Chira and Piura from the 19th to the 20th century Alejandro Diez	1.4.5. Trajectories of communalization of haciendas in the Sierra of Piura, 18th to 20th century Alejandro Diez	Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>1.5. Agricultural tractors, social change and rural communities in 20th century 1</b> Bruno Esperante	1.5.1. Calibrating Interaction: tractors and draft animals in Swiss agriculture, 1900–1960 Juri Auderset	1.5.2. Tractorization and social change: a comparative analysis of agricultural mechanization in Turkey and Finland Derya Nizam Bilgiç, Aapo Jumppanen, Timo Suutari	1.5.3. Agricultural tractors and social change in rural communities. Galicia, Spain 1950-2000 Bruno Esperante	1.5.4. Street protests and festive parades: the multifunctional use of tractors in Belgium since the 1950s Yves Segers		Sala 4, 3rd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>1.6. Exploring demographic patterns, epidemics and mortality crises in the rural communities of Late Medieval Northwestern Mediterranean</b> Pere Benito i Monclús, Albert Reixach Sala	1.6.1. A peste, fame et bello libera nos, domine: mapping epidemics and famines in Late Medieval Aragón María Luz Rodrigo, Lidia C. Allué-Andrés	1.6.2. Exploring demographic patterns and epidemic cycles in late medieval Crown of Aragon: will series from rural communities in Catalonia (1348-1530). The case of the small town of Sant Boi de Llobregat, near Barcelona (1371-1500) Pere Benito i Monclús, Alberto Barber Blasco	1.6.3. Writing wills in agropastoral communities of the Catalan Pyrenees after the Black Death: a source for demography and economic and social history Joan Busoms-Cabanas	1.6.4. Exploring demographic patterns amid epidemic cycles in late medieval Crown of Aragon: will series from rural communities in Catalonia (1348-1530) Albert Reixach Sala		Sala 3, 3rd floor
<b>1.7. Underemployment, seasonality and mobility in rural worlds (18th-20th centuries) 1</b> Nicolò Mignemi, Luca Andreoni, Francesco Chiapparino	1.7.1. Coping with underemployment: migration, pluriactivity, and gender in Eastern Finland during the 19th century Petri Talvitie	1.7.2. Refusing the factory: peasant attitudes to industrial work (Ivry - France 1800-1880) Fabrice Boudjaaba	1.7.3. Seasonality, mobility and the evolution of the incomes of day laborers and agricultural servants in Transylvania (1895-1914) Iosif Marin Balog	1.7.4. Performances, mobilities, underemployment in Italian agriculture during the 1930s Luca Andreoni, Francesco Chiapparino		Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>1.8. The time around 1525 from a gender and household economic perspective</b> Janine Maegraith, Siglinde Clementi	1.8.1. Women's economic position in Southern Germany at the time of the Peasant Revolt: An analysis of taxable wealth Victoria Gierok	1.8.2. The feudal system and the inheritance rights of women in the Tyrolean nobility of the early modern period Siglinde Clementi	1.8.3. A male affair? Women's wealth and their economic participation in the household in southern Tyrol around 1525 Janine Maegraith	1.8.4. Property and gender in rural areas: continuities and particularities in Tyrolean Court Practice around 1525 Margareth Lanzinger		Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>1.9. Timber floatations in Europe: between continuity and discontinuity 1</b> Claudio Lorenzini, Katia Occhi	1.9.1. The coming forth of the modern capitalist timber industry around the upper – stream of the river Mures Zsombor Attila Gal	1.9.2. Timber floatations on the river Mures/Maros in the 18th and 19th centuries Robert-Miklos Nagy	1.9.3. Timber floatation in Yonne Dimitri Langoureau, Nicolas Jacob			Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>1.10. Continuities rather than novelties? Technologies, imaginaries and practices in the ecologisation of agriculture 1</b> Romain Blancaneaux, Julie Hermesse, Nicolas Loodts	1.10.1. Socio-ecological trajectories and historical roots of hedgerows in Europe: what role and prospects for hedgerows in the materialization of the tension between modernization and ecologization narratives? Gianni Malica	1.10.2. The future is organic: narratives of organic farming in a 1978 TV documentary Walpurga Friedl	1.10.3. The role of the animal in a sustainable food system: an exploration of a contested issue in the Netherlands 1950-2000 Amber Striekwold			Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor
<b>1.11. Rural economic inequalities in the Central and Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period 1</b> Radosław Poniat	1.11.1. Economic inequalities among nobility in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 16-18th centuries Marzena Liedke, Radosław Poniat, Piotr Guzowski	1.11.2. Inequality among the nobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the late 18th century Joanna Hryniewicka, Dawid Kowalik	1.11.3. Between rural roots and urban wealth: economic inequalities among the Polish-Lithuanian nobility in the 17th-18th centuries Ewa Kaźmierczyk, Monika Kozłowska-Szyc	1.11.4. Peasant or townspeople wealth? Economic inequality among residents of agrarian towns in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 18th century Agnieszka Zoch	1.11.5. Wealthy peasants and poor nobles: inequality and overlapping affluence in early modern Slovenia Aleksander Panjek	Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor

## Tuesday, 9th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

8h15 – 9h00

### OPEN SESSION

[Room **Teatro Paulo Quintela**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

Representative of the Magnificent Rector of the University of Coimbra

**Albano Figueiredo Rodrigues**

Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities, University of Coimbra

**José Manuel Mendes** Dean of the Faculty of Economics, University of Coimbra

**José Oliveira Martins** Scientific Coordinator of the Center for Interdisciplinary Studies, University of Coimbra

**José Pedro Paiva** Scientific Coordinator of the Center for the History of Society and Culture, University of Coimbra

**Enikő Rűsz Fogarasi** EURHO President

**Dulce Freire** EURHO 2025 Organising Committee

9h00 – 11h00

[Room **Gama Barros**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### EURHO Board Meeting



*Agordela, Valpaços, 1985, Eduardo Perez Sanchez, Collection of the Municipality of Bragança*

9h00 – 11h00

**PARALLEL SESSIONS 1**[Room **Sala 1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]**1.1. Lands and natural spaces of the royal estate: categories, agencies, and rights in the Iberian world (15th-18th centuries)**ORGANISERS **Manuel Bastias****Saavedra** Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany, **María Carolina Jurado** University of Buenos Aires, ArgentinaMODERATOR **María Carolina****Jurado** University of Buenos Aires, ArgentinaDISCUSSANT **Manuel Bastias****Saavedra** Leibniz University of Hannover, Germany

Early modern monarchies traditionally claimed rights over wastelands, forests, woodlands, waters, and other natural spaces as parts of the Royal Estate. This was also true of the Crowns of Portugal and Spain, extending these claims to the territories occupied in the process of colonial expansion in Africa, Asia, and the Americas. While much attention has been paid to the 18th-century idea of eminent domain of the Prince in European doctrine, royal claims to lands and its appropriation was far from straightforward. Recent studies have pointed out that the effective control of lands and other parts of the royal estate involved a tense process of confrontation of different rights, which questioned their royal status, the adoption of different judicial routes, and the mobilization of different sets of unwritten norms. This panel proposes to explore the different modalities by which the land and other natural spaces under the rule of the Crowns of Castile and Portugal became royalties, highlighting the agencies deployed, the categories used, and the procedural frameworks of their development. We also seek to examine the conflicts inherent to the royal claim on uncultivated lands and other natural spaces deployed on indigenous and/or Spanish possessions and their resolution. To this end, we welcome contributions that focus on case studies on different parts of the Iberian world, encouraging conceptual and methodological discussion that contribute to a collective reflection. We welcome papers that address questions, such as: What legal categories and normative frameworks sustained the royal claim to resources in the domains of the Iberian Crowns? How were vacant and royal lands defined in practice? How were these frameworks challenged, and how did they change over time? How did royal claims interact with other claims to dominion (e.g., *dominio directo* and *dominio utile*)? When does the category of eminent domain come into the discussion, and how do actors adjust to these new doctrines and /or confront them?

**The Royal Wood Factory and the centralisation of the exploitation of the Leiria Pine Forest (1723-1807)****Diogo Moreno** University of Évora, Portugal

The aim of this paper is to reflect on the intervention of political power in the exploitation of resources in the Leiria Pine Forest. The objective of this intervention was to centralise the exploitation of the pine forest's resources and it was carried out through an industrial establishment, the Royal Wood Factory. This establishment was active in two production sectors: wood sawmilling between 1723 and 1774, and the tar and pitch sector starting in 1790. The two sectors produced different results, and the organisation of the Leiria pine forest economy and the production techniques implemented at the factory may have been conditioning factors for the factory's success. In the wood sawmilling sector, the factory found it difficult to assert

	<p>itself in the face of the existing hand sawmills in the interior of the Pinhal. In the tar and pitch sector, on the other hand, the factory ended up being more successful than the rudimentary kilns that existed on the outskirts of the pine forest. The local resistance upon the factory was different between those two sectors, existing more against the sawmilling centralisation outside the interior of the pine forest than against the tar and pitch sector.</p>
<p><b>Royal authority over colonial grasslands: contested claims during the 16th century viceroyalty of Peru</b></p> <p><b>Carolina Jurado</b> University of Buenos Aires, Argentina</p>	<p>The rights of the Castilian Crown over the grasslands, woodlands, baldíos and waters of the Latin American viceroyalties constitute a key aspect addressed by jurists of the common law and by royal dispositions throughout the three centuries of overseas domination. One of its most famous texts, the <i>Politica Indiana</i> of Juan de Solórzano Pereira, stated in 1648 an uncontested Crown's dominion over the colonial grasslands and other natural spaces as <i>realengos</i>. Nevertheless, as recent studies have pointed out, the effective royal control of colonial natural resources involved a tense process of confrontation of different rights –whether communal or particular–, and different kind of uses of the resources which questioned their royal status.</p> <p>Focusing on the variability hidden in the grassland legal category, this paper aims to explore the historical process of contested claims over the possession and exploitation of these central economic resources in the Viceroyalty of Peru during the 16th Century. In particular, it addresses the relation between the different social actors that exploited these resources, under common or particular rights, since pre-Hispanic times and the ways in which the grassland ownership practices and uses changed as Royal claims were reinforced.</p>
<p><b>Royal domain and fief in Early Modern Sicily: the case of Camopetro</b></p> <p><b>Giacomo Pace Gravina</b> University of Messina, Italy</p>	<p>The fief of Camopetro, part of the royal city of Caltagirone (Sicily), was the setting for a fascinating historical event.</p> <p>In the 16th and 17th centuries, the Crown sought to assert greater control over Camopetro to appropriate its revenues, through inspections entrusted to Spanish magistrates. This led to the creation of an unusual dynamic: alongside the Crown's dominium eminens, there coexisted the directum of the city/baroness and the utilis of landholders.</p> <p>The research aims to highlight how a community contributed to redefining land ownership regimes through interactions with the Crown and the use of legal instruments such as <i>ius commune</i>, laws, customs, agricultural contracts.</p> <p>The study will be conducted through the examination of existing documentation: contracts, legal proceedings, judgments. These sources will help analyze the mechanisms underlying the coexistence of different land ownership regimes, highlighting the plurality of interests of the actors involved and their conflicting dimensions.</p>

## Ownership and responsibility: the Spanish Crown's claim to vacant inheritances (Italy and Spanish America, 17th-18th centuries)

**Alessandro Buono** Pisa University, Italy

This will make it possible to identify the mechanisms of operation of this system, and understand the social and economic dynamics of land use underlying the often conflicting relations between the Crown, urban nobility, barons, farmers, and herders in Early Modern Sicily, in the context of the Iberian Monarchy.

In the early modern period, the King of Spain, like other European monarchs and Republics, sought to assert the right to incorporate a specific category of vacant estates into the crown's domain: inheritances without an heir. Unlike *res nullius*, these assets were considered *bona vacantia* or *res nullius in bonis*, meaning goods that, although they once had an owner, were now abandoned. In this way, the king endeavored to position himself as the heir of last resort for all individuals who died without heirs.

This claim, however, was not uncontested; it faced challenges from various competing entities, both ecclesiastical and secular. Drawing on examples from both Spanish America and Spanish Italy between the 17th and 18th centuries, I aim to illustrate the logic employed by the crown to assert its claim. My objective is to demonstrate that, within the legal framework of the *ancien régime*, all property entailed a shared responsibility, a quasi-servitude towards the public good. As the supreme administrator of the *res publica*, the king based his claim on a form of last-resort responsibility, justifying his right to claim any property that lacked an individual capable of directing it towards the public good.

## The construction of the (theoretical) eminent domain of the Crowns of Castile and Portugal over woodlands for shipbuilding in the Iberian Peninsula (XV-XVIIth centuries)

**Koldo Trapaga-Monchet** King Juan Carlos University, Spain

During the 16th century, the Crowns of Castile and Portugal set out new royal claims over woodlands with the purpose of ensuring the existence of easily accessible home-grown trees for imperial shipbuilding. These claims were accompanied by the approval of a negative forestry legislation that emphasized the eminent domain of the Iberian Kings above the remaining administrative levels and non-state actors. The key-point laid in the way in which these claims were implemented on the ground, and the reality was far more complex than the simplistic 'autocratic' vision embedded by the forestry legislation and administration.

Consequently, this paper aims firstly to revisit the creation of the new narratives posed by the Crowns to impose their royal claims over woodlands for shipbuilding. Secondly, it intends to shed new light on the ways in which the Crowns sought to enforce their claims. The historical sources will be revisited through the lens of agroforestry studies and multilevel governance framework, because the Iberian Crowns not only needed to engage with the local inhabitants to ensure their interests, but also because they acted upon existing socio-ecological realities in which divergent and convergent interests collided.

[Room **TP2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

**1.2. Quality over time and across regions: evidence from the olive oil sector**

ORGANISERS **Ramon Ramon-Muñoz** University of Barcelona, Spain, **Silvia A. Conca Messina** University of Milan, Italy, **Ana Duarte Rodrigues** University of Lisbon, Portugal

MODERATOR  
**Ramon Ramon-Muñoz** University of Barcelona, Spain

How has olive oil quality evolved over time? Why do some regions within the same country produce better grades of the same product than others? This session aims to address these questions by examining the olive oil sector—a typically Mediterranean product—from the early nineteenth century to the present day. Despite recent expansion into new areas, Mediterranean countries have consistently dominated the production and trade of olive oil (Ramon-Muñoz, 2000; Istituto di Servizi per il Mercato Agricolo Alimentare, 2023).

The quality of olive oil that the Mediterranean countries have produced has evolved due to a combination of supply and demand factors. However, this session will primarily focus on the supply side. First, it will explore agricultural practices and transformations that have contributed to improving product quality over time. Second, it will examine the relationship between the adoption of new machinery, industrial methods, and the resulting improvements in product quality. Finally, it will consider other factors influencing quality, such as the role of legislation, scientific societies, and other institutions. By adopting a regional perspective, the session aims to discuss papers that cover any stage of the production and distribution chain—from the olive grove to the final consumer. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to, technological, scientific, and organizational innovations; patents; cultivar selection and exchange; soil improvement; and regional responses to policies and regulations aimed at improving product quality.

While some research exists on the modernization of the Mediterranean olive oil industry, much less attention has been given to systematically comparing olive oil quality and its determinants across regions and countries over time (Ramon-Muñoz, 2013). By providing new evidence on it and from a diversity of perspectives, this session can contribute to broader academic discussions. First, it will contribute to the history of science, fostering the discussion on the conceptual framework of artisanal epistemology, vernacular science, hybrid epistemology as a category (Smith, 2018). Second, it will also add to the history of agriculture, horticulture and botany (Duarte Rodrigues et al, 2019), as the selection of cultivars has also an important influence on product quality and market success. Third, it will contribute to the growing literature on technological change in agriculture and agribusiness industries, focusing on how technology has driven quality improvements and their consequences (Bigliardi & Galati, 2013). Fourth, it will enrich the field of food history, particularly the history of food quality and its determinants, a topic that has attracted attention in the study of products like wine, meat, milk, and butter (e.g., Dupré, 1999; Stanziani, 2007, 2015). Lastly, this session will contribute to regional economic history, illustrating how divergent patterns of development can emerge within the same sector and providing new insights into regional inequality in the Mediterranean basin (e.g., Rosés & Wolf, 2019; Molema & Svensson, 2021).

## A matter of quality: harvesting olives in the southern Italian countryside, late 18th - early 19th centuries

**Gaia Bruno** Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

The olive oil quality depends on different factors, among which the existing historiography has given special attention to pressing, thanks to the available sources. Indeed, since the 18th century, thinkers and entrepreneurs have written about the innovations in this stage of the production process (Salvemini-Carrino, 2003). But for the quality of oil the way in which the olives are harvested is equally important: if the olives are picked from the tree, the best oil is obtained; if they are picked from the ground, a very poor-quality oil is obtained. In southern Italy in the early modern age, this technique was especially widespread (Placanica, 1999) with the use of women and children. It is no coincidence that oil from southern Italy, especially Calabria, was considered of inferior quality compared to that from Provence and destined more for industrial uses than for food.

Considering the importance of this step of production and the scarcity of existing historiography, this paper aims to study olive harvesting in the southern Italian countryside from the late 18th century onwards, using reports, memoirs and theoretical reflections of cultivation. I will adopt a long durée perspective to show how the same techniques were used for centuries.

## Rescuing traditional olive cultivars in Portugal for a more sustainable future

**Patricia Trindade Monteiro & Ana Duarte Rodrigues** University of Lisbon, Portugal

The valorization of historic agricultural landscapes and the protection of germplasm resources from genetic erosion is considered a priority by the international community. Focusing on the transformations in olive growth and market requirements and their consequences on the choice of olive cultivars, this paper argues that we should look back at history and rescue traditional cultivars in order to ensure more sustainable olive growth. Moreover, each region has its specific characteristics. Therefore, this paper examines the lost of traditional olive cultivars in Baixo Alentejo in southern Portugal in the twentieth century. In this region, olive cultivation resulted from particular selection processes focused on regional adaptation, quality, pest resistance, and productivity. As a result, genetic diversity was preserved through vegetative propagation. Drawing on lessons from Latin agronomists and Islamic authors, empirical knowledge regarding intercropping practices, polyculture, green fertilization, and agroecological principles from the past, this paper contends that traditional knowledge can inform modern approaches to sustainable agriculture. This approach should encourage the valorization of historic landscapes and the conservation of genetic resources. Understanding these practices is essential for addressing current challenges, such as climate change and environmental degradation.

## Between divergence and convergence: regional patterns of technological change in Spain's olive oil industry since the mid-19th century

**Ramon Ramon-Muñoz** University of Barcelona, Spain

This paper explores regional patterns of technological change in Spain's olive oil industry – a key player in the international market of the product – from the mid-nineteenth century onwards. It begins by examining how technological advancements in the industry have been closely tied to the production of higher-quality olive oil. Since olives are highly perishable, long periods of storage before pressing leads to fermentation, resulting in rancid oil with unpleasant odours and flavours. Innovations such as the hydraulic press, particularly when it was mechanically powered, the industrial refining plants, and the continuous extraction system via centrifugation significantly improved product quality. Using quantitative evidence from various sources, the paper follows by outlining regional variations in technological change and exploring whether the diffusion of new technology led to convergence across regions, and if so, to what extent this process has been linear. Finally, the paper assesses the relationship between technological change and international competitiveness through product quality.

## Conquering quality: the transformation of the Italian olive oil sector from the 19th century to the present day

**Rita d'Errico** Roma Tre University and University of Milan, Italy, **Silvia A. Conca Messina** University of Milan, Italy

Over the past century and a half, Italy has transformed itself from an industrial exporter of mainly low-grade oil for industrial use to a prominent global producer of high-quality table olive oil. This major change was triggered by international competition and the advent of seed oil in the 20th century. In response to these challenges, the sector has embraced technological innovation and efficiency, improving productivity and quality standards. A key contribution came from the Italian industry, internationally renowned for its sophisticated machinery and tools for harvesting, processing and refining oil. As a result, the country is now the world's largest importer and consumer, and the second largest exporter of olive oil by volume after Spain, with exports worth much more than imports. This paper examines the transformation of the Italian olive oil sector, focusing on the role of scientific and technological innovation, the contribution of trade associations, cooperation and education, and the strategies to overcome the relatively small size of many olive oil companies.

[Room **TP1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

### 1.3. Old and new configurations of rural Brazil: capital, social movements and education

**ORGANISERS** **Maria Cristina dos Santos & Luiz Bezerra Neto**

Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil, **Paulino José Orso** Western Paraná State University, Brazil

**MODERATOR** **Maria Cristina dos Santos**

Federal University of São Carlos, Brazil

The occupation of Brazilian territory has gone through different phases in its historical process, marked by land concentration and a growing mass of impoverished workers. This inequality has sparked numerous violent conflicts throughout the 20th and 21st centuries, and pressured by social movements advocating for democratization of land access, the State was forced to intervene and implement Agrarian Reform projects, which led to a new configuration in the countryside, now characterized by the presence of camps and family farming settlements focused on food production. This has generated new social demands, including for education, which has never been a priority for the economically and politically dominant classes. As a result, education for those who work and live in the countryside, drawing their means of survival from it, has suffered even more, especially since Brazil began its industrialization process. In this context, pressure from social movements, particularly the Landless Workers' Movement (MST), is necessary to advance the struggle for the education of people living in rural areas. Thus, starting from an analysis of the relationship between the development of capitalism in rural areas, rural development, and education, we aim to discuss the ongoing struggle for land and for public, secular, and socially relevant education, considering the closure of rural schools, especially after the 1980s, when the expulsion of rural workers intensified. The school is the only public institution present in rural areas in most of Brazilian territory, and when it closes, the State turns its back, making access to public services even more difficult for workers. Furthermore, we seek to understand the relationship between education and production in rural settings, especially when social movements invest in agroecological production while large capital, represented by agribusiness, practices intensive agriculture based on pesticide use. However, we cannot forget that rural education has a symbiotic relationship with agroecology and sustainable agricultural production and is a significant achievement for riverside, coastal, quilombola communities, and agrarian reform settlers, among others, playing an important role in shaping future generations. Thus, on one hand, there is a need to reflect on the Brazilian rural environment and its historical processes, and on the other, on the challenges facing education and agroecological production that is free from pesticides. Considering this reality, we propose a forum to discuss the historical development of capitalism in rural areas and its impacts on the economic, social, and cultural landscape, including school education and the distribution of production by rural communities who earn their livelihoods from the land, whether through family farming or traditional practices of indigenous and riverside communities.

## Agribusiness and education in Brazil

**Paulino José Orso** Western  
Paraná State University, Brazil

Brazil is one of the countries with the largest concentration of land in the world. According to OXFAM, which operates in more than 90 countries to combat inequality and poverty, 1% of rural establishments in Latin America account for 51.19% of all arable land in the region. Brazil only loses to Colombia. While 0.4% of Colombian rural landowners control 67% of productive land, 1% of Brazilian landowners own 45% of the land. With this power, it reaches the absurdity that a country that has a majority urban population (86%), elects 52.6% of deputies and 33.3% of senators linked to agribusiness, whose center of concern turns to the rural environment, that is, for a minority. In this context, in addition to the ruralist caucus promoting reforms and approving laws favorable to their direct and immediate interests, women in agriculture also organized themselves with the aim of promoting a radical change in textbooks, with the aim of rewriting history and removing all terms, concepts and school content related, whether to agrarian reform, land distribution, the use of pesticides and violence in the countryside, or to issues of gender, slavery, racism, social equality, etc.

## The struggle for education in the Brazilian countryside: from pedagogical ruralism to the Escola da Terra Program

**Luiz Bezerra Neto** Federal  
University of São Carlos, Brazil

The discussion about the need to educate rural populations in Brazil is long-standing. As early as the 1920s, a movement known as pedagogical ruralism emerged, aimed at educating rural workers. This movement lasted until the 1950s. In the 1950s, 63.84% of the Brazilian population lived in rural areas, and the literacy rate in these areas was below 7%, with rates in the northeastern states falling below 4%. Faced with these illiteracy levels, the National Rural Education Campaign (CNER) was launched to train and/or prepare teachers to work in rural areas with the goal of improving education and rural school infrastructure. Starting in the 1980s, with the fall of the civil-military regime and the prominence of the Landless Workers' Movement (MST), the struggle for rural education gained traction, whether through the National Education Program in Agrarian Reform (PRONERA) or the Escola da Terra Program, created by the Secretariat for Continuing Education, Diversity, and Inclusion in the 2000s. The purpose of this paper is to discuss rural education in Brazil from pedagogical ruralism to the present day.

## The socio-historical and economic composition of rural Brazil: the protagonism of subjects in the struggle for land and education

**Maria Cristina dos Santos** Federal  
University of São Carlos, Brazil

Brazil is a country of continental dimensions with a highly diverse social configuration. In rural areas, this diversity became even more pronounced from the 1980s onwards, with the affirmation of diversity guaranteed by the 1988 Federal Constitution, which acknowledges the demarcation of lands occupied by traditional, indigenous, and quilombola peoples (BRASIL, 1988). Furthermore, other populations who live in direct relation to the land, drawing their livelihood from it, also secured territorial rights, but not without much struggle, pain, and bloodshed. According to Resolution No. 2 (28/04/2008), the rural population is composed of "various forms of life

	<p>production – family farmers, extractivists, artisanal fishermen, riverine communities, agrarian reform settlers and camp dwellers, quilombolas, caçaras, indigenous people, and others.” Based on bibliographic and documentary research and motivated by my work with rural and quilombola communities, the aim of this text is to highlight the protagonism of these subjects in shaping rural Brazil through the affirmation of rural social movements in the fight for land, belonging, and school education.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Anfiteatro III</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>1.4. Mutual construction and intertwining between community and hacienda in the Hispanic-Lusitanian worlds, 18th-20th centuries (Americas, Asia and the Caribbean) 1</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Eric Léonard</b> Research Institute for Development, France, <b>Antonio Escobar Ohmstede</b> Center for Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico, <b>Marta Martín Gabaldón</b> National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico</p>	<p>Agrarian communities and latifundia structures have constituted opposing paradigms in the socio-political organization, economic structure and development models of the rural world in developing countries, particularly in those that were part of the empires of the Iberian monarchies. In the Americas in particular, they took the respective forms of indigenous communities or <i>pueblos de indios</i> and <i>haciendas</i>. The oppositions and conflicts between these two kinds of property and organization have structured historiographical reflections and societal projects throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They currently re-emerge in the processes of agribusiness expansion and extractive developments (minerals, energy or bio-resources), confronted by attempts to rebuild forms of community organization and collective property.</p> <p>Contrasting with this binary perspective, the panel aims to examine the relationships and over-laps, at different possible levels, between community and latifundia structures of property and socio-political organization, considering the daily forms of interaction (cooperation, functional exchanges, conflicts...) that interweaved and reconfigured them between the colonial and contemporary periods.</p> <p>It seeks to go beyond approaches of opposing or dichotomizing their respective dynamics, to examine the concrete forms of interaction between the two types of structures and the ways in which these translated into links of mutual influence in their processes of construction and (re)configuration in the long run. We are particularly interested in considering the interdependencies that arose through economic, social, symbolic, political and territorial exchanges associated with particular activities and particular social groups within both types of structures. The panel will also seek to illustrate and understand how political and institutional changes at the national or regional level (such as the formation of municipalities or parishes, the nominal dissolution of corporate property of communities and <i>pueblos</i>, the land reforms of the twentieth century, or the dismantling of these in recent times), were subject to appropriations and reformulations at the local and regional levels, which can be analysed through the light of the structural, political, territorial and economic imbrications that <i>haciendas</i> and communities (or certain social groups within them) had developed in previous periods.</p>

	<p>More globally, the panel proposes to rethink the frontiers and boundaries between the two types of agrarian structures and socio-political organization, examining the porosities and reciprocal uses they made of each other. These issues can be explored through the following and non-limiting approaches:</p> <p>The complementary forms of cooperation and conflict in the uses of natural resources (land, water, forests, pastures) and their relationships with legal changes; The spatial imbrications, boundary confusions, overlaps and shared uses of particular spaces between communities and haciendas: forms of shared governance, contracts and conflicts; The functional relationships and exchanges in the markets of labour, inputs (credit, draft animals, intermediate goods), products and services; The processes of pueblos and private properties foundation in the geopolitics of the frontiers of empires or national states; The relationships between the two types of political-territorial structures in the processes of parish formation, municipalization and their subsequent reconfigurations (creation of new administrative entities, socio-political segmentation of communities, etc.); The <i>hacienda</i> towns and, conversely, the “communalization” of <i>haciendas</i> (through the purchase by communities, indivision among expanding kinship groups, the abandonment of estates, or the policies of agrarian reforms, among others).</p>
<p><b>An overview of water conflicts between villages and haciendas in the central valleys of Oaxaca, Mexico, 19th to 20th century</b></p> <p><b>Olivia P. Topete Pozas</b> Center for Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico</p>	<p>This study aims to reconstruct the water conflicts that arose between certain villages and hacienda owners in the Central Valleys of Oaxaca during the 19th and 20th centuries. Throughout this period, both villages and haciendas employed different practices and strategies over time to maintain, expand, or modify their water usage rights in a context of political change and disputes over natural resources. The distribution of water impacted not only agricultural production but also the survival of agrarian structures and the various rural actors who shared this space.</p> <p>The distribution of water led to conflicts due to various factors, such as availability or scarcity, the amount of water that could be allocated between hacienda owners and villages, and its quality. This study examines how conflicts unfolded among the involved actors and how they responded to the grievances and harm caused by changes in water access. At the same time, it analyzes the arguments presented by both hacienda owners and villages to justify their right to use the waters of the Central Valleys of Oaxaca.</p>

## **Pueblos, haciendas and ranchos between the river valleys and the monte in Northwestern New Spain: spaces, resources, and boundaries in the Mayo river basin**

**Cynthia Radding** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States of America

In accord with the guidelines for the seminar, this paper will illustrate the mosaic of interconnected spaces between the Yoreme-Mayo pueblos and Hispanic haciendas and ranchos, focused on the monte of perennial forests in the highlands, the grasslands, and thorn forests in the arid lowlands of the Mayo river basin. Its argument stems from their opposing claims to territory and property, countered by quotidian relations of interdependency that tied together these constellations of Indigenous communities and rancherías, with substantial populations and spatial mobility, and the Hispanic settlements of mining centers, villas, and ranchos. Mutual relations of trade and exchange between pueblos y haciendas developed through markets for labor, produce, and merchandise, local knowledge of waterways, terrain, vegetation, and wildlife, and the ceremonial cycles that marked the Indigenous ritual calendar and Catholic liturgy. Interethnic relations in these ecological and sociopolitical frontiers were fraught with conflicts over the enclosure and the division of the monte through the processes of issuing legal title to discreet properties and the fragmentation of communal spaces in forests, grasslands, rivers and arroyos, floodplains, and coastal wetlands. Primary sources for the paper include archival documents, maps, images, and oral histories.

## **An unique system of transmission of property rights over land in a Brazilian civil parish during the 19th century**

**Manoela Pedroza** Federal Fluminense University, Brazil

The objective of this paper is to show that the smallholdings (sítios) right next to seigneurial sugar mills (engenhos de açúcar) were a characteristic element of the socioterritorial structure quite particular in rural regions of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) during the 19th century. From a micro-analytical perspective we stressing concrete cases and came to the conclusion that the excluded sons of the seigneurial families who remained as smallholders on the states of their luckier brothers created a situation that could lend legitimacy and stability to a context of great economic inequalities. The sítio next to the sugar mill concealed the exclusion of most of the sons from the right of inheritance, however keeping them with the same status of their 'kin' (casa). Engenhos de açúcar surrounded by sítios were a territorial result of a property system transmission that offered different property rights within a seigneurial kinship.

## Haciendas and indigenous communities in the dispute and collaboration in the management of water and territory: the valleys of Chira and Piura from the 19th to the 20th century

**Alejandro Diez** Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Peru

The valleys of Chira and Piura on the northern coast of Peru have been spaces shared by indigenous peoples and communities and by haciendas since the first century of the conquest. The Toledo reductions established Indian villages, which shared the productive space with a series of haciendas established in both valleys, disputing over time first the lands and, once ownership was consolidated, the water. Between the end of the 18th century and the middle of the 20th century, communities and haciendas competed, confronted or collaborated with each other first for the provision of water (scarce), then for the administration of the resource, mediated by republican state control and finally for the viability of a series of communal, private and state irrigation projects. Finally, the Agrarian Reform liquidated the hacienda system and generated an integrated irrigation system under state control.

## Trajectories of communalization of haciendas in the Sierra of Piura, 18th to 20th century

**Alejandro Diez** Pontifical Catholic University of Peru, Peru

Contemporary communities have diverse trajectories. Although the commonly accepted assumption is that they are collective groups of indigenous people who survive the colonial situation, the trajectory of several communities in areas of white and mestizo population shows how collectives with communal property and defense are produced, generated by diverse processes: from the multiplication of descendants of owners of a hacienda to state conditions that favor the collective protection of the land. In any case, the construction of a social collective that transmits rights of belonging and property within the groups is at stake, even when important differences persist. We will seek to develop the problem from the trajectory of a group of communities in the sierra of Piura (northern Peru), highlighting two examples in particular: Santa Catalina de Mossa, communalized by descent, and Palo Blanco, communalized by legal opportunity. Both cases illustrate trajectories of several other communities; Additionally, we will analyze cases that did not transition to communalization but persisted as estates to later become groups of individual landowners.

[Room **Sala 4**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 1.5. Agricultural tractors, social change and rural communities in 20th century 1

ORGANISER & MODERATOR

**Bruno Esperante** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Agricultural tractors have played a central role of the great agriculture technology transformations in 20th century. Although the international agrarian historiography has made progress in understanding the mechanisation of agriculture from an institutional and market perspective, the effects of mechanisation in peasant community's reproduction strategies have yet to be discussed in depth and in international comparison.

Thus, the main question of this session is: How did agricultural tractors change peasant communities' reproduction strategies in 20th century? This question is directly related to the Marxist hypothesis of social change, which it is often pointed out that social relations are closely linked to productive forces. So, when productive forces change, peasants change their mode of production,

and when their mode of production changes, all their social relations change. Therefore, we expect to discuss the hypothesis that links the diffusion of agricultural tractors with the final crisis of peasant reproduction in the 20th century. For this reason, we will also discuss how agricultural tractors have shaped new social relations and new social classes differentiations for 21st century.

Agricultural tractors are an industrial innovation aimed at saving labour. But we also know, both from agroecology and from the peasant economy theory, that peasant innovation strategies are not always aimed at saving labour. This is especially true in agriculture with family labour based. On the other hand, we know that in the intensive organic and solar energy-based agriculture that dominated the world until the first third of 20th century, many agricultural tasks required large investments of labour from human and animal energy-based source. For this reason, peasant reproduction strategies were often directed towards innovations that reduced human physical effort, but not towards those that completely replaced it. Moreover, we know that fertilisation needs, and structural nitrogen deficits required livestock, so the complete substitution of animal traction for agricultural tasks was not appropriate either.

However, all this changed, especially after the Second World War, which the rise of agribusiness, new marketing techniques to make agricultural tractor desirable and, overall, innovations needed to make it cheap, easy to use and adaptable to many types of land and agricultural work. The peasant had to face up to this change, which structurally overtook them. As a result, many things changed: ways of working, gender roles, generational roles, marriage policies, community hierarchies, sociability, leisure, etc. Many changes in reproduction strategies that, in a long-term perspective, became known as *Le Fin des Paysans* era in late 20th century.

We would like to receive proposals working on different perspectives (social, economy, environmental, gender, culture, sociology, anthropology) addressing the same question: How did agricultural tractors change peasant communities' reproduction strategies? We encourage the submission of proposals that promote in-depth, pluralistic and from below analyses, and dealing with the 20th century and any territory, both Global North and South.

The latest aim of this session is to publish the papers as a special issue in a high-ranking journal or as a book in a well renowned international editorial.

## Calibrating Interaction: tractors and draft animals in Swiss agriculture, 1900–1960

**Juri Auderset** University of Bern and Archives of Rural History, Switzerland

The substitution of draft animals by tractors is usually regarded as an important step in the modernization of 20th century agriculture. The purchase of a tractor is depicted as the moment when farmers shake off their allegiance to the traditional, animal-powered mode of production and enter the modern age of farming, epitomized in the combustion engine that tied agricultural production to the use of fossil fuels. Yet, the focus on replacement obscures the long period of co-existence of animals and tractors. Source

	<p>evidence from Switzerland suggests that farmers did not use tractors solely to replace their draft animals, but rather to complement their animal's muscular power. Precisely because draft animals provided a flexible, multi-functional, and re-producible source of power, they remained crucial on many farms even in the age of tractorization. By focusing on developments in Switzerland in the first half of the 20th century, this contribution explores the co-evolution of draft animals and tractors on the farms as a practice of "technology-in-use" (D. Edgerton). Specifically, it analyzes how farmers struggled with the implications of using tractors and/or draft animals and it examines the social and economic logics behind their reasoning.</p>
<p><b>Tractorization and social change: a comparative analysis of agricultural mechanization in Turkey and Finland</b></p> <p><b>Derya Nizam Bilgiç</b> Izmir University of Economics, Turkey,  <b>Aapo Jumppanen &amp; Timo Suutari</b> University of Helsinki Ruralia Institute, Finland</p>	<p>This paper presents a comparative analysis of the socio-economic transformations engendered by tractorization in Turkey and Finland throughout the 20th century, focusing on its implications for gender roles, labor relations, and broader social structures.</p> <p>In Turkey, the widespread adoption of tractors from the 1950s onward, driven by state-led modernization policies, catalyzed profound changes in rural social dynamics. Agricultural mechanization prompted significant rural-to-urban migration and deepened class divisions. It also reinforced male-dominated production systems and contributed to ecological challenges, such as soil degradation from deep plowing.</p> <p>In Finland, the societal effects of agricultural mechanization also started in the 1950s. Tractorization had far-reaching socio-economic and ecological consequences to the rural communities. The mechanization of agriculture and forestry was also an important factor behind the large scale rural to urban migration and emigration in the 1960s and 1970s.</p> <p>Through this comparative analysis, the paper seeks to contribute to the sociological and historical understanding about tractorization not only as a technological development but as a process embedded within broader systems of social relations, production modes, and ecological practices.</p>
<p><b>Agricultural tractors and social change in rural communities. Galicia, Spain 1950-2000</b></p> <p><b>Bruno Esperante</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>The main aim of this paper is to reflect on technological change and social change in agriculture. Specifically, we analyse the case of agricultural tractors in the second half of the 20th century in Galicia, Spain. As in other parts of Europe, technological change led to important social changes in the countryside. The end of the "peasant era" as a reference subject in the rural world and the beginning of a new emerging subject, the farmer-entrepreneur. With a micro approach, we analyse this change through innovation policies aimed at transforming farmers' knowledge within the modernisation paradigm. We show how social changes occurred through the adoption of new technologies and forms of production. Specifically, the way agricultural tractors were purchased, learned to operate and adapted to family farms.</p>

## Street protests and festive parades: the multifunctional use of tractors in Belgium since the 1950s

**Yves Segers** Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

From the 1950s onwards, the tractor became the symbol of modern, motorised agriculture in Belgium (and elsewhere in Europe). Its impact on productivity and the organisation of labour on the farm can hardly be overestimated and has already been studied in depth. But the significance of the tractor extends much further. Tractors were also used as an important and necessary means of protest. By taking their tractors to the city, and in particular to Brussels – the capital of Europe – farmers repeatedly claimed their place in the changing society and the social debate. The tractor thus became a material manifestation, a clearly recognisable symbol to reinforce the opinion and demands of farmers, and to emphasise the unity of the active farming community, which was becoming increasingly smaller. The light processions with tractors organised in many Flemish municipalities during the Christmas period since the beginning of the twentieth century are also intended to underline the cohesion and solidarity in the countryside, and above all contribute to a positive image. This paper explores the multiple symbolic meanings of the tractor in Belgium, using archival research and oral history.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 1.6. Exploring demographic patterns, epidemics and mortality crises in the rural communities of Late Medieval Northwestern Mediterranean

**ORGANISERS** **Pere Benito i Monclús & Albert Reixach Sala**  
University of Lleida, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Daniel R. Curtis**  
Erasmus University Rotterdam,  
Netherlands

This session deals with the effects that mortality crises due to epidemics, famines, wars or other disasters had on the demography and economy of rural communities in different areas of Northwestern Mediterranean from the Black Death to mid-16th century. It specially aims to reexamine through several case studies a topic pivotal in the traditional understanding of the evolution of Late Medieval countryside and the period in general. As it is generally agreed, the lethal plague ravaging Eurasia from 1347 to 1351 and successive outbreaks from the following decades onwards, combined with other disorders, gave place to new dynamics in population, economy and society. On the one hand, the change of trend during the 15th century in the universal nature of epidemic diseases and greater social selectivity has been challenged (Curtis 2020). Related to that, by contrast, it has been assumed that the pandemic between 1347-51 (and generally omitting the possible role of later outbursts) fuelled parallel transformations in family models, marriage and fertility and birth patterns (Edwards & Ogilvie 2022). On the other hand, a wide range of economic processes have been attributed to epidemics (admittedly, almost always limiting the protagonism to the Black Death), food crises or wars during the 14-15th centuries. Firstly, these phenomena have been highlighted for their distributive outcomes with respect to inequalities and social mobility (Alfani 2021), although traditional views on the evolution of stratification in peasant communities have not always been interpreted in terms of “equaliser” (Bois 2000). At any rate, abundant literature on Western Europe as a whole has explored the role of mortality crises caused by the aforementioned disasters both for the dominant groups (impact on manorial income and possible reactions as a result) and the peasant majority (changes in wages trends, living standards, etc.). Going

even further, there has been no hesitation in proposing the demographic crisis caused by Black Death (again, without taking into account subsequent epidemic episodes or other events) as a trigger for large-scale phenomena such as the emergence of capitalism (Benedictow 2021, Belich 2022) or divergent trajectories between West and East or Northern and Southern Europe (Pamuk 2007, Pleijt & van Zanden 2016). Nonetheless, the empirical basis on which many hypotheses or historiographical proposals are based, at least for the western dominions of northeastern Iberia and other nearby Western Mediterranean territories, presents important shortcomings and asymmetries. Therefore, a thorough revision is necessary, starting from the archival documentation itself. Seeing that, the proposed session seeks to deepen the following points on the demographic and economic impact of mortality crises in rural society from mid-14th century to mid-16th century: 1) the specific chronological sequence and geography of mortality crises arising from epidemics and other catastrophes; 2) the interaction between different reasons and variables leading to these crises; 3) the employment of serial sources (both direct evidence from records of deaths or burials or indirect evidence mainly from wills) for estimating the absolute and relative demographic effects of epidemics and other disasters; 4) the possible sex and social selectivity of mortality crises; 5) parameters on the evolution of the composition and dimensions of family units, key to correctly quantify figures of population of different territories or communities, as well as possible changing and diverging patterns in the general demographic dynamics of pre-modern Europe.

### **A peste, fame et bello libera nos, domine: mapping epidemics and famines in Late Medieval Aragón**

**María Luz Rodrigo** University of Zaragoza, Spain

**Lidia C. Allué-Andrés** University of Zaragoza, Spain and University of Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès, France

The Black Death has traditionally been identified as the cause of the disappearance of numerous villages in the mid-14th century, giving rise to the so-called late medieval deserted villages. Nevertheless, the restructuring of the settlement pattern is already evident in the 13th century and is linked to multifactorial variables.

In this presentation, we aim to introduce the results of the analysis of various written sources (municipal records, books of Cortes, receipts, ecclesiastical documents, etc.) from several Aragónese towns in which references to epidemics appear during the late medieval period. Furthermore, we have cross-referenced these data with reports indicating moments of famine and scarcity, in order to assess whether a relationship between both phenomena exists. Finally, to the extent that fiscal sources have allowed, we have analyzed whether the successive epidemics that affected these localities resulted in a demographic decline as significant as has been argued by historiography, particularly following the plague of 1348.

## Exploring demographic patterns and epidemic cycles in late medieval Crown of Aragon: will series from rural communities in Catalonia (1348-1530). The case of the small town of Sant Boi de Llobregat, near Barcelona (1371-1500)

**Pere Benito i Monclús & Alberto Barber Blasco** University of Lleida, Spain

Sant Boi de Llobregat, a medium-sized rural community near Barcelona during the 14th and 15th centuries, has one of the oldest series of death books preserved for the diocese of Barcelona, and a robust notarial series of wills. Both began almost simultaneously, in 1375 and 1371, respectively. The death books allows us to document some of the epidemic mortalities that struck the Catalan rural population during the 15th century. Unlike the death books, the series of wills is fairly continuous. Between 1371 and 1500, 1117 wills are preserved, i.e. an average of 8.65 wills/year for a population of 366 hearths in 1378 and 250 hearths in 1425.

In this paper we set out to analyse both series with the following objectives: 1/ to reconstruct the chronology and to measure the effects of epidemic mortality cycles documented by the obituary books; 2/ to complementarily use the will books to reconstruct the chronology of the mortalities during the periods not documented by the obituary registers; 3/ by cross-referring both sources we can broaden our knowledge of the social practice of wills; 4/ to study certain socio-demographic variables of this community, such as the size and the structure of families and household units.

## Writing wills in agropastoral communities of the Catalan Pyrenees after the Black Death: a source for demography and economic and social history

**Joan Busoms-Cabanas** University of Lleida, Spain

This paper proposal analyses two will series from the Pyrenean valleys of Lillet and Toses, both under the jurisdiction of the Mataplana lineage. It aims to identifies several sociodemographic patterns in this area from the last wills of their inhabitants. With this purpose, it will explore the relatively extensive collection of notarial records from la Pobla de Lillet preserved at the Diocesan Archive of Solsona, notary office of reference for the territories ruled by the Mataplana. This manor with a global population estimate of 320 inhabitants (around 70 hearths) at the end of the 15th , being the aforementioned Pobla de Lillet, the only place with some urban features that hosted the jurisdictional court. Agriculture coexisted with livestock husbandry with direct access to first-class pastures.

Will series preserved in this territory will be used to characterise the predominant traits of the testators and the family structures that can be deduced from the bequests they made. Apart from possible differences according to the occupation or the geographic origin of the individuals, dynamics due to the successive mortality crises which occurred from the outbreak of the Black Death in 1348 until the end of the 15th century will be assessed.

## Exploring demographic patterns amid epidemic cycles in late medieval Crown of Aragon: will series from rural communities in Catalonia (1348-1530)

**Albert Reixach Sala** University of Lleida, Spain

This paper proposal deals with the use of will series from several rural communities in Late Medieval Catalonia to assess demographic dynamics arising from mortality crises due to epidemics from the Black Death to another important plague outburst in 1530. Focusing on a sample of observatories in Catalonia, it will resort to testamentary evidence to contribute to the reconstruction of epidemic waves in northeastern Iberia and to identify other possible reasons for mortality shocks such as wars or some severe famines.

The central point will be to explore the scope and limits of wills to deepen demographic dynamics interdependent with mortality crises registered in the area under study. First, through approximations based on the genre and civil status of testators, more or less precise indications on age and the number and identity of heirs or other beneficiaries of legacies, it will examine patterns throughout different chronological milestones regarding the dimensions and composition of family units. In cases where this is possible, this will be reinforced with family reconstruction exercises through complementary sources. One of the final aims of the analysis consists of contributing to coefficients of people per hearth more refined than those traditional alleged and adapted to different contexts.

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 1.7. Underemployment, seasonality and mobility in rural worlds (18th-20th centuries) 1

ORGANIZERS **Niccolò Mignemi**  
French National Centre for  
Scientific Research, France,  
**Luca Andreoni & Francesco  
Chiapparino** Marche Polytechnic  
University, Italy

MODERATOR & DISCUSSANT **Niccolò  
Mignemi** French National Centre  
for Scientific Research, France

Agricultural underemployment was a frequent and widespread, in some respect structural, situation in the 18th-20th centuries. It was linked to the seasonality of the farming systems, and the availability of a reservoir of rural workforce, which was the condition to cope with bottlenecks and peaks in the labour supply, throughout the year. Economic and social historians have paid particular attention the consequences of these dynamics in terms of seasonal mobility, the development of protoindustrial and off-farm activities, or crop specialization (vineyards, olives, fruits but also industrial crops). Observed through the lens of underemployment, work rhythms can indeed provide crucial insights into the evolutions of farm organization and rural rationalities. They are central to understand changes in productivity patterns (land and/or labour), the spread of labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive innovations, the management of local resources, the place of migrations (temporary or permanent), the evolution of the labour contracts, or the multiple strategies combining agricultural and non-agricultural activities etc.

However, despite the importance of the subject, historians have paid little attention to the study of agricultural underemployment per se, its role in technological innovations and the diversification/ specialization of farm activities. There are several reasons for this lack of analysis. Firstly, the everyday forms of labour organization – both family and hired labour – are harder to detect in archives than land or heritage. Secondly, sources concerning the length of the working day or the numbers of days worked per season are scarce, lacking data for comparisons between national aggregates and longitudinal studies on specific territories. Thirdly, the seasonality of labour

and the impact of agricultural underemployment are difficult to define and measure at different levels, as well as the mechanisms of its persistence and the consequences on the other economic sectors.

Contributions to this panel may address one or more of the following issues:

Measurement and estimation of the working hours, according to their seasonal dynamics and distinguishing between specialised and non-specialised tasks: all approaches are welcome, from qualitative case studies to econometric analyses, as well as studies focusing on the production of data and statistics on these phenomena; Origins and consequences of seasonality on the organization of the farm, the development of technological innovations, and the dynamics of the farming systems; Debates on women's underemployment and the changing perceptions/recognitions of female labour in agriculture (both within the family, and outside as servants or temporary workers); Income integration strategies (at the individual or the family level) in response to underemployment, with particular attention to life-cycle effects and the role of pluriactivity; Local and national initiatives promoted by local authorities, governmental and non-governmental organizations to manage seasonal labour and fight against underemployment, through technological change, employment and educational policies; Agricultural underemployment in the economic and social debates, in particular during the period of crisis, in the relation to the level of the agricultural wages, and the question of the rural population as a reserve army of unemployed workers.

## **Coping with underemployment: migration, pluriactivity, and gender in Eastern Finland during the 19th century**

**Petri Talvitie** University of Helsinki, Finland

Finland is the northernmost country in the world where permanent agriculture is practised. The growing season is short, which has historically led to significant seasonal fluctuations in labour demand. Conversely, long and harsh winters, together with a low level of urbanisation, have reduced the opportunities for rural dwellers to earn additional income outside the growing season in proto-industry or other off-farm activities. According to several contemporary estimates, winter unemployment was a significant risk of poverty in the Finnish countryside in the 19th century.

The aim of this paper is to assess the extent of underemployment in the period 1820-1900 and to consider how rural worker households survived in winter when there was little paid work available. It examines the impact of agricultural change and industrialisation (e.g. forestry) on labour demand and discusses the prevalence of seasonal migration. Regionally, the paper focuses on Eastern Finland, which was one of the poorest peripheries of Europe in terms of GDP in the 19th century.

The paper offers a new way of estimating the length of the working year by examining wage disputes between farmers and their labourers, which were among the most common civil disputes throughout the century in Eastern Finland.

## Refusing the factory: peasant attitudes to industrial work (Ivry -France 1800-1880)

**Fabrice Boudjaaba** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

Work outside the farm is often a blind spot in archival documentation. For example, in pre-industrial times, where work was performed on a daily basis, it was rarely the subject of a formal contract. What's more, although this work is documented, the sources are often scattered and therefore difficult to identify. Over and above these aspects of documentation, while the search for additional income through multiple activities is a well-documented reality for smallholder families in the modern era, the nature of this activity changes in the 19th century, when this work is done less and less on the farm (as in the context of proto-industry) and more and more in workshops.

The paper will look at this question from the point of view of Ivry, a village on the outskirts of Paris that became an industrial town. The interest of Ivry lies in the fact that it brought within the reach of peasant families the possibility of industrial work as a means of supplementing the income of their small farms (thus eliminating the question of migration). The article raises the question of what are economic choices and what are 'cultural' choices in attitudes to industrial work.

## Seasonality, mobility and the evolution of the incomes of day laborers and agricultural servants in Transylvania (1895-1914)

**Iosif Marin Balog** Romanian Academy, Institute of History Cluj-Napoca, Romania

After agrarian reforms, general trend that characterized Transylvanian agriculture in the period 1850-1914 was the increase in arable land and the reduction of hayfields and pastures. Thus, the share of arable land increased by over 50% in 65 years. Similar to other regions of Central and Eastern Europe, the phenomenon of rural population growth that automatically created a surplus of labor - day laborers were forced to work for low wages. Servants were employed for a year or longer periods. Day laborers were employed during intensive summer labour period for longer periods, usually a couple of weeks. Day laborers were not tied to their place of work and were willing to travel long distances to areas where labor was needed, especially on large estates. The peak periods of agricultural work were those that demanded, on the one hand, work efficiency, and on the other hand, it gave the possibility for day laborers to earn minimum incomes.

Based on statistical sources, official reports and other indirect sources, the presentation aims to analyze the following aspects: The wage system of day laborers and agricultural servants; The evolution of the average number of days worked per year and the factors that influenced this process.

## Performances, mobilities, underemployment in Italian agriculture during the 1930s

**Luca Andreoni**  
**& Francesco Chiapparino**  
 Marche Polytechnic University, Italy

Despite the centrality of the topic, historical studies on agricultural underemployment are scarce. The first obstacle, from a methodological point of view, is the difficult availability of reliable data and estimates of working times and days, both for national aggregates in a comparative perspective, and for more restricted territorial spaces in a longitudinal perspective. The second challenge concerns the interpretation of the impact of underemployment in the different paths to modern growth or in situations of backwardness. We try to investigate the relations between performances, mobilities and underemployment in Italian agriculture during the 1930s, in order to explore the mechanisms of triggering, diffusion and permanence of economic and rural crises.

[Room **Sala 2**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 1.8. The time around 1525 from a gender and household economic perspective

**ORGANISERS** **Janine Maegraith**  
 University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, **Siglinde Clementi**  
 Centre for Regional History, Italy

**MODERATOR** **Elise Dermineur**  
 Stockholm University, Sweden

**DISCUSSANT** **Jane Whittle**  
 University of Exeter,  
 United Kingdom

In the wake of the 500th anniversary of the German “peasant war”, many conferences and publications address the uprisings of 1525. But they mostly retain a narrative of the events as a ‘male affair’ which covers up the conditions of rural and urban women at the time. Apart from individual attempts to recover female actors in the documents and encourage a gender perspective, hardly any narratives emerge that include the aspect of gender relations and the societal changes that were emerging in this period. We therefore propose to approach the time around 1525 not only from a gender perspective but also from a socio-economic one by addressing aspects of wealth and its legal framework and putting households and household economics centre stage. Specifically, we ask about legal, social and economic status of women in view of access to wealth, wages and usage rights. The aim is to ultimately increase our knowledge about the socio-economic conditions of female and male actors at the time of the uprisings and thus to understand the framework of the peasants’ grievances, possible female involvement or impact on women. The session addresses different social groups in rural and urban contexts in southern Germany and southern Tyrol: women’s economic position and their taxable wealth in urban and rural marital and single households in Freiburg; noble women in Tyrol and their access to fiefs whereby changes in the feudal system, kinship interests and social practice come to the fore; continuities and changes of the legal context of property and gender in rural areas in southern Tyrol taking legal practice into account; and rural or ‘peasant’ women and their involvement in household economics from contributing and administering wealth, their material world, to funding acquisitions and lending activities.

## Women's economic position in Southern Germany at the time of the Peasant Revolt: An analysis of taxable wealth

**Victoria Gierok** University of Oxford, United Kingdom

The sixteenth century is associated with population growth and worsening living standards for wage labourers. In times of economic distress, women's wages declined more severely than men's. On the other hand, women's economic contributions to the household became more significant. Where did this leave female-headed households? This paper investigates the economic position of female-headed households in South-West Germany in the sixteenth century. A dataset of such households in Freiburg and surrounding villages combined with evidence from legal documents allows me to trace the economic fate of female-headed households at the time of the Peasant Revolt. I find an increase in female-headed households over the sixteenth century. This increase was particularly marked among the cloth-making guilds, highlighting the involvement of women in the dynamic textile market. However, women as heads of households also featured disproportionately outside guild occupations and these were generally less wealthy. Rural households owned only about one fifth of the taxable wealth as urban households. Moreover, female-headed households were more common in urban settings, which suggests that economic freedom led women to prefer staying unmarried or not remarrying after widowhood.

## The feudal system and the inheritance rights of women in the Tyrolean nobility of the early modern period

**Siglinde Clementi** Centre for Regional History, Italy

Theoretically, according to the legal literature of the 16th century, the fief was a matter for men. Women were completely excluded by definition from this important form of loan. Legal scholars naturally assumed that social manners and nature made it impossible for women to fulfil the duties of a vassal, namely military service and an advisory role at court. In social practice, however, the feudal system underwent a significant transformation in the late Middle Ages from a relationship of protection and loyalty to an economic relationship. In this way, and because female feudal status was in the interests of the aristocratic kinship groups, as it was intended to prevent the reversion of fiefs in the absence of male heirs, women were increasingly admitted to fief management. Using the example of Tyrol's nobility in the early modern period, the paper examines the practice and characteristics of this female enfeoffment and fiefdom management with the help of a male representative and fief bearer.

## A male affair? Women's wealth and their economic participation in the household in southern Tyrol around 1525

**Janine Maegraith** Cambridge University, United Kingdom

Within the current and past debates around the German 'peasant war', the actual socio-economic urgency and justification of the economic grievances of the peasants are heavily debated. But the impact of any of these on women and their wealth and economic status remains absent. This paper explores women's participation in household economics from the point of view of their wealth such as marriage and inheritance portions, material possessions, access to land use, possible income options and lending activities. Analyses of the court records of southern Tyrolean districts reveal the importance of women's wealth for households and their involvement in funding wealth transfers, land acquisitions and paying or securing debts – in

## Property and gender in rural areas: continuities and particularities in Tyrolean Court Practice around 1525

**Margareth Lanzinger** University of Vienna, Austria

spite of women's more precarious economic status in this county. The assumption is that married, unmarried and widowed women were not only involved in household economics but therefore also directly impacted by the grievances voiced during the uprisings which questions the idea of a purely 'male affair' around 1525.

From 1526, the 'newly reformed provincial law code' was in force in Tyrol. The title suggests novelty and changes. However, a closer look at the handling of property and wealth between the generations and the sexes reveals continuities in practice as far as the basic patterns of transfer are concerned. This applies above all to the predominance of the separation of marital property, which favoured descendants and own relatives over spouses – especially over widows – in access to property and wealth. The dominant form of land ownership was hereditary land tenure, which gave peasants de facto property rights. The unequal distribution of land between men and women was less the result of legal statutes than of a practice of succession that favoured sons. The first questions, then, is what lines of conflict, what concerns and what provisions resulted from this. The second question concerns the specific legal space: to what extent was it influenced by the neighbourhood of the German-speaking Tyrol with Trento, the Venetian and Gorizian territories, especially in the shaping of dowries and/or marriage portions in rural areas – which constituted very specific forms of wealth?

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 1.9. Timber floatations in Europe: between continuity and discontinuity 1

**ORGANISERS** **Claudio Lorenzini** University of Turin, Italy, **Katia Occhi** Bruno Kessler Foundation and Italian-German Historical Institute, Italy

**MODERATOR** **Jawad Daheur** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

At all times, one of the most problematic segments in the timber supply chain is transportation, to the point that the history of forest resources can be read through the gradual improvement of transportation techniques that made it possible to take advantage of forests considered too distant and unusable. One of the favored resources used for logging and transportation has been water. Until recently, floatations have been one of the most suitable solutions for moving a massive and cumbersome matter such as timber. The constraints brought about by this possibility are many, starting with land morphology and stream characteristics and, of course, the distance of forests from streams and rivers.

The objective of the panel is to gather contributions that illustrate the development of timber flows in Europe, with the claim of identifying discontinuities in the cases analyzed, considering the relationship between forests and waters a 'symbiotic' aspect of the timber supply chain and as such a structural element of continuity.

There are two approaches with which we would like to analyze timber fluctuations. The first is interconnections with other transportation and distribution systems: ports and roads. Their location, especially along major waterways, often transcends the jurisdictional boundaries of states. This leads to

## The coming forth of the modern capitalist timber industry around the upper -stream of the river Mures

**Zsombor Attila Gal** University of Pecs, Hungary

formal systems of organizing river timber transport that result in transactions and affect not only transport workers but the very political choices of those who regulate the trade. This is an extension of the 'envirotechnical system', a key approach adopted by the more recent historiographical literature on rivers. The second approach, consequential to the first, is the attention given to the conflicts brought about by the flows, environmental, social and economic in nature, involving village communities and states at different scales.

My research is centered on the historic- anthropological context behind the development of timber floating on the upper regions of the river Mures in Transylvania. The paper considers the general structural changes in the mode and manner of wood trade and extraction with its wider societal impacts, coming forth during the era of the region's integration into the Habsburg Empire.

With the arrival of pre - capitalist market conditions to a still feudal and economically peripheral region of Europe, we can observe its integration into the arising global economic system. The era of this 'Great Transformation' is followed through the gradual shift away from archaic timber floating to the arrival of modern railway systems - built by the newly rising private entrepreneurs of the region's wood industry.

Besides a local narrative of the rise of our current capitalist world economy, the paper is heavily based on the local historical and ethnographical literature focused on the topic, while integrating James S. Scott's concept of 'metis' as an adequate conceptual framework and incorporating other wider global-European parallels, such that can be found in Joachim Radkau's "Wood".

## Timber floatations on the river Mureş/Maros in the 18th and 19th centuries

**Robert-Miklos Nagy** Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

In the western part of present-day Romania, there is one river that had been subject to significant logging in recent centuries: the Mureş. In this short presentation, we will focus only on the Mureş (in Hungarian Maros). 90% of this river is in present-day Romania, the rest in Hungary. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the area was part of the eastern side of the Habsburg Empire, with the Principality of Transylvania and the Kingdom of Hungary sharing the river. Large-scale logging of the pine forest in the upper reaches of the river began in the second half of the 18th century. The heyday of rafting, however, lasted from the 1860s until the beginning of the 20th century, when the dynamic development of the cities of the Hungarian Kingdom, as part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire created a market for increasing quantities of timber for building. In our presentation, we will describe the transport process, from the extraction of logs, its towing to the river, the assembly of the rafts, to the transport on the Mureş. We will mention the obstacles to rafting as the low water level, the floating mills, the mill dams, and the theft.

## Timber floatation in Yonne

**Dimitri Langoureau**

University of Burgundy Europe, France, **Nicolas Jacob** Lumière University Lyon 2, France

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the Morvan massif and its rivers supplied Paris with three-quarters of its firewood. The State has imposed systematic predation on the environment through “extractive” management of wood. At the time, the Yonne, a tributary of the Seine, was the main river structuring the regional flotation system: it ensured continuity between the capital and the Morvan. In this general context, historiography has not yet paid much attention to the mobilization of water at the head of the basin, to the channeling of watercourses and to the works which tended to completely reshape the river, transforming it into a real log drive artery, solely dedicated to supplying Paris with firewood. Through an approach combining historical sources and landscape archaeology, this proposal aims to present the structure and operation of the entire industry. It’s about the techniques and hydraulic developments designed to reduce physical discontinuities. But it is also about the transformation of a river into a one-way artificialised route by sometimes conflicting interests, and the attempts to extend the timber supply area for Paris beyond the water divide, into the Loire basin.

[Room **Instituto de Paleografia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 1.10. Continuities rather than novel-ties? Technologies, imaginaries and practices in the ecologisation of agriculture 1

ORGANISERS **Romain Blancaneaux**

National Institute of Agricultural Research and University of Montpellier, France, **Julie Hermesse & Nicolas Loodts**

Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

MODERATORS & DISCUSSANTS

**Romain Blancaneaux** National Institute of Agricultural Research and University of Montpellier, France, **Julie Hermesse** Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

In response to the current food system problems, “new”, “revolutionary” ways of growing, distributing, eating, disposing and imagining of food are shifting to resolve broad socio-ecological issues. Yet this also adds up with a decades-long discourse on the need to feed a growing human global population, setting the stage for practices in line as a solution. These rhetoric of novelty are accompanied by promises of more productive and sustainable farming, by adopting practices reducing scarce or harmful inputs while farming becomes more precise. Meanwhile, criticism of productivist agriculture along revolutionary promises has intensified in the academic field, among activists and within institutions, providing various incentives pledging for changing the dominant paradigm in agriculture. How do now and then phenomena come together with discourses, which harkens back to - or depart from - past narratives and frame rationale? These elements provide a basis for questioning if “alternative” food systems - whether agroecologically, “sustainable”, “regenerative”, (etc.) - accompany a “greening” reproduction of phenomena attached to the dominant agricultural paradigm (simplification of processes, farmers’ dependance, etc.). To what extent do “new” narratives (such as those promised by innovations and new agricultural technologies) are likely to modify (or reproduce) dominant practices in food (and other areas) that existed in the past? To what extent, now and then, do they underpin conflicting views and activities? Are current incentives (from public authorities, environmental associations, etc.) more than former ones, likely to change (or reproduce) the dominant paradigm in agriculture, based e.g. on a system of injunctions with little or no consultation of the primary players, the farmers? This panel aims to question the historical (dis)continuities within current imaginaries and promises to change agricultural models. It welcomes multidisciplinary methods to inspire debate on “alternatives” in

## Socio-ecological trajectories and historical roots of hedgerows in Europe: what role and prospects for hedgerows in the materialization of the tension between modernization and ecologization narratives?

**Gianni Malica** Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

food systems, as they (are) shape(d by) new imaginaries and narratives, practices and technologies, which might reproduce more than alter existing, dominant logics in agriculture.

The narratives surrounding hedgerows significantly delve into the socio-ecological issues affecting farming practices and encourage agro-ecological transitions. They reveal how historical practices can inform current agricultural strategies and scientific research. Hedgerows have a long historical trajectory, largely destroyed after World War II and later rehabilitated through replanting programs starting in the 1960s-70s. Hedgerows, which became prevalent during the 18th-century enclosures and experienced a drastic decline - nearly 75% - by the late 20th century, are now included in initiatives like the European "Farm to Fork" strategy and national programs such as France's "Plantons des haies".

Their development reflects the tension between modernization and ecological policies. Between February and March 2024, implementing the 2023 Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) incited widespread protests among farmers in Belgium and across Europe, prompting the European Commission to urgently reverse certain binding environmental standards. This unrest highlights the challenges of balancing pro-environmental policies with farmers' acceptance, especially amid recent extreme weather events that emphasize the need for greener agricultural practices. Understanding the socio-cultural factors influencing hedgerow management is essential for reintegrating these practices into modern agricultural frameworks.

## The future is organic: narratives of organic farming in a 1978 TV documentary

**Walpurga Friedl** Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

My presentation examines the narratives surrounding organic farming in the 1978 documentary *Bodenkultur* ("Soil Cultivation"). It explores the portrayal of organic farming as the "new way of farming" as opposed to conventional farming and the links between past, present, and future agricultural practices.

The film was broadcast by the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) and is described as a significant moment in the founding history of BioAustria, the largest organisation of organic farmers in Austria. The documentary and subsequent information campaigns introduced organic farming to a broad audience and led to the formation of special interest groups. Over the following decades, organic farming evolved from a niche practice to a mainstream phenomenon, with Austria emerging as a leader in organic agriculture in the EU.

The film describes organic farming as the solution to the problems caused by industrialised farming practices post World War II. Organic farming is almost glorified, while conventional farming is portrayed as destructive and unsustainable. Although farming practices have evolved, the narratives presented in the documentary remain essentially unchanged and still appear in publications by BioAustria.

## The role of the animal in a sustainable food system: an exploration of a contested issue in the Netherlands 1950-2000

**Amber Striekwold** Utrecht University, Netherlands

The consumption and production of meat on an industrial scale have been contested since the end of the nineteenth century. These critiques gained momentum in the post-war period with the rise of the livestock industry. These critiques came from social movements and conventional actors. For example, food industry actors, such as Unilever, were unsure if a growing world population could be fed by animal protein. They argued that animal protein had a very inefficient calory conversion and valuable agricultural land would be wasted. They decided to invest in plant-based protein from the 1950s onwards. These concerns and alternatives echoed those of vegetarian and environmental movements. Alternative food system imaginaries often accompanied these critiques.

This paper explores critiques and alternative imaginaries that question the role of the animal in the food system. I use archival material and magazines from environmental and alternative food movements and conventional agricultural organisations. Specifically, I focus on the alternative food system imaginaries that surround mixed (family) farming and plant-based proteins. At different points in the post-war period, both these alternative imaginaries were employed by 'conventional' and 'alternative' actors and travelled and evolved between being a conventional practice to a politicized alternative practice.

[Room **Anfiteatro I**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 1.11. Rural economic inequalities in the Central and Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period 1

**ORGANISER Radosław Poniat**  
University of Białystok, Poland

Although the issue of economic inequality in past societies has been of considerable interest to historians for years, most of the work devoted to it concerns Western Europe. Central and Eastern European societies, often operating under serfdom, which could lead to restricted access to the markets, significant restrictions on mobility experienced by many members of the population and incomplete property rights have been much less frequently the subject of research. Many scholars interested in historical economic inequalities also assumed that its higher levels was primarily observed in precapitalist or capitalist urban communities, and that rural areas were characterized by a markedly lower level of economic differentiation. Such a perspective was in tune with some classical scholars of serfdom, who described serf communities as relatively equal, where both the policies of the lords and the attitudes of the peasants themselves did not encourage individual attempts to acquire wealth.

The aim of the proposed session is to at least partially fill the gaps in our knowledge of the economic inequalities in societies that existed under the serfdom system. The key questions we will seek to answer are the question of the impact of serfdom on the global levels of economic inequality, the role of landlords' policies in creating or reducing economic differentiation among serfs, the relationship between the level of feudal burdens and inequality, and the social consequences of economic inequalities.

Both researchers working on inequality among peasants and among landlords are invited to participate. In addition to quantitative approaches, which are most

	<p>often used to study inequalities, we are also interested in studies using other methodologies. In addition to detailed studies, we also welcome approaches of a more synthetic nature and even focusing on a more theoretical and model-based perspective. The spatial and chronological scope of the session covers all societies living under the serfdom system from those experiencing it harshest forms to those where the system was limited or even disappearing.</p>
<p><b>Economic inequalities among nobility in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 16-18th centuries</b></p> <p><b>Marzena Liedke, Radosław Poniat, Piotr Guzowski</b> University of Białystok, Poland</p>	<p>The purpose of the article is to study the degree of wealth disparity among the nobility living in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 16th - 18th centuries, and to make comparisons between regions and centuries. The article includes a presentation of the literature on the subject and a discussion of the methodology for studying economic inequality. The analyses presented in the text, on the other hand, are quantitative in nature. They were made on the basis of tax censuses: the register of the army of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from 1528, hearth tax of 1690, and the income tax of 1789-91.</p> <p>The results of the static analyses clearly indicate the concentration of estates in the hands of the elite and the existence of many representatives of the nobility who were so poor that they were only obliged to appear on war expeditions on their own or, as was the case with the income tax in the end of the 18th century, were even exempted from having to pay income tax. The high concentration of estates is observed both in relation to the beginning of the 16th century and the declining period of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth.</p>
<p><b>Inequality among the nobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the late 18th century</b></p> <p><b>Joanna Hryniewicka &amp; Dawid Kowalik</b> University of Białystok, Poland</p>	<p>The problem of economic inequality is a key issue in economics and economic history. Since the time of Simon Kuznets, and in later studies such as those of J.L. van Zanden, wealth differentiation was observed in the cities and rural areas of the early modern period. This was associated with more intensive investment activity and more frequent profit opportunities. The purpose of this article is to look at economic inequality among the nobility of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, characterized by the apparent equality of all members of this social group. The source basis will be income tax registers from the end of the 18th century from different regions: the rich and highly developed Greater Poland, Podlasie with a huge number of minor nobility, and Ukraine with large landowners. The study will use measures of concentration of the random variable (Gini Coefficient) and comparative measures (deciles).</p>

## Between rural roots and urban wealth: economic inequalities among the Polish-Lithuanian nobility in the 17th-18th centuries

**Ewa Kaźmierczyk & Monika Kozłowska-Szyc** University of Białystok, Poland

This paper examines economic inequalities within the Polish-Lithuanian szlachta, a predominantly rural social class whose wealth disparities became increasingly visible in urban settings during the 17th-18th centuries. Through analysis of urban property records and fiscal registers, we demonstrate how the traditional rural-based noble hierarchy manifested in cities. Our research reveals diverse patterns: magnates who, despite maintaining their rural residences, invested massive agricultural revenues in urban palaces; nobles employed in urban-based administration and institutions; middle-ranking nobles seeking economic opportunities in cities despite traditional prohibitions; and impoverished nobles whose urban migration patterns paralleled those of peasants seeking better economic opportunities. This study contributes to our understanding of rural economic inequalities by showing how urban sources can illuminate wealth disparities within a predominantly rural social class, challenging traditional assumptions about the rural-urban divide in Early Modern Eastern Europe.

## Peasant or townspeople wealth? Economic inequality among residents of agrarian towns in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the 18th century

**Agnieszka Zoch** University of Białystok, Poland

The purpose of this paper is to look at economic inequality among residents of small towns in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the late 18th century. Most of them were engaged in agriculture, and the towns were established as administrative centers of the large landholding complexes characteristic of the serfdom system in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The source basis of the paper is the inventories of royal estates from 1786 and 1789, whose authors classified the inhabitants of the towns according to 4 property categories. Interestingly, they were defined according to parameters characteristic of the rural population. We will analyze the community of 8 townships (about 1 thousand residents each) from two regions of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: the Brest region and the Grodno region on today's borderland of Poland and Belarus. Both regions were mostly inhabited by Ruthenian people, with some Polish and Jewish minorities. Typical of both regions was the serfdom system and limited involvement in the market economy.

## Wealthy peasants and poor nobles: inequality and overlapping affluence in early modern Slovenia

**Aleksander Panjek** University of Primorska, Slovenia

The paper reconstructs and presents the range of inequality among different social strata of the peasantry and of the nobility in the Slovenian regions of early modern Habsburg Austria, by focusing in particular on the duchy of Carniola in the 18th century. Besides the separate analysis of the range of inequality within each of the two groups, the paper investigates the existence and the extent of possible overlapping wealth indicators between wealthier peasants and poorer noblemen. The primary source for the analysis and comparison are probate inventories (from archives and published literature), from which information and data about both landed and movable property are extracted and compared.

11h00 – 11h30

COFFEE BREAK

[Room **Teatro Paulo Quintela**, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor]

11h30 – 13h00

**Roundtable**  
***Discussing Rural History: Current Approaches and Challenges***

ORGANISERS **Dulce Freire & Carlos Manuel Faísca**, University of Coimbra, Portugal

MODERATOR **Carlos Manuel Faísca**, University of Coimbra, Portugal

DISCUSSANTS **Brigitte Semanek** Institute of Rural History, Austria, **Gérard Béaur** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France, **João Pedro Tereso** Research Centre in Biodiversity and Genetic Resources, University of Porto, Portugal

13h00 – 14h30

LUNCH BREAK

In a world where everything changes and nothing changes, what challenges does Rural History face today? Rural History has evolved differently in each country, with varying research strategies and the exploration of subjects that were not always comparable. However, over the last 15 years, EURHO conferences have stimulated cross-border debates and fostered more integrated interpretations, raising innovative scientific questions. During this time, our approaches to the past have undergone significant changes, ranging from the large-scale digitisation of archival documents to the proliferation of artificial intelligence-assisted tools, not to mention the numerous developments in genetics and beyond. What impact do these changes have on our scientific research into the past? How can we promote the increasingly necessary interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaborations? This roundtable aims to encourage joint reflection on the trajectory of Rural History and its current challenges.



*Returning from the fair, 1950, Helena Corrêa de Barros, Lisbon Municipal Archive*

## Tuesday, 9th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 14h30 - 16h30 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 2**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>2.1. A field of one's own? Long-term analyses of female landownership and land use</b> Daniel R. Curtis	2.1.1. Life between hardship and prosperity: asset management strategies of widows in Early Modern rural Portugal Leonor Salguinho Ferreira	2.1.2. Women, indebtedness and the land market in eighteenth-century France Elise Dermineur	2.1.3. Gendered patterns of landownership in England, c.1780-1850 Joshua Rhodes	2.1.4. Black women and land cultivation: agency and resilience (Fernando Po, 1900-1919) Paloma Miravet Llorens, Sergio Serrano Hernández		Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>2.2. Organization of agrarian production and labour relations in the Ottoman landed estates 1</b> Alp Yücel Kaya, Socrates D. Petmezas, Yücel Terzibaşoğlu	2.2.1. The organisation of production in Ottoman estates according to the 1832/33 land and property survey of Cyprus Antonis Hadjikyriacou	2.2.2. Labor relations in olive production within large estates in the Ottoman Empire Dilek Akyalçın Kaya	2.2.3. Landholding and class relations in the Ottoman countryside: çiftliks, villages, and textile production in the 19th-century Balkans Ezgi Burcu Işıl Sevgener	2.2.4. Evolution and peculiarities of primitive accumulation in the 19th century Ottoman Empire Alp Yücel Kaya		TP2, 4th floor
<b>2.3. Agricultural tractors, social change and rural communities in 20th century 2</b> Bruno Esperante	2.3.1. Story of an outlaw tractor: small farmers' difficulties in purchasing machinery in Hungary during the Kadar era (1956-1989) Judit Tóth	2.3.2. Quinoa boom and agrarian change in the Bolivian Altiplano: ""tractoristas"" and new land questions within a reframed land use system Francesca Uleri	2.3.4. The design of sociotechnical systems and the mechanization of milking in the Azores Miguel S. Albergaria			Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>2.4. Methods, sources and approaches in the study of the history of cattle 1</b> Bárbara Direito, Leonardo Aboim Pires, Inês Gomes, Marta Nunes Silva	2.4.1. The industrial animal as an abstract technical object Laurent Herment	2.4.2. Revealing livestock farming in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (16th-18th centuries): insights from archaeological and historical source analysis Viktorija Jonauskienė	2.4.3. How much are parents worth? Herd books between science and market: the Italian case (19th-20th century) Marco Marigliano, Gianpiero Fumi			Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>2.5. Economic nationalism and economic development of rural areas in the 19th and early 20th centuries in Central and Southeastern Europe</b> Nataša Henig Miščič, Janja Sedlaček	2.5.1. Women's national associations and their role in economic development Petra Kavrečič Božeglav	2.5.2. Economic nationalism in Macedonia 1870-1908: a case study Miroslav Radivojević	2.5.3. Consequences of the Custom War (1906-1911) on the rural population of the kingdom of Serbia: the Export Cooperative in Uzice and influence on Husbandry in rural areas of the Uzice county Kristina Miličić	2.5.4. Economic nationalism as a cause for financial failure in Slovenian rural areas from late 19th century to the Second World War Ivan Smiljanić	2.5.5. A comparative study of financial networks in the shadow of economic nationalism in rural areas of the Carniola province and Bács-Bodrog county before 1918 Nataša Henig Miščič	Sala 3, 3rd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>2.6. Labour conflict and coercion in European rural households (16th-19th centuries)</b> Vilhelm Vilhelmsson, Teresa Petrik	2.6.1. Relationships between masters and servants in Early Modern Sweden Jonas Lindström	2.6.2. Discipline or abuse? Coercion and violence in rural labour relations in pre-modern Iceland Vilhelm Vilhelmsson	2.6.3. Coercion and conflict in rural households: the case of Urbino (Italy) (18th-19th centuries) from a gendered and comparative perspective Raffaella Sarti, Cora Benetti	2.6.4. Claiming labour(ers): disputes about servants' work and the application of labour law in 17th-18th century Upper Austria Teresa Petrik		Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>2.7. Farm accounts in rural Europe (c. 1700-1914): to better know one's own? 1</b> Nathalie Joly, Federico D'Onofrio	2.7.1. Accounting on farms and landed estates in the Netherlands, c. 1700-1914 Piet van Cruyningen	2.7.2. Between identity and profession: Farm records from Saxony, 1700 to 1914 Oscar Dube	2.7.3. Accounting roots: economic and historical analysis of the marchioness of dou farm in Figueres (Spain) (1916-1924) Helena Benito Mundet, Àngel Ballarin Garnica, Margarita López-Antón			Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>2.8. Timber floatations in Europe: between continuity and discontinuity 2</b> Claudio Lorenzini, Katia Occhi	2.8.1. Environmental, social and economic aspects in the timber floatation system. The case of the Maritime Alps, Italy (late 18th - early 20th century) Giulia Beltrametti	2.8.2. Concentration, processing, distribution: timber flows to and from Perarolo di Cadore (16th-19th centuries) Claudio Lorenzini	2.8.3. Logistical continuity versus river discontinuities: technical solutions for adapt rivers to timber floating, 18th-19th c., Morvan (France) with a comparison with Alps and Carpathians Nicolas Jacob	2.8.4. Forests, rivers, and frontiers: the complexity of timber supply chain in the Early-Modern Alps Katia Occhi		Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>2.9. Continuities rather than novelties? Technologies, imaginaries and practices in the ecologisation of agriculture 2</b> Romain Blancaneaux, Julie Hermesse, Nicolas Loodts	2.9.1. Conventional farmers stretched between standards: from the absence of consultation to the perception of an enforced greening. Case studies from Flanders and Wallonia (Belgium) Julie Hermesse, Gabrielle Fenton	2.9.2. The invisibility of agro-ecological levers in the context of farm transfers in Wallonia Séverine Lagneaux	2.9.3. A political agroecology of the encounter of biodigital innovation and farming worlds in Belgium Barbara Van Dyck, Larissa Mies Bombardi, Coline Prévost, Danya Nadar, Marjolein Visser			Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor
<b>2.10. Meet the author: Ownership Regimes in the Iberian World (1500-1850). The Normative Role of Community and Kinship</b> Manuel Bastias Saavedra						TP1, 4th floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>2.11. Rural economic inequalities in the Central and Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period 2</b> Radosław Poniat	<b>2.11.1. Who in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was a poor peasant and who was a rich one in the end of the 18th century?</b>  Piotr Guzowski, Radosław Poniat, Maciej Kwiatkowski	<b>2.11.2. Models of peasants' budgets in the 18th century Grand Duchy of Lithuania</b>  Maciej Kwiatkowski	<b>2.11.3. The prosperous serf: legal challenges and property accumulation strategies on the mining estate of Abrud in Habsburg Transylvania (first half of the eighteenth century)</b>  Radu Nedici	<b>2.11.4. Inequalities among the rural population of southern Poland at the end of the 18th century</b>  Piotr Miodunka		Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor
<b>2.12. Meet the project: ReSEED – Rescuing seed's heritage: engaging in a new framework of agriculture and innovation since the 16th century</b> Dulce Freire						Instituto de História económica e social, 3rd floor



Rye and Maize Field, Trás-os-Montes, July 2025 (Miguel Teodoro)

Tuesday, 9th September 2025  
Faculty of Arts and Humanities

14h30 – 16h30  
PARALLEL SESSIONS 2

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**2.1. A field of one’s  
own? Long-term  
analyses of female  
landownership and  
land use 1**

ORGANISER & MODERATOR  
**Daniel R. Curtis** Erasmus  
University Rotterdam, Netherlands

Today, across the world, women (and girls) are widely involved in agricultural tasks, and yet despite land being an important determinant of rural welfare, social status, and empowerment, women are far less likely than men to independently own or control it (Agarwal, 1994). This observation is well known in contemporary development studies, and yet the long-term dimensions of this, and how it relates to the present, are less understood. Indeed, when we look to premodern rural history, scholarship from various Eurasian contexts has for a long time tended to emphasize cultural norms that were antithetical to the notion of women cultivating land independently (that is, outside of marriage)—instead contributing to farms and farming as wives and daughters. The presumption is that female landownership within rural communities tended to be low, and if owned independently by women, was only used indirectly as leasers. Nevertheless, pioneering new scholarship about women and land has started to tell new stories about female desire to own land and fight for legal titles and inheritance, challenging these entrenched perspectives (Candido, 2023; Capern et al., 2019). In some places and periods, women’s landownership might have been much higher than previously thought.

Overall, the objective of this session is to better understand the long-term dimensions of women’s relationship to land. Rather than polarized positions of women being either significant or insignificant landowners and land users and seeing this as “the norm”, this session is interested in understanding differences between places and continuities and/or change in this status. So, for example, in those places where independent female landownership and land use was low, did this have long established roots and simply persist over time, or did this start to change in certain areas—and if so, where, how, and why? And in those places where independent female landownership and land use was high, what were the driving conditions that facilitated this situation?

This session is important because while a plethora of work has been devoted to the subject of distribution, redistribution, and inequality over the past 15 years (Alfani, 2021), women have been decidedly absent from these discussions. One of the barriers to furthering our understanding of this issue is the lack of empirical quantitative evidence for reconstructing female landownership and access to land as a proportion of total land available, and how this changed from year to year or across the long term. This is an

## Life between hardship and prosperity: asset management strategies of widows in Early Modern rural Portugal

**Leonor Salguinho Ferreira**

University of Coimbra, Portugal

important precondition before we can start to more productively analyse what women did with their land and how they have used it across the centuries to secure economic or social objectives.

A considerable number of notarial deeds from the 18th century was signed by women who, adult and independent, sought to monetise their assets. Most of these women were widows.

The presence of widowed women in notarial deeds is characterised by two antagonistic but often intrinsically connected poles: prosperity and hardship. In the Ancien Régime, the economic and social system facilitated the irreversible impoverishment of a large part of the population, and women, especially widows, were victims of this dynamic. Thus, their more common participation in notarial deeds is clearly symptomatic of their social position, demonstrating the economic fragility to which they were exposed, but also the prosperity that came from owning part of the assets, usually land, that had once belonged to the couple. However, not all women were in this position, with several women's economic situation oscillating between hardship and prosperity, while the majority lived in a constant state of instability and economic fragility.

This communication aims to explain the asset management strategies adopted by widowed women in different localities in the current district of Coimbra in the second half of the 18th century, in order to construct a more detailed understanding of women's lives in rural areas.

## Women, indebtedness and the land market in eighteenth-century France

**Elise Dermineur** Stockholm

University, Sweden

This study explores the complex relationship between women, indebtedness, and the land market in eighteenth-century France, focusing on two rural seigneuries in northeast France. Traditionally, land served as a primary asset for securing credit, and in times of crisis, peasants often sold their land to meet financial obligations. However, women's role in these transactions has been largely overlooked. This study examines how women participated in land sales and purchases, challenging the notion that land ownership was exclusively male-dominated.

Women, particularly married women, frequently co-signed land sales, often selling their lineage property, either upon marriage or due to economic necessity. In regions practicing partible inheritance, women could own land in their own right, which they sometimes sold to consolidate family holdings or repay debts. Unmarried women and widows participated less in the land market, with widows having more legal autonomy to manage property.

The study finds that while indebtedness influenced land sales, female property was also sold strategically, serving as a financial resource for households. Additionally, married women, though not the primary buyers, were involved in land acquisitions, sometimes acting independently. Ultimately, this research highlights women's active but underappreciated role in the rural economy and land market.

## Gendered patterns of landownership in England, c.1780-1850

**Joshua Rhodes** Durham University, United Kingdom

This paper reconstructs gendered patterns of landownership in late 18th and early 19th century England. Land tax and tithe apportionment records are used to quantify the gendered distribution of land ownership nationally. By creating a national dataset of gendered landownership, this paper addresses a range of questions which have typically been examined from local or regional perspectives. First, it addresses the empirical challenge of identifying female-owned property in an era before the Married Women's Property Acts (1870s-1880s). Secondly, it examines geographical differences in gendered land ownership rates due to differences in property rights and inheritance practices across England. Thirdly, it considers constraints on men's and women's use of land. Lastly, the paper reflects on gendered land ownership distributions today and how these compare to historic patterns.

## Black women and land cultivation: agency and resilience (Fernando Po, 1900-1919)

**Paloma Miravet Llorens** Jaume I University, Spain, **Sergio Serrano Hernández** The City College of New York, Dominican Studies Institute, United States of America

This paper examines black women's access to land in Fernando Po. In the second half of the 19th century, women took advantage of the favourable situation created by the change of colonial administration - from British to Spanish - to gain access to the island's main productive resource: land. Specifically, we analyse three issues: colonial property legislation, women's strategies for gaining access to land, and their role in the economy.

We argue that the intensification of colonisation in the 20th century had a negative impact on women's access to land grants, resulting in a reduction in the number of women landowners and in the size of land grants. Despite this, women exercised agency through strategies such as farming without applying for concessions and partnering with European companies as commercial intermediaries.

[Room **TP2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 2.2. Organization of agrarian production and labour relations in the Ottoman landed estates 1

**ORGANISERS** **Alp Yücel Kaya** Ege University, Turkey, **Socrates D. Petmezas** University of Crete, Greece, **Yücel Terzibaşoğlu** Boğaziçi University, Turkey

**MODERATOR** **Socrates D. Petmezas** University of Crete, Greece

Past research on the landed estates (*çiftlik*) in the Ottoman lands in the Balkans, Anatolia, and the Arab provinces has focused primarily on some particular aspects such as the "formation of the *çiftliks*", their legal status and their relation to market-oriented agricultural production (especially in relation to grain exports to Europe). Similarly, most recent research on the *çiftliks* tend to reproduce or revisit the same old questions, without sufficiently establishing the place of landed estates in the broader regional agrarian economies. There is still little research on such questions as the land use and labour regimes, the social-property relations, their spatial distribution and geographical differences and variation. In fact, the historical evolution of the large landed estates was not uniform across the different Ottoman regions along the eastern Mediterranean as these landed estates reflected local agrarian practices and regional historical development.

In particular, the organization of agricultural and livestock production, the use of land and commons and the different forms of land tenure and labour organization (sharecropping, wage and dependent labour) had only

rarely been the subject of detailed local studies and regional comparisons. The practical management of the estates by the landlord or (in his usual absence) its representatives (stewards, communal elders or intermediaries who farmed the charge of steward) in relation to the actual mode of land use and animal husbandry had been either a neglected subject of research in local studies or treated from a very general and 'distant' point of view. Did the peasant commune held collective rights and obligations in the management of the estate's arable lands and/or commons, and how their rights and obligations were affected or changed in the long historical process? The same is true in what concerns the difference between 'ownership' and 'management' or decision making. We do not know in detail and precision how extended families (or group of families) of estate-landlords took decisions on major or everyday issues. We would like to learn more about the ways individual small-owners ended up (in the end of the 19th century) holding a 'share' (however minuscule) on a large landed estate.

In this context, and as part of an ongoing collaborative research agenda, these two proposed panels will address, in the wider setting of the eastern Mediterranean, the following issues: What was the balance between land cultivation, livestock husbandry and other activities? What was the role of transhumance? What were the terms under which production and labour (wage labour, sharecropping, tenants, small peasant farmers, large-scale cultivation, labour contracts, labour mobility / immobility) were organised in different regions and periods? If, how (and how often) were arable lands distributed among tenants and how collective constraints and communal 'solidarities' were imposed in the process of crop-rotation and fallow? How are *çiftliks* inscribed within the wider context of Ottoman economy in different regions and eras? What is their relationship with urban economy and society (absentee landlords, urban entrepreneurs, wage labourers, seasonal migrants)? How did this relationship change over time? What are the implications of studying *çiftliks* in the context of current discussions on unfree labour, commons, property and communal rights, primitive accumulation, institutional change and economic growth?

## The organisation of production in Ottoman estates according to the 1832/33 land and property survey of Cyprus

**Antonis Hadjikyriacou** Panteion University, Greece

The paper enquires into the organisation of production of estates (*çiftliks*) in Ottoman Cyprus based on the 1832/33 Land and Property Survey (*Emlak ve arazi defteri*) of the island. The survey records about 23,000 property holders living in 800 settlements and their properties, falling into four broad categories: lands, trees, buildings, and animals. Of special interest is the fact that survey was conducted a moment of serious socio-economic tensions, immediately before the outbreak of three revolts in 1833.

The survey includes seventy-six estates recorded in different forms of holding, namely as the private property of individuals, religious endowments, or a state-owned and leased to an entrepreneur. A statistical, geo-statistical,

	<p>and geo-spatial analysis of the data will examine trends and patterns in the organisation of production in these estates. In doing so, it will attempt to identify typologies of estates, forms of land use, exploitation of natural resources, organisation of labour, and entrepreneurial strategies. The objective is to employ these data to better understand the factors, means, and relations of production, even if information on all these dimensions may not always be available.</p>
<p><b>Labor relations in olive production within large estates in the Ottoman Empire</b></p> <p><b>Dilek Akyalçın Kaya</b> Institute for Mediterranean Studies of Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece</p>	<p>This paper analyzes olive cultivation in the northern Aegean region of the Ottoman Empire. Throughout the nineteenth century, large estate owners such as Karaosmanoğulları gathered an increasing number of olive groves in their hands, and the existence of large olive groves within large landed estates required different types of labor to be used for olive cultivation. This paper will search for answers to the following questions: How did the economic actors (producers, entrepreneurs, industrialists, and merchants) of these regions react to the economic transformations under way in this period? How did the relationships interwoven around olive cultivation between different classes change/develop during this period? How did demographic trends such as the distribution of population into urban and rural areas and mobility of labor change? How were labor relations organized among different types of agricultural and livestock production within large estates? An analysis of the census and registers of pious endowments of different olive-producing regions, such as Mytilini, Edremit, and Ayvalık, will provide a broader perspective on the nature of labor used in large landed estates and labor movements within these regions.</p>
<p><b>Landholding and class relations in the Ottoman countryside: çiftliks, villages, and textile production in the 19th-century Balkans</b></p> <p><b>Ezgi Burcu Işıl Sevgener</b> Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, Greece</p>	<p>This paper examines the rural economy and class relations in 19th-century Manastır (Bitola) and its surrounding districts in present-day North Macedonia, focusing on the interactions between private estates (“çiftliks”), villages, and rural textile production centers in the Ottoman Balkans. The study employs diverse archival sources, including income survey registers (“temettuat defterleri”) preserved in the Ottoman State Archives. Integrating data from these registers with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) enables the mapping of çiftliks, villages, and production factors, providing insights into the regional organization of the rural economy. Population and tax registers further illuminate labor mobility and shifts in ownership patterns, while supplementary sources—petitions, investigation reports, legal documents, and provincial yearbooks—enhance the analysis. Ultimately, this paper argues that the çiftlik system was integral to the organization of the rural economy and deepened inequalities in the region. The integration of quantitative data with qualitative insights provides a multifaceted examination of the rural landscape, contributing to broader discussions on agrarian economies, social stratification, and industrial production in the Ottoman Empire.</p>

## Evolution and peculiarities of primitive accumulation in the 19th century Ottoman Empire

**Alp Yücel Kaya** Ege University, Turkey

The primitive accumulation in the Ottoman Empire lived through two phases. Between 1839-1876, landed estate owners either tried to bound sharecroppers on land, as in the Balkans, or resorted to slave labor, as in Western Anatolia; between 1876-1914, while they continued to use slave labor in Western Anatolia, they also sought the bondage of dispossessed laborers along with sharecroppers in both regions. What really marked the period between 1876 and 1914, was the attack of the landed estate owners on the peasantry's subsistence rights and the commons peasantry was benefiting. In other words, in the first phase, landowners searched for labor discipline at the reserve land on the landed estate, and in the second phase, they searched for the expansion of the reserve land as well as labor discipline. Under these conditions, peasants who were expelled from their landed estates became proletarianized. In this paper, we will delineate the evolution and peculiarities of primitive accumulation in the 19th century Ottoman Empire. We will discuss the evolution of labor relations in the 19th century based on archival data by focusing on corvée labor, bondage to the soil, indebtedness, and commons in the landed estates of Western Anatolia and Balkans.

[Room **Sala 4**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 2.3. Agricultural tractors, social change and rural communities in 20th century 2

**ORGANISER & MODERATOR Bruno Esperante** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Agricultural tractors have played a central role of the great agriculture technology transformations in 20th century. Although the international agrarian historiography has made progress in understanding the mechanisation of agriculture from an institutional and market perspective, the effects of mechanisation in peasant community's reproduction strategies have yet to be discussed in depth and in international comparison.

Thus, the main question of this session is: How did agricultural tractors change peasant communities' reproduction strategies in 20th century? This question is directly related to the Marxist hypothesis of social change, which it is often pointed out that social relations are closely linked to productive forces. So, when productive forces change, peasants change their mode of production, and when their mode of production changes, all their social relations change. Therefore, we expect to discuss the hypothesis that links the diffusion of agricultural tractors with the final crisis of peasant reproduction in the 20th century. For this reason, we will also discuss how agricultural tractors have shaped new social relations and new social classes differentiations for 21st century.

Agricultural tractors are an industrial innovation aimed at saving labour. But we also know, both from agroecology and from the peasant economy theory, that peasant innovation strategies are not always aimed at saving labour. This is especially true in agriculture with family labour based. On the other hand, we know that in the intensive organic and solar energy-based agriculture that dominated the world until the first third of 20th century, many agricultural tasks required large investments of labour from human and animal energy-base source. For this reason, peasant reproduction strategies were often directed towards innovations that reduced human physical effort, but

	<p>not towards those that completely replaced it. Moreover, we know that fertilisation needs, and structural nitrogen deficits required livestock, so the complete substitution of animal traction for agricultural tasks was not appropriate either.</p> <p>However, all this changed, especially after the Second World War, which the rise of agribusiness, new marketing techniques to make agricultural tractor desirable and, overall, innovations needed to make it cheap, easy to use and adaptable to many types of land and agricultural work. The peasant had to face up to this change, which structurally overtook them. As a result, many things changed: ways of working, gender roles, generational roles, marriage policies, community hierarchies, sociability, leisure, etc. Many changes in reproduction strategies that, in a long-term perspective, became known as Le Fin des Paysans era in late 20th century.</p> <p>We would like to receive proposals working on different perspectives (social, economy, environmental, gender, culture, sociology, anthropology) addressing the same question: How did agricultural tractors change peasant communities' reproduction strategies? We encourage the submission of proposals that promote indepth, pluralistic and from below analyses, and dealing with the 20th century and any territory, both Global North and South.</p> <p>The latest aim of this session is to publish the papers as a special issue in a high-ranking journal or as a book in a well renowned international editorial.</p>
<p><b>Story of an outlaw tractor: small farmers' difficulties in purchasing machinery in Hungary during the Kadar era (1956–1989)</b></p> <p><b>Judit Tóth</b> Freelance, Hungary</p>	<p>After Hungary became part of the Soviet Union's sphere of influence after World War II, the forced introduction of Soviet models began in all areas of life. In agriculture the main goal was the collectivization, which was realized by 1961. Although private property was largely eliminated, small farms (household and auxiliary farms) were still able to survive in small areas and with a huge, mainly family investment of labour. In fact, small farms accounted for more than a third of agricultural production by 1976. The shift in the arguments for and against small farms, the change in the perspective of power, or even more the adaptation to the established economic situation, was realized in measures aimed at supporting small-scale production. Despite this, the purchase of tractors and associated machinery by private individuals was not yet permitted in the late 1970s, but, such purchases - although outside the legal framework - even if only in negligible numbers, but took place. In my presentation, I would like to tell the story of an MTZ 50 tractor purchased in 1979 under such circumstances, and at the same time, present the struggling existence of the small farm that owns it.</p>

## Quinoa boom and agrarian change in the Bolivian Altiplano: “tractoristas” and new land questions within a reframed land use system

**Francesca Uleri** University of Bolzano, Italy

Currently, Bolivia is the world's second-largest exporter of quinoa, and almost 90% of the total national production intended for export comes from the Bolivian Southern Highlands. Since the 1970s, two elements have contributed to changing the profile of the local peasant economy: firstly, the mechanization of agriculture through the introduction of tractors and disc plows, and secondly, the increase in external demand for quinoa. Mechanization with tractors and integration into the global market have proceeded in connection with processes of commodification of the production cycle that, on the one hand, have detached the product from the territories of origin in a sort of dynamic of fetishization, and on the other hand, have fostered the restructuring of the agrarian ground. Building upon empirical research conducted in three rural municipalities of the Bolivian Southern Highlands, this contribution aims to define this trajectory by discussing the relationship between the mechanization of quinoa production and changes in the indigenous communities' land use system. It sheds light on the emergence of a new land question, which appears, for example, with dynamics of saturation of the agricultural frontier, socio-economic consolidation of the group of tractor owners, and redefinition of the logics to access the common land.

## The design of sociotechnical systems and the mechanization of milking in the Azores

**Miguel S. Albergaria** Freelance, Portugal

The mechanization of milking in the Azores – specifically in the island of São Miguel – during the 1970s and 1980s is a pertinent case study regarding the orientation of the design of sociotechnical systems and the interplay between technology and society. Namely, replacing the initially planned fixed milking facilities with the production of mobile milking machines, in conjunction with the corresponding ways of managing livestock and rural land use planning, is a counterexample to the thesis of the general functionality of top-down design according to technological and economic rationality. Instead, it indicates the possibility, at least occasionally, of a bottom-up design according to social and political factors, although respecting technical and economic conditions. In addition, the socio-economic relevance of this process in São Miguel and the back then relative isolation of this island allow the discrimination of the respective factors to a greater extent than is usual in observations outside the laboratory. This study considers institutional reports and technical communications, relevant statistics, news and opinion pieces in the press at the time, and interviews with some agents involved. To contribute to clarifying the basic and structuring conditions of the technological phenomenon, which becomes especially relevant in this time of profound sociotechnical transformations.

[Room **Anfiteatro III**,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 2.4. Methods, sources and approaches in the study of the history of cattle 1

ORGANISERS **Bárbara Direito**

University of Lisbon and NOVA

University of Lisbon, Portugal,

**Leonardo Aboim Pires** University

of Lisbon, Portugal, **Inês Gomes**

**& Marta Nunes Silva** NOVA

University of Lisbon, Portugal

MODERATOR **Bárbara Direito**

University of Lisbon and NOVA

University of Lisbon, Portugal

Cattle has long been a subject of interest for rural historians and for many scholars working in other sub-fields of history, such as economic and social history, environmental history, animal history, food history or the history of science. It has also garnered attention from anthropology and sociology, as well as philosophy. Working from these vantage points and often adopting multidisciplinary perspectives, scholars have engaged different methods, sources and approaches to investigate issues of production, consumption, human-animal relations, agency, health or trade, among others. Informed by the environmental turn in the humanities and social sciences, many studies have drawn heavily on sources from the natural sciences, while the animal turn has favoured the use of multispecies ethnography and animal biography. In turn, cultural historians have continued to examine literary works and other written or visual sources to understand past human-animal relations, increasingly looking at animals in their own right. Proposed by members of the recently funded project titled "Cattle in motion: Knowledge, circulation and environments in the history of cattle in Portugal, 1750-1960", this panel aims to interrogate these different methods, sources and approaches. It welcomes contributions that discuss methods, sources and approaches used to study cattle in specific time periods and geographies, as well as theoretical contributions.

## The industrial animal as an abstract technical object

**Laurent Herment** National Center  
for Scientific Research and School  
for Advanced Studies in the Social  
Sciences, France

The idea that animals are machines is not new. In the 19th century, advances in chemistry and physiology gave impetus to research into nutrition in order to determine the optimum rations for increasing meat or milk yields, for example. Other research focusing more specifically on horses looked at animal rations in order to maximise the work output of urban cavalries. These questions and practices aimed at maximising product and/or work output developed in various.

This vast research movement and the development of 'scientific' practices are part of a general movement towards the industrialisation of agriculture and livestock farming. From the 1960s onwards, the practices of factory farming were denounced (Animal machine, Harrison 1963). At the same time, in the first chapter of his book *Du mode d'existence des objets techniques* (1958), the philosopher Gilbert Simondon explained the difference between 'concrete technical objects' and 'abstract technical objects', basing his argument on the development of the internal combustion engine and the practices of horticulturalists. In this paper, in the light of this distinction, we re-examine contemporary breeding practices to show how farm animals have become 'abstract technical object'.

## Revealing livestock farming in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (16th–18th centuries): insights from archaeological and historical source analysis

**Viktorija Jonauskienė** Klaipėda University, Lithuania

The study of historical sources reveals the critical role of livestock farming in human survival and economic activities during the early Modern Era. Focusing on animal husbandry in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania (GDL) from the 16th to 18th centuries, this research integrates written and archaeological evidence. While archaeological investigations of 121 manors since 1989 have yielded valuable data, zooarchaeological material has been preserved from only 15 sites, offering a limited view of bone distribution by animal species.

To address these gaps, a comparative analysis of zooarchaeological data and historical records – such as manor inventories and Land and Castle Court books – is essential. This method highlights consistencies and discrepancies between material and textual evidence, offering a clearer picture of regional and manor-specific trends. An interdisciplinary approach, combining history and archaeology, enables a deeper understanding of how livestock farming practices shaped both economic and social life. By cross-referencing fragmented records scattered across Lithuanian, Polish, and neighboring archives this study uncovers previously overlooked patterns.

Through these methods, the research not only clarifies trends in animal husbandry but also sheds light on the daily lives of manor residents, highlighting the indispensable role of historical sources in reconstructing the GDL's agricultural history.

## How much are parents worth? Herd books between science and market: the Italian case (19th-20th century)

**Marco Marigliano & Gianpiero Fumi** Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy

This paper aims to analyze the birth and evolution of herd books – that is the public recording of animals based on their individual characteristics and genetic lineage of ancestry and descent – focusing on the Italian case. The study will also present the first results of archival research on all herd books for cattle breeds in 19th and 20th century Italy and will discuss their value for historical research. In fact, some registries had a limited function for local breeds but remain a sign of the agricultural sector's attention to endogenous resources. Other herd books, however, expanded nationally, driven by the success of the respective breeds. From the second half of the 19th century in Europe and North America, a trend emerged to establish new criteria for classifying animals and new tools for managing their selection and reproduction. These herd books led to the formation of standardized breeds and became a crucial tool for more enterprising breeders, livestock associations, and the state for various purposes that changed over time: basing livestock policies on measurable criteria such as productivity, supporting the market for breeding animals (and animal semen after the advent of artificial insemination), and promoting biodiversity.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 2.5. Economic nationalism and economic development of rural areas in the 19th and early 20th centuries in Central and Southeastern Europe

ORGANISERS **Nataša Henig Mišič**  
& **Janja Sedlaček** Institute of  
Contemporary History, Slovenia

Economic nationalism played a crucial role in nation-building in Central and Southeastern Europe, serving as a long-term cultural approach to modernisation. Present both before and after World War I, even at sub-state levels, it was integral to collective self-assurance efforts. Nearly all sectors established autonomous structures in line with 19th-century unification and independence movements. This push for economic national differentiation reflected the desire for parallel cultural, political, and economic systems due to distinct national populations. Establishing these parallel institutions was a gradual process, with nationalist leaders acknowledging the economic factor's significance in political struggles. We are interested in the role of economic nationalism in the southern regions of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, including both the Austrian and Hungarian areas, as well as in the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Serbia. The panel primarily aims to emphasise and compare the impact and influence of economic nationalism within two different systems: the Orthodox-Byzantine-Ottoman system in the northern regions of the Ottoman Empire and the Kingdom of Serbia and the Catholic-Western system in the southern regions of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy. Different political and social structures characterised these systems. The contributions will provide new perspectives by examining internal problems and external challenges of institutions from a top-down viewpoint and the experiences of the entrepreneurs and peasantry from a bottom-up perspective. More specifically, we concentrate on the rural areas of the Slovenian territories within the Austrian part and Bács-Bodrog in the Hungarian part of the Habsburg Monarchy; Uzice county in the Kingdom of Serbia; and Macedonia, located in the northern part of the Ottoman Empire. These regions were considered peripheral concerning state frameworks, as they were distant from state centres. Bulgaria, Greece, and later Serbia sought to leverage the market dependence of peasants in rural Macedonia, including seasonal labour and economic boycotts, to coerce rival group members into their millet. Church-school communities set up credit institutions with low-interest rates. With the transformation of the church-educational struggle in Macedonia into a struggle involving armed groups within the Ottoman Empire, the methods of economic pressure on the population to join one of the three groups gained strength. Besides, it is crucial to examine the impact of the Export Bank, founded in 1901, and its Uzice subsidiary, the Export Cooperative, established in 1905, on rural husbandry in Uzice County, which includes analysing its income sources—domestic or foreign—and how Custom war of the Kingdom of Serbia and Austro-Hungarian Monarchy affected its operations. Economic nationalism, as an ideologically driven economic program, can significantly impact entrepreneurs, sometimes leading to irrational business decisions. This can negatively affect businesses, potentially causing financial collapse. So, we will examine cases of business failures in Slovenian rural areas linked to economic nationalism. Finally, in the session, we will analyse the dynamics of financial networks and intermediaries in Carniola Province and Bács-Bodrog

	<p>County during the late 19th century, exploring their connection to economic nationalism. This research will offer a comparative historical analysis of national polarisation, politics, and economic development in Central and Southeastern Europe.</p>
<p><b>Women's national associations and their role in economic development</b></p> <p><b>Petra Kavrečič Božeglav</b> University of Primorska, Slovenia</p>	<p>The paper aims to reflect on the relation between national affirmation and economic development. It will focus on women's national activism in ethnically mixed peripheral (border) areas, namely the Austro-Hungarian land of Austrian Littoral. In this nationally non-homogeneous region, the economic strategies had a significant influence on the process of nation building, where more effort had to be implemented to accomplish its national claims. The urban centres were the main starting points which furtherly influenced the rural areas.</p> <p>In the process of national affirmation and modernization, the economy had an important role. Women, who struggled for emancipation, got actively involved in this process. In the Austrian Littoral (as in other parts of Austro-Hungary), the urban centres encouraged the formations of women's national(ist) associations. These societies furtherly acted as advocates or models for branches in rural areas, especially in border and nationally mixed areas. Thus, the purpose is to study the connections between urban and rural/centre and periphery.</p> <p>The paper will focus on the women's branch of the St. Cyril and Methodius Society in the border area, examining the spread of ideas, dynamics of relations, but especially the modernising influences within the context of the organisation's work in peripheries.</p>
<p><b>Economic nationalism in Macedonia 1870–1908: a case study</b></p> <p><b>Miroslav Radivojević</b> University of Belgrade, Serbia</p>	<p>Bulgarian Exarchate as a separate religious community was established in 1870, despite the opposition of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. The Sultan's firman stipulated that diocese would become part of the Exarchate if all or two-thirds of the Orthodox believers chose to join it. The economic factor, however, played a significant role in the choice of "millet". Bulgaria, Greece, and later Serbia, tried to exploit market dependence of peasants, seasonal labor of rural Macedonia's inhabitants, or organize economic boycotts, to force members of rival groups to join their millet. The opposing sides established credit institutions through church-school communities, which attracted villagers with low interest rates. With the transformation of the church-educational struggle in Macedonia into a struggle involving armed groups within the Ottoman Empire, the methods of economic pressure on the population to join one of the three groups gained strength. The peak of the mutual, by then national struggle of opposing groups was reached with the Young Turk Revolution, which also represents the upper chronological boundary of the study.</p>

## Consequences of the Custom War (1906-1911) on the rural population of the kingdom of Serbia: the Export Cooperative in Uzice and influence on Husbandry in rural areas the Uzice county

**Kristina Miličić** Historical Institute  
Belgrade, Serbia

In modern day historiography, the Custom war was analyzed mainly from the political, but rarely an economics and trade standpoint. However, it is exactly this viewpoint that explains just what the causes and influences this clash between Serbia and Austria-Hungary had on the state and its international standing. Using an example from the Uzice county we will show the influence that the Export bank, founded in 1901. and its Uzice subsidiary, The Export Cooperative, founded in 1905, had on the husbandry of rural areas of the Uzice county. We will show how this cooperative got its income, whether it was founded only by home capital, or foreign as well. Also, we will show whether the changes that occurred after the clash between Serbia and Austri-Hungary had influenced the functioning of this institution as well as the consequences on the husbandry fund both in quality and quantity. Considering that time marked a breakthrough of capitalism, it would be important to see whether the Custom War between Serbia and its northern neighbor influenced the structure of agriculture and other branches of economy.

## Economic nationalism as a cause for financial failure in Slovenian rural areas from late 19th century to the Second World War

**Ivan Smiljanić** Institute of  
Contemporary History, Slovenia

Economic nationalism as a specific type of ideologically charged economic programme can have a great impact on the business activities of entrepreneurs, to the point where they start to behave irrationally from a purely economic point of view, e.g. by restricting doing business with potential business partners due to their differing political views and identities. Nationalistic traits can also be a reason for customers to boycott a particular business or entrepreneur. Therefore, when nationalism spills over into business world, it can have a strong negative impact; it can even lead to the financial collapse and bankruptcy of an entrepreneur and their business. The article will present this issue on the basis of cases of business failures and bankruptcies in Slovenian rural areas under Austria-Hungary and in interwar Yugoslavia, whose reasons could be attributed to economic nationalist reasons. Nationalist tensions – especially among Slovenians versus Germans and Slovenians versus Italians – were strong in the time of both countries and were also reflected in the economy, in some cases due to the boycott of one ethnic group or another and in others due to the unwillingness of entrepreneurs to cooperate with surrounding businesses. Both could prove fatal for the company.

## A comparative study of financial networks in the shadow of economic nationalism in rural areas of the Carniola province and Bács-Bodrog county before 1918

**Nataša Henig Mišičič** Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia

Economic nationalism was an essential part of the process of nation-building in Central and South-Eastern Europe. It became a long-term national culture in many countries, representing an alternative path to modernisation. Various parallel institutions emerged during the period of national differentiation in the late 19th century. Many of these institutions faced considerable political and economic pressure due to conflicts between different national movements. The paper examines the establishment and development of financial networks, precisely the operation of credit cooperatives in Carniola Province and Bács-Bodrog County, highlighting their correlation with economic nationalism. The establishment of microfinance intermediaries, like credit cooperatives, was crucial for achieving financial inclusion among the peasant population. The research offers new insights and compares two different areas, microfinance intermediaries and their role and impact on the economic and financial development of the rural areas before World War I. The comparison will help identify similarities and differences, enabling us to look beyond national boundaries and examine the issues within the broader context.

[Room **Sala 2**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 2.6. Labour conflict and coercion in European rural households (16th-19th centuries)

**ORGANISERS** **Vilhelm Vilhelmsson** University of Iceland, Iceland,  
**Teresa Petrik** University of Vienna, Austria

**MODERATOR** **Carolina Uppenberg** Stockholm University, Sweden

Rural households in early modern Europe were shaped by multiple and overlapping power dynamics. In addition to the gendered family dynamic and the question of ownership (landlord vs. "serf"), most rural households were sites of production and reproduction where labour relations of various shades, and their complex dynamics of power and contestation informed most aspects of daily life. Rural Households were therefore the scene of conflicts not only between parents and children or wives and husbands, but also between servants and masters or day labourers and their employers. These relations were in turn governed by national and regional labour laws, as well as laws restricting vagrancy and unemployment, and cultural notions of hierarchy and household order. This panel seeks to address the labour conflicts that arose within and surrounding European rural households in the early modern era (roughly 16th to early 19th centuries) by exploring how these power dynamics played out in practice and how labour conflicts affected economic and social life in rural communities. Moreover, the panel aims to uncover what these conflicts can tell us about the meaning contemporaries ascribed to the household as an organising principle of work and social relations at large. Papers could explore both hidden and overt tactics of individual or collective resistance, historical actors' understanding and contestation of labour laws, the use of coercion in managing labour dynamics, the notions and practice of paternalism in household labour relations, wage disputes and employment negotiations and any other aspect related to the practice of labour relations in rural households in early modern Europe.

## Relationships between masters and servants in Early Modern Sweden

**Jonas Lindström** Uppsala University, Sweden

Starting from a few court cases, this paper discusses master-servant relationships in early modern Sweden. While conventional economics separates the labour market from the household, the servant institution combined these two and conflated personal relationships with strictly regulated, legally defined positions. To better understand this complex and dynamic institution, we need to zoom in on everyday practices and the perceptions of the people involved. Court records are a wonderful source for this purpose. Conflicts brought to court portray the servant as subordinate yet far from without legal rights. Masters' power was extensive but limited. Coercion and violence were at the core of the relationship, but also remuneration and mutual obligations.

## Discipline or abuse? Coercion and violence in rural labour relations in pre-modern Iceland

**Vilhelm Vilhelmsson** University of Iceland, Iceland

Servant labour was ubiquitous in early modern Iceland, with service in established households being compulsory for most landless adults. As in other parts of Northwestern Europe, master-servant relations in Iceland were governed by norms and regulations on household hierarchy and discipline. Lutheran ideas of patriarchal authority gave household heads authority over all members of their household, including servants, but also deferred to them a series of duties and responsibilities. Legislation inscribed the right of masters to physically chastise their servants for insubordination. This right was in line with the view that service was a stage in a persons' life cycle, situated between childhood and adulthood, and was understood as a period of social disciplining and moral regulation. Yet, servants were also essential labour power for the household and the master-servant relationship was a coerced but still somewhat reciprocal contract between master and servant as employer and employee. This paper looks at the role chastisement played in disciplining labour. It looks at examples when chastisement was contested by servants and therefore how and where the line was drawn between acceptable chastisement and unlawful abuse and thus how this right to chastisement became the subject of labour conflicts in rural households.

## Coercion and conflict in rural households: the case of Urbino (Italy) (18th-19th centuries) from a gendered and comparative perspective

**Raffaella Sarti & Cora Benetti** University of Urbino, Italy

Our paper aims to focus on the multiple forms of coercion and conflict within pre-industrial rural households from a gendered perspective, paying particular attention to masters and servants. It is based on 18th and 19th century trials in the criminal court of the city of Urbino, in Central Italy. A large number of cases, dealing with crimes ranging from infanticide to domestic theft, provide an interesting vantage point for analysing coercion, violence and conflict in an area mainly characterised by the presence of sharecropping families, whose conflicts with the landowners will also be considered. Furthermore, we will try to understand the differences and similarities between the types of coercion and conflict present in different types of households (sharecroppers', day labourers', etc.), and to compare the case of Urbino with other already studied.

## Claiming labour(ers): disputes about servants' work and the application of labour law in 17th–18th century Upper Austria

**Teresa Petrik** University of Vienna, Austria

Servants were an indispensable part of the rural labour force in early modern Austria. Most research on servants in Austrian historiography has relied on quantifiable evidence of their role within family and household-based systems of labour organization and focused on questions of demography, as well as macro-level models of the pre-capitalist economy. The concrete every-day interactions and conflicts related to service as a labour relation, however, have thus far remained a research gap. This contribution tackles that gap. It reconstructs conflicts between servants, their families, their employers and local authorities in the 17th and 18th century based on archival records from Upper Austria, thereby offering a new perspective not only on the microhistory of dependent labour in the rural Habsburg monarchy, but also on the concrete application of labour law, which played an important role as an instrument of discipline and an argumentative basis within these disputes. The conflicts documented in the sources revolve mostly around the question who had a right to claim servants' labour – be it when they changed employers, were forcibly recruited and taken from their families to serve their lord, or ran away on their volition.

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 2.7. Farm accounts in rural Europe (c. 1700-1914): to better know one's own? 1

ORGANISERS **Nathalie Joly** Dijon Agro Institute, France,

**Federico D'Onofrio** University of Vienna, Austria

MODERATOR **Giulio Ongaro**

University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

The first aim of this session is to celebrate the publication of Nathalie Joly and Federico D'Onofrio, *Farm Accounts in Rural Europe, c.1700-1914: To better know one's own?* (Boydell, 2025). This places the study of accounts arising from both farms and estates on a new footing. Informed as the volume is by the 'new accounting history', it integrates the history of agricultural and estate accounting with insights from the Social Sciences. It shows how accounts could be used to control and avoid fraud by labourers, farm managers and administrators, how they were a force to improve farming, how farmers dragged their feet over the use of double-entry bookkeeping but how simpler forms of bookkeeping were sold to French farmers' wives. Ultimately many farmers were compelled to keep accounts by the tax and government authorities in the early twentieth century, but a valuable by-product of this was the creation of data which could be analysed by farmers' and other organizations and used to inform government agricultural policy. After this book, it is impossible to use accounts without asking what choices an individual farmer made in keeping accounts and what purposes they served him. Whilst the session will open with a presentation of the book, followed by a commentary by Nadine Vivier, its second aim is to gather together the next generation of essays on accounting practice in Rural History. Other filling gaps in the literature generally and in *Farm Accounts in Rural Europe, c.1700-1914: To better know one's own?* In particular, we will ask two broad questions: what discourses encouraged farmers to keep accounts and what purposes accounts served, whether for the farmers that kept them or the professional or government organisations who extracted data from samples of accounts.

## Accounting on farms and landed estates in the Netherlands, c. 1700-1914

**Piet van Cruyningen** Wageningen University, Netherlands

Until recently, Dutch agrarian historians have not paid much attention to accounting practices in the farming sector. There is some literature on account books of farmers in the provinces of Groningen and Zeeland, but almost nothing is known on accounting practices elsewhere or on the landed estates in the east of the country. This paper aims to explore how widespread accounting practices were among farmers and large landlords during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, why they kept account books and what changes occurred in accounting practices. It turns out accounts were mostly kept by large, commercial farmers in Groningen, Zeeland and the Central River Area, and by large landlords in Gelderland and Overijssel. Accounts seldom provided a complete overview of revenue and expenditure. They were kept to get insight into certain aspects of the farming operation and in the case of estate owners to monitor stewards and bailiffs. Although experts – usually from the landowning classes – tried to promote double entry bookkeeping, neither farmers nor estate owners were keen to apply this to their own operations (with scarce, but illuminating, exceptions).

## Between identity and profession: Farm records from Saxony, 1700 to 1914

**Oscar Dube** Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Longstanding research about the agricultural development in one of Germany's demographic and economic core regions resulted in a collection of records from over 30 peasant farms, mostly in private ownership. Initially written as diaries or chronicles, elements of financial and agricultural accounting were added to these records. They became more sophisticated and specific, however still adhering to simple forms of bookkeeping. They reached a great formal variety, with practically every farmer creating custom solutions. Some even started to print and sell their own designs. Yet, many aspects suggest that the recording of changes, improvements, and successes served more personal validation than economic purpose. It was also possible to compare these accounts to those from manorial farms. While these initially followed a relatively unified, but elaborated and complicated format, they later became more flexible and diverse themselves, mirroring the process on peasant farms. Eventually, the division between both types of accounts slowly disappeared. These transformations and convergences were encouraged in several ways: First, it can be shown that enlightenment printings had an actual influence on peasant records. Second, statistical surveys by the Saxon central administration influenced manorial practices. Third, increased exchange between different kinds of farmers was facilitated through agricultural associations.

## Accounting roots: economic and historical analysis of the marchioness of dou farm in Figueres (Spain) (1916-1924)

**Helena Benito Mundet** University of Girona, Spain, **Àngel Ballarín Garnica** Open University of Catalonia, Spain, **Margarita López-Antón** Autonomous University of Barcelona, Spain

Interest in agricultural accounting has increased in recent years, with diverse research on crops and harvests, prices, productivity and yields, technical innovations, wages, and other quantities. Despite this, there is still a lack of research from a gender perspective. Our aim is to investigate wealth in the hands of women, its origin, management and its contribution to economic development.

Gertrudis de Dou i de Moner, Marchioness of Dou, inherited several properties in northern Catalonia from her family. They were cereal crops (wheat, corn, oats, soybeans, barley), almonds, oil, cherries, pears, plums, grapes, lupins, and beans. Sheep, lambs, pigs and chickens were also fattened there, and charcoal was manufactured there. The law firm Jou de Figueres (1386-2001) managed it through a cash book where payments (debts), collections (credits) and periodic balances were recorded separately.

The methodology is based on a historical analysis of this farm, complemented by an approach based on case analysis. In addition, it integrates the application of Benford's law with advanced statistical inference techniques to assess the reliability of its accounting.

[Room **Sala 1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 2.8. Timber floatations in Europe: between continuity and discontinuity 2

ORGANISERS **Claudio Lorenzini**  
University of Turin, Italy,

**Katia Occhi** Bruno Kessler  
Foundation and Italian-German  
Historical Institute, Italy

MODERATOR **Jawad Daheur**  
French National Centre for  
Scientific Research, France

At all times, one of the most problematic segments in the timber supply chain is transportation, to the point that the history of forest resources can be read through the gradual improvement of transportation techniques that made it possible to take advantage of forests considered too distant and unusable. One of the favored resources used for logging and transportation has been water. Until recently, floatations have been one of the most suitable solutions for moving a massive and cumbersome matter such as timber. The constraints brought about by this possibility are many, starting with land morphology and stream characteristics and, of course, the distance of forests from streams and rivers.

The objective of the panel is to gather contributions that illustrate the development of timber flows in Europe, with the claim of identifying discontinuities in the cases analyzed, considering the relationship between forests and waters a 'symbiotic' aspect of the timber supply chain and as such a structural element of continuity.

There are two approaches with which we would like to analyze timber fluctuations. The first is interconnections with other transportation and distribution systems: ports and roads. Their location, especially along major waterways, often transcends the jurisdictional boundaries of states. This leads to formal systems of organizing river timber transport that result in transactions and affect not only transport workers but the very political choices of those who regulate the trade. This is an extension of the 'envirotechnical system', a key approach adopted by the more recent historiographical literature on rivers. The second approach,

## Environmental, social and economic aspects in the timber floatation system. The case of the Maritime Alps, Italy (late 18th - early 20th century)

**Giulia Beltrametti** Roma Tre University, Italy

consequential to the first, is the attention given to the conflicts brought about by the flows, environmental, social and economic in nature, involving village communities and states at different scales.

The paper investigates the theme of timber floatation in the western Alpine valleys (Maritime Alps) interpreted from the perspective of the environmental relationship of this practice with the places where it was carried out, the social actors involved, and the 'historical production' of the forests from which the timber was taken. The research focuses on the 19th-century transformations of a centuries-old practice, to which many studies have been dedicated, especially in other areas of the Eastern Alps. As early as the 1720s, the Royal Constitutions of Savoy were already concerned to carefully regulate the cutting and floating of timber downstream, continually updating the regulations. But the second half of the 19th century in fact represents a period of transformation not only of access to the timber resource and its consumption, but also of economic and social networks, forestry legislation and agronomic and geological knowledge. With a topographically connoted reflection the paper will focus on sources from Italian and French Archives (Prefecture, Intendancy) including mostly contracts and authorisations, relating to the flow of timber from the Maritime Alps towards the plain or the sea, stipulated by private timber merchants or entrepreneurs who seasonally contracted the transport of logs.

## Concentration, processing, distribution: timber flows to and from Perarolo di Cadore (19th-20th centuries)

**Claudio Lorenzini** University of Turin, Italy

Since the early modern age and throughout the 19th century, Perarolo di Cadore has been one of the most important hubs of the timber trade flowing on the Piave River. This small village in the Alpine region of Cadore is located at the confluence of the Boite stream in the Piave river. The joining of these waters, which increases its flow rate, and the slope of the river from Perarolo, made possible the flows of rafts laden with the timber processed in the many sawmills in the village, which ended their journey in Venice, the main outlet market for this resource. To regulate the flows, the Venetian timber merchants, since the early 17th century, had set up artificial barrages called 'cidoli' that served to stop the loose flow of logs and distribute them in warehouses before they reached the sawmills. Perarolo was thus a place of concentration, processing and distribution of timber from a massive forest basin (Comelico, Cadore, Ampezzano). Adopting a micro-analytical approach, the paper aims to examine the risks that the floatations determined for the small village and the consequences that these had on the timber market between the modern and contemporary ages.

## Logistical continuity versus river discontinuities: technical solutions for adapt rivers to timber floating, 18th-19th c., Morvan (France) with a comparison with Alps and Carpathians

**Nicolas Jacob** Lumière University  
Lyon 2, France

For many centuries, timber floating in Europe used rivers as logistical routes. Whenever the volume of timber transported increased, this activity was faced with natural characteristics of streams. These were obstacles to the efficient export of timber downstream, whether transported in bulk (trunks, logs, planks) or assembled (in rafts or trains). These potential transport discontinuities are either spatial (characteristics of the riverbed: depth, route, presence of rocks or mills and sawmills) or temporal (variations in discharge). The aim of this proposal is therefore to show how the imperatives of transport continuity have been adapted to rivers, but also how rivers have been reshaped, so as to eliminate or at least reduce certain discontinuities within the logistical axis, particularly in upstream sections, which are the less well known in this respect. These changes have had major impacts on river dynamics, the traces of which can still be seen today. In addition, the management of this logistics chain was closely linked to the social practices and specific working conditions along these waterways. Based on the case of the Morvan massif (France), a comparative approach will be proposed, using examples from the German and Austrian Alps and the Carpathian range (Romania and Ukraine).

## Forests, rivers, and frontiers: the complexity of timber supply chain in the Early- Modern Alps

**Katia Occhi** Bruno Kessler  
Foundation, Italy

At the beginning of the 16th century, the Alpine region of Trentino-Tyrol was one of the most important areas of the Archduchy of Upper Austria for the extraction of natural resources. This was due to the abundance of forests and mines and, above all, to the waterways that facilitated the rapid transport of these goods to the markets. The contribution analyzes the environmental impact of timber exploitation, focusing on the analysis of infrastructure (locks, ports), as well as social relations, and political governance related to the complex management of the 'timber frontier' between the Holy Roman Empire and the Republic of Venice, one of the most anthropized areas in early modern Europe.

[Room **Instituto de Pa-  
leografia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 2.9. Continuities rather than novelties? Technologies, imaginaries and practices in the ecologisation of agriculture 2

**ORGANISERS Romain Blancaneaux**

National Institute of Agricultural Research and University of Montpellier, France,

**Julie Hermesse & Nicolas Loodts**

Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

**MODERATORS & DISCUSSANTS**

**Romain Blancaneaux** National Institute of Agricultural Research and University of Montpellier, France, **Julie Hermesse** Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

In response to the current food system problems, “new”, “revolutionary” ways of growing, distributing, eating, disposing and imagining of food are shifting to resolve broad socio-ecological issues. Yet this also adds up with a decades-long discourse on the need to feed a growing human global population, setting the stage for practices in line as a solution. These rhetoric of novelty are accompanied by promises of more productive and sustainable farming, by adopting practices reducing scarce or harmful inputs while farming becomes more precise. Meanwhile, criticism of productivist agriculture along revolutionary promises has intensified in the academic field, among activists and within institutions, providing various incentives pledging for changing the dominant paradigm in agriculture. How do now and then phenomena come together with discourses, which harkens back to - or depart from - past narratives and frame rationale? These elements provide a basis for questioning if “alternative” food systems - whether agroecologically, “sustainable”, “regenerative”, (etc.) - accompany a “greening” reproduction of phenomena attached to the dominant agricultural paradigm (simplification of processes, farmers’ dependance, etc.). To what extent do “new” narratives (such as those promised by innovations and new agricultural technologies) are likely to modify (or reproduce) dominant practices in food (and other areas) that existed in the past? To what extent, now and then, do they underpin conflicting views and activities? Are current incentives (from public authorities, environmental associations, etc.) more than former ones, likely to change (or reproduce) the dominant paradigm in agriculture, based e.g. on a system of injunctions with little or no consultation of the primary players, the farmers? This panel aims to question the historical (dis)continuities within current imaginaries and promises to change agricultural models. It welcomes multidisciplinary methods to inspire debate on “alternatives” in food systems, as they (are) shape(d by) new imaginaries and narratives, practices and technologies, which might reproduce more than alter existing, dominant logics in agriculture.

## Conventional farmers stretched between standards: from the absence of consultation to the perception of an enforced greening – case studies from Flanders and Wallonia (Belgium)

**Julie Hermesse & Gabrielle Fenton** Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

The European agricultural sector seems to be caught between two paradigms that nurture different – even contradictory – visions of the world. Both legally and symbolically, they are reflected by the CAP and Farm to Fork. These two directives act as frames of reference, setting schizophrenic standards for agriculture wherein ultra-liberal agricultural policies have been supplemented with the notion of Green Deal. Furthermore, these standards - and their subsequent regulations - are experienced by farmers as being imposed from outside. Without prior consultation with landworkers, and without acknowledging their historical entanglement in a productivist model, farmers are experiencing the policies for the greening of agriculture and rural areas as a command to follow a set path. Recent European election results show that Europe’s environmental policy has played a role in the rise of populism by failing to get farmers on board with its environmental vision as well as to integrate their demographic transition.

## The invisibility of agro-ecological levers in the context of farm transfers in Wallonia

**Séverine Lagneaux** Walloon Agricultural Research Center, Belgium

This paper will present ethnographic data from meetings with conventional farmers in Belgium, both in Wallonia and Flanders. Focusing on specific issues, the authors will question the dynamics of consultation – existent or not – with regards to agricultural regulations in the past and to greening today.

Agroecology can improve farm transferability by challenging the principles that shaped farm transfers in the second half of the 20th century. Historically, farm transfers have centered on the economic and administrative aspects of sale and installation. However, recent discussions stress the need to renew assets, players, and practices as farms and farmers decline in Wallonia and Europe. This decline is driven by factors such as modernization, increased specialization, an aging workforce, intergenerational conflicts, and growing societal concerns about environmental and health issues. These trends have sparked critical views of agriculture and highlighted the need for change to prevent stagnation.

Addressing these challenges requires rethinking not only how farms are transferred but also why individuals remain in agriculture despite mounting pressures. While some farmers struggle, others adapt and find new resources. Their strategies are not readily apparent. Our hypothesis suggests that agroecology can enhance farm transferability by promoting small, diversified farms and fostering a strong connection between farmers and their environments. This perspective, based on farmers engaged in agroecological transitions, challenges the dominant view that equates farm transfers solely with financial transactions, instead emphasizing the importance of knowledge, tradition, and community in farming.

## A political agroecology of the encounter of biodigital innovation and farming worlds in Belgium

**Barbara Van Dyck, Larissa Mies Bombardi, Coline Prévost, Danya Nadar, Marjolein Visser**  
Free University of Brussels, Belgium

The fusion of technologies that blur the lines between the digital and biological spheres is expected to play a crucial role in the building of climate-smart and resilient food systems. This biodigital convergence is premised on big data collection about farmers' and consumers' behaviour, soil and climate conditions, living organisms' genomic structures, and the growth of plants and animals, in combination with dedicated infrastructures, finance and policy mechanisms. More than a technological transition, biodigitalisation in agriculture is construed as an inescapable revolution that will transform the way societies farm, what farm work looks like and ultimately how life is created and sustained.

We bring together the fields of science and technology studies, political ecology and agroecology to study biodigital technologies and related infrastructures, as contested terrains that are indivisible from power dynamics and the longer histories of agricultural modernisation. Developing a genealogical approach, the project lays bare the actors, interests, and sources of authority that come together in the biodigital imperative. More importantly, we explore what happens when biodigital technologies meet with dairy and arable farmers in Belgium, an encounter that is all but frictionless.

[Room **TP1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

**2.10. Meet the author: *Ownership regimes in the Iberian World (1500-1850). The normative role of community and kinship***

**Manuel Bastias Saavedra**

ORGANISERS **Manuel Bastias Saavedra**, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, **Alessandro Buono**, University of Pisa, Italy, **Marta Martín Gabaldón**, National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

DISCUSSANTS **José-Miguel Lana Berasain** Public University of Navarre, Spain, **Manuel Bastias Saavedra** Leibniz University Hannover, Germany, **Marta Martín Gabaldón** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico, **José Carlos de la Puente Luna** Texas State University, United States of America, **Alessandro Buono** University of Pisa, Italy

By focusing on case studies from the Iberian world, this volume seeks to provide a new framework for the historical study of the problems of land and colonialism. It looks at the colonial context to show that the holding of land was not only regulated through European doctrine, laws and grace, but was bound to corporate bodies, communities, kinship ties and customs that varied according to the region and the local forms of social and political reproduction. The combination of these diverse orders of normative structuring can be defined as the Ownership Regime. Moving from a focus on law to a focus on historical regimes of normativity implies understanding law and juridical normativity as one component within a complex and dynamic ensemble of practices, institutions and social, religious and cultural norms that produced historically efficient and consolidated normative arrangements. Such a perspective demands that historians and legal historians interested in studying land tenure in the different regions of the Iberian world focus more carefully on how the combination of these normative sources produced specific arrangements in the ways in which land was held, owned, divided and regulated, and how conflicts were adjudicated.

Edited by Manuel Bastias Saavedra, and published by Brill (2025-forthcoming), the volume is composed by ten chapters that focus on the questions of land tenure considering the normative disposition given by the relationship between communities and kinship within the colonial context.

Beyond Private and Common. Ownership Regimes in the Iberian World (1500–1800). Manuel Bastias Saavedra; The Rights of Things and the Obligations of the Owner. Exploring the Deep Normative Grammars of the Early Modern Ownership Regime. Alessandro Buono; Guests in Foreign Lands. Land Control and Ownership in Greater Senegambia in the Face of the Portuguese Presence (16th and 17th Centuries). Thiago Henrique Mota; A Widow's Tale. Shifting Land Regimes and the Interplay of Household and Community in Colonial Peru. José Carlos de la Puente Luna; Ownership and Seigniorial Relationships. Land and Territory in Colonial Tlaxiaco (the Mixteca, Mexico). Marta Martín Gabaldón; Domestic Rights in Indigenous Communal Lands and the Expression “Menester” during the Execution of the 1591 Royal Decrees in Charcas, Viceroyalty of Peru. María Carolina Jurado; Concordias, Sentencias Arbitrales, and Vistas. Ownership and Possession of Grassland in the Valleys of Ansó and Hecho (17th–19th Centuries). Íñigo Ena Sanjuán; Amparos and Mapas. Communal Land Possession and Dispossession in the Late Colonial Andes. Alcira Dueñas; Sobas, Ilamba, and Residents. On the Diverse Meanings of Land in Angola's Hinterland in the 18th century Crislayne Gloss Marão Alfagali; Epilogue. The Necessary De-Westernisation of the Models of Land Ownership. Reflections on the Idea of Feudal Remnants in Core Western Countries. Rosa Congost

[Room **Anfiteatro I**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 2.11. Rural economic inequalities in the Central and Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period 2

**ORGANISER** **Radosław Poniat**  
University of Białystok, Poland

Although the issue of economic inequality in past societies has been of considerable interest to historians for years, most of the work devoted to it concerns Western Europe. Central and Eastern European societies, often operating under serfdom, which could lead to restricted access to the markets, significant restrictions on mobility experienced by many members of the population and incomplete property rights have been much less frequently the subject of research. Many scholars interested in historical economic inequalities also assumed that its higher levels was primarily observed in precapitalist or capitalist urban communities, and that rural areas were characterized by a markedly lower level of economic differentiation. Such a perspective was in tune with some classical scholars of serfdom, who described serf communities as relatively equal, where both the policies of the lords and the attitudes of the peasants themselves did not encourage individual attempts to acquire wealth.

The aim of the proposed session is to at least partially fill the gaps in our knowledge of the economic inequalities in societies that existed under the serfdom system. The key questions we will seek to answer are the question of the impact of serfdom on the global levels of economic inequality, the role of landlords' policies in creating or reducing economic differentiation among serfs, the relationship between the level of feudal burdens and inequality, and the social consequences of economic inequalities.

Both researchers working on inequality among peasants and among landlords are invited to participate. In addition to quantitative approaches, which are most often used to study inequalities, we are also interested in studies using other methodologies. In addition to detailed studies, we also welcome approaches of a more synthetic nature and even focusing on a more theoretical and model-based perspective. The spatial and chronological scope of the session covers all societies living under the serfdom system from those experiencing it harshest forms to those where the system was limited or even disappearing.

## Who in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania was a poor peasant and who was a rich one in the end of the 18th century?

**Piotr Guzowski, Radosław Poniat, Maciej Kwiatkowski**  
University of Białystok, Poland

The serfdom system emerged in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania with some delay, with its peak development in the second half of the 18th century. Our paper will focus on estates owned by the king, and we will use one of the inventories of landed estates from 1786. The authors of these documents decided to classify according to relatively uniform property criteria tens of thousands of peasant farms located on the territory of today's Lithuania, Belarus and eastern Poland (estates of Šiauliai, Alytus, Grodno, Brest and Kobryn). The purpose of the paper is a statistical and spatial analysis of data including peasant land acreage, family size, farm equipment and their burdens. In addition to economic issues, the paper will attempt to reconstruct the perception of peasant wealth by contemporaries resulting from an analysis of the classification rules adopted by officials and the vocabulary used.

## Models of peasants' budgets in the 18th century Grand Duchy of Lithuania

**Maciej Kwiatkowski** University of Białystok, Poland

The purpose of the speech is to analyze peasant income based on information from the inventory of one of the largest royal estates of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth- Grodno royal estate in 1786 describing 9 000 peasant farms and more than 300 villages. This source is extremely detailed and, together with other materials, allows one to prune the potential income and expenses of a peasant farms. Moreover, the authors of the source divided all peasant households of this set of royal estates into 4 categories of wealth. Thus, the paper will present models of peasant budgets during the period of the greatest development of the serfdom system in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in the end of the 18th century. I will try to answer the question of economic opportunities for peasants living on the border of present-day Poland and Belarus, as well as the sources of economic diversity. In my speech I will refer to comparative studies related to other regions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. In my presentation, I will refer to comparative studies related to other regions of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

## The prosperous serf: legal challenges and property accumulation strategies on the mining estate of Abrud in Habsburg Transylvania (first half of the eighteenth century)

**Radu Nedici** University of Bucharest, Hungary

Part of the crown estate, Abrud, in Habsburg Transylvania, experienced significant economic development in the eighteenth century due to its gold mines. This growth created opportunities for both external private investors and local serfs who formed much of the estate's workforce. This paper examines the increasing social differentiation within the serf category by analysing documents related to one such serf, Simeon Toma from Abrudfalva. In 1734, he drafted his will and died shortly after, sparking a lengthy debate among different branches of the administration over his inheritance. Simeon Toma had accumulated considerable wealth, including a large house, farmland, meadows, a watermill, and three mine shafts. The legal issue stemmed from the fact that Transylvanian laws prohibited serfs from owning property. However, Simeon Toma devised a strategy to circumvent this legislation by possessing properties that were pawned or leased by their owners, which were not restricted by the law. Ultimately, his case invites contextualization within the particular setting of the crown estate and the larger framework of Habsburg policies aimed at improving the living of the Monarchy's rural population.

## Inequalities among the rural population of southern Poland at the end of the 18th century

**Piotr Miodunka** Cracow University of Economics, Poland

Thanks to land survey and estimates of production from agricultural land carried out around 1785 (Josephine cadastre), we are able to determine (e.g. using the Gini coefficient) the stratification within the rural population inhabiting today's southern Poland (former Austrian Galicia). The first studies in this field showed that individual villages were often internally very diverse in relation to the cultivated land and the income from the land, and that nearby settlements differed greatly in this respect. This is all the more surprising because in the regions of dominant "second serfdom", a progressive equalization of the status of rural inhabitants was expected towards the land area necessary for the subsistence of the peasant family. The aim

[Room **Instituto de História económica e social**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**2.12. Meet the project: *ReSEED* – Rescuing seed’s heritage: engaging in a new framework of agriculture and innovation since the 16th century**

**ORGANIZER Dulce Freire** University of Coimbra, Portugal

**DISCUSSANTS Alberto González Remuiñán, Anabela Ramos, Carlos Manuel Faísca, Dulce Freire, José Luís Barbosa** University of Coimbra, Portugal

16h30 – 17h

**COFFEE BREAK**

17h – 18h

[Room **Teatro Paulo Quintela**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**EURHO General Assembly**

of the paper will be, apart from presenting this mosaic, which has not been well understood so far, also to attempt to indicate the conditions and causes of the differences in wealth in this region. Discussion issues will also be presented, such as the equation of land income with overall wealth and the size of the landless rural population.

Cultivated seeds have been central to human existence for thousands of years. But what do we know about ancient seeds? In recent years, the ReSEED project has sought to understand how the interplay between cultivated seeds, environmental conditions, and human action has changed over time and space. Funded by the European Research Council under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement no. 760090; doi: 10.3030/760090), the project has explored how interdisciplinary approaches can improve our historical understanding of these relationships. Initially, the research focused on changes in agriculture and food in the Iberian Peninsula from 1750 to 1950. However, as the project progressed, it became clear that the analysis needed to be extended back to the 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> centuries. By expanding the chronology, the research aimed to identify the trajectory and local impacts of the new cultivated seeds that arrived in the Iberian Peninsula and Europe via transoceanic voyages connecting the continents since the 15<sup>th</sup> century. This session will discuss the theoretical and methodological implications of this shift in the project’s chronological focus, as well as the results obtained and questions remaining for future research.



Agricultural Fields in Alcácer do Sal, Portugal, June 2025 (Miguel Teodoro)

18h – 19h

[Room **Teatro Paulo Quintela**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**KEYNOTE 1**

**Farmer agency in early modern times: individual and collective efforts**

**Inês Amorim**

University of Porto, Portugal

MODERATOR **Daniel Lanero**

**Táboas** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

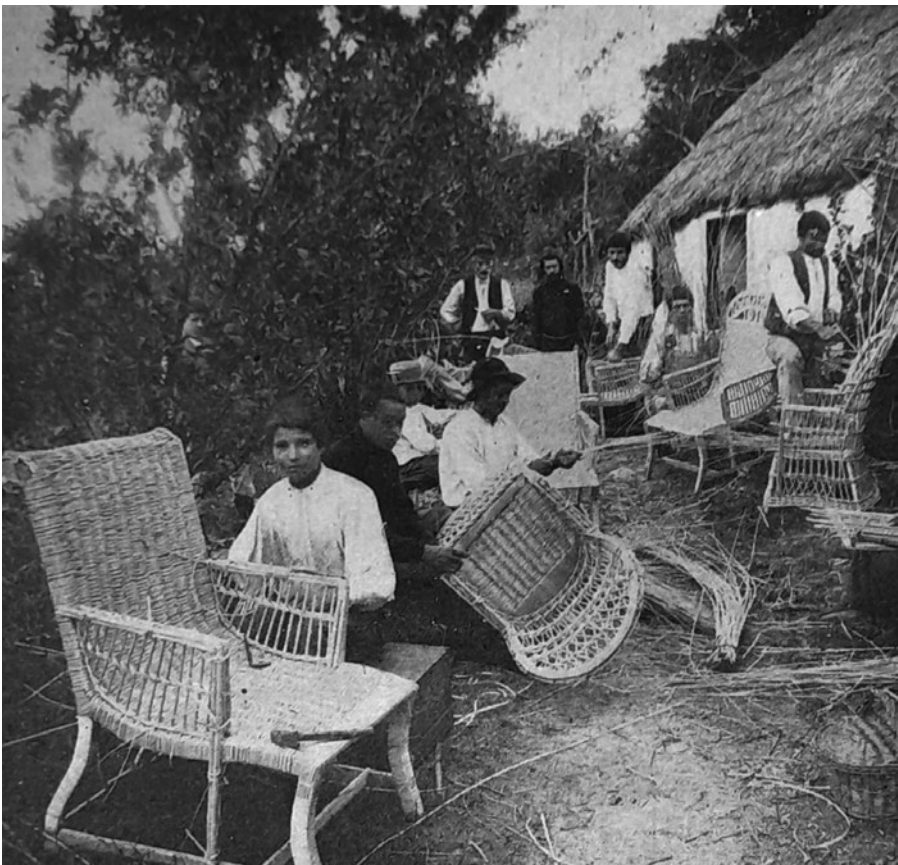
Agricultural agency is a term imported from current agricultural services policy, encompassing several objectives: land access, crop selection and forest management, credit and loan programs, disaster management, and agricultural market management, among others. The perspective is to assess the capacity of agricultural producers to make decisions about their livelihoods and environmental stewardship. This concept focuses on farmers ability to select, act, and effect change, whether individually or through collective efforts.

Applying this perspective to the Portuguese Modern Period may risk becoming anachronistic, but we consider it a challenge in reviewing current historiography and gathering indicators about decision-making within agricultural communities, whatever their nature. The main constraints stem from the nature of the information sources (primary sources and their producers) and locating potential capacity-building opportunities within the interstices of the powers that controlled land and agricultural resources. The approach is easier to carry out if we conduct a top-down analysis, particularly of monastic institutions, which deal with local farmers, but it is still possible to map locations where opportunities are observed for farmers to select and implement changes (bottom-up).

19h30 – 21h

[Terrace of the Machado de Castro Museum]

**CONFERENCE  
WELCOME  
COCKTAIL**



*Wicker chair manufacturing on Madeira Island, 1948, published in the front cover of Mensário das Casas do Povo, nº 19.*



Social gathering during the Senhor da Serra pilgrimage, in Belas, Sintra, 1908, Joshua Benoliel, Lisbon Municipal Archive

# Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 8h30 – 10h30 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 3**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>3.1. Pigs in the late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean Europe: breeding, production and consumption (11th-16th centuries) 1</b> Davide Cristoferi, Valentina Costantini	3.1.1. Pork chains: pig breeding and economic change in High-Medieval Italy Edoardo Manarini, Lorenzo Tabarrini	3.1.2. Out of the woods, into the farms: patterns of pig farming and commoditization in the high and late Middle Ages Tommaso Vidal	3.1.3. Piggy cities: markets, distribution and pork consumption in Siena and Florence (14th-15th c.) Valentina Costantini	3.1.4. Mobile pigs: pig breeding and transhumance in late medieval and early modern Tuscany (14th-17th c.) Davide Cristoferi		Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor
<b>3.2. Organization of agrarian production and labour relations in the Ottoman landed estates 2</b> Alp Yücel Kaya, Socrates D. Petmezas, Yücel Terzibaşoğlu	3.2.1. Revisiting the issue of "Gospodarlik/ağalık" (i.e. lordly) estates in 19th century Ottoman Central Balkans Socrates D. Petmezas	3.2.2. Çiftlik estates in Dobruđa in the XIX c.: a rare case of agrarian capitalism? Petar Dobrev	3.2.3. Land and labor relations in late Ottoman and post-Ottoman Kiustendil: the evidence of bulgarian court records Andreas Lyberatos			Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>3.3. Women and economic activity in rural communities: new perspectives and methodologies 1</b> Beatrice Moring, Beatrice Zucca Micheletto	3.3.1. Women and work in pre-industrial rural Finland- Sources and Interpretations Beatrice Moring	3.3.2. Women's labour participation and family composition in the agricultural labour supply: 19th-century Majorca Gabriel Jover-Avellà, Joana Maria Pujadas-Mora	3.3.3. Foster mothers: paid care for foundlings in the village society in the 19th-century Bohemia Markéta Skořepová	3.3.4. Women's dowries and heritage in the municipality of Moimenta da Beira (18th-19th centuries) Inês Tenreiro Bernardo		Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>3.4. Violence in rural Central and Eastern Europe (17th-19th centuries) 1</b> Jan Błoński, Agata Koprowicz, Paweł Pietrowcew	3.4.1. "When the nobleman pressed too hard...": violence against the tavernkeepers in early modern Poland Jan Błoński	3.4.2. "He was lost in the passion of drunkenness": alcohol and violence among Polish peasants, 18th-19th century Dorota Dias-Lewandowska, Mateusz Wyżga	3.4.3. Peasant brawls: main spheres of violence in the early modern village of the Carpathian Foothills in the light of village court books Piotr Kołpak, Marta Raczyńska-Kruk			Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>3.5. Agricultural techno-scientific services and rural society before World War II: precedents for postwar extension services or alternative socio-political devices?</b> Juan Luis Pan Montojo, Mícheál Ó Fathartaig, Daniel Lanero Táboas	3.5.1. Experts, farmers and livestock contests: the modernisation of cattle farming in Belgium and Catalonia in the early 20th century Jordi Planas, Yves Segers	3.5.2. Trust, but verify: the Swiss Agricultural Society and the introduction of chemical fertiliser Matthias Stettler	3.5.3. The German Agricultural Society (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft) as an interface between agriculture and the state Ulrike Heitholt	3.5.4. Teaching and innovation in mountain rural societies: the role of the Cattedre ambulanti di Agricoltura in cattle farming in the Italian Alps (late 19th century – 1926) Marco Marigliano	3.5.5. Scientific transfer and co-creation during the 1930s in Atlantic agriculture: the Galician Seed Producers Trade Union Roque Sanfiz Arias, Alberto González Remuiñán	Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>3.6. Work and gender</b> Carolina Uppenberg, Paul Warde	3.6.1. Breaking the gender mould: seasonal labour and wage gaps in German agriculture, 16th–19th c. Florian Probst, Ulrich Pfister	3.6.2. Between the hoe and the judgments: the ideal of the farm servantmaid in 19th-century Styria and Carniola Nina Ošep, Brina Kotar	3.6.3. Work organization on family farms in Sweden during the agricultural depression of the late 19th century Patrick Svensson	3.6.4. Tamlaght 1840: work and gender in an Irish community Paul Warde	3.6.5. Domestic decisions: how gender shaped labour organisation in semi-landless households Carolina Uppenberg	TP1, 4th floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>3.7. Resilience and recovery in a historical context</b> Elisabeth Engberg	3.7.1. Demographic impacts of the Finnish War and the 1860s famine in 19th-century Sweden: acute and long-term effects Erling Häggström Gunfridsson	3.7.2. Economic and social history of a European famine: comparative perspectives on Northern European harvest failures in the 1860s Henrik Forsberg, Magnus Bohman	3.7.3. The path to a new "normal": societal recovery and transformation in rural Burträsk following the 1860s famine in Northern Sweden Elisabeth Engberg	3.7.4. Further Investigations on the Famine in Yunnan Province, China from 1815 to 1817: Factors Other Than Climatic Issues Jen Yu-Chien		Sala 3, 3rd floor
<b>3.8. Coping with the comparison: sources, methods, models for the study of the forest resources in Europe (1870-1914)</b> Giacomo Bonan, Luca Andreoni	3.8.1. Understanding the forest economy without forest statistics: the case of Portugal 1870-1938 Sofia de Sousa Teives Henriques, Amélia Branco	3.8.2. Standardizing resinous products in France and the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries: the case of turpentine and rosin Marcin Krasnodębski	3.8.3. Estimating wood consumption in Spain, 1860-2000: sources and methods Iñaki Iriarte Goñi	3.8.4. The statistics on woodlands and timber trade in Italy (1861-1914) Giacomo Bonan, Luca Andreoni	3.8.5. Does it suffice? Statistical assessments of the world's forest resources and their consequences, 1870-1914 Martin Bemmman	TP2, 4th floor
<b>3.9. Agricultural practice, knowledge and the healthy farmers' sense in the 20th and 21st centuries 1</b> Jessica Richter, Přemysl Mácha	3.9.1. "Necessity made us aware": agrarian innovation and the search for alternatives during cuba's special period (1993-2006) Elisa Botella Rodríguez	3.9.2. Rethinking everyday reality from an indispensable global perspective: the peasant's gaze as an all-encompassing paradigm and expression of common sense Joan Tort-Donada	3.9.3. Rearticulating the past for a better future: exploring the transition to 'ancient cultivars' in the Daunian Mountains region of Southern Italy Antonio Allegretti			Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>3.10. Acculturation of migrants and agriculture in the subtropics of the Americas</b> Laurent Herment, Angelo Carrara, Alejandro Tortolero	3.10.1. Agricultural clearing in the German colonies in Brazil: challenges of adaptation and variability of experiences (mid-19th to early 20th century) Jawad Daheur	3.10.2. Cattle farming in Minas Gerais, Brazil, throughout the 18th century Angelo Carrara	3.10.3. The aculturation of the Polish Colonists in Brazil in the XIX century and the Interwar Period Krzysztof Ziomek	3.10.4. A turbulent colony Laurent Herment	3.10.5. Searching for a new California: migration, agriculture and food for living in Sinaloa, Mexico at the end of the 19th century Alejandro Tortolero	Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>3.11. Wetlands as colonized and decolonized spaces 1</b> Harro Maat, Joana Sousa	3.11.1. The Frisian peat landscape: a history of wetland transformation for the common good Mark Raat	3.11.2. Wetlands, rice and migrants: a history of colonial violence and resistance in Portugal Elisa Lopes da Silva	3.11.3. Artificial meadows and dry wetlands: a spatial analysis of the drainage, transformation and recovery of wetlands affected by Franco's colonisation in A Chaira Antonio Giráldez López	3.11.4. Societal discourses and the transformation of the Western-Havelland wetlands, Germany Astrid Artner-Nehls, Sandra Uthes		Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor
<b>3.12. Politics, practices and epistemes: the rural in scientific ways of making society</b> Dietlind Hüchtker, Friedrich Cain	3.12.1. Crop, chemicals, and creativity. developing socialist innovation research in the GDR, 1970s Friedrich Cain	3.12.2. The voice of the object: studies on rural youth in socialist Poland in a European perspective Dietlind Hüchtker	3.12.3. Psychologising development: Durganand Sinha, the crisis of community development, and the modernisation of the rural mindset in India, c. 1950-1970 Clemens Six	3.12.4. Designing cattle: images of knowledge between peasants and academics Jan Surman		Gama Barros, 3rd floor

## Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

8h30 – 10h30

### PARALLEL SESSIONS 3

[Room **Instituto de Paleografia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### 3.1. Pigs in the late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean Europe: breeding, production and consumption (11th-16th centuries) 1

**ORGANISERS** **Davide Cristoferi**  
Free University of Brussels,  
Belgium, **Valentina Costantini**  
University of Glasgow, Scotland

**MODERATOR** **Antoni Furió**  
University of Valencia, Spain

The aim of the panel is to bring together new contributions that examine two novel aspects. On the one hand, the relevance, extent and forms of pig breeding; on the other hand, the trends and typologies of pork consumption in Italy and Europe between the Middle Ages and the early modern period, particularly in the Mediterranean area. Both topics have recently been the subject of conferences (Flaran 2023) and publications (Kreiner 2020; Jørgensen 2024). While revisiting the history of pork production and consumption in medieval and early modern Europe, scholars have highlighted the geographical, chronological and thematic gaps in this field of research. In this respect, our panel will emphasize contributions that depart from the previous historiographical paradigm to show the evolution and persistence of pig farming and pork consumption in the long term. This will allow us to present a more nuanced and complex interpretation of the role of the pig in medieval and early modern society, especially in relation to environmental constraints and market demand. The panel is intended to be organized as a double session with four papers studying Italy and four papers analysing the Iberian Peninsula. An introduction and the discussion of each paper will allow the comparison among the different case-studies at both regional and sovra-regional level.

### Pork chains: pig breeding and economic change in High-Medieval Italy

**Edoardo Manarini** University of  
Studies of Modena and Reggio  
Emilia, Italy, **Lorenzo Tabarrini**  
Alma Mater Studiorum, University  
of Bologna, Italy

The study of pig breeding in northern and central Italy during the high Middle Ages has been relatively neglected; this appears all the more regrettable as one considers that the period from c. 1000 to c. 1250 witnessed major economic transformations, which resulted in the expansion in size of the cities, in the increased exploitation of natural resources and in the substantial rise of both seigneurial and peasant demand. This paper aims to fill this gap. First, we will look at seigneurial inventories of dependent tenants and agricultural renders, which can shed light on the transformations in the patterns of pig breeding. Second, we shall put to test the assumption that the conversion of woodland into arable land can be employed as a proxy of the reduction in size of extensive pig breeding. Third, we will turn to the problem of the consumption of pork meat, and explore the evolution of the food chains that supplied city dwellers. Finally, the paper sets out to

## Out of the woods, into the farms: patterns of pig farming and commoditization in the high and late Middle Ages

**Tommaso Vidal** University of Udine, Italy

revise the extant zoo-archaeological literature regarding pig husbandry in northern and central Italy over the high Middle Ages, in order to assess the contribution of the archaeological record to the debates outlined hitherto.

Scholarly debate has often insisted that the expansion of cultivated land and the general recession of woodland since the 1100s marked the transition away from widespread pig farming (and thus consumption) in the high Middle Ages. While recent contributions have somewhat challenged such harsh dichotomy, ground research is still lagging on this subject.

Using sources from the Venetian Terraferma, spanning from the Bergamo to Friuli, I will contend that during the high and late Middle Ages pig farming and consumption were widespread. Also, contrary to general belief, pig farming in the context of high and late medieval agricultural labour was much more than a mean of subsistence for peasant families. Pigs circulated within complex market (and non-market) networks that involved peasants, landowners and cities. By analysing account books and toll registers from the easternmost section of the Terraferma (Treviso and Friuli) I will try to argue that pig farming was both a profitable business, a necessity and a 'trap' that could lead peasants to further indebtedment. Each of these possible outcomes was tied to specific attitudes to pigs as commodities, that usually corresponded to equally specific market and distribution patterns.

## Piggy cities: markets, distribution and pork consumption in Siena and Florence (14th-15th c.)

**Valentina Costantini** Glasgow University, Scotland

Pork represented a staple in the diet of Medieval cities, particularly in Southern Europe. Dozens of thousands of pigs were moving every year towards the most populated cities in order to satisfy an increasing demand. Meat consumption implies culturally complex values which play an important role in the definition of social identities. Therefore, the study of pork consumption offers a unique perspective on human societies, both past and present. Imported or bred locally, fattened within the household for self-consumption or commercialised by specialised meat sellers, pigs were very popular at the cattle market in the Middle Ages. Generally expensive, there still were cuts of pork relatively affordable and accessible for the most - pork could thus satisfy the demand of a varied range of consumers. Using archival data from Sienese and Florentine public and religious institutions, my paper will reconstruct on the one hand the networks and dealers involved in the commercialisation of pork, on the other hand it will show the importance of the consumption of this specific kind of meat and the social implications related to it.

## Mobile pigs: pig breeding and transhumance in late medieval and early modern Tuscany (14th-17th c.)

**Davide Cristoferi** Free University of Brussels, Belgium

This paper examines the different forms of pig farming in Tuscany from the 14th to the 17th century, which are attested by fiscal, notarial, contractual, legal and administrative sources up to the 14th century, and which range from pigsty farming to extensive forest farming and the movement of large herds of pigs on a regional and trans-regional scale. Each form responded to different economic needs and contexts – subsistence, tenancy or share-cropping, production for local and urban markets – and to specific environmental and agronomic constraints. These phenomena are very similar to those already observed in other parts of Europe: for Tuscany, it is possible to make a preliminary quantitative reconstruction of extensive livestock farming and pig transhumance between the Apennines and Maremma through the normative and budgetary documentation held in the State Archives of Siena. The evidence collected and analysed here is therefore intended to integrate, qualify and ultimately suggest a revision of the general interpretive model hitherto applied by Italian medievalists – which presents pig breeding in pigsties as the progressive and predominant form of pig exploitation from the late Middle Ages onwards – by highlighting the need for further research and comparisons at regional and national level.

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 3.2. Organization of agrarian production and labour relations in the Ottoman landed estates 2

**ORGANISERS** **Alp Yücel Kaya** Ege University, Turkey, **Socrates D. Petmezas** University of Crete, Greece, **Yücel Terzibaşoğlu** Boğaziçi University, Turkey

**MODERATOR** **Alp Yücel Kaya** Ege University, Turkey

Past research on the landed estates (*çiftlik*) in the Ottoman lands in the Balkans, Anatolia, and the Arab provinces has focused primarily on some particular aspects such as the “formation of the *çiftliks*”, their legal status and their relation to market-oriented agricultural production (especially in relation to grain exports to Europe). Similarly, most recent research on the *çiftliks* tend to reproduce or revisit the same old questions, without sufficiently establishing the place of landed estates in the broader regional agrarian economies. There is still little research on such questions as the land use and labour regimes, the social-property relations, their spatial distribution and geographical differences and variation. In fact, the historical evolution of the large landed estates was not uniform across the different Ottoman regions along the eastern Mediterranean as these landed estates reflected local agrarian practices and regional historical development.

In particular, the organization of agricultural and livestock production, the use of land and commons and the different forms of land tenure and labour organization (sharecropping, wage and dependent labour) had only rarely been the subject of detailed local studies and regional comparisons. The practical management of the estates by the landlord or (in his usual absence) its representatives (stewards, communal elders or intermediaries who farmed the charge of steward) in relation to the actual mode of land use and animal husbandry had been either a neglected subject of research in local studies or treated from a very general and ‘distant’ point of view. Did the peasant commune held collective rights and obligations in the management of the estate’s arable lands and/or commons, and how their rights

and obligations were affected or changed in the long historical process? The same is true in what concerns the difference between 'ownership' and 'management' or decision making. We do not know in detail and precision how extended families (or group of families) of estate-landlords took decisions on major or everyday issues. We would like to learn more about the ways individual small-owners ended up (in the end of the 19th century) holding a 'share' (however minuscule) on a large landed estate.

In this context, and as part of an ongoing collaborative research agenda, these two proposed panels will address, in the wider setting of the eastern Mediterranean, the following issues: What was the balance between land cultivation, livestock husbandry and other activities? What was the role of transhumance? What were the terms under which production and labour (wage labour, sharecropping, tenants, small peasant farmers, large-scale cultivation, labour contracts, labour mobility / immobility) were organised in different regions and periods? If, how (and how often) were arable lands distributed among tenants and how collective constraints and communal 'solidarities' were imposed in the process of crop-rotation and fallow? How are *çiftlik*s inscribed within the wider context of Ottoman economy in different regions and eras? What is their relationship with urban economy and society (absentee landlords, urban entrepreneurs, wage labourers, seasonal migrants)? How did this relationship change over time? What are the implications of studying *çiftlik*s in the context of current discussions on unfree labour, commons, property and communal rights, primitive accumulation, institutional change and economic growth?

## Revisiting the issue of "Gospodarlik/ağalik" (i.e. lordly) estates in 19th century Ottoman Central Balkans

**Socrates D. Petmezas** University of Crete, Greece

Since the seminal work of Inalcik (1943), the so-called 'gospodarlik' estates (located in the central Balkans and characterised by the intensive use of corvée/angariya labour) have never been the subject of detailed comparative research. Moreover, some important aspects of this structure (e.g. the specific nature of the so-called 'baştina', the hereditary peasant farmstead) have not been intrinsically integrated into the understanding of this model. Even the fact that it was later clearly and legally distinguished from the standard large landed estates (*çiftlik*) was never emphasised. My aim in this paper is to show that 1) the 'baştina' hereditary peasant farm was, in fact, a structural part of the model that clearly distinguished the 'gospodarlik' from other forms of large landed estates (*çiftlik*s) in the 18th and 19th centuries; 2) that this estate usually had its own particular agrarian structure (different from the standard large land estates, *çiftlik*s), making extensive use of corvée labour in the landlord's 'demense'; 3) that the 'Gospodarlik estate' was not only present in Central Balkans (N. W. Bulgaria and S. E. Serbia) - it was clearly the structural equivalent of the 'ağalik' estates observed in Epirus, S.W.Macedonia, and even on Euboea.

## Çiftlik estates in Dobrudja in the XIX c.: a rare case of agrarian capitalism?

**Petar Dobrev** Sofia University and Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Bulgaria

As in most of the Ottoman Empire, in the lands inhabited by Bulgarians the çiftliks also represented a small percentage of the total land and overall failed to contribute to any significant modernization in agriculture. However, certain areas - such as the fertile Dobrudja plain, as well as the Black Sea coast around Burgas - became areas of large-scale agriculture, in which wage labour was predominantly used. Many of the çiftliks established there followed the path of agrarian capitalism and proved to be extremely sustainable, continuing their development in the Bulgarian state after 1878. Given that this type of estates was rather rare both in Bulgarian lands and in the Empire in general, my paper will analyse the reasons why the regions of Dobrudja and Burgas proved to be suitable for capitalist development. It will also examine the mechanisms of work in the local çiftliks, the type of crops grown, the wages paid to labour and the commercial networks that took shape. The paper will be based on newly discovered archival information, both in the personal archives of Bulgarian çiftlik owners and in the Ottoman archives.

## Land and labor relations in late Ottoman and post-Ottoman Kiustendil: the evidence of bulgarian court records

**Andreas Lyberatos** Panteion University of Social & Political Sciences and Institute for Mediterranean Studies of Foundation for Research and Technology-Hellas, Greece

The region of Kiustendil, in Western Bulgaria/Macedonia, represents a very interesting case of varying and complex land and labor relations during the 19th century, in which different types of çiftlik estates and peasant land coexist and are cultivated under a variety of regimes and contracts. Although the study of Ottoman registers and post-1878 Bulgarian reports have offered a broad picture of the region's property relations and cultivation regimes, the use of more detailed qualitative sources can offer significant information on the processes of expropriation and class struggle in late Ottoman and post-Ottoman Balkan countryside.

The paper will utilize in particular Bulgarian state court records of the first years after Bulgarian Autonomy (1878). These records offer evidence both of past and present conditions in Western Bulgarian/Macedonian countryside. They give us refined insights into the specificities of Kiustendil case and the dynamic socio-economic trends during the Late Ottoman period. They offer, simultaneously, important information on the development of the regional land relations in autonomous Bulgaria and the development of class relations under Bulgarian rule. They can complement in this way the study of a rural society in transformation, which had during the next decades an equally interesting and turbulent political life.

[Room **Anfiteatro III**,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor]

### 3.3. Women and economic activity in rural communities: new perspectives and methodologies 1

ORGANISERS **Beatrice Moring**

University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and University of Helsinki, Finland,

**Beatrice Zucca Micheletto**

University of Turin, Italy

MODERATOR & DISCUSSANT

**Beatrice Zucca Micheletto**

University of Turin, Italy

In a recent article Stefano Fenoaltea has highlighted a set of shortcomings in the field of economic history. He particularly deplores the mechanical use of GDP and statistical data collection systems that were generated for a specific purpose at a specific time, but now have a normative status. He also points out how this type of information use systematically makes for the underrepresentation of female work.

In pre-industrial time the family was generally viewed as a production unit with the male household head as the representative in society, but with the expectation that all household members participated in the activity. Therefore, locating economic statistics revealing information about female economic engagement can be difficult.

If we look at censuses and the series of economic statistics, we find a certain amount of differences between females in registered employment in Europe. One reason is the variation in registration and age barriers. Another, changes introduced for the definition of work and occupation. The definition of occupation was in most cases permanent work outside the home. The nature of the agricultural enterprises also varied considerably. Certain regions had moved towards ever larger arable units, while others still remained firmly part of a system of family farms with mixed economic activities. In places where the family retained its position as a productive unit, women were indeed working, but the view that the male household head and agricultural servants were the only productive persons resulted in the statistics not recognising female family members as economically active.

It is the aim of this session to explore new data and examine existing ones to penetrate the issue of female economic activity in rural societies of the past. To examine engagement in various activities like textile work as well as traditional farming pursuits to determine the value and importance of female work.

### Women and work in pre-industrial rural Finland- Sources and Interpretations

**Beatrice Moring** University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and University of Helsinki, Finland

When studying the work of women in the past one of the approaches has often been to study labour market participation using statistical series. In economic history this has, however, had a general application that has revealed how badly it is suited to analyzing pre-industrial rural agrarian economies and particularly the areas of Europe dominated by family farms. In some recent projects a different approach has been taken, charting and including not only remunerated work but all work that could be remunerated (Whittle and Hailwood 2020). It is the aim of this presentation to demonstrate the possibilities that can be generated through the use of sources ignored in compilation of official statistical series. In replicating the use of court records and ecclesiastical data for the early modern period and surveys, local descriptions and oral history accounts for the 18th, 19th century, information on the division of labour and the importance of female input in rural economic life has been collected. While the female share of the

## Women's labour participation and family composition in the agricultural labour supply: 19th-century Majorca

**Gabriel Jover-Avellà** University of Girona, Spain, **Joana Maria Pujadas-Mora** Open University of Catalonia, Spain

actual work was considerable, for women in a pre-industrial rural setting, in a country like Finland, labour market participation and productive work were two different things.

In early 19th-century Majorca, two distinct agrosocial sectors emerged: olive-oil production for export and cereal cultivation for the domestic market. The olive-oil sector was dominated by capitalist farms relying on hired labour, while the cereal sector consisted of subsistence farms managed by small peasants and landless families. Capitalist farms employed many women for olive harvesting and soil preservation. However, the family labour supply patterns remain understudied.

This paper explores how peasant families, with a focus on women's labour participation, organized their workforce to maximize income from local and regional wage labour opportunities. We examine two communities from the Tramuntana Range's olive-growing region and two from the cereal plains. Sources include the 1815/20 population registers (Padrones), 1818/20 property registers (Apeos), and the 1850 Agrarian Questionnaire (Interrogatorio Agrario), detailing labour requirements for various crops. We will reconstruct labour time allocation for each household to understand how they balanced work and income based on household size, age, sex composition, and crop types. Note that olive farm work often required migration, whereas cereal farm labour was sourced locally.

## Foster mothers: paid care for foundlings in the village society in the 19th-century Bohemia

**Markéta Skořepová** University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, Czechia

Babies abandoned by their parents represented an appreciable group of children and a serious social problem in the 19th century. The Habsburg monarchy developed an elaborate system of care that began in maternity hospitals joined with foundling's homes from which the abandoned children were handed over to foster mothers. The care for children was paid, but the wages for the wet nursing and upbringing of foundlings were very low. Nevertheless, the reimbursement for foster care represented an important part of the family income in some regions.

The presented paper deals with abandoned children and their foster families as significant parts of the rural society in many regions in Bohemia during the 19th century. It is based on the evidence of the foundling hospitals and from the particular parish archives, as Catholic priests were obliged to supervise the children growing up in their districts. The attention is paid to the regional distribution of foundlings and the social and economic position of their foster parents. Foster care is considered a gender-specific type of earnings depending not only on manual work but also on the emotional engagement and offering of one's own body to an outsider child.

## Women's dowries and heritage in the municipality of Moimenta da Beira (18th-19th centuries)

**Inês Tenreiro Bernardo** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Marriage, a defining and transformative moment in the lives of the population in the Modern Period, played an even more crucial role for women, who faced significant difficulties in their economic and social lives if they didn't marry. In this context, the dowry was a fundamental element in attracting the attention of potential grooms. We will therefore try to answer the following questions: What are the main characteristics of dowries from rural areas? Are they different from urban dowries? Within rural areas, are dowries from wealthy or non-wealthy families so different, and what type of assets are donated?

In this way, the aim of this communication is to analyze the assets given to women by the population of a rural area, specifically in the territory corresponding to the current municipality of Moimenta da Beira, located in the Beira Alta region, covering the period from 1721 to 1807, with a focus on the patrimonial, social and economic characteristics of this rural community that are revealed in this specific documentation.

[Room **Sala 4**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 3.4. Violence in rural Central and Eastern Europe (17th-19th centuries) 1

**ORGANISERS** **Jan Błoński** European University Institute, Italy, **Agata Koprowicz** University of Warsaw, Poland, **Paweł Pietrowcew** University of St. Andrews, Scotland

**MODERATOR** **Paweł Pietrowcew** University of St. Andrews, Scotland

In reference to the tragic history of the 20th century and the cruelties of Nazism and Communism in the region, Timothy Snyder coined the term "bloodlands" to describe the region of Central and Eastern Europe. However, its earlier history was also characterized by violent oppression and all kinds of conflicts. Rural areas, which unlike cities had no walls or special rights that would physically or symbolically protect their liberties, were especially exposed for the use of violence, both external and internal. The villagers witnessed and were often victims of regular interstate wars, internal rebellions, domination by regional empires and struggles for national liberation, religious turmoil, ethnic clashes, and the brutal exploitation of serfs. Instances of sexual abuse and domestic violence, duels and brawls were also prevalent.

Not only domestic and hostile armies extracted their resources, but their noble owners and villagers themselves rarely fit into the myth of the harmonious village - victims could also become perpetrators, depending on multiple and dynamic conditions. Violence has been used to establish dominance or to realize emancipatory potential, to create in-group boundaries and to exclude others. Especially in the pre-modern period, it also functioned as a mechanism for regulating everyday interpersonal interactions. Its meaning, perceptions and social acceptance of boundaries changed and varied over space and time. As a result, many instances of violence were not recorded in the sources, were omitted, or appeared only when social norms were transgressed.

The violent history of the region has also affected the state of the archives - many documents have been irretrievably lost (or deliberately destroyed) in one bloodshed or another. As a result, the variety, ambiguity, and complexity of violence, the language of the sources (anachronistic and idealistic stereotypes of rural life, the evolving concept and limits of 'violence'), and finally the material scarcity of the primary sources pose a challenge to research. A thorough study of violence in Central and Eastern Europe from the 17th

### **“When the nobleman pressed too hard...”: violence against the tavernkeepers in early modern Poland**

**Jan Błoński** European University Institute, Italy

to the 19th century requires a nuanced and often interdisciplinary approach. The aim of the session is therefore both to present and analyse cases of the use and abuse of violence, and to reflect on different theoretical approaches and perspectives to the study of rural Central and Eastern Europe, using different methodologies (e.g., demographic, micro-historical or visual studies).

There is an inn in the forest, where, three years ago, when the nobleman pressed too hard for the annual rent, the innkeeper, in his bitterness, locked himself with his wife and children in the house and burned everything to the ground.” Ulrich Werdum, a Frisian diplomat, noted this tragic story while traveling to Royal Prussia in 1670. Regrettably, he did not develop more on the fate of the innkeeper. Everything we know about the individual is this anecdotal remark documented in Werdum’s travelogue.

I use the short mention as a starting point to investigate the position of the tavernkeepers within the local community, with a particular focus on their relationship with their lord. At the same time, the scarcity and dispersal of the sources demand a reflection on the microhistorical approach and its limitations. Consequently, in addition to examining instances of violence and its underlying causes and objectives, I will concentrate on the resources available to research its regulatory role in early modern villages and social interactions.

### **“He was lost in the passion of drunkenness”: alcohol and violence among Polish peasants, 18th-19th century**

**Dorota Dias-Lewandowska**  
Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland, **Mateusz Wyżga**  
University of the National Education Commission, Poland

Drunkenness - sin, plague and the downfall of the Polish peasantry. This stereotypical discourse about alcohol and drinking is still present in historiography. Today, alcohol has lost most of its refreshing, healing, nourishing or socialising properties, but in the early modern period it was a vital part of people’s lives. Alcoholic beverages were a daily part of the diet and communal celebrations, or part of the rituals associated with financial transactions (litkup). With the medicalisation of drunkenness and the development of the discourse of alcoholic disease in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, we wanted to explore how perceptions of alcohol changed in the rural community.

Our main focus is on court records of criminal cases in which defendants committed crimes while intoxicated. Through the testimony of defendants and witnesses, we will be able to see how they viewed alcohol as a criminogenic or exculpatory factor. A comparison of cases from the 18th and 19th centuries will also allow us to see how or whether the new discourses on addiction or the harmfulness of alcohol reached the peasantry.

## Peasant brawls: main spheres of violence in the early modern village of the Carpathian Foothills in the light of village court books

**Piotr Kołpak & Marta  
Raczyńska-Kruk** University  
of Warsaw, Poland

The paper will discuss the social and cultural contexts of violence between members of selected village communities in southern Poland in the light of preserved village court records from the 17th and 18th centuries. Village court books from the area of the Carpathian Foothills are sources providing insight not only into the economic conditions of the peasantry, but also into the moral issues and relations. The assembly courts, which were a continuation of the courts defined by the principles of German law, operated on the basis of Magdeburg law, church law, but also so-called peasant reason. Hence, there were diametrical differences in their functioning in different villages, although in principle they were all ultimately subordinate to the village owner. In practice they acted as an internal social control body that regulated collective life. The tasks of the community thus included the duty of mutual control, and conflicts occurring within the village community and related manifestations of violence were resolved before the face of the community office. The analysis of selected examples will allow us to outline the main lines of violence that required the intervention of the village chief and the jurors, and sometimes even a higher court.



Family of Colonists in the Agricultural Colony of Martim Rei, Sabugal, published by Portugal. Sociedade Nacional de Informação (1945). *Colonização Interna*. Lisboa: SNI, p. 40.

[Room **Sala 2**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### 3.5. Agricultural techno-scientific services and rural society before World War II: precedents for post-war extension services or alternative socio-political devices?

**ORGANISERS** **Juan Pan-Montojo**

Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, **Mícheál Ó Fathartaig**

University of Galway, Ireland and Archives of Rural History, Switzerland, **Daniel Lanero**

**Táboas** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Mícheál Ó Fathartaig**

University of Galway, Ireland and Archives of Rural History, Switzerland

**DISCUSSANTS** **Juan Pan-Montojo**

Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, **Lourenzo Fernández**

**Prieto** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

### Experts, farmers and livestock contests: the modernisation of cattle farming in Belgium and Catalonia in the early 20th century

**Jordi Planas** University of Barcelona, Spain, **Yves Segers** Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

This session will deal with the mechanisms and systems of connection between experts (agrarian technicians and scientists) and farmers, and the discourses and proposals made by the former between the nineteenth century and the 1950s. This chronology will enable us to analyse the channels that were created to advise farmers, spreading new technology and support initiatives from below – before the new model of agrarian extension heralded by the USA, and applied to diffuse the green revolution package, came into existence.

The purpose of the session is to explore and present new evidence on the connections, dialogues, and knowledge exchange between rural civil society and technicians who worked for public institutions at different geographic levels, and in the context of the construction of national systems of agricultural innovation.

These relationships must be addressed bearing in mind their potential (and sometimes sought after) bi-directional sense, and not taking for granted top-down hierarchical links, with institutions and public servants simply as purveyors of knowledge and farmers as receivers. We want to analyse concrete discourses and practices of connection between the apparatus that were set up and their proclaimed beneficiaries; how they worked; and how they evolved.

To better understand those services and their work we find imperative a connected approach: comparisons between states must be undertaken (in the papers and in the discussion), and institutional models or specific actions that were copied or adapted should also be considered. This does not mean that every contribution must be comparative. However, livestock contests, intensive courses, demonstration fields, lectures, etc., and, also, professional alignments between public employees and other types of centres and services need to be studied in a context in which there were very strong connections and transnational epistemic communities; as well as, and at the same time, different cultural and administrative solutions.

Cattle farming was one the main fields of agricultural modernisation in the early 20th century to which national and regional administrations paid more attention. This paper will focus on the discourses and proposals made by two eminent experts, the professors and zoologists Leopold Frateur in Belgium and Pere M. Rossell Vilar in Catalonia, who were in charge of institutional programmes for the renovation and qualitative improvement of cattle breeding. Both experts developed a more scientific approach towards animal husbandry, taking into account the cultural and environmental context and the economic potentialities. In the paper we will unravel and compare the channels that were created to advise farmers and the strategies and media that were used to organise the knowledge exchange between technicians, breeders and farmers. We will pay special attention

	<p>to the organisation of livestock contests, which were places where not only the entire agricultural community met, but also where old and new ideas about cattle improvement circulated. The comparison of both case studies will provide a better understanding of how the theoretical knowledge was transformed into useful practices in the cattle farming modernisation process and the related agricultural knowledge networks in the early 20th century.</p>
<p><b>Trust, but verify: the Swiss Agricultural Society and the introduction of chemical fertiliser</b></p> <p><b>Matthias Stettler</b> University of Basel, Switzerland</p>	<p>Chemical fertilisers are a cornerstone of modern agriculture. Although there is a growing historical literature on chemical fertilisers, the period in which they were first introduced (c. 1840 to 1880) constitutes a notable research gap. While there is a wealth of research on the period of experimentation before chemical fertilisers and on farming with this type of fertiliser, there is little research on the processes that facilitated their initial uptake and subsequent 'take-off': e.g. what knowledge was applied, and perhaps above all how trust in this new type of fertiliser was built in an industry known for counterfeiting. From the mid-nineteenth century onwards, agricultural societies played an important role in the production and dissemination of knowledge about new practices and products, including chemical fertilisers. In a case study of Switzerland, I argue that the Swiss Agricultural Society facilitated the development of the fertiliser market through the establishment of fertiliser control stations. Farmers and farmers' cooperatives could have the chemical composition of the products they bought certified by these stations, and fertiliser manufacturers undertook to pay their customers if the stated content values were not met. Originally based on private initiative, these control stations later became part of state-established institutions.</p>
<p><b>The German Agricultural Society (Deutsche Landwirtschafts-Gesellschaft) as an interface between agriculture and the state</b></p> <p><b>Ulrike Heitholt</b> University of Kassel, Germany</p>	<p>When Max Eyth founded the German Agricultural Society in 1885, he had a role model in mind: the Royal Agricultural Society of England. Like them, the D.L.G. was a independent agricultural organisation dedicated to the promotion of agriculture by farmers for farmers, the advancement of agriculture and agricultural technology, and the organisation of annual national exhibitions. Especially leading members of the D.L.G. were active at the interface between agricultural theory and practice, but also between agriculture and the state. Personal overlaps went hand in hand with professional overlaps. One of the chairmen of the cattle breeding department, for example, was also the state veterinarian of the Grand Duchy of Baden. He drew up a breed standard for German cattle for the D.L.G., including rules for keeping stud books, which also claimed general validity. With increasing state control of cattle breeding, the D.L.G. was commissioned by the state to control the breeding books. Did the D.L.G. now represent the interests of the state, or did it turn agricultural interests into state interests? The D.L.G.'s success as an agricultural authority, it is argued, was also due to the fact that it integrated agricultural and state resp. political elites.</p>

## Teaching and innovation in mountain rural societies: the role of the *Cattedre ambulanti di Agricoltura* in cattle farming in the Italian Alps (late 19th century – 1926)

**Marco Marigliano** Sacred Heart Catholic University, Italy

This study aims to analyze the role played by the *Cattedre ambulanti di Agricoltura* (Itinerant Teachers of Agriculture) in the transformation of Alpine cattle farming in Italy in the early 20th century.

Long regarded as embodying a marginal economy with stagnant practices, mountain agricultural society instead redefined itself, transforming its agricultural sector through the improvement of mountain pastures, the use of chemical fertilizers and new machinery, and the selection of better forage, at least from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century.

In this transformation, the interventions of the *Cattedre Ambulanti* are considered crucial. These voluntary consortium bodies were supported by public entities, agricultural societies, and individual farmers with the aim of advancing agriculture through the assistance and education of farmers by agronomists or experts in the field.

This study intends to understand the specific needs of Alpine rural society – certainly different from those of a productivist agriculture like that of the large plains of Northern Italy –, how the local *Cattedre ambulanti* responded to these demands for innovation and modernization, and whether and how the central administration supported these initiatives.

## Scientific transfer and co-creation during the 1930s in Atlantic agriculture: the Galician Seed Producers Trade Union

**Roque Sanfiz Arias** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain,  
**Alberto González Remuiñán** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Since the end of the 19th century, in Galicia (NW Spain) agricultural research and intensification was promoted by creating scientific centres and trial fields. Some of these centres developed pioneering initiatives that connected research, experimentation and dissemination of results. We focus our paper on the singular experience of the Seed Producers Trade Union (SPS), created in the 1930s by the Galician Biological Mission –a centre specialized in hybrid maize and pig breeding– as its fieldwork section.

The SPS originated from the international experiences of the Biological Mission staff, who observed cooperative seed distribution systems in Sweden and Germany. Aiming to coordinate farmer members to produce hybrid maize seed, the Trade Union also distributed horticultural and fruit crops. It was a space for technical-peasant feedback, as the experimentation of the varieties developed in private plots of land served as a test and enabled the correction of defects that hampered their success among some peasants. Its trajectory ended abruptly shortly after the *coup d'état* and the Spanish Civil War, with the forced integration into the trade unionism of the totalitarian regime.

[Room **TP1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 3.6. Work and gender

**ORGANISERS** **Carolina Uppenberg**  
Stockholm University, Sweden, **Paul Warde**  
University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

**MODERATOR** **Carolina Uppenberg**  
Stockholm University, Sweden

**DISCUSSANT** **Jane Whittle** University of Exeter, United Kingdom

The allocation of labour on small family farms has been a longstanding theme in rural history, underpinning theories and debates around the “peasantry”, proto-industrialization, the gendered organisation of households, and attitudes towards productivity, commercialisation and migration. Despite the obvious importance of this issue to rural society and change over time, it remains difficult to secure empirical evidence of the allocation of labour among women, men and children, what this meant for their respective ‘roles’, and all kinds of economic decision-making. Although female labour in agriculture has been a major research topic in recent years, evidence has largely been drawn from hired labour on estates or large farms, rather than the operation of smallholdings, family farms and crofts. Although all kinds of agricultural holdings faced challenges around the seasonality of labour demand and choices relating to non-agricultural activities such as spinning, weaving, fishing and migratory labour, such questions were particularly salient for households with limited access to land. Bound to maintain a functioning household and in most cases pay a rent, women and men on smallholdings were confronted with a variety of options for producing food and fibre or earning, but strongly constrained by the agricultural calendar in the manner that they could allocate their labour. In turn, these decisions had consequences for the availability of labour on larger estates and farms, or other sectors of the economy. Such questions, examined in certain contexts by theorists such as Chayanov or Ellis, also have strongly gendered dimensions.

This session will examine these questions through four cases drawn from northern Europe between ca.1500 and 1900, with a focus on the nineteenth century. In some regions, such as Poland and parts of Scandinavia, more has been studied on manors and larger farms, which may tell us about the gendering (or not) of tasks on those entities, but not the allocation of labour among the peasantry themselves. The session also addresses, through a Swedish case, the changing economic contexts with shifts in relative prices of products and factors of production, and the introduction of new technology. Specific crops, such as the potato, and opportunities to work in rural industries which then themselves came under cost pressures due to industrialization were an important context across Europe and addressed here in the case of Ireland. The session also aims to demonstrate and discuss the varied forms of evidence that can be brought to bear on household labour, from diaries and account books to legal texts, surveys and ethnographic study.

**Breaking the gender mould: seasonal labour and wage gaps in German agriculture, 16th–19th c.**

**Florian Probst & Ulrich Pfister**  
University of Muenster, Germany

This paper explores the gendered allocation of labour and its seasonal dynamics in rural Germany from the late sixteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, using a unique dataset of approximately one million data points on the wages of male and female day labourers and servants. By analysing the ratio of annual servant wages to daily wages (Humphries/Weisdorf 2019) and the distribution of seasonal labour demand (Jensen et al. 2019), we reconstruct the evolution of annual working days for both women and men and the distinct roles of them in the agricultural workforce.

Our findings reveal a significant increase in annual working days, rising by fifty days to 250 during the first half of the nineteenth century, accompanied by a notable decline in labour seasonality. Crucially, we provide new insights into the gender pay gap, tracing its persistence and fluctuations over three centuries. These results illuminate the adaptive strategies of men and women in response to underemployment, the agricultural calendar, and non-agricultural opportunities, challenging traditional narratives about the economic roles of women in rural economies. By integrating gendered perspectives into the analysis of labour dynamics, we contribute to debates on productivity, household strategies, and the long-term transformation of rural societies in pre-industrial Europe.

**Between the hoe and the judgments: the ideal of the farm servantmaid in 19th-century Styria and Carniola**

**Nina Ošep** Institute of Contemporary History and University of Primorska, Slovenia,  
**Brina Kotar** University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

In the allocation of labour on small family farms in 19th-century Carniola and Styria, the role of the agrarian servant maid (Magd) occupied an important place in the rural economy and household structures. This study investigates the cultural imaginary of the ideal servant maid as shaped by societal expectations, economic imperatives, and cultural norms. Drawing on judicial records, contemporary newspapers, and literature, the research reconstructs the envisioned attributes and work obligations of these women, including their responsibilities in agriculture, household maintenance, and seasonal tasks.

The analysis explores the consequences of deviating from this idealized image, considering how non-compliance with expectations—whether through perceived resistance to authority, or moral failings—was framed and dealt with within rural communities.

By situating the servant maid within broader debates on gendered labour allocation and societal values, the study offers insight into how ideals of productivity and morality intersected with the lived realities of rural women. It also highlights how such ideals shaped economic decisions and labour organization on smallholdings, contributing to the broader understanding of gendered work in 19th-century rural Europe.

## Work organization on family farms in Sweden during the agricultural depression of the late 19th century

**Patrick Svensson** Swedish  
University of Agricultural Sciences,  
Sweden

In the last decades of the 19th century, Europe was hit by the flooding of cheap grain from outside leading to changing relative prices. A simultaneous increased demand for animal products through increased incomes, meant a restructuring into a more animal-based agriculture. According to some researchers, this led to casual wage labor turning less important, being replaced by family labor. On the labor supply side, industrialization and possibilities for emigration opened up alternatives for agricultural workers. A lower labor supply was met with an intensified mechanization focusing on seasonal bottlenecks. However, other studies have found that farmers kept their workforce and work organization and that mechanization instead resulted in the same amount of laborers managing a larger area of cultivation.

This paper studies the work organization on seven family farms in central Sweden 1850-1900 using farmer diaries containing what work was done each day and the people performing it. By using information on as well family labor, annually employed servants as on casual labor a detailed understanding of farmers' planning of work is acquired, and it also gives information on the possibilities for landless and semi-landless families to provide for themselves by working on family farms during this period.

## Tamlaght 1840: work and gender in an Irish community

**Paul Warde** University of  
Cambridge, United Kingdom

The first 1830s mapping of Ireland also commissioned detailed reports on the socio-economic circumstances of individual parishes. Among these one surveyor assembled some exceptionally detailed reports, culminating in that for Tamlaght in Tyrone, within Ulster's linen-weaving region. This provided details of some 400 households: recording household members, landholding, cropping and crop rotations, livestock, tools and equipment, alongside local prices and rents. Remarkably, for all males and females, the survey provides details of their work in textiles, weaving output, and by season, days worked in agriculture on their own holdings, and the same for hired labourers (male and female). It is an unparalleled picture of labour allocation in a proto-industrial community, at a moment when competition from urban manufacturers was severely depressing income in the rural textile industry. As days worked can be matched quite precisely to the return in cash or yields, we can examine the logic behind household choices, the desirability of retaining or shedding labour for households, how this had shifted for each gender with changing prices, and understand the vulnerability of a rural economy a few years before the disaster of the potato famine.

## Domestic decisions: how gender shaped labour organisation in semi-landless households

**Carolina Uppenberg** Stockholm  
University, Sweden

While sources on women's work among the rural poor are particularly scarce, the question of what women did is not only an empirical issue. It also needs to be understood theoretically by challenging the assumption that women's work was domestic and therefore of less importance for understanding the economy they were part of; together with finding new sources for what women actually did. The Swedish semi-landless strata called crofters (Sw: torpare) were part of multiple labour relations: corvée labour for the landowner, subsistence agriculture, reproductive work etc. These were differently regulated but structured in gendered ways, which makes crofters an ideal group for investigating the connection between gender division of labour and economic structure.

In this presentation, I examine three levels of gendered labour organisation in the households of Swedish manorial crofters during the 19th century. Firstly, the legal and institutional level of how marriage and legislation formed the households. Secondly, how the gender division of labour regarding certain tasks shaped the labour organisation both at the estates and in the crofter households. Thirdly, I analyse how the demand for reproductive labour and especially the care of the older generation meant something different for crofter households than for freeholders.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 3.7. Resilience and recovery in a historical context

ORGANISER & MODERATOR **Elisabeth Engberg** Umeå University, Sweden

DISCUSSANT **Magnus Bohman**  
Kristianstad University, Sweden

This session centres around resilience and recovery, two interrelated and frequently used concepts in research and policy discourse concerning the capacity of societies, communities, families and individuals to manage and overcome crises of different character. Resilience is a versatile and comprehensive concept originating from system theory, referring to the ability of a system to endure external shocks, while retaining its structure and function. When expanded from systems to societal contexts, the notion of social resilience has become pivotal in global development policies, e.g., the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Societies and the Sustainable Development Goals. In the social sciences, a growing body of literature adopts social resilience as an analytical framework offering fresh perspectives on contemporary societal challenges and crises. Closely associated with the concept of resilience is recovery, defined as the restoring or improving of livelihood, health, assets and institutional systems following a crisis. Although the most frequent use of the concept refers to health-related issues, increasing scholarly attention has been directed towards societal recovery, particularly in the aftermath of natural disasters.

The study of rural populations in the past frequently addresses issues related to both resilience and recovery, although these concepts may not always be explicitly employed. In pre-industrial Europe, war, famine, epidemics and natural disasters were recurring phenomena that periodically exerted substantial pressure upon societies and populations. Rural communities with heavy reliance on subsistence farming, poor economies, and fragile municipal organisations, remained particularly exposed to crises well into the 19th century. A poignant example of this vulnerability is the devastating famine of

the 1860s that ravaged Finland, Sweden, and the Baltics.

With the aim to offer new perspectives on research about historical crises, this session invites contributions discussing resilience and recovery in rural societies from different perspectives. For example, while a substantial body of scholarship examines the harvest failures in the 1860s, their origin, their outcome and their consequences, considerably less attention has been directed to the question of why some communities seemed to be more successful than others – more resilient – to cope with the crisis. What factors did determine social resilience during a deep social, economic and demographic crisis in different rural contexts in the 19th century? And what can be said about recovery from such crises. Recovery as a process has also received little attention in previous research. The recent large global health crisis, the Covid-19 pandemic, was said to have “started with a bang and ended with a whimper”. How and when did a 19th century crisis end, and what characterized a period of societal recovery in a rural setting? And moreover, if there was a connection between resilience and recovery, what form did it take?

## Demographic impacts of the Finnish War and the 1860s famine in 19th-century Sweden: acute and long-term effects

**Erling Häggström Gunfridsson**  
Umeå University, Sweden

The 19th century in Sweden witnessed multiple mortality crises, notably the Finnish War (1808–1809) and the severe famine of the 1860s. This study explores the acute and long-term demographic effects of these events, with a focus on Västerbotten County, taking into account the economic and health status of individuals prior to the crises. Drawing from parish records, we examine immediate population declines and their prolonged consequences on birth rates and mortality. The Finnish War led to significant male mortality and displacement, disrupting local communities, with a mortality rate of about 20% in some areas. The 1860s famine caused widespread starvation and high mortality, particularly among children and the elderly. Long-term impacts included reduced fertility and a surge in emigration, which slowed population recovery. By analyzing these historical shocks, the study offers insights into the resilience and vulnerability of rural populations facing extreme hardship.

## Economic and social history of a European famine: comparative perspectives on Northern European harvest failures in the 1860s

**Henrik Forsberg** University of Helsinki, Finland, **Magnus Bohman** Kristianstad University, Sweden

Why are some regions more successful in combating famine than others, experiencing different scales or even managing to avoid famine altogether? Our contribution constitutes the introduction chapter to a forthcoming anthology which explores how regions across the Baltic Sea coped with severe food supply issues in the 1860s, with the aim to provide a framework for understanding the regional dynamics of Northern Europe's last great peacetime famine. The crisis was triggered by extreme weather conditions that caused significant harvest failures. During this transformative period regions were in different stages of development at the crossroads of nation-building, industrialization, and globalization. The said harvest failures exerted pressure on the predominantly rural agricultural societies, although

	<p>with widely different outcomes. Previous scholarship of the best-known famine of the period, the Great Finnish Famine of 1866-1868, has often neglected the broader context of regionally diverse harvest failures and famine experiences in adjacent regions as well as their intertwined effects on each other. Our contribution addresses scales of famine in a transnational environment, acknowledging how the regions under investigation were economically and geographically entangled with each other despite them having different state structures.</p>
<p><b>The path to a new “normal”: societal recovery and transformation in rural Burträsk following the 1860s famine in Northern Sweden</b></p> <p><b>Elisabeth Engberg</b> Umeå University, Sweden</p>	<p>In the 1860s the small rural parish of Burträsk in northern Sweden was subjected to severe pressure during a period of consecutive harvest failures, culminating in a disastrous climax in 1867-1868 with mortality rates suggesting famine conditions, widespread nutritional deprivation and large outbreaks of diseases related to hunger and want. Population growth declined, and it would take almost 10 years before regained the same pace as prior to the crisis. The crisis did also have severe consequences for the local economy. The life-saving state aid came at the cost of long-term debt, affecting both society and individuals, slowing down the local economic development long into the 1870s. The aim of this contribution is to address issues related to recovery after a crisis so profound that it had deprived the affected community of almost all its assets. A detailed study of the social, economic and institutional development in Burträsk during the 10-year period after the crisis (1870-1880) will provide further insights into how livelihood, assets and institutional systems were restored in a rural society during a time of transformation.</p>
<p><b>Further Investigations on the Famine in Yunnan Province, China from 1815 to 1817: Factors Other Than Climatic Issues</b></p> <p><b>Jen Yu-Chien</b> Charles III University of Madrid, Spain</p>	<p>This paper investigates factors other than climatic issues that caused adverse weather during Mount Tambora eruption in Indonesia in 1815 to affect harvest conditions in Yunnan Province, China. A thorough analysis of primary sources and second-hand data was conducted to demonstrate the findings.</p> <p>The analysis reveals several key findings. First, it suggests a long-term institutional inefficiency of local governmental authorities, which failed to make the agricultural sector resilient to sudden climatic shocks. Moreover, local chronicles indicate that the authorities only emphasized the collection of heavy taxes from farmers by imposing strict law enforcement.</p> <p>Second, the agricultural sector had disadvantageous quality factor endowments. The area relied on an outdated irrigation system, necessitating intensive labor participation. Lastly, no evidence suggests that the grain varieties and soil could become resilient to low temperatures, further deteriorating the impact of adverse weather conditions.</p> <p>Regarding other areas of China encountering the same climatic shocks, despite not possessing with advantageous institutions, the beneficial factor endowments sustained the agricultural production.</p>

	<p>This paper concludes that when the agricultural sector possesses disadvantageous-quality institutions and factor endowments, adverse weather will cause severe harvest failures and famine following climatic shocks.</p>
<p>[Room <b>TP2</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>3.8. Coping with the comparison: sources, methods, models for the study of the forest resources in Europe (1870-1914)</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Giacomo Bonan</b> University of Turin, Italy, <b>Luca Andreoni</b> Marche Polytechnic University, Italy</p> <p><u>MODERATOR &amp; DISCUSSANT</u> <b>Federico D’Onofrio</b> University of Vienna, Austria</p>	<p>Recent scholarship has provided important quantitative analyses of wood consumption in the industrial era. Most of the available data concerns the use of wood as an energy source (firewood and charcoal). Scholars have collected aggregate data on a national scale to evaluate the relationship between energy consumption and economic growth, with some studies limited to wood and others comparing wood with other energy carriers. The overall trend resulting from these studies shows that the consumption of wood as an energy source remained at pre-industrial levels in the first phase of industrialisation and then decreased once the transition phase was completed. Information on the use of wood as a raw material is more fragmentary, but scholars agree that it increased significantly during industrialisation, since the decline of some traditional uses was largely offset by the increase in the use of wood in various industrial activities. In particular, wood was a key resource in the principal sectors that transformed the European economy between 1870 and 1914: in coal and metal mining, for the pit props; in the railway industry, for the construction of sleepers and rail infrastructure; in the chemical industry, where the large-scale production of paper from wood pulp began at that time; and in the construction and furniture industries, where the enormous consumption of wood helped fuel the urban expansion that characterised that period.</p> <p>The existing research has shown that we can speak of a decline in the use of wood only in relative terms, compared to the rapid increase in other energy sources or raw materials. In absolute terms, the consumption of wood increased. The available information (mainly data on aggregate consumption on a national basis) needs further investigation in order to understand the principal elements in the evolution of the wood economy: both increasing and declining uses; the articulation and geography of the supply chains; prices and customs tariffs; the most valued tree species. Two major problems arise when dealing with this type of investigation. Firstly, the reliability of the sources, both as regards supply (often linked to the uncertain determination of forest areas, particularly on a national scale), and as regards demand site (in particular, the underestimation of wood consumption and other forest products linked to self-consumption in rural areas). The second problem concerns the difficulty in comparing national statistics and the data obtainable from them on an international scale, starting from different sources and with different degrees of reliability. This panel intends to reflect on these two historiographical and methodological issues, exploring empirical implications of source analysis; methodological approaches to international comparison on forests; models for forest data analysis; new reconstructions on the dynamics of the forests (surfaces, production, trade, consumption).</p>

## Understanding the forest economy without forest statistics: the case of Portugal 1870-1938

**Sofia Teives Henriques** University of Porto, Portugal, **Amélia Branco** University of Lisbon, Portugal

While the importance of the forest economy and the speed and magnitude of this transition from a biomass to a mineral economy is well reported in many countries there is still a lack of understanding on the role of the forest in others, such as Portugal. In 1910, a comprehensive survey of the world forest resources described the figures regarding the area covered by forests of Portugal as “being extremely conflicting” and probably much underestimated, with forest cover varying between 3 to 8% in Portugal with “no figures of any kind in regard to the annual cut, growth or consumption” (Zon, 1910).

In Portugal the few figures of the size and relevance of certain forest sub-sectors such as wood, cork production, firewood & charcoal remain mostly detached from the sparse estimates of forest cover produced by contemporaneous forest engineers and statisticians.

The goal of this paper is to conduct a comprehensive survey of the supply and demand sources which portrait forest economy in Portugal and discuss a methodology for the estimation of its importance over the period 1870 until 1938, date from the first forest economic production estimates.

## Standardizing resinous products in France and the United States in the late 19th and early 20th centuries: the case of turpentine and rosin

**Marcin Krasnodębski** Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland

In the early 20th century, France stood as a prominent producer of pine resin derivatives. To gain insight into the market structure and production capacities of its main competitors (the United States, Spain, and Portugal) and to meet the demands of consuming industries (notably in the UK and Germany), France gathered extensive data on the production and use of these substances. This undertaking was complicated by the fact that each country employed its own nomenclature to classify resinous products. Centuries-old production methods, coupled with differing approaches to standardization—often shaped by protectionist agendas—led to a multitude of inconsistent categories. The evolution of rosin grades and the classification of various types of turpentine underscore the difficulties in interpreting trade data on pine resin derivatives during this dynamic period.

## Estimating wood consumption in Spain, 1860-2000: sources and methods

**Iñaki Iriarte Goñi** University of Zaragoza, Spain

Wood, which had been a source of energy and essential raw material in pre-industrial societies, continued to play an important economic role in the processes of the industrial revolution and in subsequent stages. Although some of its traditional uses were disappearing as the use of fossil energy and abiotic materials grew, there were many uses in which wood continued to be important, such that its consumption tended to grow. Starting from this idea, the basic objective of this work is to find an appropriate method to

	<p>estimate the evolution of wood consumption, in the case of Spain, between 1860 and 2000. To do this, first of all, it is compiled and described in a critical manner the different available Spanish and international sources and, secondly, an estimation method is proposed based on documented assumptions, through which long-term wood consumption can be calculated.</p>
<p><b>The statistics on woodlands and timber trade in Italy (1861-1914)</b></p> <p><b>Giacomo Bonan</b> University of Turin, Italy, <b>Luca Andreoni</b> Marche Polytechnic University, Italy</p>	<p>The decades following Italian unification were characterized by a dramatic transformation of the country in terms of population growth, urbanization, and early industrial development. These processes fueled a high demand for timber and, consequently, strong pressure on domestic forest resources, which were insufficient to meet the country's needs, especially given that Italy lacked fossil fuels. However, the centrality of forest resources in the Italian economy during that period, frequently emphasized by the literature on the subject, has yet to be explored. This paper has two objectives: (a) to critically analyze the sources that allow for an assessment of forest extent, timber production, timber consumption, and foreign trade in this sector; (b) to propose first estimates based on data for which the available documentation is sufficiently reliable.</p>
<p><b>Does it suffice? Statistical assessments of the world's forest resources and their consequences, 1870-1914</b></p> <p><b>Martin Bemmman</b> University of Freiburg, Sweden</p>	<p>In the five decades prior the First World War, a debate unfolded in the United States, Europe and Japan that was in its essence based on different interpretations of numbers: Would the available forest resources of the world suffice to meet the ever-increasing demand for wood products? There were differing answers to this, of course, but all of them referred to rather unreliable and un-comparable country-related figures. Despite a number of attempts to broaden the statistical coverage and to internationally standardize concepts and methods of national statistical surveys, this situation did not change before the mid-twentieth century. Nonetheless, the debate encouraged many – and mainly European – experts to compile and publish statistical volumes that defined the state of knowledge and that partly gained significant importance for the understanding of the world's forest resources and its future.</p> <p>The paper will highlight the challenges of compiling internationally comparable statistics on forest resources and trade in wood products. It will also explain the surge of international statistics on this topic before 1914. And it will relate these compilations to each other as it will ask for the consequences they had for the contemporaries' knowledge on the world's forest resources.</p>

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

### 3.9. Agricultural practice, knowledge and the healthy farmers' sense in the 20th and 21st centuries 1

ORGANISERS & MODERATORS **Jessica Richter** Institute of Rural History and University of Vienna, Austria,  
**Přemysl Mácha** Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia

At the turn of the 20th century, politicians and administrators across Europe had little doubt that agriculture was a special sector of the economy. Its dependence on natural and local conditions, seasonality, weather and climate forced farmers to constantly adapt to uncertainty and change. This alone ensured that farms and associated activities varied greatly between different places. Farming, moreover, defied official categories of work as much as many contemporaries' dreams of an industrialisation of agricultural production. While some saw farming as a "traditional" counter-model to social progress, others often associated life and work at farms per se with health, idyll, a high work ethic and, above all, a special understanding of nature, animals, plants and soil. This knowledge and the (constructed) features of farming were much discussed in the course of the twentieth century. Repeatedly, they became a political issue: in the context of debates about rural depopulation, state labour market administration or the public promotion of settlements and housing, vocational training and agricultural production. In the 21st century, farmers' knowledge and their abilities to adapt are increasingly assigned particular relevance in the context of environmental degradation and climate change. Even though farmers are often blamed to contribute to such issues politicians and media attribute to them a healthy farmers' or common sense that predestines them for best practice. Many researchers, in contrast, point to the importance of practical, experiential knowledge in farming. They frequently envision knowledge as something passed on in families over generations and or in daily practice shared with others. Scholars conceptualise it as "traditional", situated, local, or as embodied and intuitive, like a "feeling" for living things, soil and a farm's needs. Some studies focus on human – non-human relations and entanglements. On the basis of this research, the speakers of this session will investigate how farmers acquired knowledge, how they described and implemented it in relation to other forms of knowledge. The papers draw on approaches from history, (historical) anthropology and memory studies. They discuss for different historical contexts in 20th and 21st century Europe how this knowledge contributed or failed to meet specific challenges and how it was assessed in relation to other ways to make sense of the world.

### "Necessity made us aware": agrarian innovation and the search for alternatives during Cuba's special period (1993-2006)

**Elisa Botella-Rodríguez** University of Salamanca, Spain

Cuba was not totally unprepared to face the 1990s crisis. One of the main blueprints of the Revolution was the broad development of higher education, research and development institutions. Technological expertise as the most valuable commodity of Cuba's development. The Cuban state invested up to \$12 billion over the remainder of the decade in developing a set of knowledge assets based on skilled workers and human capital (Rosset and Benjamin, 1994). By the early 1970s, Cuban scientists and research institutions conscious of the real failings of the dominant agrarian model during the 1980s, young researchers from the Ministry of Agriculture and various universities began to seek alternative technologies and advanced research

	<p>and development (R&amp;D) based on family farming (Funes-Monzote, 2006).</p> <p>After the 1993 food crisis the search for alternatives became patent. Biological control of insect pests, biofertilisers, soil management, intercropping, water recycling, green manures were the response of an interesting interaction between small farmers-academia and the state to face food shortages and the lack of imports in the island.</p> <p>This paper aims to provide an complementary analysis of the relative redistributive success of Cuba's land reform based on human and social capital formation during the Special Period.</p>
<p><b>Rethinking everyday reality from an indispensable global perspective: the peasant's gaze as an all-encompassing paradigm and expression of common sense</b></p> <p><b>Joan Tort-Donada</b> University of Barcelona, Spain</p>	<p>The writer Ryszard Kapuscinski pointed out that "the disappearance of the peasant class, which is a social and economic phenomenon on a global scale, is one of the greatest tragedies of the contemporary world." Although Kapuscinski took the African continent as starting point, his reflection, expanded in multiple directions by many scholars over the last three decades, accurately summarizes a critical situation of general scope that demands a forceful response without delay.</p> <p>The communication that we propose, in this context, aims to provide materials and points of reference on the relevance of the peasant legacy in a global sense (and, specifically, cultural) throughout history. Based on the work of three contemporary authors who have devoted great attention to the European rural world (Fernand Braudel, historian, Josep Pla, writer, and John Berger, art critic and writer), we will try to develop the idea that the peasant's gaze, understood as a vital attitude, constitutes in itself a form of global understanding of reality, which is based on what is generically identified as common sense. A form that, duly adapted, we believe could provide multiple elements of interest for a comprehensive vision of the rural (and eventually urban) world of today's societies.</p>
<p><b>Rearticulating the past for a better future: exploring the transition to 'ancient cultivars' in the Daunian Mountains region of Southern Italy</b></p> <p><b>Antonio Allegretti</b> Lancaster University, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Loss of agrobiodiversity is one of the greatest global challenges. Global agriculture has seen a steady declining of crop diversity in the name of productivity with few high-yielding varieties dominating markets. In this context, some territories, often (deemed as) marginal, have become 'strongholds' of agrobiodiversity. Often discussed in the context of the Global South, agricultural biodiversity in Global North has remained somewhat unexplored on the assumption of a fully realised 'transition' to commercial farming. This article focuses on the Daunian Mountains of Southern Italy as a case of the complexities around agrobiodiversity in a Global North context. A 'return to the past' with the promotion of 'ancient cultivars' to diversify crop varieties, cope with climate change, and provide employment for youths, is taking centre stage in the policy agenda at EU, national, and regional level, and intersects longer efforts in the development of 'inner' rural areas.</p>

	<p>Through document review, interviews, and ethnography, this paper looks at the rearticulations of the past, epitomized by the ‘ancient cultivars’ narrative, and how these shape new imaginings of a ‘better future’ of restored agro-biodiversity to cope with global challenges such as climate change, unfair competition of global markets, and loss of human capital.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 1</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>3.10. Acculturation of migrants and agriculture in the subtropics of the Americas</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Laurent Herment</b> French National Centre for Scientific Research, France, <b>Angelo Carrara</b> Federal University of Ouro Preto, Brazil, <b>Alejandro Tortolero</b> Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico</p> <p><u>DISCUSSANT &amp; MODERATOR</u> <b>Manoela Pedroz</b> Federal Fluminense University, Brazil</p>	<p>Voluntary’ migration to the new worlds (in independent countries or European colonies) has been the subject of a great deal of research. Migration networks, the organisation of departures, entry conditions, the conditions under which migrant families settled, and the composition of the immigrant population in terms of age, gender and social class have all contributed to a better understanding of one of the most important migratory phenomena of the last three centuries. Migration in cities has been particularly well studied, if only because migrants arrived in the main ports, which were sometimes capital cities, sometimes cities at the centre of political, cultural and economic power networks. Forced or more or less voluntary migration within agricultural worlds has also been the subject of major and constantly renewed research. From the point of view that interests us here, for example, they have raised questions about the role of slaves imported into the United States in the development of rice cultivation. They have also led to a better understanding of the conditions of transition from agrarian societies based on the mobilisation of enslaved or indentured workers to societies based on the mobilisation of free workers. Yet one of the most concrete aspects of migration, the mobilisation of labour and the development of new plants, has been relatively little studied. By arriving in a new environment, totally different from their original one and wrongly described as ‘virgin’, migrants or enslaved populations could not simply reproduce their know-how. It was not simply a question of adapting practices that had been mastered for a long time; they often had to undertake the cultivation of plants with which they were unfamiliar, in an environment over which they had only partial control. As well as agricultural practices, the process of acculturation of these populations also involved their diet. The aim of this session is to bring together contributions aimed at gaining a better understanding of the concrete conditions under which these populations settled and acculturated.</p>

## Agricultural clearing in the German colonies in Brazil: challenges of adaptation and variability of experiences (mid-19th to early 20th century)

**Jawad Daheur** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

Using the case of the German colonies established in Brazil, this paper seeks to understand how settlers perceived the new forest environment they faced and the techniques they used to clear the land of its vegetation cover. Existing work on this topic has mainly focused on the differences between European and Brazilian forests in terms of morphology and biodiversity. In fact, the settlers' experiences of deforestation were very different, depending not only on where they settled - the Brazilian Atlantic Forest has a wide variety of ecosystems, including lowland and mountain rainforests, dry forests and mountain savannahs - but also on where they came from and their life experiences before migrating. The German settlers, far from being a homogeneous mass, had very different relationships with the forest, between those who came from German plains which had been anthropised for centuries, those who left the Central European region that they had helped to clear, or those who came from the grasslands of Bessarabia or the Volga region. Through a brief overview and mapping of the configurations found in the states of Paraná, Santa Catarina and Rio Grande do Sul, the paper will highlight the different conditions of the experience of clearing.

## Cattle farming in Minas Gerais, Brazil, throughout the 18th century

**Angelo Carrara** Federal University of Ouro Preto, Brazil

Among the cattle breeds introduced into Brazil since the beginning of colonization, the Curraleiro Pé-Duro stands out, which spread especially throughout the northeast, center-west and northern regions of Minas Gerais. This breed is the result of the union of the Portuguese Alentejo and Galega breeds, and is adapted to the conditions of the cerrado and semi-arid regions. It is also characterized by its docility, adaptability, resistance and hardiness, and has a low production cost, because it is raised in an extensive system, with low sanitary control and without specific feeding. All these characteristics ensured its wide dissemination throughout Brazil, and were responsible for the expansion of livestock farming, which provided an important part of the Brazilian population's diet from the end of the 17th century. This expansion was accompanied by the introduction and early dissemination of an African forage, the capim-gordura ("fat grass", *Melinis minutiflora*). Based on a diverse set of quantitative and qualitative sources, the communication aims to study the determining factors of cattle farming in Minas Gerais throughout the 18th century.

## The aculturation of the Polish Colonists in Brazil in the XIX century and the Interwar Period

**Krzysztof Ziomek** Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences and Jagiellonian University, Poland

The paper's goal is to provide a summary of the Polish colonists' aculturation in Brazil, including their struggles transferring plans known in the country of origin to the country of settlement, learning how to cultivate in the vast inner forests, or adjusting to their new diet. It's intriguing that the Polish diaspora quickly specialised in growing herva maté and even contributed to the development of regional transport systems. The production of maté fell during the 1929 economic downturn, and plans to switch to the production of cotton or coffee were doomed to fail due to the climate in southern Brazil.

There is a great deal of historical sources on that topic, including correspondence sent to the country of origin, personal memoirs, press reports of journeys, and belles lettres. Furthermore, as the Polish diaspora developed their own Polish-Brazilian dialect—a synthesis of Portuguese vocabulary and Polish grammar—the linguistic methodology may also be applied. The process of aculturation is reflected through the use of words associated with new plants, foods, or agricultural tools.

## A turbulent colony

**Laurent Herment** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

In 1872, a Brazilian official noted in a report that European migrants found better wages and it was easier to find suitable food in the Prata regions. So, over and above the question of wages, Europeans who chose to migrate to the tropical areas of Brazil faced a number of challenges. Acculturation to new cultures and new foods is one of them.

The movement of the colony's population to Barra Mansa, located near the Paraíba do Sul river at the 22° parallel, and for which we have found the entry register for the years 1874-1878, bears witness to the difficulty some families had in settling. Many settlers left the colony. In this paper, as a first approach to a long-term study, we would like to consider two questions. Firstly, we would like to examine the climatic conditions in which the first families of settlers settled around 1874. Secondly, based on the register, which provides information on the nationality, age and religion of the individuals and the composition of the families, we would like to examine the differential behaviour of the families: to stay or to leave.

## Searching for a new California: migration, agriculture and food for living in Sinaloa, Mexico at the end of the 19th century

**Alejandro Tortolero** Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico

In 1880, Mexico had a population of nearly ten million spread over a territory of two million square kilometers. Mexico was a sparsely and unevenly populated country, with most of its inhabitants living in the central zone and in the cities. Faced with the issue of population shortage, the government of Porfirio Díaz (1877-1911) adopted a colonization policy that favored European and North American migrants, although the results were not as attractive as in Brazil, Argentina or other countries with a strong attraction for migrants. An unprecedented experience in this context is that of the US settlers who founded an agricultural colony in Topolobampo, Sinaloa.

	<p>In my paper, I examine how these settlers adapted to the native plants and what strategies they used to feed themselves as they tried to transform an almost virgin territory, with a climate and characteristics very different from those of their native country , into a new California.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Anfiteatro I</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <h2>3.11. Wetlands as colonized and decolonized spaces 1</h2> <p><b>ORGANISERS Harro Maat</b> Wageningen University, Netherlands, <b>Joana Sousa</b> University of Coimbra, Portugal</p> <p><b>MODERATOR</b> <b>Harro Maat</b> Wageningen University, Netherlands</p> <p><b>DISCUSSANT Lavinia Maddaluno</b> Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy</p>	<p>Wetlands are currently portrayed as valuable and vulnerable ecosystems that require protection and restoration. Restoration opens up a task for historians, to address questions about how people lived with and in wetlands, across different times and places. This session addresses wetlands as contested spaces, attracting rulers that aimed for colonization and turning wetlands into productive agricultural zones, as well as attracting runaway migrant communities turning wetlands into productive decolonized muddy zones of refuge and self-sufficiency. Although dismissed as insalubrious and sources of disease by certain scientific discourses in the past, powerful actors have tried to control wetlands, not rarely in long-lasting and haphazard trajectories of technological success and failure. Marginalized actors, or those escaping the control of states, have also had mixed experiences, often facing intense, brutal or long-lasting permanence in the swampy soils of wetlands. They often used wetlands as a refuge, finding benefit from the inhospitable combination of shallow waters, muddy fields and impenetrable vegetation as an effective defense against conquerors and raiders. Again other groups were driven into wetlands as part of an enslaved or otherwise coerced labour force, making flooded zones suitable for agricultural purposes. What these groups have in common is a livelihood rooted in wetlands. Productive practices rely on techno-nature arrangements capable of controlling the movements of water and sediment for the purposes of agricultural production. Papers in this session are rooted in new global histories that put agricultural practices at the centre, perceiving these practices as assemblies of vegetation and crops, technology and other non-human actors next to a variety of human individuals and peoples that lay claims over wetlands in different ways. Contestations over wetlands ultimately reflect processes of colonization and decolonization, having roots in European conquest, the Transatlantic trade of enslaved people and plantation agriculture. Wetlands also inhibit contested ideas of food production and therewith provide prominent examples for debates over food security versus food sovereignty. Histories of contested wetlands speak to current restoration policies that emphasize non-human ecologies by prioritizing wetlands for biodiversity conservation and carbon-sink environments. Papers in this session emphasize historical trajectories of contested access and rights, with implications to the commoditization of land, extractivism and dismantling of wetland-based livelihoods.</p>

## The Frisian peat landscape: a history of wetland transformation for the common good

**Mark Raat** University of Groningen, Netherlands

The Frisian low bog area (Dutch: Veenweidegebied) has a history of many landscape transformations. People have cultivated the land, created polders, extracted peat and reclaimed peat ponds. One continuity in this centuries-long history has been the ambition to make and keep the soil dry. However, this year-round cultivation poses major environmental challenges, mainly due to land subsidence. To slow down this process, the Friesian authorities have decided to gradually raise the water level. However, this will have a major impact on the agricultural sector. Farmers feel that their livelihoods are threatened. Larger issues, such as the Dutch debate on nitrogen reduction, are also at stake. As the Frisians re-discuss the future of the peatlands, lessons could be learned from history. An analysis of the political process that preceded earlier landscape transformations shows that, as early as the seventeenth century, the Frisian administration aimed its legislation at the most beneficial use of wetlands. It is only recently that the province has broken with this centuries-old tradition. However, policymakers have paid little attention to this cultural break. The debate is highly technocratic. A historical perspective offers new insights into how previous generations dealt with major changes to their existing wetland environment.

## Wetlands, rice and migrants: a history of colonial violence and resistance in Portugal

**Elisa Lopes da Silva** NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

Rice cultivation in Portugal has been placed by historians in the global circulation of seeds, people and technologies. From the 1930s onwards, it grew exponentially thanks to a combination of new techno-nature arrangements introduced by the Sado and Sorraia dams and the regulation of the course of the Tagus. Once the spread of malaria was under control, political restrictions imposed by the New State on rice cultivation were lifted. These agricultural production zones required intensive labour, with monotonous, violent tasks carried out by migrants who seasonally flocked to the rice fields. Seasonal migrants were estimated to number between 70,000 and 100,000 people in 1955. They were often regarded as a 'nomadic' population, living in a 'savage' manner and treated as 'slaves'. At the same time, these new ecologies were seen in state discourse as spaces of 'adventurism' for migrants.

This paper examines rice wetlands in 1950s Portugal as spaces of colonisation and resistance. I propose to read the history of rice paddies from different axes that connect cultures, labour, migration, water and violence. How did a new ecology of water and rice provide a colonial territory of violence and escape in 1950s Portugal?

## Artificial meadows and dry wetlands: a spatial analysis of the drainage, transformation and recovery of wetlands affected by Franco's colonisation in A Chaira

**Antonio Giráldez López** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

The Cospeito wetland (Lugo, Spain), until the 1960s, covered an area of 70 hectares. Its surface was affected by a profound territorial transformation carried out by the Instituto Nacional de Colonización (National Colonisation Institute) to convert it into land for cattle fodder and crops until it was completely drained. Reforestation for crop protection by changing wind patterns, changes in watercourses or the substitution of animal and plant species were, among others, some of the traumatic territorial transformations with the aim of generating a climate conducive to greater soil productivity through artificial grasslands. Barely three decades after its disappearance, a process of recovery began to reach the current 5 hectares.

The article will focus on this case study through a forensic analysis using the available archival resources, as well as interviews with experts in different areas as an approach to a spatial analysis that takes into account the complexity of the wetland. Based on this, a cartographic model sensitive to the recent history of the site is drawn up to record the evolution, transformations and impact of the human and non-human communities that inhabit (and have inhabited) it but also the technical logics that colonization deployed to transform it.

## Societal discourses and the transformation of the Western-Havelland wetlands, Germany

**Astrid Artner-Nehls & Sandra Uthes** Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany

This contribution examines the evolution of the Western-Havelland nature park (Germany) as a contested space, linking its transformation to societal discourses and the contested use of wetlands. Shaped by high groundwater levels and flooding from the river Havel, the area historically supported small-scale agriculture with high biodiversity. In the 18th and 19th centuries, land meliorations reshaped the landscape into productive agricultural zones, reflecting discourses of control over nature and economic modernization. During the GDR era (1949-1990), socialist collectivization intensified these transformations. Small, hedgerow-lined fields were replaced by large production units, wetlands were drained, and fertilizers and pesticides introduced, favoring monocultures like temporary grass and grains. By the 1980s, ecological degradation grew, paralleling discourses of environmental crisis and awareness, emphasizing habitat loss in drained floodplains. Since Germany's reunification in 1990, two contrasting forces have shaped the landscape: protected floodplains have been governed by conservation laws emphasizing biodiversity, while surrounding areas remained dominated by cash crops, creating contrasting developments and tensions in transition areas. Drawing on primary and secondary literature we examine historical trajectories of wetland use and their embedding in societal discourses, highlighting their resonance with contemporary restoration policies focused on biodiversity conservation and sustainable land use.

[Room **Gama Barros**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### 3.12. Politics, practices and epistemes: the rural in scientific ways of making society

ORGANISERS **Dietlind Hüchtker &  
Friedrich Cain** University  
of Vienna, Austria

MODERATOR **Margareth Lanzinger**  
University of Vienna, Austria

The reporting on the latest farmers' protests in various places in Europe is indicative. Farmers are said to be overwhelmed, insufficiently informed, in short, passive objects of intellectual (i.e. urban) politics. Implicitly, different knowledge bubbles are also constructed – the climate knowledge of an urban elite collides with the economic and business knowledge of rural farms.

The panel aims to take the political constellation of knowledge cultures more seriously. Instead of assuming given collectives with divergent knowledge cultures, the panel will deconstruct the specific connections between political epistemes and knowledge-generating practices and analyse their polarizing consequences. Inspired by Anna Tsing's following the mushroom and Michel Callon's sociology of translation, but also by an approach that represents the reciprocity of knowledge cultures, the question is asked as to how the rural appears in scientific research and how the "research object" unfolds its power of influence. How did grain influence research? What say did rural youth have?

On this basis, the panel will discuss the political implications of these encounters. In which social constellations are which knowledge cultures emphasized, which power relations are mobilized? The panel is dedicated to Eastern and Central Europe in a transregional understanding and sees this as an opportunity to rethink the claim to universality of the history of science and at the same time to question the conception of the rural as specific.

### Crop, chemicals, and creativity. developing socialist innovation research in the GDR, 1970s

**Friedrich Cain** Vienna University,  
Austria

Between 1972 and 1976, the production of winter rye in the German Democratic Republic rose significantly. The increase was attributed to Camposan, a fertilizer developed by leading agricultural institutes of the country. For some years, Camposan received a wide press coverage, claiming a central position in narratives on the success of East German agriculture. In 1976, the research consortium received the National Price for Science and Technology for "developing and implementing a procedure for the production of a plant growth regulator".

Two years later, the chemical became the focal point of an innovation research study. At the Academy of Sciences, Camposan was studied and theorized as a successful research and transfer process. The long-term goals were to formulate recommendations for more efficient links between research and production, and to develop an innovative method within Socialist science studies. For the latter, the authors of this meta-study sought to interview the former researchers to reconstruct the actual creative process of invention.

Based on an overview on a wide range of materials, the paper maps out the network that, linking very different material, social and discursive elements, not only brought Camposan into existence but also changed the outlook of acres, laboratories and very heterogeneous methodologies.

## The voice of the object: studies on rural youth in socialist Poland in a European perspective

**Dietlind Hüchtker** Vienna University, Austria

Research on rural society played an important role in the agrarian People's Republic of Poland. Precisely because progress and a socialist society were linked to the city and to industry, it was important to include the countryside and explore the opportunities for development. Young people were a central factor as they represented the future. At the same time, since the emergence of the hooligans in the 1950ies and 1960ies, research on European or global youth culture offered a starting point for Polish sociology which had been forbidden under Stalinism.

Against this background, the article examines sociological studies on rural youth in socialist Poland and the voices of the young research "objects". Taking up the suggestions of reciprocal knowledge, it will ask how knowledge about rurality and youth is produced in these studies and how the different knowledge cultures relate to each other. How do the actors' languages and ideas change?

## Psychologising development: Durganand Sinha, the crisis of community development, and the modernisation of the rural mindset in India, c. 1950-1970

**Clemens Six** University of Groningen, Netherlands

This paper analyses how psychological frameworks and methods shaped rural development in India after independence in 1947. In the context of the Community Development Programme and its growing criticism in the late 1950s and early 1960s, psychologists claimed to offer a vital contribution to define, understand, and alter the mindset of people outside the cities. Because hopes for comprehensive social and mental reform remained unfulfilled, psychologists around Durganand Sinha introduced their expertise into rural planning. This reflected an international trend facilitated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and UNESCO to grant the social sciences a more prominent role in rural development.

The paper makes three arguments: the evolution of rural developmentalism was not (only) driven by international organisations but centrally by local intellectual circles and their institutional and personal interests; engineering the rural mindset was an important, but so far unacknowledged, step towards the 'indigenisation' of psychology in India since the 1970s; and the role of psychology in rural development is an opportunity to understand better how the social sciences acquired their important role in state policies in the global south after 1945 beyond models of intellectual diffusionism.

## Designing cattle: images of knowledge between peasants and academics

**Jan Surman** Masaryk Institute and Archives of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia

Since the late 19th century cattle knowledge in Central Europe circulated within a network of peasants, professional breeders, and increasingly academicized animal husbandry scholars. To fulfil the political prescribed objective of establishing regionally dominant breeds, the local cattle were (re-)designed. While historians describe it as academicization of breeding, it was based on pre-existing knowledge held by peasant breeders and measurements they were taking. The network between peasants and professional breeders was based on trust and a conviction that the circulation of

knowledge was beneficial to all parties involved. This necessitated a consensus regarding the definition of breeding practices and, consequently, the “images of knowledge” (Yehuda Elkana) – the norms and values of knowledge these practices based on. In this presentation, I will examine the period 1890-1939 and contend that the calibration of networks essential for designing Central European cattle depended on both the transfer of knowledge and a shared understanding of “images of knowledge.” The formation of shared images did not entail the imposition of academic norms, as such an approach would have resulted in the marginalization of effective local breeding practices. Instead, it was a process of co-production, where authority and expertise intersected and frequently underwent a dynamic shift.

10h30 – 11h  
**COFFEE BREAK**



*Returning from work at Quinta da Caneca, Fundão, 1958, Fernando Taborda, National Library of Portugal*

## Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 11h00 – 13h00 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 4**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>4.1. Environment, health and disease: perceptions and problem-solving in rural and agricultural communities 1</b> Karen-Beth Scholthof, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Jeannie Whayne	4.1.1. "A wild and sickly country": Italian immigrants and the malarial fevers at Sunnyside plantation in Arkansas Jeannie Whayne	4.1.2. "In the interest of the health conservation of the American Negro:" National Negro Health week activist praxis in rural southern black communities Cherisse Jones-Branch	4.1.3. Plant pathogen, poison, and medicine: ergot as a boundary object in exploring disease and health Karen-Beth Scholthof	4.1.4. "Staub ist gift!" negotiating a healthy cattle barn environment in Switzerland during the 1950s Sara Müller		Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>4.2. Women and economic activity in rural communities: new perspectives and methodologies 2</b> Beatrice Moring, Beatrice Zucca, Micheletto	4.2.1. Work, family and mobility in rural regions of early modern Piedmont Beatrice Zucca, Micheletto	4.2.2. Women and economic activities in early modern Japanese rural society: new ways of using genealogical data in Kamishiojiri Village, Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture Motoyasu Takahashi	4.2.3. Carrying clover for Oxen: women's labor in an intensive livestock exporting smallholder economy in Central Germany, ca. 1700-1850 Jadon Nisly-Goretzki			Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>4.3. Access to credit and social change in rural Southern Europe (18th and 19th centuries): new insights</b> Enric Saguer, Ricard Garcia-Orallo, Marco Antonio Álvarez Sánchez	4.3.1. "Livello" in Early Modern Venetian Istria: a vector of pauperization or also of social change? Borut Žerjal	4.3.2. From the annuity to the obligation: private credit and social change in the final stage of the Ancien Regime (Catalonia, 1768-1840) Sebastià Villalón Barragán	4.3.3. More indebted, but more owners: the interlocking of land and credit markets (Girona, 1768-1800) Rosa Congost, Enric Saguer, Ricard Garcia-Orallo	4.3.4. Costs and barriers to rural property rights formalization (Spain, 1845-1932) Juan Carmona, Joan R. Rosès	4.3.5. Notaries as lenders, A Fonsagrada (NW Spain), 1845-1875 Marco Antonio Álvarez Sánchez	TP1, 4th floor
<b>4.4. Methods, sources and approaches in the study of the history of cattle 2</b> Bárbara Direito, Leonardo Aboim Pires, Inês Gomes, Marta Nunes Silva	4.4.1. Estimating cattle weights through 17th and 18th century meat tax records in Austrian Habsburg Duchies of Carniola and Styria Tadej Pavković	4.4.2. Cattle, architecture, and the Bureau of Animal Industry: Institutional documents for the production and dissemination of a new model of dairy farm (1884-1910) Nathan Brenu, Sofia Nannini	4.4.3. Regulation of cattle pasture in the Kingdom of Prussia in the late XVIII and early XIX century Franciszek Ignacy Fortuna	4.4.4. This little cow went to market': unveiling Portugal's modern history of cattle through farmers' markets and agricultural fairs Bárbara Direito, Inês Gomes, Leonardo Aboim Pires, Marta Nunes Silva		Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>4.5. Access to land, social practices, and institutional hybridizations in two hemispheres 1</b> José-Miguel Lana Berasain, Marta Martín Gabaldón, Manoela Pedroza	4.5.1. One hundred years of milpas: a Mexican agrobiodiversity history Marta Astier, Quetzalcóatl Orozco-Ramírez	4.5.2. Access to municipal land in colonial Brazil: the case of Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas Bernardo Mayer Florentino	4.5.3. Para dar execucion y cumplimiento a la dicha capitulacion y concordia: shaping and transformation of the livestock farming spaces in the royal lands of the Aragonese Extremadura (12th-17th centuries) Lidia C. Allué-Andrés	4.5.4. The Torrens System in early Republican Brazil Caio Gomes da Costa		Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>4.6. Understanding contemporary rural energy transitions between decarbonization strategies and localized rural changes 1</b> Francesca Uleri, Federica Viganò, Monica Musolino	4.6.1. Democracy in the energy transition? Local resistance and the failure of democratic decision-making in building Europe's largest biomethane plant Astrid Artner-Nehls, Sandra Uthes	4.6.2. Questioning energy prosumerism in poor rural areas Dario Minervini, Ivano Scotti	4.6.3. Governing wind energy with wide public acceptance: rural transformation and energy transition in Northern Spain, 1990s-2025 Joseba De la Torre, Mar Rubio-Varas			Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>4.7. The rural built environment. Histories between architecture and agriculture 1</b> Pedro Namorado Borges, Samuel T. Brandt, Attila Gábor Hunyadi	4.7.1. The evolution of the spatial relationship between housing and farms in rural France: an historical approach shedding light on current issues Alessandra Miglio	4.7.2. The promise of architecture: infrastructure and alternative modernity in the Francoist colonisation of Terra Chá Antonio Giráldez López	4.7.3. The architecture of cooperative buildings in pre-war Transylvania compared to interwar Romania Attila Gabor Hunyadi	4.7.4. Protecting Rural Heritage: risk assessment and conservation strategies in the Lower Brescia Plains Francesca Tanghetti, Carlotta Coccoli	4.7.5. Between ideal and real: two model villages in Romania Emilia Țugui	Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor
<b>4.8. Food wastage in common agricultural policy: rationales, criticisms and coping strategies over time</b> Laura Prosperi, Andrea Maria Locatelli, Paolo Tedeschi	4.8.1. The dynamic and profitable side of institutional food wastage: the case of the Common Agricultural Policy Laura Prosperi	4.8.2. Waste and economic crisis in the Common Agricultural Policy after the oil shock: green currencies and monetary compensatory amounts Paolo Tedeschi	4.8.3. CAP, production and consumption between the 1960s and 1980s Andrea Maria Locatelli			TP2, 4th floor
<b>4.9. Farm accounts in rural Europe (c. 1700-1914): to better know one's own? 2</b> Nathalie Joly, Federico D'Onofrio	4.9.1. Farm accounts or unexpired improvements? or 'tenant right' in nineteenth-century England Richard W. Hoyle	4.9.2. Agricultural accounting in the eighteenth-century Po Valley: models and actual procedures Giulio Ongaro	4.9.3. Farm accounts in rural Europe, c.1700-1914: to better know one's own? An overview and a commentary Nathalie Joly, Federico D'Onofrio, Nadine Vivier			Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>4.10. The spatial mobility of the peasants in the system of serfdom</b> Piotr Guzowski	4.10.1. The mobility of peasants and the rural workforce in the Lower Austrian manorial system (ca. 1500-1700) Marian Niedermayr	4.10.2. The frameworks of peasant-migration in the medieval Hungarian kingdom Gulyás László Szabolcs	4.10.3. The mobilization and immobilization of labour under the serfdom system Radosław Poniak, Piotr Guzowski	4.10.4. Spatial mobility of rural population on the estate of Česká Kamenice in the early modern period 17th to 18th centuries Veronika Lešková	4.10.5. Classifying peasant mobility under serfdom: the case of Estonia and Livonia, 1600-1800 Marten Seppel	Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>4.11. Water, upland settlement, and memory: multidisciplinary perspectives on rural history in the 20th century</b> Giovanni Agresti, Luis Gomes da Costa, Eltjana Shkreli	4.11.1. Water system in Nikc in one century (Kelmend, Albanian Alps) Eltjana Shkreli	4.11.2. Language, water, and heritage: exploring the role of local identities in sustainable water management and community resilience along the watercourses in the Upper Vomano Valley and the Aterno Valley Silvia Pallini, Renata De Rugeris Juárez	4.11.3. Imagining a third river bank: a case study of history-based artistic research in rural contexts Luís Gomes da Costa	4.11.4. The implementation of dams, the transformation of space, the dispossession of local communities and the death of places (topocide): examples from Portugal João Luís J. Fernandes	4.11.5. Post-German swimming pools in the Owl Mountains: oral histories, cultural heritage, and community memory in rural Poland Maciej Adam Kierzkowski, Magdalena Masewicz-Kierzkowska	Sala 3, 3rd floor

# Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

11h – 13h

## PARALLEL SESSIONS 4

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### 4.1. Environment, health and disease: perceptions and problem- solving in rural and agricultural communities 1

ORGANISERS **Karen-Beth Scholdthof** Texas A&M University, United States of America, **Cherisse Jones-Branch** Arkansas State University, United States of America, **Jeannie Whayne** University of Arkansas, United States of America

DISCUSSANT & MODERATOR **Debra A. Reid** The Henry Ford, United States of America

The role of the environment in understanding health or disease outcomes in rural and agricultural communities can be enriched with a particular focus on historical case studies that reveal the influence of science or scientific thinking on outcomes. This has relevance today in showing that problem-solving is the nature of the human experience. Increasing concerns about the role of the environment in climate change, health outcomes, and social justice, has coincided with a public suspicion about the process and utility of science and the humanities. We are intrigued by the possibility of bringing together tools of humanists and scientists to understand and contextualize how humankind has and does problem-solve and persist through times of crisis.

Through a series of case studies focused on rural and agricultural perceptions about disease/health and the environment, we can evaluate how concerns about the present can be interpreted through known historical outcomes. “One Health” is the term used to frame the complexity of the interactions between the environment, plants/crops, humans, and animals (wild and domestic), that drive disease/illness outcomes (K-BG Scholthof. 2024. Annual Review of Phytopathology, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-phyto-121423-042102>). One Health-related environmental conditions include parameters that such as socioeconomic status, race and gender, and the physical/geographic climate (e.g., water quality, weather).

In the late nineteenth century, a seminal advance was germ theory – the determination that many illnesses could be attributed to infections by microbes. In rural and agricultural communities, this knowledge was of key importance in beginning to understand how human, animal, and plant disease was predicated on environmental conditions that were permissive for microbial infection. We are interested in broad questions about how rural people interpreted and acted on their local environment, with a focus on health and disease. Studying the co-dependence of humans, animals and/or plants on local environmental vagaries can be used to historically document what precipitated or resolved disease processes. Our intent in this panel is to 1) more broadly interpret historical health threats in rural areas being attentive to a One Health framework; and 2) to suggest the utility of these historical interpretations to understand and

	<p>comment on existential health threats today considering current environments (such as built and lived environment, climate change, social justice, and ongoing interactions between humans, animals, and plants).</p>
<p><b>“A wild and sickly country”: Italian immigrants and the malarial fevers at Sunnyside plantation in Arkansas</b></p> <p><b>Jeannie Whayne</b> University of Arkansas, United States of America</p>	<p>In 1895, one-hundred and twenty-three Italian immigrants – men, women, and children -- arrived at Sunnyside Plantation in Chicot County, Arkansas, with expectations of land ownership and a prosperous future. They had believed the blandishments of the labor agents who recruited them with promises of a healthful and bountiful country. When they reached the plantation, they found something quite different. The rough cabins at Sunnyside were not screened and instead of artesian wells, they had to depend upon the brackish Lake Chicot. Their contracts required them to work off their passage, first by working temporary jobs until their first crop came to fruition. There were no temporary jobs, however, and they were soon too ill to work in any case. Nearly half of them perished of disease in the first year and instead of prosperity, they found peonage. Their appeal to their national government eventually led to a lengthy investigation that exposed the exploitative post-Civil War plantation system to national and international scrutiny.</p>
<p><b>“In the interest of the health conservation of the American Negro:” National Negro Health week activist praxis in rural southern black communities</b></p> <p><b>Cherisse Jones-Branch</b> Arkansas State University, United States of America</p>	<p>National Negro Health Week was established in 1915 by Tuskegee Institute founder Booker T. Washington. Supported by state and local health departments and voluntary organizations, it later became a national program, a necessity at a time when many African Americans residing in rural communities were deeply impoverished, lacked equitable economic opportunity, and endured racism and discrimination. As a result of this, health care was often unavailable, sanitation was abysmal, and housing and food insecurity was rampant. These factors, in tandem, resulted in disproportionately higher rates of illness and death among African Americans. National Negro Health Week was observed yearly to increase awareness and address health disparities among Black agriculturalists. National Negro Health Week was further an activist praxis that informed rural Black communities’ ongoing health advocacy well after it ended in 1951.</p>
<p><b>Plant pathogen, poison, and medicine: ergot as a boundary object in exploring disease and health</b></p> <p><b>Karen-Beth Scholthof</b> Texas A&amp;M University, United States of America</p>	<p>Ergot, the result of the fungus <i>Claviceps purpurea</i> infecting rye, wheat and other small grains, reduces crop yields. By the early twentieth century, plant pathologists were assiduously working to control this pathogen. Reducing the incidence of ergot in the field had another crucial purpose for the miller and baker: this fungus was a feared poison. Ergot poisoning caused gangrene of the extremities and hallucinations humans. Yet ergot was more than a plant pathogen and a human poison – it had a</p>

	<p>long history as a medicine, used by midwives in Europe for centuries, then by physicians in the USA by the 1810s. In the early twentieth-century, ergot as a drug was studied and commodified by the pharmaceutical industry, to produce medicines to control hemorrhage, and to treat migraine headache. The commercialization of ergot as a medicine, resulted in American plant pathologists working to cultivate the fungus in the field and the laboratory. As a boundary object, ergot—being feared as a poison and cultivated as a medicine—provides a framework to define the broad implications of the environment within One Health, towards understanding the rural, agricultural, social, economic, and scientific meaning of disease and health.</p>
<p><b>“Staub ist gift!” negotiating a healthy cattle barn environment in Switzerland during the 1950s</b></p> <p><b>Sara Müller</b> University of Zurich, Switzerland</p>	<p>What is a healthy environment? This is a question that not only concerns present day policymakers, but also sparked discussions among cattle farmers in rural Switzerland during the 1950s. In the debates about the so called “Offenstall”, which loosely translates as fresh air or open stable, rural actors evaluated the importance of fresh air for animal health. Drawing on a “More-than-One-Health” approach put forward by Irus Braverman et al. (2023), this paper aims to trace these debates, identifying key issues and actors while centering the empirical knowledge surrounding animal health. It plans to do so on a broad source base consisting of agricultural and veterinary journals as well as archival material from research farms owned by industrial companies. By analysing the section “Sprechsaal” in the Swiss Agricultural Journal, where farmers could send in their questions and give each other advice, I seek to map everyday practices and concepts of health in rural Switzerland.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Anfiteatro III</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>4.2. Women and economic activity in rural communities: new perspectives and methodologies 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Beatrice Moring</b> University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and University of Helsinki, Finland, <b>Beatrice Zucca Micheletto</b> University of Turin, Italy</p> <p><u>MODERATOR &amp; DISCUSSANT</u> <b>Beatrice Moring</b> University of Cambridge, United Kingdom and University of Helsinki, Finland</p>	<p>In a recent article Stefano Fenoaltea has highlighted a set of shortcomings in the field of economic history. He particularly deplores the mechanical use of GDP and statistical data collection systems that were generated for a specific purpose at a specific time, but now have a normative status. He also points out how this type of information use systematically makes for the underrepresentation of female work.</p> <p>In pre-industrial time the family was generally viewed as a production unit with the male household head as the representative in society, but with the expectation that all household members participated in the activity. Therefore, locating economic statistics revealing information about female economic engagement can be difficult.</p> <p>If we look at censuses and the series of economic statistics, we find a certain amount of differences between females in registered employment in Europe. One reason is the variation in registration and age barriers. Another, changes introduced for the definition of work and occupation. The definition of occupation was in most cases permanent work outside the home. The nature of the agricultural enterprises also varied considerably.</p>

## Work, family and mobility in rural regions of early modern Piedmont

**Beatrice Zucca Micheletto**  
University of Turin, Italy

Certain regions had moved towards ever larger arable units, while others still remained firmly part of a system of family farms with mixed economic activities. In places where the family retained its position as a productive unit, women were indeed working, but the view that the male household head and agricultural servants were the only productive persons resulted in the statistics not recognising female family members as economically active.

It is the aim of this session to explore new data and examine existing ones to penetrate the issue of female economic activity in rural societies of the past. To examine engagement in various activities like textile work as well as traditional farming pursuits to determine the value and importance of female work.

The aim of this paper is to study the gender division of labour in early modern rural Italy by focusing on a range of medium and small size rural and mountain communities of Piedmont – the Biellese region and the Valsesia valley (part of the Duchy of Savoy during the eighteenth-century). The research engages with the international debate about the “little divergence” and the European Marriage Pattern. According to the literature, the life-cycle servanthood was one of the most important factor of the rapid economic growth of Northern Europe countries during the early modern age. On the contrary, the low rate of life-cycle servanthood and the low female participation rates in the labour market of Southern European countries, included Italy, are considered at the base of their slow and delayed industrialization process. This paper will discuss the reliability of this narrative by presenting findings about the occupational structure and the household’s structure of Piedmontese rural communities; it will inquire about the (eventual) sexual division of labour and show the economic activities performed by each member of the family, including women and children. Furthermore the paper will reconsider the role of the protoindustry and of the domestic service.

## Women and economic activities in early modern Japanese rural society: new ways of using genealogical data in Kamishiojiri Village, Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture

**Motoyasu Takahashi** Ehime  
University, Japan

In Kamishiojiri Village, Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture, the silkworm industry flourished in the early modern period, especially from the 18th century onwards, and by the end of the Edo period it had become one of the Meccas of the silkworm industry in Japan. The silkworm industry was basically a domestic or household industry, and the labour in it was mainly carried out by women, as well as the specific details of the work, is known from both historical documents and interviews. On the other hand, as in many other parts of the world, women were restricted from public appearances, as is also the case in the village administration documents in Kamishiojiri. However, with the rapid development of digital humanities technology, particularly AI, in recent years, it has become possible to read and analyse large quantities of previously untouched historical documents using OCR archives. In this paper, genealogical information with abundant data on women in particular is superimposed on

<p><b>Carrying clover for Oxen: women's labor in an intensive livestock exporting smallholder economy in Central Germany, ca. 1700-1850</b></p> <p><b>Jadon Nisly-Goretzki</b> University of Kassel, Germany</p>	<p>existing historical data on social, economic and financial organisations, and reappraised from the perspective of women's economic activities.</p> <p>In recent years, several prominent projects have made use of incidental or indirect mentions of women's work, primarily in court cases. This includes early modern England (Whittle 2024), Sweden (Ågren 2017), and a German territory (Ogilvie 2003). Court cases were used similarly in classic village-level German microhistories as well (Sabeian 1990). My project applies this method to a much more circumscribed area than an entire country, while still looking beyond a single village. Instead of a single political unit, I chose an ecological and economic area: a river valley famed for rich meadows and exports of trained draft oxen. This allows the comparison of various territories of both confessions. It was dominated by partible inheritance and thus smallholders, and is one of the earliest records of intensive clover cultivation in Germany, work generally done by women. I use a remarkable series of village council meeting records beginning around 1720, as well as court records. By combining the labor activities recorded there, with the social context derived from classic sources like inventories, marriage or retirement contracts, I hope to begin to trace what role women's labor played in this specific context of smallholder intensification.</p>
<p>[Room <b>TP1</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>4.3. Access to credit and social change in rural Southern Europe (18th and 19th centuries): new insights</b></p> <p><b>ORGANISERS</b> <b>Enric Saguer</b> University of Girona, Spain, <b>Ricard Garcia-Orallo</b> University of Barcelona, Spain, <b>Marco Antonio Álvarez Sánchez</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p> <p><b>MODERATOR</b> <b>Jordi Planas</b> University of Barcelona, Spain</p>	<p>The study of credit markets in the rural world of the 18th and 19th centuries has generally been approached from the perspective of linking indebtedness with impoverishment and dispossession. Access to credit, especially for the poor, has been viewed as a sign of precariousness and economic hardship, often associated with disruptions in the family life cycle or recurring poor harvests. Obtaining credit, then, could signal the beginning of a spiral of debts, leading to foreclosures, insolvencies, or forced sales. Additionally, the difficulties faced by poorer social sectors in accessing the credit market have been emphasised, as they generally lacked mortgageable assets. Thus, they were often condemned to usurious credit, characterised by high interest rates and predatory terms.</p> <p>While not denying the impact of these factors on the least favoured groups, this session aims to present works based on a different perspective, suggesting that part of the credit market, even in preindustrial societies, could be linked to long-term investment strategies intended to improve the wealth of indebted families. This hypothesis opens the door to a more complex scenario in which, under certain circumstances, even social sectors with limited resources could benefit from the flow of credit to acquire land and improve their stock of production factors.</p> <p>From a bottom-up approach, which highlights the active role of households in the economic transformations experienced in certain areas of 18th- and</p>

	<p>19th-century Europe, the papers presented in this session will seek to underscore the importance of access to credit in phenomena such as the rise of social groups from near-poverty or the waves of land purchases by peasants and smallholders - often related to cycles of productive specialisation - observed in various areas, as well as to reveal the agents and institutional mechanisms that facilitated the circulation of credit.</p>
<p><b>“Livello” in Early Modern Venetian Istria: a vector of pauperization or also of social change?</b></p> <p><b>Borut Žerjal</b> University of Primorska, Slovenia</p>	<p>As a specific form of mortgage credit, the use of livello became very common in the Republic of Venice during Early Modern period. Its spread in rural areas has been linked to a process of accumulation of land by a small group of landowners and the consequent pauperization of the peasant population. However, livello was used also by peasants to gain access to more land to cultivate, which would indicate an economic strategy of expansion. For landowners, it represented a useful means of making use of uncultivated land. As a form of credit, livello allowed the landowners to also finance the investments necessary for the recultivation of the land in question. I will draw on a number of different sources, both private and public, to measure the presence and the rate of success of schemes combining crediting through livello and land recultivation in Istria under Venetian rule in the 17th and 18th centuries. This will allow us to put the hypothesis that livello could present a vector of social change to a test.</p>
<p><b>From the annuity to the obligation: private credit and social change in the final stage of the Ancien Regime (Catalonia, 1768-1840)</b></p> <p><b>Sebastià Villalón Barragán</b> University of Girona, Spain</p>	<p>The objective of this communication is to present causes and consequences of substituting annuity for obligation in the final period of the Ancien Regime in Catalonia (1768-1840), affording special attention to the regions of Barcelona and of Girona, given that they represent two contrasting socioeconomic models. Business persons and dealers groups will become the main actors of the 19th century, but their role as creditors in the obligations market will remain far from the level of specialisation achieved by the Church in the past by means of the annuity, and the menestrals (small property owners) in the Girona region and certain artisan groups from Barcelona, associated with industrialization, would also show great dynamism in credit markets. Finally, it will be shown how this new period that had already started at the end of the 18th century, was outlined by increasingly more bilateral credit interchanges, capital markets more fragmented and financial practices becoming more informal. And so then, the liberal state and the transition to capitalism were erected on the terms of credit contracts theoretically more usurious, such as the obligations or the sales with a period of grace, and a reduced mortgage credit market in respect of the previous century.</p>

## More indebted, but more owners: the interlocking of land and credit markets (Girona, 1768-1800)

**Rosa Congost & Enric Saguer**  
University of Girona, Spain, **Ricard Garcia-Orallo** University of Barcelona, Spain

The purpose of this paper is to analyse three issues. First, to what extent access to the purchase of land and real estate in the mortgage district of Girona during the second half of the 18th century was accompanied by processes of indebtedness that facilitated access to property. Secondly, whether this indebtedness took the form of new credit or was resolved through the endorsement (encarregament) of old debts maintained as annuities (censals). And finally, to what extent this form of debt transfer facilitated, in some sense, access to land for the humblest groups of Catalan society, especially those labelled as treballadors (literally workers) in the Girona region. For this purpose, we will use the books of the Mortgage Office of the Girona district, which have been automatically transcribed through a handwritten text recognition process.

## Costs and barriers to rural property rights formalization (Spain, 1845-1932)

**Juan Carmona** University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain, **Joan R. Rosès** London School of Economics, United Kingdom

This proposal addresses Spain's land registration system from 1845-1932 to understand how property rights institutions affect market functioning, particularly in rural areas. Spain presents an interesting case study because it established a centralized registry system in 1861 but lacked a centralized cadastre until the 20th century, similar to many developing countries today.

The research investigates the long-term evolution of costs associated with the registration system, distinguishing between registry operational costs and fiscal charges. Using documents from the Gaceta de Madrid, Ministry of Justice transaction data, registrars' reports, and notarial contracts, the study analyzes various cost components including notarial fees, registry fees, judicial tariffs, and stamp duties.

The system faced several challenges: high costs, poor continuity, limited participation from smallholders, and widespread asset concealment for tax evasion. The study examines how these issues affected different types of transactions (ownership registration, sales, inheritances, mortgages) and their impact on smallholders access to credit and land ownership and inequality. The research aims to determine whether the lack of a comprehensive cadastre and the characteristics of the registry system hindered rural land transactions and, consequently, rural economic development.

## Notaries as lenders, A Fonsagrada (NW Spain), 1845-1875

**Marco Antonio Álvarez Sánchez** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

It has now for a while become self-evident that the role of notaries is essential to understand credit systems in the study of Early Modern, but specially, of Modern History. Whether as brokers, that is, financial advisors, or 'simply' as agents with privileged information in highly asymmetric situations. Not least important is, however, their position as part of the local elites. A position reinforced, in rural contexts characterized by a low degree of monetarization of exchanges, by the fact that they represent a source of cash liquidity. All of this combined tend to make notaries participants in the credit market (among others, like the land market), not standing up due to their

	<p>lack of numbers in comparison to other groups, but not least relevant because of that. This papers studies the role of notaries in the credit market of a mountain village in northwestern Spain (Fonsagrada) during the first 25 years of firm implantation of the liberal State (1845-1875). The study of two notarial offices will allow to glance into their activity as lenders, always compared and situated within the whole formal credit market, analyzed through all of its public contracts.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 2</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>4.4. Methods, sources and approaches in the study of the history of cattle 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Bárbara Direito</b> University of Lisbon and NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal, <b>Leonardo Aboim Pires</b> University of Lisbon, Portugal, <b>Inês Gomes</b> <b>&amp; Marta Nunes Silva</b> NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Bárbara Direito</b> University of Lisbon and NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal</p>	<p>Cattle has long been a subject of interest for rural historians and for many scholars working in other sub-fields of history, such as economic and social history, environmental history, animal history, food history or the history of science. It has also garnered attention from anthropology and sociology, as well as philosophy. Working from these vantage points and often adopting multidisciplinary perspectives, scholars have engaged different methods, sources and approaches to investigate issues of production, consumption, human-animal relations, agency, health or trade, among others. Informed by the environmental turn in the humanities and social sciences, many studies have drawn heavily on sources from the natural sciences, while the animal turn has favoured the use of multispecies ethnography and animal biography. In turn, cultural historians have continued to examine literary works and other written or visual sources to understand past human-animal relations, increasingly looking at animals in their own right. Proposed by members of the recently funded project titled "Cattle in motion: Knowledge, circulation and environments in the history of cattle in Portugal, 1750-1960", this panel aims to interrogate these different methods, sources and approaches. It welcomes contributions that discuss methods, sources and approaches used to study cattle in specific time periods and geographies, as well as theoretical contributions.</p>
<p><b>Estimating cattle weights through 17th and 18th century meat tax records in Austrian Habsburg Duchies of Carniola and Styria</b></p> <p><b>Tadej Pavković</b> University of Ljubljana, Slovenia</p>	<p>The sizes and weights of cattle have evolved significantly throughout history, shaping both the environmental footprint and economic output of cattle herding. However, data on cattle sizes prior to the 19th century remains scarce. Tax records from the mid-17th to early 18th centuries in the Austrian Habsburg hereditary lands, based on taxed meat, provide a unique opportunity to estimate live cattle weights and compare sizes across regions. Despite challenges such as differences in measurement units, these records offer valuable insights into cattle husbandry practices on both serf and manorial farms, as well as the economic and environmental impacts of such practices.</p> <p>This paper addresses the methodological challenges of estimating live cattle weights using meat taxation records from the Duchies of Carniola and Styria in the southern Holy Roman Empire. It evaluates zootechnical, historiographic, and zooarchaeological approaches to cattle weight estimation and compares</p>

	<p>taxation data with other sources, such as account books documenting cattle carcass weights. By integrating diverse datasets, this paper presents new conclusions on methodological approaches to reconstructing live cattle weights, contributing to understanding the early modern cattle husbandry.</p>
<p><b>Cattle, architecture, and the Bureau of Animal Industry: Institutional documents for the production and dissemination of a new model of dairy farm (1884–1910)</b></p> <p><b>Nathan Brenu</b> University of Genoa, Italy, <b>Sofia Nannini</b> Polytechnic University of Turin, Italy</p>	<p>In 1884, the Bureau of Animal Industry was established within the US Department of Agriculture, with the aim of preventing the spread of zoonotic diseases in livestock production, especially cattle. This paper investigates the nature and diversity of the documentation produced by the Bureau, ranging from health, technical, and commercial recommendations to the use of architectural plans and photography as educational tools for dairy farmers. The aim is to examine the production of institutional sources from the top down, which allows us to grasp some of the transformations at work in US cattle economy between the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century. The paper sheds light on the active role played by the Bureau of Animal Industry in the production and dissemination of a new industrial model for dairy farms in the years before the First World War.</p>
<p><b>Regulation of cattle pasture in the Kingdom of Prussia in the late XVIII and early XIX century</b></p> <p><b>Franciszek Ignacy Fortuna</b> University of Warsaw, Poland</p>	<p>Legal history is one of the least explored methodological approaches in the study of cattle. I would like to present my perspective on using legal history to examine cattle husbandry in the Kingdom of Prussia during the agrarian reforms of the late 18th and early 19th centuries.</p> <p>The Prussian authorities issued various decrees and ordinances that affected different aspects of cattle farming. Some regulations aimed to control epidemics, while others addressed social issues, such as banning unsupervised grazing or preventing damage caused by foreign travelers. These regulations were also significant in the process of "Bauernbefreiung," which granted peasants land ownership rights. This was because changes in the rural property structure altered the rules for pasture use, impacting the conditions for cattle farming. Peasants, who had lost access to the meadows they once used, faced new challenges in raising their livestock.</p> <p>By analyzing these agrarian laws, this research highlights the social challenges faced by rural communities and the administrative strategies used to manage them. It contributes to broader historiographical discussions on rural governance, human-animal relations, and economic transformations, emphasizing the intersection of legal frameworks and agricultural practices in historical contexts.</p>

## 'This little cow went to market': unveiling Portugal's modern history of cattle through farmers' markets and agricultural fairs

**Bárbara Direito** University of Lisbon and NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal, **Inês Gomes & Marta Nunes Silva** NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal, **Leonardo Aboim Pires** University of Lisbon, Portugal

Farmers' markets and agricultural fairs have long been a subject of interest for economic, rural and urban historians and have elicited imported findings on the history of agricultural development in different regions of the world, as well as on food consumption patterns. They have also been seen as important places of sociability that help understand class dynamics in rural but also increasingly urbanised areas. Livestock, and particularly cattle, have featured prominently in some of the scholarship about markets and fairs.

Proposed by the members of the recently funded project titled "Cattle in motion: Knowledge, circulation and environments in the history of cattle in Portugal, 1750-1960", this paper will look at food markets and fairs as sites to interrogate the history of cattle in modern Portugal. More specifically, it will highlight the different source types generated by these events, such as municipal records of cattle and meat prices, newspaper articles and photographs of animal auctions, to discuss how they advance knowledge about for instance patterns of meat consumption, the industrialisation of cattle production or the development of modern breeding techniques.

[Room **Anfiteatro I**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 4.5. Access to land, social practices, and institutional hybridizations in two hemispheres 1

**ORGANISERS** **José-Miguel Lana Berasain**, Public University of Navarre, Spain, **Marta Martín Gabaldón** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico, **Manoela Pedroza** Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

In recent decades, the social history of property has become a fruitful meeting point for discussing and understanding the social dynamics surrounding the management of natural resources and the distribution of their fruits. Understanding property as a social relationship, the analysis of the alignments of this relationship and the tensions that arise around them allows us to delve into the basic structures of the social order and its dynamics of transformation. The concept of "institutional bricolage" fits well with an approach that emphasizes the centrality of social interactions and popular agency in understanding the historical transformation of land rights. Beyond the literalness of legal codes, we are interested here in analyzing how the everyday practices of social groups contributed to erecting property systems with both exogenous and endogenous components. A relational approach allows for a better understanding of actors' responses to processes of change and their ability to adapt to new circumstances through practices of institutional hybridization in specific contexts with particular balances of power. In this session, we hope to attract research regarding this issue through theoretical and methodological approaches or case studies in different latitudes or times.

## One hundred years of milpas: a Mexican agrobiodiversity history

**Marta Astier & Quetzalcóatl**

**Orozco-Ramírez** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

Milpa is a junction of Mesoamerican 'agricultural representative systems; that is why those systems include maize, alone or associated with other plants and not always cultivated. The origin of milpas is Indigenous agriculture, and from prehispanic times, it's practiced by families on a small scale. This work analyzes the globalization and resistance dynamics affecting milpas from the early XX century to today. We also analyze milpas' socio-environmental functioning during (1) the haciendas' both land concentration and new modern technologies' introduction, (2) the renaissance of the milpas in rural ejidos and communities promoted by the Mexican Revolution and Agrarian Reform, and (3) the reform of the Social Property Law (article 27) impulsed by Salinas de Gortari president. Finally, we present a reflection of actual problems and future perspectives on the food sovereignty search.

## Access to municipal land in colonial Brazil: the case of Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas

**Bernardo Mayer Florentino**

Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

The aim of this paper is to analyze forms of access to council lands in the context of colonial Brazil. Using a bibliography on property rights, genealogies and letters concerning enfiteusis, we will rethink the ownership history of the Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas region, within the territorial patrimony of Rio de Janeiro's city council. In an policy of rapid occupation of the territory of Guanabara Bay, those lands administered by the city councillors were occupied via leases by the city's first residents, some of whom were relatives of portuguese conquerors. The leases in the Lagoa region were used to develop activities linked to the sugar trade, with the construction of sugar mills and sugar cane plantations. But with the decline of the sugar industry in the south of portuguese america, the land was allotted and divided into tenant farms, until the Portuguese Royal family moved to Rio de Janeiro, when the region was granted to the portuguese Crown.

## *Para dar execucion y cumplimiento a la dicha capitulacion y concordia: shaping and transformation of the livestock farming spaces in the royal lands of the Aragonese Extremadura (12th-17th centuries)*

**Lidia C. Allué-Andrés** University of Zaragoza, Spain and University of Toulouse 2 Jean Jaurès, France

The Christian conquest of southern Aragon in the 12th century led to the availability of an extensive territory that was particularly suitable for livestock farming. Due to the growing economic importance of this activity, an increasing number of areas were set aside for livestock farming. They were subject to a series of conditions that meant that not all the inhabitants could have access to them. These spaces, created by the officials of the Comunidades de aldeas, evolved over time, as a result of the conflicts that emerged between the villagers or with the shepherds coming from neighbouring lands.

## The Torrens System in early Republican Brazil

**Caio Gomes da Costa** Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

This paper explores the implementation of the Torrens System in early Republican Brazil (1890–1891) through the lens of the social history of property and institutional bricolage. The introduction of this Australian land registration system was a response to the challenges of post-abolition Brazil, particularly the need to address the issue of free labor and the lack of credibility in land transactions. The transition from a system based on the registration of land transactions to one focused on the creation of land ownership titles was seen by a segment of the political elites as the path to progress. However, other political actors, such as the notarial officers, opposed the proposal and actively resisted it as it has been registered through the newspaper articles. Using the institutional bricolage framework, this paper analyzes how different social and political forces contested and adapted the Torrens System, blending exogenous legal structures with endogenous practices. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of how the system's failures were not merely the result of inefficient governance, but were instead deeply influenced by the everyday practices and agency of local actors within specific power dynamics.

[Room **Sala 4**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 4.6. Understanding contemporary rural energy transitions between decarbonization strategies and localized rural changes 1

ORGANISERS **Francesca Uleri & Federica Viganò** University of Bolzano, Italy, **Monica Musolino** University of Messina, Italy

MODERATOR **Monica Musolino** University of Messina, Italy

DISCUSSANT **Federica Viganò** University of Bolzano, Italy

Currently, in the midst of a progressive and solicited shift towards decarbonization and renewable energy, rural areas are playing a crucial role in guiding this transition. Various rural development projects and contributions highlight the significance of rural areas in fulfilling ambitious local commitments to combat climate change while also generating economic and social benefits. Globally, rural areas provide resources and innumerable sites (e.g., hydroelectric plants, agri-solar farms, etc.) for fueling the transition, thus strongly influencing its local advancements. Similarly, energy transitions have the potential to reshape the physical and social (material/ immaterial) profile of rural areas. Rural places experience direct materializations of a shift to post-carbon technologies. Renewable electricity sites and infrastructures change the appearance and function of the rural, the way in which it is perceived and lived by residents, conceived by local policy-makers, and perceived by non-residents (e.g., rural users, tourists, temporary workers, etc.). This can result in multiple and contrasting energy and rural development decision-making processes, as well as in conflicting residents and non-residents' imaginaries about the rural place and associated energy transition dynamics. This mirrors – but also depends on – the co-productive relationship that binds energy and society. Energy availability, its production and consumption models, determine the types of lifestyles that are possible, symmetrically societal structures and processes (e.g., public policies, community activism, etc.) establish and influence the quality, location, and distribution of energy resources. Despite evident interdependencies between discourses of the evolution of rurality (and rural differentiation) and the ones related to Energy Transitions (ETs), these latter remain overwhelmed by metro-centered narratives and urban sociotechnical analyses.

The analysis of intertwined changing rurality(-ies) and ETs remains markedly limited, and their outcomes almost completely underestimated. Notwithstanding the relevance and incisiveness of the overlap between new energyscapes and the social construction of rurality (in terms of productive vocation, quality of life, local cultural identity and traditions, place attachment, landscape care, etc.), the conceptualization of a “rural energy transition”, is still scarcely mentioned in social research. The session seeks to shed light on the interconnections between ETs and rural change. It presents (i) theoretical frameworks that help to conceptualize and understand contemporary rural energy transitions; (ii) different and “localized” cases of contemporary rural energy transitions in both the global North and global South, that help to understand how new energyscapes are embedded in – and adapted to – specific territories through forms of contestation and emancipation. Particular attention is given to historical and cultural factors influencing the differentiation of new energy landscapes in rural areas. Empirical cases can address the following themes, without being limited to them: ETs and commodification of rural resources; ETs and resignification of wasted lands; Imaginaries of rurality and ETs; Rural ETs and new technologies; Post-productivism and rural economy differentiation: multifunctional agriculture and energy production; Left behind places, ETs and green capitalism; Trajectories of energy democracy in rural areas; ETs and social impacts in rural contexts; Survival or emancipatory initiatives in rural areas and ETs; Path dependency development model in rural areas.

## Democracy in the energy transition? Local resistance and the failure of democratic decision-making in building Europe’s largest biomethane plant

**Astrid Artner-Nehls & Sandra**

**Uthes** Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research, Germany

As part of a national energy transition, the German federal government has financially supported the installation of biogas plants since the 1990s, particularly in areas with high livestock densities. In this contribution, we study the social process around the planned installation of a large-scale biomethane plant in the Oldenburger Münsterland, a livestock-intensive region in the North-West of Germany. Despite widespread opposition, including a citizen initiative and a popular referendum in one of the three affected communities rejecting the project, the plant was finally installed and became operational in 2024. This analysis traces the resistance and implementation of the project, based on newspaper articles, minutes of community council meetings, and other materials. Using Adele Clarke’s Situational Analysis framework, it examines actors, coalitions, and arenas where shared language creates common symbols, meanings and discourses. It considers the historical and cultural factors that shaped the local response to the plant, highlighting how agricultural practices, regional identity, and local political traditions influenced the integration of biogas production into the rural landscape of the Oldenburger Münsterland. The case illustrates the interplay between societal conflicts over the energy transition and local concerns, emphasizing the role (and failure) of discursive negotiations in political decision-making.

## Questioning energy prosumerism in poor rural areas

**Dario Minervini & Ivano Scotti**

University of Naples Federico II, Italy

Energy prosumerism is a proactive model for communities to self-produce, consume, and share energy. In Europe, it often involves energy communities, where local shareholder groups manage decentralized green systems. It is closely linked to energy poverty, aiming to counter exclusion from secure, clean, and affordable energy. Both prosumerism and energy poverty reflect a shared vision of a fair and just transition toward future energy systems. However, these concepts require critical examination, especially when analyzing rural areas in the Global South.

Drawing on data from the Horizon project LoCEL-H2, this contribution explores how prosumerism and energy poverty manifest in specific cultural and material contexts. This involves analyzing “by whom,” “for what,” and “how” prosumerism is implemented. Provisional findings from fieldwork in rural villages in Pakistan, Ivory Coast, and Zambia are discussed. The main argument is that the prosumer model should be critically assessed regarding proactivity and autonomy. Energy poverty does not always imply a lack of choice; instead, “poor” communities exhibit adaptive capabilities through “appropriation” of socio-material innovations.

## Governing wind energy with wide public acceptance: rural transformation and energy transition in Northern Spain, 1990s-2025

**Joseba De la Torre & Mar Rubio-**

**Varas** Public University  
of Navarre, Spain

Located between the Pyrenees and the Ebro Valley, Navarra emerged as a European pioneer in wind energy deployment during the 1990s, offering crucial insights into the co-evolution of rural spaces and energy infrastructure. The study analyzes how a distinctive public-private partnership model, supported by regional government initiatives, facilitated the establishment of 30 wind farms. We argue that the success of this rural energy transition hinged on an innovative governance framework that recognized rural communities as active agents rather than passive hosts of energy infrastructure. Our research reveals how institutional arrangements emerged to anticipate the mediation between multiple stakeholders – residents, political parties, labor unions, and social movements – creating new forms of rural development that combined energy production with traditional land uses. Through fiscal mechanisms and employment initiatives, these arrangements enabled local communities to participate in and benefit from the energy transition while maintaining their cultural identity and attachment to place. This historical case study contributes to understanding how new “energyscapes” become embedded in rural territories through processes of interaction, negotiation and adaptation, offering insights into both successful rural energy transitions and the evolution of rural differentiation in the context of decarbonization.

[Room **Instituto de Paleografia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 4.7. The rural built environment. Histories between architecture and agriculture 1

**ORGANISERS** **Pedro Namorado Borges** University Institute of Lisbon and University of Coimbra, Portugal, **Samuel T. Brandt** University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, **Attila Gábor Hunyadi** Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

**MODERATOR** **Samuel T. Brandt** University of Cambridge, United Kingdom

The rural built environment is testimony to reforms that have sought to modernize the agricultural sector. Some well-documented examples from the developing world include architect Hassan Fathy's experiments in rural Egypt in the 1940s and 1950s (Fathy, 1973), and the ujamaa villages built in 1970s Tanzania during the regime of Julius Nyerere (see: Scott, 1998). A well-studied example in a developed country is Samuel Mockbee's Rural Studio in Alabama, United States of America (see: Oppenheimer Dean and Hursley, 2002). In these cases and others, states and civil society have supported the development of food production, storage, and distribution to consumers through the building and updating of housing and non-housing infrastructure in rural areas. This symposium at EURHO 2025 aims to showcase current research into the architectural traces of rural modernization. It does so through a broad transdisciplinary and international overview, with contributions from various fields (including but not limited to geography, history, and architecture) and on various world regions (including but not limited to Europe and Latin America). As a research topic, the built environment connects not only different disciplines and methods (not least a strong emphasis on the visual), but also brings together the urban and the rural, wealth with poverty, and even the future with the past and present. Architectural history as a component part of global intellectual history also unites strands of thought across political boundaries. Especially in rural areas, it bears elements both of universalism and localism. The prospect of worsening climate change, intensifying migratory movements, increasing food insecurity and diminishing natural resources, makes it pertinent to recover narratives from rural architecture, which have sought to answer questions that remain current. This symposium seeks to contribute to the development of initiatives in line with goals 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11 proposed by the UN in 2024: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, reduced inequalities and sustainable cities and communities. We welcome papers discussing vernacular architecture as well as architecture designed by professional architects. We are also interested in studies of architecture and infrastructure projects connected to different types of rural land use, including, but not limited to agriculture, ranching, and mining. Studies of any historical time period are also welcome, as are papers addressing rural architecture at a variety of scales (from the individual dwelling to transnational).

## The evolution of the spatial relationship between housing and farms in rural France : an historical approach shedding light on current issues

**Alessandra Miglio** National Institute of Agricultural Research, France

Farmers face increasing difficulties in accessing housing in France. When retiring farmers sell their farms, they often sell separately the land to a farmer and the house to a non-farmer, leaving the new farmer with no housing solution. This study explores how the relationship between farmland and farm houses has evolved in the last 80 years, leading to this current issue in France.

Most farmers prefer to live on their land today, but this perception of the relationship between farms and housing is not self-evident : the patterns of localization of farmers' dwellings have varied according to historical periods, regional contexts and farming systems. Societal changes related to the motorization of households, the extension of water networks, the emergence of hygienist thinking and the mechanization of farming equipment have had differentiated impacts depending on the geographical context, sometimes encouraging the dispersal of housing in the countryside and sometimes, on the contrary, grouping it together in villages.

This historical research, focusing on three French regions, will enable us to take better account of territorial specificities in the search for solutions to the agricultural housing problem, encouraging territory-based innovations.

## The promise of architecture: infrastructure and alternative modernity in the Francoist colonisation of Terra Chá

**Antonio Giráldez López** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

The work carried out by the Instituto Nacional de Colonización in Terra Chá (Lugo, Spain) presents a series of singularities that move it away from the model of a compact nucleus governed by the logics of urbanism to a disaggregated model governed by the infrastructural logics of construction of a productive environment. The aim of this article is the elaboration of a spatial analysis of the symbolic and disciplinary role played by civil and domestic architecture within this agricultural infrastructure developed by INC in Terra Chá, understanding the features of alternative modernity present in them and their connection with the political discourses that have shaped them. Taking into account the notion of alternative modernity given by Griffin and the assumption that, from the historiography of architecture, the colonisation settlements are given as the start of a modernity based on the recognition of the popular and craftsmanship, the article explores the constructed reality of colonisation in Terra Chá, taking into account its singularity within the Spanish panorama and its relationship with other previous authoritarian colonisations. Thus, it will look for the material traces that show these features of Franco's architectural modernity and its relationship with the global project of colonisation.

## The architecture of cooperative buildings in pre-war Transylvania compared to interwar Romania

**Attila Gabor Hunyadi** Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

Five historical provinces were reunited inside interwar Romania. Each region brought a pre-existing institutional system, including several cooperative and financial networks. This paper compares the cooperative cultural heritage of these regions, national minorities, and the majority: Swabians, Saxons, Hungarians, and Romanians and other national minorities. Each of these entities developed their cooperative real estate properties. Comparing their specific architectural styles still observable in various places, identifying their architects, I analyze the diverse functions of the complex cooperative built heritage: headquarters, commercial centers, ware- and polyvalent people's houses that shaped the rural sites.

## Protecting Rural Heritage: risk assessment and conservation strategies in the Lower Brescia Plains

**Francesca Tanghetti & Carlotta Coccoli** University of Brescia, Italy

The lower plains of Brescia are defined by cultivated fields and the traditional rural architecture of Lombardy, particularly the 'cascine' (farmsteads). These buildings are a cornerstone of the region's cultural heritage, reflecting both material and intangible values. However, their preservation faces growing challenges from natural events and human activities. This research, conducted in partnership with the Soprintendenza Archeologia, Belle Arti e Paesaggio for Bergamo and Brescia, explores ways to protect these rural assets by assessing the risks they encounter.

The threats identified range from seismic and hydrogeological hazards to human-induced issues such as rural depopulation, neglect, and inadequate conservation practices. By referencing tools like the Codice dei Beni Culturali and regional landscape plans, the study examined the protection systems in place across various administrative levels. This analysis led to the mapping of farmsteads of historical and cultural significance and an evaluation of their vulnerability.

To address these risks, the study suggests practical tools, including standardised conservation report cards, designed to assist local authorities in monitoring and maintaining the vernacular architecture of Brescia. These measures aim to secure the long-term preservation of this heritage and its role in defining the region's identity.

## Between ideal a real: two model villages in Romania

**Emilia Țugui** Freelance, Romania

In the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, model villages were seen as an efficient way for modernization of rural life, from dwellings and homesteads to the entire rural community.

The paper aims to present how the program was implemented in Romania, following two case studies, the Dioști and Antonești model villages, built at the end of the 1930s and the beginning of the 1940s. The field research included interviews with the inhabitants, corroborated with bibliographic and archive documents review. The study was focused on the analysis of the completed work compared to the design, as well as on the relevance of the project to the locals.

	<p>The research tried to answer the questions concerning the relevance of the projects to the communities: to what extent the projects and the constructed buildings responded to the necessities of the inhabitants (in the case of the households or the dwellings) and to the needs of the communities (for the public buildings). There were also analyzed the current state of the buildings, almost 80 years after the construction and the transformation of the architecture in time or the current conversions to fit the contemporary demands of the inhabitants.</p>
<p>[Room <b>TP2</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>4.8. Food wastage in common agricultural policy: rationales, criticisms and coping strategies over time</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Laura Prosperi &amp; Paolo Tedeschi</b> University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, <b>Andrea Maria Locatelli</b> Catholic University of Milan, Italy</p>	<p>With 2024 hindsight and the perspective of the Green Deal, it is now quite easy to blame the CAP for its massive food waste, perpetrated over decades. Indeed, food losses and wastage were a major concern in the critical review of the CAP mechanisms - from the threshold price to the allocation of product quotas - and were among the main reasons for the CAP's historical reforms.</p> <p>Inspired by the ambition to provide a meaningful contribution to the current debate on food waste, this panel is part of a research track launched in Romania in September 2023, which meant to further explore food losses and wastage along past food supply chains in the context of the Common Agricultural Policy.</p> <p>Our joint effort aims at investigating historical food inefficiencies, shedding light on food waste generated by public institutions rather than by households. Our overview will therefore include all European countries since the 1960s, both those ones regulated by the CAP and those ones where food waste was actually generated due to the backlash of the CAP, as well as those ones affected by CAP side effects (i.e. Western European countries kept out of the CAP area, Eastern European countries and non-EU countries).</p> <p>Besides ridding the concept of waste of its emotional and moral components, we propose to understand food waste on the basis of the socio-economic functions it actually performed. Set against a different background, food waste is first and foremost a dynamic phenomenon. We focus on those norms and public policies that have tolerated - but more often generated - food waste as a reasonable toll paid in the name of a set of shared priorities. These priorities have changed over time, ranging from food security and landscape regeneration to rural employment and eco-system services. On the one hand, the list of these different priorities outlines a working grid that provides us with a new taxonomy of food waste. On the other, it allows us to investigate the phenomenon through a purely economic lens, replacing the concept of waste with that of 'inefficiency', corresponding to the loss of edible mass, money and/or natural resources spent to produce it. In both cases, the contributions will shed new light on the current commonplace of food waste, typically read as an irrational public enemy, here seen as part of a broader common profitability, notably due to the priorities set by European legislation and its governance.</p>

All the proposals included in this panel will contribute to a new understanding of food waste through the historical perspective. While not exhaustive, the list of relevant research strands includes: Studies on inefficiencies (both from a quantitative and qualitative perspective) in each individual food supply chain within a given regional or national context, as well as through a comparative perspective between different contexts; Assessment of the policies applied to agri-food products and past trade of any European country (directly and indirectly affected by the CAP); Survey and data series on waste, where historical series are available; Diachronic analysis of agri-food regulations, notably CAP regulations, related to food waste and losses; Recycling and upcycling strategies adopted over time to overcome food inefficiencies; Reasons, strategies and early reforms to tackle food wastage; Development of public and media rhetoric as well as discourse on institutional food waste; While the Italian context will be examined thanks to the three papers presented here, the Belgian, Spanish and French cases will be dealt with thanks to the scholars who have already indicated their willingness to contribute to the panel session.

## **The dynamic and profitable side of institutional food wastage: the case of the Common Agricultural Policy**

**Laura Prosperi** University of Milan, Italy

As a form of inefficiency, food waste has been widely studied. In contrast, this article attempts to reconstruct the public motivations that have tolerated, and sometimes led to, massive amounts of unused food. Within a broad overview of the institutional food policy of the growing European Community, waste can be analysed in its many forms and types, as a dynamic tool and a toll paid in relation to a series of changing public priorities. From a long-term perspective, starting in 1962, it will be useful to summarise these priorities and, from time to time, to look at the nature and amount of food waste generated.

In the beginning, the objectives of the CAP aimed at food security and continental self-sufficiency, control of commodity prices, and the need to ensure, in decades of unbridled urbanization, decent working conditions for all European farmers. Food waste began to be seen as something to be curbed because of the exorbitant cost of destroying it. As public priorities shifted to commodity uniformity and landscape enhancement, other and different forms of waste took root. A comparison of the former and the latter will be included in this paper.

## Waste and economic crisis in the Common Agricultural Policy after the oil shock: green currencies and monetary compensatory amounts

**Paolo Tedeschi** University of Milan, Italy

The oil shock crisis (autumn 1973) strongly influenced the rules of the CAP and led to the establishment of 'green currencies' and 'monetary compensatory amounts' (MCA). The green currencies sterilised the effects of strong fluctuations in EEC currencies that increased or decreased the prices of agricultural products in the common market: the exchange rates of the green currencies did not fluctuate and favoured fair competition in the Common Market for agricultural products. The MCA avoided unfair competition, income and resource allocation resulting from exchange rate adjustments when green currencies were transformed into national currencies. Indeed, the MCA balanced the subsidies and taxes concerning agricultural products on the Common Market. Farmers in countries with revalued currencies were protected from import taxes and received export subsidies (positive MCA), while the opposite happened for farmers in countries with devalued currencies (negative MCA). Thus, the competitiveness of farms that operated in EEC countries with an increasing value of their currency was ensured with a part of the financial resources of farmers in EEC countries with a decreasing value of their currency. This sometimes resulted in the transfer of money from good-quality farms to low-quality farms and increased the financial waste related to CAP rules.

## CAP, production and consumption between the 1960s and 1980s

**Andrea Maria Locatelli** Catholic University of Milan, Italy

The agricultural systems in Europe were influenced by economic factors (technology, access to markets, and/or availability of financing). On the other hand "Rules" influenced rural change: the price support, and then with the constraints placed on production together with agri-environmental incentives, the CAP has contributed to changes in production patterns, farm income and production techniques. The CAP supported resilience of marginal rural areas and supported the adoption of environmental protection.

In European EEC member countries, CAP price support policies accompanied the quantitative spread of certain crops and, also the evolution of productivity and variety in dairy products, beef animal husbandry and, finally, viticulture. The research reconstructs how food self-sufficiency and growth per capita income was achieved in the 1960s but negative effects were also manifested: Price support favoured the most fertile areas and production with substantial economies of scale; The growth rate of supply has become progressive greater than demand within the EEC area, with high socio-environmental costs; Significant production imbalances between regions became apparent. The CAP as a subsidy policy has seen a prevalence of the productivism over the social and even more so of environmental sustainability.

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 4.9. Farm accounts in rural Europe (c. 1700-1914): to better know one's own? 2

**ORGANISERS** **Nathalie Joly** Dijon Agro Institute, France, **Federico D'Onofrio** University of Vienna, Austria

**DISCUSSANT** **Federico D'Onofrio** University of Vienna, Austria

The first aim of this session is to celebrate the publication of Nathalie Joly and Federico D'Onofrio, *Farm Accounts in Rural Europe, c.1700-1914: To better know one's own?* (Boydell, 2025). This places the study of accounts arising from both farms and estates on a new footing. Informed as the volume is by the 'new accounting history', it integrates the history of agricultural and estate accounting with insights from the Social Sciences. It shows how accounts could be used to control and avoid fraud by labourers, farm managers and administrators, how they were a force to improve farming, how farmers dragged their feet over the use of double-entry bookkeeping but how simpler forms of bookkeeping were sold to French farmers' wives. Ultimately many farmers were compelled to keep accounts by the tax and government authorities in the early twentieth century, but a valuable by-product of this was the creation of data which could be analysed by farmers' and other organizations and used to inform government agricultural policy. After this book, it is impossible to use accounts without asking what choices an individual farmer made in keeping accounts and what purposes they served him. Whilst the session will open with a presentation of the book, followed by a commentary by Nadine Vivier, its second aim is to gather together the next generation of essays on accounting practice in Rural History. Other filling gaps in the literature generally and in *Farm Accounts in Rural Europe, c.1700-1914: To better know one's own?* In particular, we will ask two broad questions: what discourses encouraged farmers to keep accounts and what purposes accounts served, whether for the farmers that kept them or the professional or government organisations who extracted data from samples of accounts.

## Farm accounts or unexpired improvements' or 'tenant right' in nineteenth-century England

**Richard W. Hoyle** University of Reading, United Kingdom

This paper looks at an issue in English agricultural history which bears directly on the keeping of accounts. Although instances can be found from the late seventeenth century onwards, there was a realisation that the improvements that a farmer made to his land during his tenancy had a value which could stretch into the future. This might be manure or marl added to the soil. It might also be improvements such as drainage, the planting of orchards or fruit trees. At the end of the tenancy, whether voluntary or not, it became normal to value these 'unexpired improvements' and require the incoming tenant to buy them from the outgoing one. This was often called tenant right. The value of these assets, tangible and intangible, became part of the work of the surveyor and he was guided by J. S. Bayldon, *The art of valuing rents and tillage and the tenant's right on entering and quitting farms* (first edn, 1823) which had reached a seventh edition by 1876. Other than exploring the complexity of 'Unexpired Improvements', the paper aims to show the role of accounts in allowing these calculations to be made. [cription here](#).

## Agricultural accounting in the eighteenth-century Po Valley: models and actual procedures

**Giulio Ongaro** University of Milano, Italy

The paper focuses on the agrarian accounting in the Eighteenth century Northern Italy, specifically in the Republic of Venice and in the Papal Legation of Bologna, observing how the landowners managed the accounting of their properties, also according to different agrarian structures in the areas considered. First, it analyses the existence of formal models and how the contemporary manuals described the best way to structure the agrarian accounting books. Secondly, it will focus on the actual methods used to monitor the management of the landed estates, and, finally, the paper will check the conformity of the accounting praxis with the manuals and the potential circulation of accounting models in areas with different agrarian structures. In short, it will show the circulation of accounting models, that were then shaped, in a functional way, on the specific contexts and according to the aims of the landowners.

## Farm accounts in rural Europe, c.1700-1914: to better know one's own? An overview and a commentary

**Nathalie Joly** Dijon Agro Institute, France, **Federico D'Onofrio** University of Vienna, Austria, **Nadine Vivier** Le Mans University, France

This paper will give an overview of the book co-edited by the session organisers. The book begins with a review of historiographical work on agricultural accounting in Europe. The 9 chapters that follow track changes in the literature about accounting and the spread of new practices between the eighteenth and the twentieth centuries. They cover a period marked by great transformations in agricultural practice: the social and technical innovation of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, with the adoption of new farming systems on the large estates of western Europe, and 'the first green revolution', characterised by the 'marked rise of the small family farm' and the spread of artificial fertilisers between 1870 and 1914. These two so-called revolutions are but the most evident episodes of broader modernisation processes that moulded European agriculture. This edited volume tries to shed light on the role of accounting in these processes, and stresses the emergence of the accounting farmer as the ideal agent of agricultural change. Nadine Vivier will then present a commentary on the book, discussing its contributions to rural history.

[Room **Sala 1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 4.10. The spatial mobility of the peasants in the system of serfdom

**ORGANISER Piotr Guzowski**  
University of Bialystok, Poland

The literature describing the daily life of the peasant population in Central and Eastern Europe, both economic and cultural-anthropological, pays attention to the limitations of mobility as an element of the serfdom system, and on the other hand emphasizes low spatial mobility as a result of peasant attachment to the land, conservatism and traditional peasant mentality. At the same time, the examples of mobility present in the literature and sources are not described as something positive, but rather are seen in the context of a reaction to violence and exploitation. In this way, both the lack of mobility and its possible occurrence become evidence of widespread feudal oppression.

	<p>The purpose of our session is to point out that territorial mobility was an inevitable phenomenon in the serfdom system and forced by the very nature of historical societies. It was also a self-evident stage in the life cycle of many individuals. We would like to draw attention to the practical dimension of mobility, beyond legal norms and restrictions. We would like to look at mobility through the lens of judicial, demographic and economic sources. We also intend to compare the spatial mobility of social groups that were formally subject to legal restrictions on movement with groups not experiencing such restrictions.</p>
<p><b>The mobility of peasants and the rural workforce in the Lower Austrian manorial system (ca. 1500–1700)</b></p> <p><b>Marian Niedermayr</b> Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria</p>	<p>Lower Austria was not a region in which large-scale demesne production emerged in the Early Modern Period and the legal position of peasants did not deteriorate into hereditary subjection or serfdom. Nonetheless a legal framework was established that enabled landlords to increase labor services and recruit compulsory servants. Far-reaching mobility restrictions were not imposed. However, efforts to control the mobility of peasants and especially of servants and day laborers can be found repeatedly in the estates' complaints and princely legislation, among others by imposing passport requirements. These attempts proved to be particularly urgent in viticulture, an agricultural sector characterized by wage labor relations and seasonal labor migration. At the beginning of the seventeenth century, landlords began to enforce subjects to cultivate demesne vineyards, a measure that was not least a reaction to the greater resistance potential of mobile workers.</p> <p>In a first step, my paper must resort to normative sources mainly from princely legislation, which depict the problem of labor mobility from the perspective of the authorities. In a second step, I attempt to examine sources from manorial archives, instructions, accounting books and subject complaints, for hints on the spatial mobility of peasants and the manorial workforce.</p>
<p><b>The frameworks of peasant-migration in the medieval Hungarian kingdom</b></p> <p><b>Gulyás László Szabolcs</b> University of Nyíregyháza, Hungary</p>	<p>One of the most important rights of the medieval Hungarian serfs was the freedom to choose their landlord and place of residence. This privilege began to spread from the 13th century and from the 14th century it had become valid for all peasant-tenants of the country. Based on the large number of available documents, it is clear that Marxist historians were wrong when they believed that the nobility tried to obstruct the movement of serfs during the period. And although in 1514, after the revolt of the crusaders led by György Dózsa, the parliament suspended the possibility of free movement, the sources prove that this was certainly not implemented until the end of the 16th century. In my presentation, I would like to outline the framework of serf movement in medieval Hungary, the stages of its formation and development, the historical background, and the legal conditions</p>

## The mobilization and immobilization of labour under the serfdom system

**Radosław Poniak & Piotr Guzowski** University of Białystok, Poland

behind it. I plan to present the economic, social, and sometimes even personal, motivations that prompted the serfs to move, and the geographical background of the migration of the agricultural population.

Under the serfdom system the power disparities between nobility and peasants had allowed the ruling class to create extensive set of laws limiting the mobility of the labour force. The central and regional political institutions and individual landlords had put a lot of effort into immobilization of serfs, had repeatedly issued ordinances to enforce the movement control. At the same time, historical sources like censuses or vital records, court proceedings and the records created by the administration of the noble's estates could suggest that the real levels of serfs' mobility were relatively high or at least higher than normative sources interpretation would suggest. In our opinion this paradox is the result of several factors. First of all, even under serfdom, the mobility of some labourers was needed. The landlords' profits depended on the effective transport of the goods and employment of additional farmhands and specialists. Secondly, in many cases the landlord lacked the economic incentives to limit spatial mobility of some categories of serfs' population. The elderly, poor or very young were not productive enough to deserve control with all its financial and social costs. Thirdly, early modern state was not able to efficiently control population's mobility.

## Spatial mobility of rural population on the estate of Česká Kamenice in the early modern period 17th to 18th centuries

**Veronika Lešková** Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia

The phenomenon of spatial mobility still presents a rather new topic in historiography. The rural population in particular has long been considered an almost immobile society. This paper will focus on the geographical horizon of the rural population in the early modern period on the north-bohemian estate of Česká Kamenice using the unique demographic source of lists of subjects (Mannschafsbücher). Surprising radius of action of studied villagers includes localities like London, Moscow, Sweden, Ottoman Empire or perhaps East Indies. How was that even possible in the serfdom system? Who were these people on the move and what were their motivations? Did they ever return? Was it legal and what was the attitude of the landlords towards them? These research questions are the core of my dissertation project. The research database currently counts almost 500 persons who have performed a long-term spatial mobility (longer than one year) into almost 300 different locations mainly beyond the borders of the Czech lands. This database is managed and could be presented in the digital humanities software Nodegoat, web-based environment intended for visualisation and analysis of the research data sets.

## Classifying peasant mobility under serfdom: the case of Estonia and Livonia, 1600–1800

**Marten Seppel** University of Tartu, Estonia

This paper explores the forms of peasant mobility under serfdom in the Baltic provinces of Estonia and Livonia in the 17th and 18th centuries. It examines the various categories of mobility available to serfs. The paper will also discuss whether such movements could be mere exceptions, contributing to a distorted perception. To address this, the paper seeks to clarify whether it was primarily the landless population that moved around or how frequently tenant farmers actually travelled. It also analyses how the level of mobility varied across different periods. By investigating these dynamics, the paper aims to provide a detailed analysis of the fluid yet controlled nature of peasant movement under the serfdom system, contributing to a broader understanding of the socio-economic and legal framework of early modern serfdom in Eastern Europe.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 4.11. Water, upland settlement, and memory: multidisciplinary perspectives on rural history in the 20th century

**ORGANISERS** **Giovanni Agresti** Bordeaux Montaigne University, France, **Luis Gomes da Costa**, University of Aveiro, Portugal, **Eltjana Shkreli** University of Genoa, Italy

As part of the ecosystem in the mountains and highland areas, water is an essential (key) component in the domestic, industrial, and agriculture/livestock economies. Rural livelihoods are dependent on adequate water supply, therefore in most cases, the upland rural communities are settled among the river valleys and streams/springs due to short water distance - the water has dictated settlements' location, sustainability, and cultural development shaping the patterns of settlement.

This session connects to the work of the TRAMONTANA network, founded in 2011 and the objective is the documentation, cataloguing, restitution, artistic creation, and dissemination of intangible heritage from rural and mountain communities of Europe.

The session explores the intimate and multifaceted relationship between water and European highland rural communities in the 20th century, focusing on how water has influenced settlement formation, the emergence of water cultures shaped by environmental challenges and societal needs, and the evolution of water cultures and management practices that continue to impact rural landscapes today. Besides, the session will also highlight how water practices have shaped the cultural landscape, particularly in mountainous areas where water sources are both scarce and essential. Settlement patterns in these regions have been intricately linked to the availability of water, resulting in unique cultural landscapes that reflect how humans have shaped and been shaped by their environment.

The session will emphasize an interdisciplinary approach to rural history research, focusing on the main methodology of oral history (microhistory) to recover and preserve water cultures and their management practices. Living witnesses, especially elders within rural communities, offer rich, personal accounts of the relationship between water and settlement in the 20th century, providing valuable first-hand perspectives on traditional practices that may be fading due to the abandonment of Highlands and mountain areas. Oral histories could be compared across regions, offering a cross-cultural

	<p>approach to understanding how water has been a shared, yet regionally adapted, resource in rural upland settings.</p> <p>Ultimately, this session would provide a platform for a multidisciplinary discussion of rural upland water cultures and their enduring legacy in the 20th century and beyond. In light of current global challenges such as climate change, resource scarcity, and rural depopulation, this research is more relevant than ever.</p>
<p><b>Water system in Nikc in one century (Kelmend, Albanian Alps)</b></p> <p><b>Eltjana Shkreli</b> University of Genoa, Italy</p>	<p>Nikc, an old settlement in the Albanian AA) is situated in Cem Vuklit river valley between mountain ranges, surrounded by water springs at an altitude 600-7500m a.s.l. This village belongs to Kelmend tribe territory (AA), and before 1945 traditionally, the water management in this area was regulated by the Kanun of Lec Ducagin, the HighLand common law that governed various aspects of life, including land use, water resource sharing, run bottom up. During the totalitarian period (1945-1990) the rules in use changed as everything was state owned and run top-down passing through collectivization of land and flocks. After 90s, the communism collapsed and free market shifted the land ownership and public assets, like water irrigation system abandoned.</p> <p>This paper aims to provide an overview how water system evolution in Nikc_Kelmend has impacted the settlement pattern in 20th century, based on spatial analysis and oral stories methodologies focusing on traditional water management techniques and irrigation practices.</p> <p>This is important in field as the previous research studies about AA rural landscape and/or its features water has been just a physical resource it has never been integral to the shaping of upland culture, highlanders' communities, and the very idea territorial belonging.</p>
<p><b>Language, water, and heritage: exploring the role of local identities in sustainable water management and community resilience along the watercourses in the Upper Vomano Valley and the Aterno Valley</b></p> <p><b>Silvia Pallini</b> Association LEM, Italy, <b>Renata De Rugeriis Juárez</b> University of Urbino, Italy</p>	<p>Water and language are closely related: both reflect the quality of human settlement and the territory transformations that such settlement implies. The analysis of the intersection between water, language, and intangible assets in rural communities along the watercourses in the Upper Vomano Valley and the Aterno Valley shows how local languages and dialects shape and reflect knowledge, practices, and traditions related to water, preserving an ecological and vital understanding of the territory. The metaphors on water embedded in oral traditions, stories, and agricultural folklore reflect community identity and could be questioned from the perspective of recovering a balance between man and nature. By investigating oral memory through the study of some linguistic elements (toponyms, hydronyms, technolects, metaphors, proverbs), we aim to highlight how linguistic practices on water management contribute to promoting the resilience of these communities in the face of environmental and socioeconomic changes and to underline the role of language and discourse as valuable tools to preserve cultural</p>

## Imagining a third river bank: a case study of history-based artistic research in rural contexts

**Luís Gomes da Costa** University of Aveiro, Portugal

heritage and promote sustainable water management in the Vamano and Aterno River regions, offering ideas for more responsible rural development and for possible actions to transmit heritage.

This paper explores the role of artistic research in addressing some complexities within the current global/local divide, focusing on history of rural contexts. It presents a case study of multidisciplinary artistic research that engages with historical documentation, oral stories and soundscapes on river basins from two distinct regions: Viseu Dão Lafões sub-region in Portugal and Genoa province in Italy. By connecting these rural areas through ethnographic fieldwork and analysis of historical documentation and publications, the research uses the concepts of “creative blending” and “boundary objects” in order to create an “artistic third place” where both cross-regional and cross-disciplinary dialogues can flourish. The resulting mixed-media installation challenges ultra-localist narratives, underscoring shared challenges around natural resource use in geographically distant but culturally connected European rural settings. This project thus illustrates how artistic practice can foster inter-localist dialogue, providing a multidisciplinary framework to explore commonalities across diverse rural landscapes and potentially enriching cultural and environmental perspectives in the compared regions.

## The implementation of dams, the transformation of space, the dispossession of local communities and the death of places (topocide): examples from Portugal

**João Luís Fernandes** University of Coimbra, Portugal

The construction of a dam is an irreversible process, which alters landscapes and Human Geographies. This type of infrastructure can open new perspectives in sectors such as agriculture, energy or tourism. However, it may also be responsible for the reordering of settlement, with the disappearance (topocide) of submerged places and the possible creation of others. In fact, we may be facing dispossession or deterritorialization processes, often involving fragile and aging populations. In this line of tension between progress and the rights of local communities, questions of spatial justice arise, including factors such as due compensation to populations. Dams are often built in contexts where depopulation and demographic aging are already a reality. In others, these infrastructures accelerate this process of population loss. Regarding the more symbolic dimension of this process, the role of memory and the affiliation (topophilia) of communities with lost places is evident. With this paper, in addition to the more theoretical debate, following authors such as Harvey, Sassen, Tuan or Haesbaert, a critical analysis of empirical portuguese examples will be presented. These examples include dams (Lindoso, Aguieira and Alqueva) built at different historical contexts, proving that the response and negotiations with local communities have varied over time.

Post-German swimming pools in the Owl Mountains: oral histories, cultural heritage, and community memory in rural Poland

Maciej Adam Kierzkowski  
Open University, United Kingdom,  
Magdalena Masewicz-Kierzkowska  
Akademia Profil, Poland

This paper explores the legacy of post-German swimming pools in the Owl Mountains region of modern-day Poland, focusing on both the oral histories of current inhabitants and historical documentation. Following World War II, the area underwent a profound demographic shift as German residents were replaced by Polish settlers, leaving behind various structures, including swimming pools fed by local mountain streams. Some of these pools have been modernised and remain in use. Through interviews with local rural residents, this study examines how the pools are remembered, offering insights into the region’s recreational history and its role in fostering community cohesion. The research explores themes of cultural heritage, collective memory, and regional identity. By engaging with lived experiences, this paper contributes to broader discussions on post-German heritage in Central and Eastern Europe, demonstrating the importance of oral histories in understanding the complex intersections of place, memory, and development in historically contested regions.

13h – 14h30  
LUNCH BREAK



Construction of irrigation canal, Comporta, Grândola, 1940s, published in Portugal. Sociedade Nacional de Informação (1945). Hidráulica Agrícola. Lisboa: SNI.

# Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 14h30 – 16h30 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 5**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>5.1. A field of one's own? Long-term analyses of female landownership and land use 2</b> Daniel R. Curtis	5.1.1. Challenging boundaries: women's dynamic relationship with the land in post-war Samos (Greece, 1950-1980) Mary Kyameti	5.1.2. Women, property and households in Iceland in the 18th and 19th centuries Gudmundur Jonsson	5.1.3. Finding female farm authority in the 19th century British context: combining the Scottish public records to quantify and locate Grampian women who controlled twelve-year land leases to farm Iain Riddell	5.1.4. Female landownership in an island rural context: the Majorcan Pla (16th century) Andreu Seguí Beltrán	5.1.5. In one hand and out the other? Women's ownership and access to land in a seventeenth-century rural community, Oudenbosch (West Brabant, Netherlands) Daniel R. Curtis	Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>5.2. Using rural black women to reimaging the limits of activism in the modern black freedom movement</b> Beatrice J. Adams, Pamela Walker, Brooke Alexis Thomas	5.2.1. "A good garden will free you from the plantation store!": black women's horticulture and food power as resistance in the Alabama Black Belt, 1881-1940 Camille Goldmon	5.2.2. Black women lives behind the cotton curtain: food, the Welfare State, and the Freedom Movement Pamela Walker	5.2.3. "If they can't come to us, we'll go to them:" black sorority women, black midwives, and the New Deal, 1935-1942 Brooke Alexis Thomas	5.2.4. "Hope Comes From These Ideas:" Eva Clayton, Rural Development, and Writing Black Women into the Political Impact of the Civil Rights Movement Beatrice J. Adams		TP2, 4th floor
<b>5.3. Violence in rural Central and Eastern Europe (17th-19th centuries) 2</b> Jan Błoński, Agata Koprowicz, Paweł Pietrowcew	5.3.1. Violence by mayors against "their own": the case of the Šiauliai economy in the late of the 17th century Rita Regina Trimonienė	5.3.2. Violence in the Greater Poland countryside based on parish and town records in the Early Modern Period (17th-18th century) Marcin Śrama	5.3.3. Evidence of sexual violence by soldiers recorded during the Great Northern War in parish registers in the Lublin area Paweł Pietrowcew			Instituto de História económica e social, 3rd floor
<b>5.4. Family farming from a gender perspective in the 20th century 1</b> Ana Cabana, Uxía Otero González, Alba Díaz Geada	5.4.1. Women of the home versus sharecroppers: the difficult reconciliation between the model of the rural woman under Francoism and the reality of a marginal space in southern Europe Mercedes China Oliva	5.4.2. Rural communities and social change: the role of women in the socioeconomic development of 1960s Sicily Francesca Frisone	5.4.3. Women in diverse and changing family farming in the Netherlands: acknowledgement of intersectional women's gender differentiations and changes Margreet van der Burg	5.4.4. "Cousas de mulleres": a gendered reading of the newspaper Terra e tempo (1963-1985) María Fernández Blanco	5.4.5. The evolution of women-led farms in Castilla y León: a historical overview Elisa Botella Rodríguez, Vanesa Abarca Abarca	Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor
<b>5.5. Coastal fishing in rural communities of the medieval Iberian Peninsula and its actors</b> Antoni Ginot-Julià, Olegário Nelson Azevedo Pereira	5.5.1. Pastoralism and ploughing or fishing and salt production? A mixed economy on the new medieval coast of Laguna de Aveiro Maria Rosário Bastos	5.5.2. Human settlement and coastal fishing in the mainland Portuguese medieval coast Olegário Pereira	5.5.3. "Musealising" the rural and the fishing medieval material and intangible heritage Sérgio Lira	5.5.4. The material culture of fishing families in medieval Valencia Frederic Aparisi	5.5.5. Communal fisheries management in late medieval rural Catalonia Antoni Ginot-Julià	TP1, 4th floor
<b>5.6. Insect invasions and agriculture in Europe: institutions, tools and strategies of defense (17th-20th centuries) 1</b> Omar Mazzotti, Luciano Maffi	5.6.1. The Catholic Church against pests: the other side of the moon Laura Prosperi	5.6.2. Insects in transit: USA, Spain and the Mediterranean basin in the extension of biological pest control Jesús Catalá-Gorgues	5.6.3. Chemical and bacteriological locust control on the Kazakh Steppe in the Late Russian Empire John B. Seitz	5.6.4. Miracle or disaster? The pesticide industry and Dutch discourses of economic necessity, food security and doubt (1973-2000) Anna Teijeiro Fokkema		Anfiteatro III, 4th floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>5.7. Water, environment and conflicts in contemporary history</b> Sergio Salazar-Galán, Francesco D'Amaro	5.7.1. Environmental conflicts around dam building in 20th century Spain Judit Gil-Farrero	5.7.2. Rough lives and lost hopes in Montesinho and Douro international natural parks: who benefits from nature conservation? Ricardo Vale	5.7.3. The Tagus-Segura water transfer project as a national and environmental struggle Francesco D'Amaro	5.7.4. Mapping social and economic history through the journey of water Dominique Françoise Aviñó McChesney	5.7.5. Invisible water and agriculture in Spain: a historical perspective Sergio Salazar-Galán	Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>5.8. Understanding contemporary rural energy transitions between decarbonization strategies and localized rural changes 2</b> Francesca Uleri, Federica Viganò, Monica Musolino	5.8.1. Rural ironworking and environmental (in)efficiency during the energy transition to fossil fuels in Spain, 1850-1920 Ángel Sanjuán-Ruiz	5.8.2. The role of thermal energy communities in empowering rural transitions: the case of Forest'Ener Aurore Dudka	5.8.3. Models of rurality and energy transition in the Italian Alps Monica Musolino			Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>5.9. Underemployment, seasonality and mobility in rural worlds (18th-20th centuries) 2</b> Nicolò Mignemi, Luca Andreoni, Francesco Chiapparino	5.9.1. Labour rhythms and the evolution of seasonal work in German agriculture, late sixteenth century to c. 1850 Florian Probst, Ulrich Pfister	5.9.2. Conflict and/or complementarity? Seasonal labour demand, female work and agricultural specialisation in Mallorca between 1798 and 1809 Gabriel Jover-Avellà	5.9.3. Gendered labor and agricultural underemployment in the Karst region Leonida Ravšelj, Anđela Nedeljković	5.9.4. (Male) seasonal underemployment and poor relief in a saturated rural labour market: South-East England in the early 19th century Henry French		Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>5.10. Water in rural areas: memory, conflicts and landscape</b> João Luís Jesus Fernandes, Ramon Garcia Marin	5.10.1. The water management at the end of the 16th to early 18th century in Cluj neighborhood Enikő Rűsz-Fogarasi	5.10.2. Water and rural dynamics: hydraulic management and watermills in the lease contracts of the Monastery of Seica (Portugal) in the Early Modern Period (1754-1834) Inês Maria Jordão Pinto	5.10.3. Milling monopolies in Early Modern Sweden Martin Andersson	5.10.4. The use of hydropower in early modern Transylvania: Conflicts over water mills (16th-17th centuries) Petra Mátyás-Rausch	5.10.5. Dams, irrigation and regional development in Southwestern Iberia, 1950-2040 Carlos Manuel Faísca	Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor
<b>5.11. Breeding with or without breeds?</b> Jadon Nisly-Goretzki, Ulrike Heitholt	5.11.1. Racial classifications of horses at the Habsburg Imperial stud farms of Lipica and Kladrub in the 17th century Tadej Pavković	5.11.2. "Alternative" cultures of breeding: contesting intensive livestock breeding in the Netherlands (1950-2020) Amber Striekwold	5.11.3. Breeds before herd books? Defining German cattle populations in the early 19th century Jadon Nisly-Goretzki	5.11.4. Breeding for bacon: the Danish landrace pig Esben Bøgh Sørensen	5.11.5. Breed in German poultry breeding in the 19th century Ulrike Heitholt	Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>5.12. From exotic to local seeds. Global circulation and local impact of cultivated seeds since the 15th century</b> Dulce Freire, Alberto González Remuiñán	5.12.1. The progress of cultivated clovers before the Columbian Exchange: the case of Lombardy-Piedmont 1550s Mauro Ambrosoli	5.12.2. New seeds and changes in seasonal resource management: changing landscapes and new challenges Alberto González Remuiñán, José Luis Barbosa, Carlos Manuel Faísca, Anabela Ramos, Leonor Salguinho Ferreira	5.12.3. New foods in Lisbon: an archaeobotanical perspective on the introduction of American plant foods in Europe Mariana Rodrigues, José António Bettencourt, João Pedro Tereso, Dulce Freire	5.12.4. Rice in Atlantic history: crops as culture or the culture of crops? Fernando Mouta		Sala 3, 3rd floor

## Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

14h30 – 16h30

### PARALLEL SESSIONS 5

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

#### 5.1. A field of one's own? Long-term analyses of female landownership and land use 2

**ORGANISER & MODERATOR Daniel**

**R. Curtis** Erasmus University  
Rotterdam, Netherlands

Today, across the world, women (and girls) are widely involved in agricultural tasks, and yet despite land being an important determinant of rural welfare, social status, and empowerment, women are far less likely than men to independently own or control it (Agarwal, 1994). This observation is well known in contemporary development studies, and yet the long-term dimensions of this, and how it relates to the present, are less understood. Indeed, when we look to premodern rural history, scholarship from various Eurasian contexts has for a long time tended to emphasize cultural norms that were antithetical to the notion of women cultivating land independently (that is, outside of marriage)—instead contributing to farms and farming as wives and daughters. The presumption is that female landownership within rural communities tended to be low, and if owned independently by women, was only used indirectly as leasers. Nevertheless, pioneering new scholarship about women and land has started to tell new stories about female desire to own land and fight for legal titles and inheritance, challenging these entrenched perspectives (Candido, 2023; Capern et al., 2019). In some places and periods, women's landownership might have been much higher than previously thought.

Overall, the objective of this session is to better understand the long-term dimensions of women's relationship to land. Rather than polarized positions of women being either significant or insignificant landowners and land users and seeing this as "the norm", this session is interested in understanding differences between places and continuities and/or change in this status. So, for example, in those places where independent female landownership and land use was low, did this have long established roots and simply persist over time, or did this start to change in certain areas—and if so, where, how, and why? And in those places where independent female landownership and land use was high, what were the driving conditions that facilitated this situation?

This session is important because while a plethora of work has been devoted to the subject of distribution, redistribution, and inequality over the past 15 years (Alfani, 2021), women have been decidedly absent from these discussions. One of the barriers to furthering our understanding of this issue is the lack of empirical quantitative evidence for reconstructing female landownership and access to land as a proportion of total land available, and how this changed from year to year or across the long term. This is an

## Challenging boundaries: women's dynamic relationship with the land in post-war Samos (Greece, 1950-1980)

**Mary Kyameti** University of the Aegean, Greece

important precondition before we can start to more productively analyse what women did with their land and how they have used it across the centuries to secure economic or social objectives.

The present research uses the methodology of Oral History and the Life Narratives of rural women from Samos - an island in the north-eastern Aegean with a rich wine tradition - to examine women's participation in agricultural production and their relationship with the land. The theoretical basis of the study is rooted in feminist history, with a particular emphasis on the concept of 'paradoxical space'. The study examines how women, challenging conventional gender roles and boundaries, assert their participation in Greek agricultural production and the management of Greek family property. The study also hypothesises that the embodied experience and memory of the interlocutors are significant factors in explaining the symbiotic relationship that women have with the land of the family farm. This relationship is posited as a driving force for women's participation in the management of the family farm. The research highlights the importance of 'family land' as a domain for women's initiative and resistance to subjugation and isolation. In conclusion, this study has two aims. Firstly, it seeks to challenge the dominant narratives about women's role in agricultural production. Secondly, it aims to propose new perspectives on the economic and cultural transformation of rural societies.

## Women, property and households in Iceland in the 18th and 19th centuries

**Gudmundur Jonsson** University of Iceland, Iceland

Nearly 60 years ago, economic historian Bjorn Larusson showed in his landmark study of landownership in Iceland around 1700 that a third of all landed property was owned by women. Larusson did not elaborate on his findings nor have historians since examined the considerable level of female landownership and its social and economic significance.

This paper picks up the thread from where Larusson left off by exploring the relationship between women and landownership in early 18th century Iceland. Using uniquely rich sources, including a national census 1703 and The Cadastral Register of Estates 1702-1714, we examine the demographics, geographical distribution and social background of female landowners. Explanations are offered as to the high level of female landownership focusing on family alliances and the influence of inheritance law and practices on female inheritance of property. We look at the prevalence of female heads of households, a role that also shaped the social and economic status of women and their opportunities. Finally, the paper offers some thoughts on the development of female landownership through the 18th and 19th centuries and the possible impact of changes in the inheritance law on it.

## **Finding female farm authority in the 19th century British context: combining the Scottish public records to quantify and locate Grampian women who controlled twelve-year land leases to farm**

**Iain Riddell** Freelance,  
United Kingdom

The Scottish census has long provided the quantity of land held by female farmers, but the implications of this have never been discussed (Carter 1979; Birnie 1934, 464–469; Bruce 1908). Methodically mapping women who farmed northeast Scotland in the nineteenth century is now an achievable task through newly digitised materials of census returns, press clippings and local tax rolls. The results reveal actual farms held by women as the primary tenant for years and decades, some being inherited by later female renters.

Historical Network Analysis of Aberdeenshire women (160) with 12-year farm leases underpins an assessment of the 1820-1910 transformation of Grampian agriculture that identifies little change amongst women holding, negotiating, and enhancing tenancies across the decades in contrast to the experience of English women who were exiled from active farming as capitalised-industrial agriculture progressed from the 1770s (Hill 1984; Vanita 1985, 42–44; O'Day 1994). With actual acres and tenancy-households identified within the industrialising landscape of Aberdeenshire, quality and prejudice, dominance and leverage can be interpreted. Materials and methodology not only reveal actual women-farmed places but the situation of these older women, childless women and widowed mothers in an overall social construction and competitive market for farm tenures.

## **Female landownership in an island rural context: the Majorcan Pla (16th century)**

**Andreu Seguí Beltrán** University  
of the Balearic Islands, Spain

This communication aims to study the proportion of female landowners and how they obtained and transferred their properties within the Pla region, at the island of Majorca, during the 16th century. In this context, the rural parishes witnessed a process of land accumulation which resulted in the formation of manorial estates (possessions) that vertebrated the Majorcan agrarian society and economy until the 19th century. The contribution will draw on property records (capbreus) which cover all the land and debt transactions from late 15th century until the elaboration of the estims, property valuation registers used to calculate the corresponding taxes, in the 1570s. Consequently, this source provides insight on how women accessed to landownership (inheritance, dowry, or land market) and how they managed these properties.

## In one hand and out the other? Women's ownership and access to land in a seventeenth-century rural community, Oudenbosch (West Brabant, Netherlands)

**Daniel R. Curtis** Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands

Literature on female access to land in pre-industrial Eurasia has emphasised cultural norms antithetical to the notion of women cultivating land independently (outside of marriage). We have two stylised facts: first, women's landownership remained persistently low across the long term in most pre-industrial rural areas, and second, if women owned land independently, it was exploited indirectly through different leasing arrangements.

One issue, however, is that we do not have many quantitative insights into how much land women owned or used in a locality (as a proportion of the total land) and whether this shifted over time. This paper exploits a series of land registers (Veldboeken) for a village, Oudenbosch (west Brabant), across the seventeenth century, to provide new empirical insights into this issue—the main qualities of this source are that it is serial, distinguishes between owners and users, and fully records women.

I show that although substantial pressure points on redistribution such as epidemics brought more land into the hands of women as independent owners or farmers, this was often temporary. Within a handful of years, female landholding was already back to low pre-epidemic levels. Only high-status women were able to maintain independent ownership of land over long periods.

[Room **TP2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 5.2. Using rural black women to reimaging the limits of activism in the modern black freedom movement

**ORGANISERS** **Beatrice J. Adams** College of Wooster, United States of America, **Pamela Walker** University of Vermont, United States of America, **Brooke A. Thomas** University of Alabama, United States of America

**MODERATOR** **Cherisse Jones-Branch** Arkansas State University, United States of America

The work of writing Black women into the narratives of the Modern Black Freedom Movement has generated some of the most compelling recent works in the field of American History. However, scholars still struggle to characterize the roles Black women played in furthering Black freedom more broadly. This panel will explore the range of roles rural Black women played as grassroots activists in the Jim Crow South.

The panel contends that rural Black women played an invaluable role in supporting local civil rights activism. By centering their activism, it interrogates scholarly assumptions about the emergence and development of the Modern Black Freedom Movement. The first paper approaches Black families as sites of activism for Black mothers. Using correspondence from a transregional anti-poverty organization, it explores the ways motherhood shaped rural Black women's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement. The second paper shifts from Black mothers to rural Black women more broadly to reframe the history of the Mississippi Health Project. Arguing that rural Black midwives helped to shape the project's policies, the paper examines the intersection of health, activism, and rural Black women. The third paper focuses on the leadership of Black women, specifically one Black woman, Eva Clayton, who eventually became one of the first African American representatives elected to the House of Representatives from North Carolina since Reconstruction. The paper uses Clayton's role as the head of the Soul City Foundation as a lens to examine her intersecting political commitments to Black freedom and rural places. The final paper in the panel uses the activism of rural Black women in Florida to interrogate the spatial limits scholars associate with the Modern Black Freedom Movement.

**“A good garden will free you from the plantation store!”: black women’s horticulture and food power as resistance in the Alabama Black Belt, 1881–1940**

**Camille Goldmon** University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, United States of America

This paper explores rural Black women’s resistance to environmental oppression and their reclamation of food power in the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century Alabama Black Belt. It frames gardening, food preservation, and nutritional meal preparation as affronts to the plantocracy, which thrived on non-edible commodity crops, Black subservience, and perpetual indebtedness. The Progressive era and Great Depression popularized and even romanticized living with scarcity, but rural Black women’s homemaking efforts predated and outlived these periods. Highlighting contributions of Black women as homemakers and horticulturists, it revises histories from which they are largely excluded.

In addition to food production, rural Black women used gardens for home beautification, a key component of mental/emotional health. Planting and using ornamental gardens as home decor, these women accessed a level of societal ladyhood that had been systematically denied them based on race and/or class. White supremacy sought to reduce Black citizens to nothing more than laborers. This paper examines the actions of Black women daring to make the home a place of respite and restoration and reactions to those acts. It argues that they used gardens to reject dehumanization and to coax radical joy from environments bearing the scars of long-term oppression.

**Black women lives behind the cotton curtain: food, the Welfare State, and the Freedom Movement**

**Pamela Walker** University of Vermont, United States of America

This paper examines the overlooked interplay of food access as a central incitement to the engagement of everyday people in the modern civil rights movement. It centres experiences of ordinary, rural black women to reveal insidious systems of control at the level of the everyday where issues of hunger and material survival were just as acute on a daily basis as the very real fear and threat of physical violence. Nearly all food access points through the marketplace or the welfare state were managed by local whites and could become mechanisms to control large, landless Black populations in the Mississippi Delta. Understanding how the dissemination of food and resources could be used as a weapon and an incentive, voting rights activists and rural Mississippians themselves strategized to expand food access and advance goals within the movement. Indeed, voting rights were but one idea forwarded within the local Mississippi movement, and this paper reveals the very nuanced ways in which a political education in both democracy and food access through social welfare were woven together as twin threads of the movement.

**“If they can’t come to us, we’ll go to them:” black sorority women, black midwives, and the New Deal, 1935-1942**

**Brooke Alexis Thomas** The University of Alabama, United States of America

This paper explores how the health needs of Black southern rural women inspired members of the first collegiate sorority for Black women in the nation to lobby the United States federal government on behalf of Black women everywhere. Born out of a summer school initiative, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated (AKA) Mississippi Health Project aimed to bring health-care to a region where care was sparse for African American residents. The program initially aimed only to provide vaccinations for children. As sorority women met and worked with Black midwives and Black mothers in the region for seven summers, they not only developed a more robust healthcare offering to meet local needs, but they also learned that many of the Black resident's health concerns were the result of a legacy of systemic racism and economic exploitation. As this paper argues, these experiences inspired a dozen members or so members of AKA to marshal their national organization's resources to take these issues directly to the US federal government, newly enlarged by the creation of the New Deal Administrative state, in search of relief for Mississippi Delta residents and later Black women everywhere.

**“Hope Comes From These Ideas:” Eva Clayton, Rural Development, and Writing Black Women into the Political Impact of the Civil Rights Movement**

**Beatrice J. Adams** College of Wooster, United States of America

Although scholars see Black electoral empowerment as part of the harvest of the Modern Black Freedom Movement, this narrative largely excludes the political achievements of Black women. However, Black women also capitalized on the gains of the Modern Black Freedom Movement, including serving as critical members of the growing Black political class. This paper approaches the life and work of one Black woman politician, Eva Clayton, through her intersecting commitments to Black freedom and rural places. Specifically, it uses her work on the Soul City project—a planned interracial community in rural North Carolina—to examine how her commitment to empowering rural people shaped her freedom politics.

Clayton's political career started before she started working for the Soul City project when she ran for office at the end of the classical phase of the Modern Black Freedom Movement. Although she lost her first race, she eventually became one of the first African American representatives elected to the House of Representatives from North Carolina since Reconstruction, where her political commitment to empowering rural people while advancing Black freedom continued to shape her advocacy and policy choices.

[Room **Instituto de História económica e social**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### 5.3. Violence in rural Central and Eastern Europe (17th-19th centuries) 2

**ORGANISERS** **Jan Błoński** European University Institute, Italy, **Agata Koprowicz** University of Warsaw, Poland, **Paweł Pietrowcew**, University of St. Andrews, Scotland

**MODERATOR** **Agata Koprowicz** University of Warsaw, Poland

In reference to the tragic history of the 20th century and the cruelties of Nazism and Communism in the region, Timothy Snyder coined the term "bloodlands" to describe the region of Central and Eastern Europe. However, its earlier history was also characterized by violent oppression and all kinds of conflicts. Rural areas, which unlike cities had no walls or special rights that would physically or symbolically protect their liberties, were especially exposed for the use of violence, both external and internal. The villagers witnessed and were often victims of regular interstate wars, internal rebellions, domination by regional empires and struggles for national liberation, religious turmoil, ethnic clashes, and the brutal exploitation of serfs. Instances of sexual abuse and domestic violence, duels and brawls were also prevalent.

Not only domestic and hostile armies extracted their resources, but their noble owners and villagers themselves rarely fit into the myth of the harmonious village - victims could also become perpetrators, depending on multiple and dynamic conditions. Violence has been used to establish dominance or to realize emancipatory potential, to create in-group boundaries and to exclude others. Especially in the pre-modern period, it also functioned as a mechanism for regulating everyday interpersonal interactions. Its meaning, perceptions and social acceptance of boundaries changed and varied over space and time. As a result, many instances of violence were not recorded in the sources, were omitted, or appeared only when social norms were transgressed.

The violent history of the region has also affected the state of the archives - many documents have been irretrievably lost (or deliberately destroyed) in one bloodshed or another. As a result, the variety, ambiguity, and complexity of violence, the language of the sources (anachronistic and idealistic stereotypes of rural life, the evolving concept and limits of 'violence'), and finally the material scarcity of the primary sources pose a challenge to research. A thorough study of violence in Central and Eastern Europe from the 17th to the 19th century requires a nuanced and often interdisciplinary approach. The aim of the session is therefore both to present and analyse cases of the use and abuse of violence, and to reflect on different theoretical approaches and perspectives to the study of rural Central and Eastern Europe, using different methodologies (e.g., demographic, micro-historical or visual studies).

### Violence by mayors against "their own": the case of the Šiauliai economy in the late of the 17th century

**Rita Regina Trimonienė** Vilnius University, Lithuania

This paper examines instances of violence by mayors (Pol. wójt) against their communities within the Šiauliai Economy (SE) in the latter half of the seventeenth century. The SE, consisting of approximately 5,638 households, was directly subordinate to the king of the Republic of the Two Nations. Mayors represented the peasantry and townspeople in rural districts (Pol. wójtowstwo), typically encompassing several villages or small towns. They acted as intermediaries between villagers and manorial authorities and served as the administrative executives of their districts. Their primary duties included managing economic affairs, particularly the collection of land rents and

	<p>taxes. Most mayors were affluent individuals of peasant or urban origin.</p> <p>Dissatisfaction among the SE's subordinates stemmed from rising taxes, dues, and new obligations, exacerbated by mayors' "illegal" actions such as thuggery, bullying, and economic exploitation. This paper investigates the motivations behind these behaviors, considering whether the mayors were socially detached from their communities. It also examines the reactions of those subjected to such abuses and the processes used to address these conflicts.</p> <p>This paper investigates the mayors' motivations for their actions and potential social disconnection from the community. It also examines retaliation of subordinates and conflict resolution mechanisms, drawing on judicial and economic sources.</p>
<p><b>Violence in the Greater Poland countryside based on parish and town records in the Early Modern Period (17th-18th century)</b></p> <p><b>Marcin Śrama</b> Adam Mickiewicz University, Poland</p>	<p>The topic of violence in the countryside was not a particular subject of interest for town courts or clergy who recorded information about baptisms, weddings, and funerals in parish registers, and sometimes made notes in the margins of these books about events they considered particularly.</p> <p>However, occasionally, these types of source materials contain information about cases of violence occurring both among peasants and those involving a nobleman as either the perpetrator or the victim. Based on entries from parish and town records, it is possible to reconstruct some of these cases and estimate how often it became significant enough to end up in town court or seemed noteworthy to the local parish priest.</p> <p>In the proposed paper, I would like to present my findings on the violence in the countryside in the Greater Poland, based on the town records of the city of Gniezno, parish registers from the Archdiocese of Gniezno, and a collection of excerpts from parish, town, and land records from Greater Poland compiled by prof. Włodzimierz Dworzaczek (Dworzaczek's Files stored in the Kórnik Library). Using this source material, I aim to reconstruct some of the mentioned cases and present statistics on this issue.</p>
<p><b>Evidence of sexual violence by soldiers recorded during the Great Northern War in parish registers in the Lublin area</b></p> <p><b>Paweł Pietrowcew</b> University of St Andrews, Scotland</p>	<p>War leads to the outbreak of all kinds of violence. One of its least recognized and most difficult to trace in the sources forms is sexual violence. We assume that rural populations in the early modern era were defenseless against marching armies and were constantly exposed to them. However, there is often no direct source of evidence for this.</p> <p>In my paper, I will propose how demographic methods and quantitative approaches may prove the use of sexual violence committed by soldiers. I will take a closer look at a district of Lublin during the Great Northern War (1700–1721). At that time, Polish, Swedish, Saxon, and Russian troops were stationed there or passed through on several occasions.</p>

	<p>The primary source used in the study is parish registers from 15 Catholic parishes. My analysis is based on the assumption that if a co-occurrence of military presence with a surplus of illegitimate conceptions can be determined, then sexual activity by soldiers is at least partly responsible for it. To identify it, I took into account several factors: an illegitimacy ratio, a seasonality index, a spatial analysis, and a survey of the marital status of the mothers.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Anfiteatro I</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>5.4. Family farming from a gender perspective in the 20th century 1</b></p> <p><b>ORGANISERS &amp; MODERATORS Ana Cabana Iglesia, Uxía Otero González &amp; Alba Díaz Geada</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>Throughout the 20th century, many European agricultural systems have experienced periods of hegemony of different production systems and paradigms of agricultural development: traditional organic agriculture based on the maximum use of land resources, agriculture linked to industrialization and increases in production, profitability and competitiveness typical of the Green Revolution and, finally, the time marked by the shift towards sustainable agriculture that is respectful of the environment and people's health, guaranteeing agricultural and livestock biodiversity. Our objective in this session is to understand the role played by rural women in these different production systems, paying attention to their productive and reproductive work and, at the same time, to analyse the different models of rural women that were built in accordance with each of these models of economic development. We propose to pay attention to the study of the processes of historical construction of the sexual division of labour within the farm and the family and to investigate those who continue to be "on the margins" of historiography as subjects.</p> <p>To this end, we propose three study themes: 1) reproductive work, understood as all work that is outside the market, and which includes care for the maintenance of life; 2) environmental knowledge and the role of women in safeguarding ecological and cultural diversity; and 3) the processes of constructing certain models of femininity, in the context of different models of economic and rural development and in relation to the agrarian policies through which these were implemented. We consider it relevant to historically study the changes that have occurred in family and community reproduction, the transformations observed in the cultural transmission and the changes that have occurred in gender models. We must pay attention to the historical subjects involved, to the causes and times in the generation of new values, and to their long-term consequences. Research that addresses these issues from different spatial contexts on the four continents is welcome. We invite to participate researchers presenting both case studies and comparative works, as well as theoretical or conceptual reflection works.</p>

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**Women of the home versus sharecroppers: the difficult reconciliation between the model of the rural woman under Francoism and the reality of a marginal space in southern Europe**

**Mercedes China Oliva** University of La Laguna, Spain

This proposal aims to confront the model of the rural woman constructed by Francoist institutions with the models that real women built based on their everyday experiences. The reality in which they had to develop their lives is spatially and temporally framed in the south of Tenerife between 1950 and 1970, a period during which the cultivation of tomatoes and bananas for export expanded and women formed an important part of the workforce. Thus, on one hand, we have a state promoting the capitalization of the countryside, while at the same time, it positions women as the cornerstone of the peasant family home: wife and mother. On the other hand, real women not only attend to reproductive tasks but are also forced to develop strategies to address the needs of the family unit. One such strategy is assuming sharecropping contracts in tomato cultivation.

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**Rural communities and social change: the role of women in the socioeconomic development of 1960s Sicily**

**Francesca Frisone** University of Messina, Italy

In the early 1960s, the Agricultural Division of the EEC commissioned a study from the International Center for Social Research at the Gregorian University of Rome on the socioeconomic conditions of three Sicilian rural villages. The aim was to identify new strategies for integrating the region's inland areas – still excluded from the extraordinary investments allocated by the governments to Southern Italy – into a coherent development plan. The study employed a pioneering methodology of social work within the broader framework of community development projects conceived for the post-war rehabilitation of depressed areas. A significant part of the research focused on the mentalities, considered a crucial agent of change or resistance. Regarding women, the study tried to delineate the behavioral patterns governing their role within the family and in traditional society, assessing their impact as either facilitators of modernization processes or as forces of resistance. The findings did not suggest that family ties or women themselves and their attitude constituted an obstacle to the socio-economic development of the community. However, the study highlighted how strong social pressures prevented women from deviating from deeply rooted norms and traditions, making them an involuntary element of resistance to modernization processes.

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## Women in diverse and changing family farming in the Netherlands: acknowledgement of intersectional women's gender differentiations and changes

**Margreet van der Burg**

Wageningen University,  
Netherlands

My contribution demonstrates an intersectional gender approach to types of women's contributions in changing family farming in the Netherlands to address family farming from a gender perspective. First, beyond Saal's 1958 distinction of 4 types of farm women's labour on Dutch farms, I add to acknowledge the (intersectional) differentiation among farm women by generation, among farm women and women labourers by class, and among farm women labourers by skill and seniority. Second, it is decisive to also identify the distribution of responsibilities (and control) over family farm resources, labour domains and tasks. Here, the attributed societal and ecological normative value matters, e.g. as income generating (productive) or supportive (reproductive). Furthermore, we see that elasticity in labour / resources was mostly required from women as helping hand or replacement in short- or long-term emergencies. Despite of changing ideas on appropriate femininity, the notion of gender complementarity continued underlying the family farm model. A growing and later vested gender segregation in farm-related education, extension and research services and media, has likely supported (my studies) the undervaluing and overlooking of women's specific but differentiated contributions to family farming in agricultural matters and history while ignoring ongoing claims for equal validation and inclusion.

## "Cousas de mulleres": a gendered reading of the newspaper Terra e tempo (1963-1985)

**María Fernández Blanco**

Interuniversity Research Center for  
Atlantic Cultural Landscapes, Spain

The aim of this paper is to analyse the gender discourse of the Galician nationalist party Unión do Pobo Galego through the newspaper that served as its mouthpiece, Terra e Tempo. Our main source will be the articles whose subject matter refers to rural women and feminist discourse since the publication of the first issue in 1963. The objective is to analyse the feminine representation in this journal on the basis of whether or not it breaks with gender stereotypes or makes some women more visible than others, as well as the reasons for this. We are also interested in assessing the impact that gender has on the party's publication as a way of evaluating its weight in the party itself, as well as interpreting the contribution of this political organisation's newspaper to the feminist awareness of its members and activists.

## The evolution of women-led farms in Castilla y León: a historical overview

**Elisa Botella-Rodríguez & Vanesa Abarca Abarca** University  
of Salamanca, Spain

The Castilian inheritance system over recent centuries has allowed women to inherit rural properties under practically equal conditions to their male siblings, which theoretically would grant them autonomy in managing agricultural holdings. However, the harsh reality of agricultural work frequently pushed women, especially property owners with fewer resources, to marry in order to secure the necessary labor force to maintain viable operations. This circumstance explains the scarcity of historical records about farms managed by single women in Castilla y León, in contrast to the greater documented presence of widows at the helm of these properties.

	<p>This research proposes a long-term historical analysis examining two dimensions: 1. the current role of women as owners and direct farmers in various localities of Castilla y León; 2. their historical situation as owners and farmers during the Early Modern Period.</p> <p>The research is based on two types of documentary sources: for the modern period, we will analyze the <i>tazmías</i> of selected localities along with information provided by the Ensenada Cadastre. For the analysis of the 20th century, we will rely on official documentation from the Regional Government of Castilla y León and the Ministry of Agriculture.</p>
<p>[Room <b>TP1</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>5.5. Coastal fishing in rural communities of the medieval Iberian Peninsula and its actors</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS &amp; MODERATORS</u> <b>Antoni Ginot-Julià</b> University of Girona, Italy, <b>Olegário Nelson Azevedo Pereira</b> NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal</p>	<p>One of the defining features of rural communities is their historical and cultural heritage. The Iberian Peninsula is distinguished by its extensive coastline, which has resulted in the coexistence of agrarian and fishing rural communities. This reality is reflected in both oral tradition and historical documentation, including ordinances, municipal laws, charters, tax diplomas, and other relevant materials. It is therefore challenging to differentiate between primary sector activities in terms of their socio-economic characteristics. Furthermore, in certain areas of the Iberian coastline, geomorphological changes have resulted in landscapes formation that were conducive to the human settlement, whether permanent or seasonal. Nevertheless, the apprehension of sea perils (both natural and anthropogenic) had compelled human communities along the Atlantic coastline to maintain a prudent distance from the ocean. In the case of Portugal, there is a paucity of documental sources available, in comparison for the medieval Mediterranean. In this case, it is possible to address the familial traits and strategies employed for their settlement and exploitation of marine resources. In this geographic context, a lot of work has still to be done to underscore the importance of this economic activity in the functioning of local and regional economies. The objective of this session is to gain insight into rural communities on both sides of the Peninsula, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, with the aim to creating synergies and opportunities for comparative studies between two similar, yet distinct realities. With these approaches, the session aims to offer a multiple scope on the configuration of a rather understudied human group in the social tissues of the Middle Ages. It is therefore essential to recognise these dynamics and translate them for civil society knowledge through one of the main strategies, musealisation, where it could be distinguished what is and what is not a historically grounded or a shaped by collective imagination phenomenon.</p>

## Pastoralism and ploughing or fishing and salt production? A mixed economy on the new medieval coast of Laguna de Aveiro

**Maria Rosário Bastos** Portuguese Open University, Portugal

It is used to be notice that Portugal and the lagoon of Aveiro was born at the same time. In fact, when D. Afonso Henriques claimed (successfully) the king title near his cousin Afonso VII and the Pope Alexandre III, a new coastline was draft south of the Porto and north of the Coimbra geographic parallels. Between 10th and 11th centuries, a sandy spit began to grow and progressively closed a large gulf that would become Aveiro's Lagoon. The formation of a coastline protected from direct action of sea waves, facilitated fishing and, above all, the production and exploitation of sea salt (medieval "white gold"). Meanwhile, on the sandy spit grazed animals from the Grijó monastery to which this territory belonged. Over time, the demographic growth characteristic of the medieval warm period was combined with the definitive pacification of the area, which meant that the overpopulation north of the River Douro moved to this rich coastal nook. The Inquirições demonstrate the necessity to cultivate new agricultural land to satisfy the increasing demand for foodstuffs. Consequently, the region, which is now encompassed by the Aveiro lagoon, reached its apogee between fishing, salt, grazing and agriculture, around the 13th century.

## Human settlement and coastal fishing in the mainland Portuguese medieval coast

**Olegário Pereira** NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

Medieval human communities established in the mainland Portuguese littoral where scarcer than the ones located inland. The sea was seen as a dangerous place and populations have maintained a certain distance from the exposed coastal areas. Nevertheless, fishing communities thrived along the coast, where besides the dedication to such economic activity, have also complemented it through the exploitation of other resources. Such fishing communities seem to have always been in the vicinity of landscapes considered safer places in terms of exposure to the sea, but with the necessary connections to easily access it. This is evident in coastal zones with the presence of lagoonal and estuarine areas, once it was on these types of coastlines that people found relative safety from natural and anthropogenic dangers, as well as greater abundance in terms of resources (both aquatic and terrain). However, such paradigms started to change with the overseas expansion. In this presentation the medieval county charters granted by the crown between 12th and 16th centuries will be observed. The purpose is to understand people's movement towards coastal areas and analyze the relations between the sea resources and the coastal landscapes chosen by fisherman's communities to be established.

## "Musealising" the rural and the fishing medieval material and intangible heritage

**Sérgio Lira** Green Lines Institute for Sustainable Development, Portugal

A musealisation is an interpretation. The further away a cultural object, the harder it is to be honest about this simple fact: visitors tend to believe that what is in a museum is "the truth". The more remote (geographically, culturally or chronologically) the object of a museum, the stronger the tendency to accept that interpretation and, as such, the harder the task of the museum. In common sense assertions, medieval times are often referred to in terms that could not be further from scientific knowledge – the "dark ages" being

	<p>one of the most common. As such any musealisation of medieval communities must face both those common sense certainties and that tendency to accept the museum as the ultimate truth – a difficult and challenging task we intend to analyse in this paper both from theoretical and practical perspectives by presenting the conceptual guidelines that shaped some museological examples focusing our attention in national and international cases.</p>
<p><b>The material culture of fishing families in medieval Valencia</b></p> <p><b>Frederic Aparisi</b> University of Valencia, Spain</p>	<p>Despite having nearly 500 km of coastline, Valencia has not been historically linked to the sea, aside from certain localities such as Vinaròs, Peníscola, Cullera, Dénia, Xàbia, and Alacant. Therefore, this marginality of fishing activities accounts for the limited representation of fishing families in written sources. Indeed, the presence of fishing families in notarial and judicial records in few occasions relates to fishing activity. Generally speaking, these documents are more often associated with land transactions or significant life events.</p> <p>This paper focuses on wills and inventories of goods seeking to evaluate the materials culture and standards of living of fishing families during the 15th century. It pays attention to the possession of means of production such as nets and boats but also to other aspects of daily life (beds, kitchen utensils). The limited number of sources forces us to make the towns and small towns, rather than just villages, as the primary focal points of our research.</p>
<p><b>Communal fisheries management in late medieval rural Catalonia</b></p> <p><b>Antoni Ginot-Julià</b> University of Girona, Spain</p>	<p>The adequate exploitation of halieutic resources has always been a challenge in human communities. Conflicts that emerged from competition for the fishing grounds and overexploitation are only two of the several factors that can bring a fishery to its misery. However, throughout history, coastal communities have adopted different strategies to cope with the insecure nature of the sea and to protect their fishers against external menaces.</p> <p>This communication will focus on the managing of fisheries in Catalonia (north-eastern Spain) in the 15th and 16th centuries. In those years, several written rules, known as ordinacions, were created, probably writing down what was already oral custom. The aim is to understand the implication and degree of institutionalization of the communities affected by those rules and the relationships with the local powers in their making: the lord and the local council. The final aim is to underscore the importance of local fishing communities and their inside power relations in the self-governing of their fishing resources.</p>

[Room **Anfiteatro III**,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 5.6. Insect invasions and agriculture in Europe: institutions, tools and strategies of defense (17th-20th centuries) 1

ORGANISERS **Omar Mazzotti & Luciano Maffi** University of Parma, Italy

MODERATOR **Luciano Maffi** University of Parma, Italy

Despite in recent years the role of insects in human activities has been taking on a new connotation in Europe, especially as a function of the gradual revaluation they are gaining in the food sector, the general perception of them is not related to their potential usefulness, due to the negative impact that certain insects have exerted on agricultural and forestry activities over time. Despite the relative importance of entomofauna also as a key component of the natural ecosystem, historical research still needs to be done on this last issue, in particular concerning the analysis of the policies adopted to face the impact of pests on agriculture. Various strategies were developed over time by public actors to provide a valuable tool to counter the devastating effects of certain insects (consider, for example, the fundamental role of phylloxera in radically changing the characters of French and Italian viticulture), sometimes based on an attempt to disseminate the most effective techniques, tools and products to farmers. Until the 19th century, pest management was implemented primarily through agronomic practices and the exploitation of natural antagonists. With the intensification of cultivation, its orientation toward market production, and the advent of powerful synthetic organic pesticides, phytosanitary defense became identified during the 20th century with chemical control of plant enemies.

The goal of the panel is to focus on the damage caused by insects on agricultural production in the 17th to mid-20th century. National and local institutions have often tried to counter these phenomena with forms of territorial defence, albeit partly with little effectiveness, due to the poor timing of intervention or the technical and organisational inability to manage it. We aim in particular to devote the session to analysing the intervention of institutional actors to combat insect invasions, as well as the remedies adopted (natural or chemical), and the consequent environmental impacts. But also the way of expanding knowledge on this issue, useful to fighting the effects of pest invasions, is a focus of our reflection.

Some emerging questions concerning this field of research:

What impact did pests have on the agriculture and more in general on the economic system from the 17th to the early 20th centuries? Which institutions were engaged in the fight against insect invasions and what means were used?

Thanks to advances in chemistry, insecticides and pesticides have been extraordinarily popular since the late 19th century. What impact did these industrial products have in defending the agricultural activities from the negative effects produced by the presence of insect pests?

How has entomological knowledge been transmitted over the centuries in Europe, both scientifically and in terms of popular knowledge and how did this expansion of knowledge translate into a diffusion of this topic in school education? To what extent this increased knowledge was useful and effective in counteracting the effects of pests on the agricultural systems?

## The Catholic Church against pests: the other side of the moon

**Laura Prosperi** University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

The panel aims to answer to these questions with an interdisciplinary approach, fostering the dialogue between the different disciplines that in historical perspective deal with these topics.

This paper may complement broader research on pests and will focus on a narrow perspective, defined by the way the Catholic Church has developed coping strategies to deal with pest infestations or pest attacks. The broad phenomenon of food loss, in fact, is embedded in a cultural dynamic involving the public imagination and mentality, including its representation in religious practices. Convincing examples of the impact that food losses have had on public vulnerability are provided by a wide range of literary sources, such as chronicles and religious accounts, along with records of folk practices: this third body of sources includes miracle stories, literature dealing with saints, protectors of provisions and descriptions of rituals. Developing this approach, the analysis will also consider iconography and ritual elements. Sources will allow to focus on Early Modern and Modern Times.

## Insects in transit: USA, Spain and the Mediterranean basin in the extension of biological pest control

**Jesús Catalá-Gorgues** University of Alcalá, Spain

The Spanish agronomic services began the application of biological pest control in the third decade of the 20th century. The Estación de Patología Vegetal of Valencia modelled its actions on the guidelines already established in California, given the importance of citrus crops and the climatic identity between the two territories. In the 1930s, new imported pests led to an attempt to adopt other methods, developed in this case in Hawai'i, with less satisfactory results. All these actions were mediated by the need to import the control insects and try to acclimatise them in their Spanish destination. Thus, foreign species were put at the service of controlling equally foreign pests. But the Valencia Station also became a node for the dissemination of 'useful insects' to other parts of the Mediterranean basin. On the other hand, the research carried out there on native insects that could potentially be used for biological control was, in turn, made available to the entomological and agronomic community. Transits of naturalistic and engineering knowledge thus intertwine with the transit of insects themselves.

## Chemical and bacteriological locust control on the Kazakh Steppe in the Late Russian Empire

**John B. Seitz** Tennessee Wesleyan University, United States of America

In the late nineteenth century Russian imperial officials sought to transform the Kazakh Steppe from a region of nomadic pastoralism into one of sedentary grain agriculture largely through importing over 1.5 million peasant settlers from European Russia. The harsh realities of the new environment along with the general unfamiliarity of peasants to the region meant that many struggled to survive, much less thrive and were therefore the targets of significant agronomic aid and assistance from the Russian state. One of the greatest threats to sedentary agriculture on the steppe, and one that received large amounts of government support were biological and chemical

## Miracle or disaster? The pesticide industry and Dutch discourses of economic necessity, food security and doubt (1973-2000)

**Anna Teijeiro Fokkema** Vrije  
Universiteit Amsterdam,  
Netherlands

control campaigns to address locusts. This meant, that while the Kazakh Steppe was never the center of imperial agricultural strength, it did become the site of cutting-edge scientific research into locust control with a global reach, as steppe agronomists were in communication with scientists working in French North Africa, Argentina, and Paris in pursuit of locust-killing bacteria. On a more local-level in addition to vast chemical spraying campaigns, locust control also reflected and was intertwined with imperial aims of settling and dispossessing nomadic Kazakhs.

During the second half of the twentieth century, pesticides became a key component of global industrial agriculture. In this, state-industry coalitions depoliticised and stimulated the production, distribution and use of pesticides, which in turn was challenged by environmental organisations. In this paper, I historicize the discourses created by these institutional and industrial actors, focusing on ideas of economic necessity, food security and uncertainty.

The research focuses on the Netherlands – a country with extensive monocultures and livestock – where the role of the agricultural industry is often understudied. I will analyse the role of institutional actors, such as the Dutch Health Council and the Committee for Pesticides Approval, experts, political actors, and environmental organisations in relation to each other and to agri-chemical industries.

The research starts after the Dutch ban on the already well-studied pesticide DDT in 1973. It addresses the following questions: How did discourses in the Netherlands obscure or highlight parts of the pesticide system between 1973 and 2000? Who shaped these discourses, and for what reasons and interests? What was seen as self-evident, and what was controversial or uncertain? And how did these views change over time?

[Room **Sala 2**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 5.7. Water, environment and conflicts in contemporary history

ORGANISERS & MODERATORS **Sergio Salazar-Galán** Pablo de Olavide University, Spain, **Francesco D'Amaro** Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Water has always played a central role in the society-nature interrelationship. In spite of this, historiographical studies have generally focused on the issue separately. The current civilisational crisis has its deep roots in the negative impacts of human activities on planetary ecosystems, mainly since the industrial revolution and mediated primarily by all spheres of capitalist development. One of the main causes of the crises can be found in the relationship between urban-territorial models and the agro-food system, which have become territorially decoupled, a process that has been accelerated by globalisation. These models have led to, among other problems, the mismatch between food production and consumption, the externalisation of negative socio-ecological impacts to remote locations, changes in natural land cover and land use, the intensification of the use of surface and groundwater (mainly for agriculture), greenhouse gas emissions and global warming, soil, water and air pollution, increased erosion, loss of biodiversity, abandonment of the

countryside, social and environmental injustices, among others. Such issues have contributed to environmental conflicts in both rural and urban areas. Water is at the centre of many of them, directly or indirectly, and its historical study can contribute to future decision-making for a just and sustainable socioecological transition. This points to the need to understand the historical socio-ecological processes that have contributed to the sustainable (or unsustainable) management of natural resources, and in particular water, and when they have become in the cause of social tensions and political controversies, even wars. The aim of this session is to exchange experiences on historiographical approaches that analyse the society-nature relationship in an integrated way. In particular, we welcome papers that use such approaches to analyse the role of water and sustainability, with a special focus on the rural world, but without losing sight of the interconnections with the urban world and contemporary society, particularly, since the second post-war period. The geographical framework of analysis is open, with scales that can range from the local to the global, passing through administrative or landscape units, and can address water planning, management and governance in different dimensions (ecological, social, political, economic, etc.). In short, this session will address in historical perspective the existing relationship between ecological as well as socio-economic and political aspects associated with the water cycle in the rural world.

### **Environmental conflicts around dam building in 20th century Spain**

**Judit Gil-Farrero** University of Zaragoza, Spain

With more than 1,200 large dams (over 15m high), Spain is the EU country with the largest number of these infrastructures, and the fifth in the world. Through some examples (Jánovas, Vega de Tera and Riaño), this paper will analyse and characterise dams as environmental conflicts from environmental history and environmental justice perspectives. Dams are a paradigmatic example of inequality in access to natural or environmental resources or services and in the distribution of environmental costs among different human groups. Such inequality is a consequence of the differences in the political potential of the different social actors. Other consequences of these differences are the way in which decisions are made about the management of natural resources and the distribution of environmental costs, and the public dimension of the conflict, which is closely linked to strategies of agnotology (or creation of ignorance). When talking about dams, the urban-rural dichotomy is very important: power is in the cities, where decisions about the rest of the territory are made and where, to a greater extent, energy generated in rural areas is used. Finally, dam building also entails a deep impact on local populations and their identity due to the loss of their landscape.

## Rough lives and lost hopes in Montesinho and Douro international natural parks: who benefits from nature conservation?

**Ricardo Vale** University of Porto, Portugal

The growing awareness of the need for nature conservation has been one of the primary factors contributing to the expansion of Portugal's protected areas network. The classification of Natural Parks focuses on enhancing the most significant natural, landscape, socio-economic, and cultural features, aiming to conserve and promote natural heritage and ecological balance. This enhancement will be achieved through biodiversity preservation and sustainable use of species, habitats, and ecosystems. In Portugal, unlike many non-European countries, protected areas are characterized by sporadic human settlements subject to significant restrictions.

The aim is to showcase the demographic, socio-economic, and land use evolution in two protected areas in Northern Portugal, the Montesinho Natural Park and the Douro International Natural Park, comparing them with other regions in Trás-os-Montes to understand the impacts of protected areas on local communities.

The methodology is based on a literature review, statistical analysis with cartographic representation, within the framework of a research project conducted as part of a PhD thesis in Geography.

## The Tagus-Segura water transfer project as a national and environmental struggle

**Francesco D'Amaro** Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

When the preliminary project to move water from the Tagus river to the Segura basin was released, in 1967–1969, the debate from different sectors of the Spanish population exploded. On the one hand, someone highlighted the project's benefits for the national economy and mobilised farmers and other citizens to support the ambitious public works; on the other hand, in the provinces affected by the project, some movements led by local elites claimed to halt the water transfer. Both parties used lobbying strategies to change public perception and development policies. This research – based on the archives of the Ministry of Public Works, the Franco's trade union and the farmers association – analyses the narratives about the water transfers in the national and regional press.

This paper proposes to read the opposition to the Tagus-Segura water transfer as a phenomenon that involved many economic and political actors of the Franco's regime. We will therefore reflect on the mobilisation for the announcement of this Spanish hydraulic works, arguably one of the most representative instances of a national struggle for water, as an antecedent or counterpart of the environmentalist movements that were consolidated in the 1970s.

## Mapping social and economic history through the journey of water

**Dominique Françoise Aviñó McChesney** University of Murcia and Regional Ministry of the Education of the Valencian Regional Government, Spain

The study of the agricultural area comprising the Palmeral of Elche in the Spanish province of Alicante (designated a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 2000) and the city's surrounding rural area must begin with the exploration of the main physical evidence of their existence: the water intake and distribution systems which include open canals, ditches, checks and division boxes or dividers. These infrastructures are the result of a shared design developed in the Middle Ages that responds to the needs of a society organised in farmhouses under a subsistence economy to cultivate arid, brackish land. However, the original design was later modified to suit the interests of an elite that established a series of urban orchards whose production was intended for trade. Applying hydraulic engineering principles and toponymy to landscape archaeology has allowed me to track these changes and to reconstruct the evolution of an agricultural landscape closely linked to a habitat, where the control, distribution and use of water as a scarce resource have shaped social relations.

## Invisible water and agriculture in Spain: a historical perspective

**Sergio Salazar-Galán** Pablo de Olavide University, Spain

In Spain, the use of groundwater can be traced back to the end of the 19th century, either by private initiatives or for the supply of growing cities. However, the beginning of the intensification of groundwater use, mainly for irrigation, started in the 1930's due to the introduction of technological innovations, but above all, after that decade and during the Franco dictatorship with the new agrarian policy and the work of the so-called "National Institute of Colonisation" and to private use without major institutional controls, which persists even to the present.

The intensification process during the 21st century is particularly striking: in 2000, groundwater used for irrigation accounted for only 4% of the total, and by 2018 it accounted for 24%. Of the 762 groundwater bodies identified throughout Spain since the transposition of the Water Framework Directive of 2000, 35 bodies have already been declared at risk of not meeting the environmental objective set out in the planning due to quantitative aspects, and 13 quantitative/qualitative, all of them with a spatio-temporal correspondence with the intensification of irrigation for agro-industry due to the synergic effects of irrigation and the use of agrochemicals.

## Dams in the Alps and Apennines: A Post-Colonial and Post-Positivist Analysis of Urban-Mountain Relations

**Stefano Morosini** University of Bergamo, European Society for Environmental History, Italy

Through archival research on unpublished sources and adopting both environmental history research methodologies and a post-colonial and post-positivist perspective, this article analyzes and compares four case studies in the Alps and Apennines: the lakes of Valle di Fraele (Sondrio, Lombardy), Lake Resia (Bolzano, South Tyrol), Lake Campotosto (L'Aquila, Abruzzo), and Lake Omodeo (Oristano, Sardinia). The aim is to provide an analysis of the transformations that occurred in the environment and landscape of these different contexts before, during, and after their hydroelectric infrastructure was implemented. The article examines the relationships

	<p>that emerged between the local communities involved in the construction of these projects and the political and economic power groups, often from distant urban contexts, that designed and realized them. The comparative analysis of the four case studies highlights how hydroelectric infrastructures have transformed not only the physical landscape but also the social landscape of the involved territories. Local communities often had to face the consequences of decisions made at higher levels, with a complex interaction between local and central powers. Post-colonial and post-positivist methodologies reveal the dynamics of domination and resistance, as well as the narratives that emerge from the experiences of local populations.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 4</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>5.8. Understanding contemporary rural energy transitions between decarbonization strategies and localized rural changes 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Francesca Uleri &amp; Federica Viganò</b> University of Bolzano, Italy, <b>Monica Musolino</b> University of Messina, Italy</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Francesca Uleri</b> University of Bolzano, Italy</p>	<p>Currently, in the midst of a progressive and solicited shift towards decarbonization and renewable energy, rural areas are playing a crucial role in guiding this transition. Various rural development projects and contributions highlight the significance of rural areas in fulfilling ambitious local commitments to combat climate change while also generating economic and social benefits. Globally, rural areas provide resources and innumerable sites (e.g., hydroelectric plants, agri-solar farms, etc.) for fueling the transition, thus strongly influencing its local advancements. Similarly, energy transitions have the potential to reshape the physical and social (material/immaterial) profile of rural areas. Rural places experience direct materializations of a shift to post-carbon technologies. Renewable electricity sites and infrastructures change the appearance and function of the rural, the way in which it is perceived and lived by residents, conceived by local policy-makers, and perceived by non-residents (e.g., rural users, tourists, temporary workers, etc.). This can result in multiple and contrasting energy and rural development decision-making processes, as well as in conflicting residents and non-residents' imaginaries about the rural place and associated energy transition dynamics. This mirrors – but also depends on – the co-productive relationship that binds energy and society. Energy availability, its production and consumption models, determine the types of lifestyles that are possible, symmetrically societal structures and processes (e.g., public policies, community activism, etc.) establish and influence the quality, location, and distribution of energy resources. Despite evident interdependencies between discourses of the evolution of rurality (and rural differentiation) and the ones related to Energy Transitions (ETs), these latter remain overwhelmed by metro-centered narratives and urban sociotechnical analyses. The analysis of intertwined changing rurality(-ies) and ETs remains markedly limited, and their outcomes almost completely underestimated. Notwithstanding the relevance and incisiveness of the overlap between new energyscapes and the social construction of rurality (in terms of productive vocation, quality of life, local cultural identity and traditions, place attachment, landscape care, etc.), the conceptualization</p>

	<p>of a “rural energy transition”, is still scarcely mentioned in social research. The session seeks to shed light on the interconnections between ETs and rural change. It presents (i) theoretical frameworks that help to conceptualize and understand contemporary rural energy transitions; (ii) different and “localized” cases of contemporary rural energy transitions in both the global North and global South, that help to understand how new energyscapes are embedded in – and adapted to – specific territories through forms of contestation and emancipation. Particular attention is given to historical and cultural factors influencing the differentiation of new energy landscapes in rural areas. Empirical cases can address the following themes, without being limited to them: ETs and commodification of rural resources; ETs and resignification of wasted lands; Imaginaries of rurality and ETs; Rural ETs and new technologies; Post-productivism and rural economy differentiation: multifunctional agriculture and energy production; Left behind places, ETs and green capitalism; Trajectories of energy democracy in rural areas; ETs and social impacts in rural contexts; Survival or emancipatory initiatives in rural areas and ETs; Path dependency development model in rural areas.</p>
<p><b>Rural ironworking and environmental (in) efficiency during the energy transition to fossil fuels in Spain, 1850-1920</b></p> <p><b>Ángel Sanjuán-Ruiz</b> Pablo de Olavide University, Spain</p>	<p>By 1850, Spanish metallurgy was rural, scattered, and reliant on organic energy sources, with limited productivity. Forty years later, in 1890, the industry's geography transformed, becoming urban and concentrated, mainly in Vizcaya and Oviedo, with increasing reliance on fossil fuels to boost production. This transition led to the decline of rural forges, which used charcoal and hydraulic power, in favor of modern factories powered by coke and steam. The advent of electricity in the early 20th century further altered the use of rivers, which transitioned from direct energy sources to crucial components in electricity generation.</p> <p>The economic efficiency gained from using coal over charcoal, which was expensive, scarce and inefficient, is widely acknowledged. However, the environmental efficiency of this transition remains uncertain. While it is known that energy efficiency in metallurgy improved, it is unclear how the shift to fossil fuels impacted environmental sustainability and the relationship between rural and urban areas. Using a novel historical database, we investigate the changes in environmental efficiency during industrialization and urbanization. Our findings indicate significant shifts in energy and water usage and CO2 emissions, coinciding with the rural areas' decline and urban centers' rise as major consumers of natural resources.</p>

## The role of thermal energy communities in empowering rural transitions: the case of Forest'Ener

**Aurore Dudka** University of Trento, Italy

The energy transition has predominantly focused on urban areas, often overlooking rural regions despite their significant potential (European Commission. Joint Research Centre. 2024) . Particularly in these areas, the growing importance of thermal energy for a green transition is particularly highlighted. However, implementing thermal energy projects in rural areas faces significant challenges, requiring substantial investment and specialized expertise. These hurdles are often exacerbated by a lack of technical competences within municipalities and civil society, while private actors show limited interest in projects below 20 MW (Fouladvand 2023) . This is why this paper explores the concept of thermal energy communities as a framework to promote a just green transition for rural areas (Burke and Stephens 2017) . As a case study, we focus on Forest'Ener, a consulting engineering firm within France's citizen energy network, specializing in small-scale rural projects. Based on semi-structured interviews, we demonstrate how Forest'Ener serves as an intermediary, facilitating the emergence of citizen-led energy projects while emphasizing the need for policy adaptation that supports these initiatives and accounts for the diversity of local landscapes—not only in urban areas and large-scale projects, but also in smaller, community-driven efforts (Clausen and Rudolph 2020).

## Models of rurality and energy transition in the Italian Alps

**Monica Musolino** University of Messina, Italy

The paper aims at analysing the energy transition process and its related participatory practices that has affected the Italian Alpine arc and, above all, the area of South Tyrol in the last hundred years. The socio-historical perspective is integrated with the co-productionist approach with the intention of analysing three main axes of the process: models of participation (how), objects (what) and subjects (who). This approach allows to bring out the importance of the interrelationship of certain factors that have historically determined the current characteristics assumed by rural territories and their populations (cultural identity, methods of managing energy resources, internal organisation within society, etc.), as well as the specificities of the energy policies of local authorities and the cooperative organisational forms that are widespread in the valleys. These peculiarities are analysed as examples of localised energy transition and the result of a close mutual influence between institutional, economic, anthropological and cultural characteristics. It will also be shown how this socio-technical system is mirrored in a specific form of rurality, energy landscape and energy transition governance.

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 5.9. Underemployment, seasonality and mobility in rural worlds (18th-20th centuries) 2

**ORGANISERS** **Niccolò Mignemi**

French National Centre for  
Scientific Research, France,

**Luca Andreoni & Francesco**

**Chiapparino** Marche Polytechnic  
University, Italy

**MODERATOR & DISCUSSANT** **Gérard**

**Béaur** French National Centre for  
Scientific Research, France

Agricultural underemployment was a frequent and widespread, in some respect structural, situation in the 18th-20th centuries. It was linked to the seasonality of the farming systems, and the availability of a reservoir of rural workforce, which was the condition to cope with bottlenecks and peaks in the labour supply, throughout the year. Economic and social historians have paid particular attention the consequences of these dynamics in terms of seasonal mobility, the development of protoindustrial and off-farm activities, or crop specialization (vineyards, olives, fruits but also industrial crops). Observed through the lens of underemployment, work rhythms can indeed provide crucial insights into the evolutions of farm organization and rural rationalities. They are central to understand changes in productivity patterns (land and/or labour), the spread of labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive innovations, the management of local resources, the place of migrations (temporary or permanent), the evolution of the labour contracts, or the multiple strategies combining agricultural and non-agricultural activities etc.

However, despite the importance of the subject, historians have paid little attention to the study of agricultural underemployment per se, its role in technological innovations and the diversification/ specialization of farm activities. There are several reasons for this lack of analysis. Firstly, the everyday forms of labour organization – both family and hired labour – are harder to detect in archives than land or heritage. Secondly, sources concerning the length of the working day or the numbers of days worked per season are scarce, lacking data for comparisons between national aggregates and longitudinal studies on specific territories. Thirdly, the seasonality of labour and the impact of agricultural underemployment are difficult to define and measure at different levels, as well as the mechanisms of its persistence and the consequences on the other economic sectors.

Contributions to this panel may address one or more of the following issues:

Measurement and estimation of the working hours, according to their seasonal dynamics and distinguishing between specialised and non-specialised tasks: all approaches are welcome, from qualitative case studies to econometric analyses, as well as studies focusing on the production of data and statistics on these phenomena; Origins and consequences of seasonality on the organization of the farm, the development of technological innovations, and the dynamics of the farming systems; Debates on women's underemployment and the changing perceptions/recognitions of female labour in agriculture (both within the family, and outside as servants or temporary workers); Income integration strategies (at the individual or the family level) in response to underemployment, with particular attention to life-cycle effects and the role of pluriactivity; Local and national initiatives promoted by local authorities, governmental and non-governmental organizations to manage seasonal labour and fight against underemployment, through technological change, employment and educational policies;

	<p>Agricultural underemployment in the economic and social debates, in particular during the period of crisis, in the relation to the level of the agricultural wages, and the question of the rural population as a reserve army of unemployed workers.</p>
<p><b>Labour rhythms and the evolution of seasonal work in German agriculture, late sixteenth century to c. 1850</b></p> <p><b>Florian Probst &amp; Ulrich Pfister</b> University of Muenster, Germany</p>	<p>This study examines the seasonal pattern of rural labour and the ratio of annual wages of servants and day wages of agricultural workers during two-and-a-half centuries before rapid industrialisation, focusing on the long-term evolution of annual working days. Using a novel dataset comprising approximately one million data points on the wages of day labourers and servants from 40 rural estates, we explore the extent and transformation of seasonal work patterns. By combining two methodological approaches – wage ratio analysis (Humphries/Weisdorf:2019) and analysis of seasonality patterns (Jensen et. al:2019) – we reconstruct the length of the working year and its seasonal dynamics.</p> <p>Our findings reveal a significant increase in annual working days, rising by roughly fifty days to 250 during the first half of the nineteenth century. This shift coincided with a decline in labour seasonality, indicating a structural change in rural work organisation. We argue this development was not primarily driven by an industrious revolution (de Vries:2008) but rather by the interplay of agricultural intensification, protoindustrialization, and shifts in labour allocation. These changes highlight the adaptive strategies of rural households to underemployment while shedding new light on the complex interrelations between agricultural seasonality, technological innovation, and labour productivity in pre-industrial Europe.</p>
<p><b>Conflict and/or complementarity? Seasonal labour demand, female work and agricultural specialisation in Mallorca between 1798 and 1809</b></p> <p><b>Gabriel Jover-Avellà</b> University of Girona, Spain</p>	<p>The paper will study the demand for seasonal labour and the participation of women in the labour market. It will examine data from the account books of a large estate owned by the Convent on the island of Mallorca in the early 19th century, when a system dominated by capitalist farms reached its peak. The five farms of this estate hired wagedworkers (adult men, women and children) in local and regional labour markets. The papers aims to identify periods in which there was an extreme seasonal competition in the labour demand between the different types of farms depending on the cropping system (olive groves, cereals, wine and cereals associated with almonds and carob trees). It will also explain how the landowners/farmers faced this competition, in terms of contractual agreements, division of labour by gender and age, and wage rewarded. This microanalysis will provide keys for understanding how these adjustments in the labour market took place on a larger scale, as, for example, between specialized regions in the island.</p>

## Gendered labor and agricultural underemployment in the Karst region

**Leonida Ravšelj & Anđela Nedeljković** University of Primorska, Slovenia

This paper examines the dynamics of agricultural labor and underemployment in the Karst region of Slovenia, focusing on the beginning of the 19th century. Drawing on vital records and the Franciscan cadastre, it explores the gendered distribution of agricultural tasks, seasonal labor patterns, and household strategies to mitigate underemployment. Key questions include: How were tasks divided between men and women, and how did their roles vary by task type? What do these patterns reveal about gendered labor organization? The paper investigates the seasonality of underemployment, exploring its impact on the diversification or specialization of farm activities and the adoption of proto-industrial and off-farm strategies. The study also addresses the methodological challenges of using archival sources like the cadastre to measure underemployment, including the limitations of recorded data on working hours and task seasonality. By integrating these sources, the paper highlights how agricultural underemployment shaped rural labor organization and productivity in the Karst region, contributing to broader debates on labor patterns in agrarian economies. This research advances our understanding of the interplay between labor, gender, and underemployment, offering a case study that informs wider historical and economic discussions on rural livelihoods and adaptive strategies.

## (Male) seasonal underemployment and poor relief in a saturated rural labour market: South-East England in the early 19th century

**Henry French** University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Rural historians who use the British population censuses have noted a serious discrepancy between the numbers of household heads described as agricultural labourers, and the numbers of labourers employed by farmers in their settlements. In Hertfordshire, Goose found that villages contained 47 per cent more labourers than farmers were recorded as employing. He concludes that these men were not unemployed, or paupers. However, they must have been under-employed much of the time.

To investigate this, the paper will use detailed farm accounts, poor relief records and censuses from the Essex village of Terling (south-east England) between 1800-41, to reconstruct the seasonal demand for male labour, patterns of under-employment (and seasonal compensation through poor relief), and the variations in individual workers' employment patterns. In this highly capitalist agrarian region, it will show how farmers divided up the local labour market between a few fully employed (male) labourers, a fluctuating seasonal (male) workforce, women & children's labour in spring and harvest, and outside 'gang-labour' in harvest, to lower wage demands.

[Room **Instituto de Paleografia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**5.10. Water in rural areas: memory, conflicts and landscape dynamics**

**ORGANISERS** **João Luís Fernandes**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal,  
**Ramon Garcia Marin** University of Murcia, Spain

In different historical and geographical contexts, water is omnipresent in rural spaces. This relevance is due to water as a source of life, to its central role in shaping landscapes, but also, often, to the constraints imposed by the scarcity or lack of access to water resources.

Over time and avoiding anachronistic determinisms, water has interfered in Human Geography and has been a superlative factor in modeling settlement structures. In fact, water is part of the memory of many places, a reality that is confirmed, for example, by the cartography of hydrotonyms present in rural areas in many European countries, and beyond.

On the other hand, as a disputed vital strategic resource, water interferes with power relations, tensions and conflicts, on different geographic scales, from the micro-territories of small farmers and livestock breeders, to large geopolitical spaces, including the geographies of intensive land exploitation systems.

Also in different spatial and temporal scenarios, water has been imposed on rural spaces through developmental strategies that involve the regularization of rivers or other river courses, as well as the construction of important infrastructures, such as dams and canals. The demand for water, especially in contexts in which there is a spatial and temporal gap between the need and access to this value, has led to disruptive interventions, with very heterogeneous effects in fragile systems, such as most rural areas.

In this sequence, a panel is proposed based on a set of principles: water issues are not confined to the physical dimension of the problem; far beyond the uncertain idea of abundance or scarcity, the issue of water and associated ecological marginalization can have a mainly political origin and result from complex relationships between different actors; this is a topic that will benefit from different disciplinary angles.

**The water management at the end of the 16th to early 18th century in Cluj neighborhood**

**Enikő Rűsz-Fogarasi** Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Cluj and the surrounding villages were connected by the river Szamos and its water system. This water system also caused many problems for the people living here, floods often disrupted the water-based facilities, and at other times smaller streams almost dried up for shorter periods due to drought. This presentation will outline the problems of water management and present solutions for the time. It will discuss the creation of a mill ditch in Cluj, dam maintenance, and water conflicts. I will also analyze the circumstances under which water use between the city of Cluj Napoca and neighboring landowners has escalated to the point of lawsuits or violence.

## Water and rural dynamics: hydraulic management and watermills in the lease contracts of the Monastery of Seiça (Portugal) in the Early Modern Period (1754-1834)

**Inês Maria Jordão Pinto** University of Coimbra, Portugal

This paper seeks to analyse the relationship between water resource management, watermills, and the formation of rural landscapes, based on the lease contracts of the Cistercian Monastery of Seiça, located in the geographical area of the mouth of the Mondego River. These contracts reveal how water was regulated and utilised, highlighting social, economic, and territorial dynamics over time.

The research focuses on analysing the lease contracts, between 1754 and 1834, as legal and administrative instruments that structured the use of water resources and hydraulic infrastructures, such as watermills. In addition to establishing rights and obligations between the parties, these documents reveal practices, values, and social relations related to water management, forming an integral part of the historical memory of the territories governed by that Monastery.

This study intends to demonstrate the historical and cultural role of water and watermills in shaping the rural landscape and territorial organization. At the same time, it underscores the importance of Cistercian monasteries as regulatory agents and shapers of territory, integrating the case of the Monastery of Seiça into the broader debate on the relationships between water, power, and landscape, contributing to a better understanding of rural dynamics and water management in the early modern period.

## Milling monopolies in Early Modern Sweden

**Martin Andersson** Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

Grain was the main energy source for the populations of Early Modern Europe, but it needed to be ground on a mill in order to be consumed, and since water was the main power source for mills in Sweden, this meant that control over and management water – in the form of rapids and streams – was fundamental for society. While Medieval legislation protected peasants from having their fields flowed by illegal constructions of mills and dams, in the Early Modern period it instead was the mill owners who were protected from competition through the establishment of local milling monopolies. This paper will analyze this system through records from the 1690s milling commissions, in order to establish how control over water was established and contested. This will be compared to how the total number of mills in Sweden changed over the Early Modern period, in order to understand how local milling monopolies and control over water courses in the long run lead to severe lack of milling capacity.

## The use of hydropower in early modern Transylvania: Conflicts over water mills (16th-17th centuries)

**Petra Mátyás-Rausch** Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Hungary

Transylvania was located on the eastern periphery of Western Europe, despite the geographical distances, the technical achievements of hydropower were widespread and played a prominent role in the Transylvanian economy at the Middle Ages. There is a large literature of the water mills in Transylvania in general, but ore crushing mills are less well known to researchers. I intend to fill this gap to some extent in my presentation. In early modern Transylvania there are so many significant mining towns (Metalliferi Mountains). Most of the water mills located in these areas were used for ore grinding (stomp). In addition to the historical context, I would like to focus on the conflicts, legal cases generated by the water mills. During this period, a successful miner in Transylvania was someone who either owned or rented a mill. However, the successive crushing mills were also the cause of many conflicts, mainly because the owner of the ore grinding mill built later did not respect the existing buildings, so that damage was caused to them. There is a wealth of documentation, which allows us to outline the conflicts that arose in Transylvania over the use of water energy and the solutions adopted in these towns.

## Dams, irrigation and regional development in Southwestern Iberia, 1950-2040

**Carlos Manuel Faísca** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Historically, the interior of the Southwestern Iberian Peninsula has been one of the poorest, most depopulated, and unequal regions of the Peninsula. With agrarian economies shaped by hot climates and water scarcity, irrigation has been seen as essential for socioeconomic development since the 17th century. However, Portugal and Spain only began constructing dams and large public irrigation systems from the mid-20th century onward, in a context of transition toward more industrialized and service-oriented economies. Dams began to serve multiple purposes: in addition to agriculture, they aimed to promote industrialization, electricity production, and tourism. Despite expectations, many areas in southern Portugal did not experience the promised development, while in Spain, some cases were more successful, though with varied outcomes.

This presentation aims to identify the areas of Southwestern Iberia that have achieved significant regional development thanks to dams and public irrigation, and to understand the key factors behind this success. The conclusions may help guide public policies, especially at a time when both countries are discussing the expansion of irrigated areas, with projects such as the Pisão dam in the Alentejo and the extension of irrigation in Extremadura.

[Room **Sala 1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 5.11. Breeding with or without breeds?

ORGANISERS **Jadon Nisly-Goretzki**  
& **Ulrike Heitholt** University  
of Kassel, Germany

For at least two centuries, the concept of distinct animal breeds dominated the exploitation of animal products in agriculture. More recently, the concept of breed is in flux. Hybrids have long been standard in swine and poultry breeding, and selectively cross-breeding with beef breeds is becoming typical in dairying. But even so, and despite the rise of genomics, breeds still play a central role for many farmers. Especially in organic agriculture and direct marketing, so-called 'local' or 'native' breeds often serve as a marker of sustainability and groundedness. Despite the long-standing primacy of the concept in policymaking and practical breeding, the subject has not often been the focus of recent empirical works of agricultural or rural history. Many of the publications on the history of breeds have remained celebratory internal narratives, often produced by breed associations themselves. These tend to rely heavily on 19th century monographs and follow these in assuming incorrectly that breeds have a deep, even prehistoric past. On the other hand, international histories of breed have tended to focus almost entirely on the British and North American context. This panel looks to showcase a variety of historical perspectives on how 'breed' was defined, instrumentalized, or even seen as superfluous. What role did breed play as a boundary marker that could fulfill a range of functions from status symbol to specific forms of concentrated production. This can also include how breeders reacted to 'race scientists' and eugenicists, or even actively contributed to such thought. What role did the use of the same term for race and breed in most European languages play? Contributions are welcome that deal with a range of time periods, regions, and species. Topics can include pre-modern concepts of 'breed', the impact of local breeding associations and exhibitions on rural sociability, the institutionalization of breed in the 19th century, the role of 'native' breeds in fascism, imperialism and colonialism, breeds in relation to reproductive technology like artificial insemination and genomics, and what role breeds still played in hybrid breeding programs.

## Racial classifications of horses at the Habsburg Imperial stud farms of Lipica and Kladrub in the 17th century

**Tadej Pavković** University of  
Ljubljana, Slovenia

Recent historiography has often employed terms like "Spanish", "Iberian", or "Baroque" to classify groups of horses bred at Early Modern stud farms, particularly those used as court curiosities or for ceremonial purposes. These classifications have also been employed by historians to describe the horses at the Habsburg Imperial stud farms in Lipica and Kladrub during the 16th and 17th centuries in the Holy Roman Empire. However, an analysis of administrative sources from the stud farms and their governing institutions reveals that such modern categorizations were largely absent from the farms. Instead, these sources relied on the more narrowly defined concept of "race" (*razza*), to distinguish horses by their institutional origin.

This presentation will delve into the administrative records from the 17th-century Lipica and Kladrub stud farms, preserved in the collection of the Master of the Horse in Vienna, to provide a detailed analysis of the classification systems used at these stud farms. By examining these local

## **“Alternative” cultures of breeding: contesting intensive livestock breeding in the Netherlands (1950-2020)**

**Amber Striekwold** Utrecht University, Netherlands

classification practices in depth, it will further establish connections to the broader systems of classification of fancy horses employed in aristocratic stud farms across Europe during the Early Modern period.

This paper explores the ‘culture of breeding’ of breeders and pastoralists of two pig breeds ‘Bonte Bentheimers’ and ‘Nederlands Landvarken’ between 1950-2020 in the Netherlands. Both breeds came into being at the start of the twentieth century and were popular until the 1950s because of their high fat percentages. From the 1960s onwards, consumers wanted leaner meats, so the popularity of these breeds declined. Breed selection aimed at a thinner layer of bacon and higher feed conversion. The “Nederlands Landvarken” continued as a ‘mother pig’, but no longer as a ‘pure’ breed.

These breeds, however, did not go extinct. Breeders and pastoralists sceptical of a purely rational scientific and economic approach to breeding argued that other elements were also important, such as cultural heritage and taste. To study these ‘cultures of breeding’, I use archival material and magazines from biodynamic, organic, and conventional agricultural organisations, supplemented with oral history. Following Theunissen (2020), this paper adds to the growing body of literature that argues that livestock improvement in post-war Europe was not a linear, but rather complex process. It does so by highlighting actors who did not only take scientific and economic factors into account but also normative and aesthetic aspects.

## **Breeds before herd books? Defining German cattle populations in the early 19th century**

**Jadon Nisly-Goretzki** University of Kassel, Austria

In historiography, the definition of breeds is generally dated to the point where a herd book was created. Since the first German herd books were not created until the 1870ies, the question arises of what role the concept of breeds played until then. In fact, while in the 18th century elite breeders often still grouped cattle loosely into local, Swiss, or Friesian cows, by the first decades of the 19th century these had already been specified into a larger number of more geographically constrained and distinct breeds. Generally the same terms for these ‘breeds’ showed up in both scientific publications and in the account books of larger farms. But how did the actors involved define what cattle were which breeds? Did these breed terms even have a significant impact on practice, or did they remain confined to small circles of elite ‘fanciers’? Which non-elite actors were involved in ‘pure-breeding’ before it became mandatory, and what were their motivations? By looking at account books and other archival sources, I hope to help better establish to what extent German herd books codified existing imaginaries or created them in the first place, and what role external market demand played.

## Breeding for bacon: the Danish landrace pig

**Esben Bøgh Sørensen** The Green Museum, Denmark

From the late 19th century, Danish agriculture underwent a significant transformation, shifting its focus toward animal production. A key aspect of this transformation was the expansion of bacon production for export to the British market. However, the existing pig breeds used on Danish farms at the time were neither well-suited to the demands of British consumers nor adapted to the more intensive farming practices emerging in Denmark. To address these challenges, a new breeding program was launched in the 1890s with the goal of developing a distinctive Danish Landrace pig breed. In this paper, I examine how the Danish Landrace became a cornerstone of Danish pig production between the 1890s and 1970. I also explore the pivotal role of cooperative farmer-owned slaughterhouses in driving the breeding program in a specific direction, as well as the breed's rise to iconic status as a "national" breed. This status was further reinforced through protective measures such as the prohibition of exporting breeding animals, ensuring that the breed's characteristics and genetic advantages remained a uniquely Danish asset.

## Breed in German poultry breeding in the 19th century

**Ulrike Heitholt** University of Kassel, Austria

The chicken of the 19th century was still far from being an economic factor in German agriculture. Chickens were seen as a 'necessary evil' on farms and were mainly kept for self-sufficiency. Systematic, planned poultry breeding? No farmer gave it a second thought. Outside of agriculture, however, they did: by the middle of the century, more and more poultry breeding associations were founded in the German federal states. Their mostly middle-class or urban members dedicated themselves to breeding poultry by breed, following the British model. They also wanted to bring their ideas to the agricultural sector in order to 'elevate' poultry breeding there. They were convinced that breeding by breed would also improve the performance of agricultural chickens, i.e. eggs and meat, and make them more profitable. The state also had an interest in improving agricultural poultry breeding. It supported the spread of pedigree poultry breeding, for example by subsidies, the establishment of poultry centres or further training. At least until the First World War, the attempts did not bear fruit. Because the wrong breeds were supported? Because the wrong people were in favour of it and/or the wrong 'breeders' were targeted? Or was it because breed breeding was promoted?

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 5.12. From exotic to local seeds. Global circulation and local impact of cultivated seeds since the 15th century

**ORGANISERS Dulce Freire & Alberto González Remuiñán**

University of Coimbra, Portugal

**MODERATOR Alberto González Remuiñán** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Since the 15th century, the global circulation of cultivated seeds has transformed regional agriculture, landscapes and diets around the world. The general trends of these dynamics have been studied, making it possible to identify the regions of origin or the trajectories of plants that have become common in everyday diets on different continents (such as tomatoes, maize, wheat, potatoes, rice, oranges). However, it is still necessary to explain the environmental, genetic and social processes that allowed the local introduction and spread of each new cultivated species. How did these procedures allow, or not, that new seeds brought from other continents to be transformed from exotic to local varieties? This session calls for interdisciplinary approaches to deepen historical knowledge of the local circumstances underlying the so-called global Columbian exchange. Papers should explore local perspectives, practices and knowledge recorded in different historical documents, namely travellers' descriptions, scientists' books and reports, administrative records of religious and secular powers, cookery books, memoirs and letters from various plant and food enthusiasts. These diverse and scattered testimonies can mention not only seeds and foods that became famous, but also those that were rejected or forgotten. In order to understand local practices, knowledge and dynamics related to seed cultivation and food consumption, papers focusing on any geography and chronology are welcome.

## The progress of cultivated clovers before the Columbian Exchange: the case of Lombardy-Piedmont 1550s

**Mauro Ambrosoli** University of Udine, Italy

Plants moved to Western Europe either thanks to the forces of nature (pollination, winds etc.) or to population movements from the Fertile Crescent and the Far East to West. The Columbian Exchange imposed a new crops from Americas to Europe that found their way into European farming: however it did not stop the arrival of plants from East to West, that brought plants and new cultivars to the 'New Europes'. I dealt the French and international seed market in my book *The Wild and the Sown*, CUP 1997, on clovers and alfalfa, 1600 and 1700-1870 within Western Europe and later to the Americas (*Histoire et Sociétés Rurales*, 2014, 42). My present contribution will track the function of local markets and local farmers (Lodi) to provide clover seeds for agricultural development elsewhere (Turin and Mantua) in decades of economic stability around 1550s. Furthermore, during our present time of climate change the green cover provided by legume crops along with the preservation of natural fertility will be of great help to reduce the carbon footprint of today's farming. A traditional approach to farming will be probably also very useful to soil conservation practices and biodiversity.

## New seeds and changes in seasonal resource management: changing landscapes and new challenges

**Alberto González Remuiñán,**  
**José Luís Barbosa, Carlos**  
**Manuel Faísca, Leonor**

**Salguinho Ferreira** University  
of Coimbra, Portugal, **Anabela**  
**Ramos** University of Minho and  
University of Coimbra, Portugal

From the 15th century onwards, Portugal and Spain were the European protagonists of a process of increasing connections with different territories around the globe. Thus, the Iberian Peninsula became a gateway for new plants to the old world –including cereals, pulses, tubers, vegetables or fruit trees– which contributed to the modification of knowledge and agricultural cultivation systems following the introduction and adaptation of these new species.

Many of these plants had a natural cycle that was specific to the spring and summer months, so they complemented the traditional winter cereals and made it possible to diversify the farmers' diet. However, the water demand required the adaptation of some agricultural techniques. In areas where plants depended on more fluctuating rainfall, water management became even more important in order to manage dryland agriculture.

Far from being the only changes, there were also important transformations at the landscape level, as many of these plants needed particular conditions to thrive. Thus, farmers occupied new areas, covered the slopes with terraces, constructed puddles, irrigation systems and storage structures, suppressed fallows, reduced herding, or erected walls and hedges to parcel out the land. In this paper we analyse these transformations in the Iberian Peninsula.

## New foods in Lisbon: an archaeobotanical perspective on the introduction of American plant foods in Europe

**Mariana Costa Rodrigues &**  
**José António Bettencourt** NOVA  
University of Lisbon, Portugal, **João**  
**Pedro Tereso** Research Centre in  
Biodiversity and Genetic Resources,  
Portugal, **Dulce Freire** University of  
Coimbra, Portugal

During the Early Modern Period, Lisbon's riverside underwent significant transformation driven by Portugal's expanding maritime endeavors, particularly transoceanic voyages. This period marked the city's evolution into a vibrant crossroads of cultures, nationalities, new foods, materials, and goods. As a result, the riverside area developed into a rich archaeological landscape, with numerous excavations carried out in recent decades. These digs uncovered a variety of structures—ranging from abandoned ships and piers to storage facilities—and yielded a wide array of artifacts, including botanical remains.

Among the most notable discoveries were plant remains of American origin, such as tomato (*Solanum lycopersicum*) and pepper (*Capsicum annuum/pubescens*). These represent the first appearances of these species in Portuguese archaeological contexts from the Early Modern era. Their presence helps bridge the gap between archaeological evidence and written historical sources, confirming the now undeniable presence of these foods in Lisbon during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Preliminary results from ongoing archaeobotanical research indicate not only the presence of American species but also plant foods from various regions, reflecting diverse uses and origins. These findings open compelling lines of inquiry into historical food production, trade networks, maritime provisioning, and the broader introduction of non-native food plants into Europe. Ultimately, this research enhances our understanding of the global exchanges that shaped Early Modern Europe, by providing material evidence of the interconnected world emerging at that time.

## Rice in Atlantic history: crops as culture or the culture of crops?

**Fernando Mouta** University of Lisbon, Portugal

The development of Afro-European Atlantic trade required overcoming several logistical challenges, particularly regarding the availability of food and fresh water. The settlement of the Atlantic islands and the establishment of the transatlantic slave trade further intensified this need. In this context, it is crucial to understand the role that certain crops played in these dynamics. Rice, in particular, was a staple cereal for many societies along the coast between the Casamance River and the Bandama River, with an established market already in place when European newcomers arrived. Was this existing availability the key factor in the spread of rice throughout the South Atlantic? Or was it the deep-rooted rice-growing culture, diffused through the movement of members of these communities, that made this expansion inevitable? This presentation seeks to illustrate that the study of African crop diffusion in the Atlantic world is significantly enriched by incorporating diverse perspectives and insights. It aims to underscore that only through a multidimensional approach can researchers develop plausible and comprehensive narratives about processes that left behind limited historical records.

16h30 – 17h

## COFFEE BREAK



Advertisement for the sale of seeds, 1947, published in *Almanaque Agrícola*, Vol. I, p. 43.

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>6.1. Pigs in the late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean Europe: cabreeding, production and consumption (11th-16th centuries) 2</b> Davide Cristoferi, Valentina Costantini	6.1.1. Pig farming in the Valencian rural world: breeding and consumption (14th-15th centuries) Salvador Vercher-Lletí	6.1.2. Swine husbandry amongst serf peasants in late medieval Catalonia Lluís Sales Favà	6.1.3. Pig breeding and pork consumption in 15th century Castile Ricardo Córdoba			Instituto de Paleografía, 3rd floor
<b>6.2. Environment, health and disease: perceptions and problem-solving in rural and agricultural communities 2</b> Karen-Beth Scholthof, Cherisse Jones-Branch, Jeannie Whayne	6.2.1. Nutrition as freedom: George Washington Carver's rural health agenda Camille Goldmon	6.2.2. A natural protective mechanism in favour of the potato: remote rural landscapes and disease-free seed potato production in interwar Great Britain João P.R. Joaquim	6.2.3. Kavli among humans and livestock: genres of healing in the rural landscapes of Vindhyanchal Bina Sengar	6.2.4. Using oral history to chart community resilience in response to climate change and environmental disaster: insights from the deepwater horizon oil spill oral history project Louis M. Kyriakoudes		Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>6.3. Family farming from a gender perspective in the 20th century 2</b> Ana Cabana, Uxía Otero González, Alba Díaz Geada	6.3.1. We feed you: protest fashion and the United Farm Workers Union Michelle McVicker	6.3.2. Sexual division of labour and rural economy in the grape sector of south-eastern Spain (20th century) María Dolores Haro Gil, María del Carmen Pérez Artés	6.3.3. Women's everyday life on the family farm in Finland in the 1950s and 1960s Maria Vanha-Similä	6.3.4. "We women fought hard in the fields": rural women and the Portuguese Revolution Rita Calvário, Cecília Honório	6.3.5. The myth of the "bumpkin" woman and rural modernization: gender, identity, and social change in Francoist Spain Laura Cabezas Vega, Silvia Canalejo Alonso	Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor
<b>6.4. The organisation of work and workers in England (c. 1250 – 1850)</b> Grace Owen	6.4.1. Women's hidden agricultural work and the slow transition to the breadwinner-homemaker family in England, 1700-1850 Nick Collins	6.4.2. The value of waged labour: a reconsideration of remuneration in early modern rural England Li Jiang	6.4.3. Acknowledging the known unknowns: gender and wage labour in medieval England Grace Owen			TP2, 4th floor
<b>6.5. Agroecological landscapes and food systems in Europe in the long term 1</b> Guiomar Carranza-Gallego, David Soto Fernández, Gloria I. Guzmán Casado	6.5.1. The Portuguese Wheat Campaign: evaluating the impact of production inputs Alexandre Macedo João	6.5.2. From wetland to farmland: historical transformations of Denmark's agricultural landscapes through land drainage Nele Lohrum, Morten Graversgaard, Tommy Dalgaard	6.5.3. Where happened the agricultural revolution? Food production Saxony Oscar Dube	6.5.4. Landscape assessment to sustain a healthy diet: case of the Vega (Granada, Spain), 1983-2016 Guiomar Carranza-Gallego, Gloria I. Guzmán Casado, Pablo Saralegui-Díez, Sergio Salazar Galán, Manuel González de Molina		Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>6.6. Rural cooperatives in East Central and South-Eastern Europe in the interwar period: growing influence of national politics and simultaneous internationalization of the cooperative movement?</b> Uwe Müller	6.6.1. Polish rural cooperatives in the interwar period between nationalization and internationalization (1918-1939) Torsten Lorenz	6.6.2. Rural cooperatives in interwar Czechoslovakia: roles, political affiliations and interactions with a democratic state Jan Slaviček	6.6.3. Rural conferences in the Interwar Greece and the gradual perception of cooperatives as State's "bodies"; an appraisal using discourse analysis Katerina Brégianni	6.6.4. Consumer cooperatives in Hungary (1898-1923) Gábor Koloh	6.6.5. Rural co-operatives as instruments of national economic policy in interwar East Central Europe Uwe Müller	Sala 3, 3rd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>6.7. Meet the author: The formation of agricultural governance. The interplay between state and civil society in European agriculture, 1870-1940</b> Jordi Planas, Anton Schuurman, Yves Segers						TP1, 4th floor
<b>6.8. Insect invasions and agriculture in Europe: institutions, tools and strategies of defense (17th-20th centuries) 2</b> Omar Mazzotti, Luciano Maffi	<b>6.8.1. Mapping agricultural pests: patterns of insect damage in the Low Countries, 1780-1840</b> Paulien Daelman	<b>6.8.2. Insects in scientific and agricultural knowledge, 1600-1800 c.</b> Martino Lorenzo Fagnani, Matteo Di Tullio	<b>6.8.3. The role of Hungarian elementary school teachers in the fight against phyloxera at the end of the 19th century</b> Attila Nóbik	<b>6.8.4. The phyloxera invasion in Italy: new empirical evidence on policies and instruments of counteraction (19th century)</b> Omar Mazzotti, Luciano Maffi		Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>6.9. Rural economic inequalities in the Central and Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period 3</b> Radosław Poniat	<b>6.9.1. Economic aspects of the activities of the rural population in the Medieval Serbian lands</b> Marija Koprivica	<b>6.9.2. Wealth inequality in Early Modern Northern Europe: Sweden 1571-1627</b> Martin Andersson	<b>6.9.3. Economic stratification and entrepreneurship in the Šiauliai economy community in the late of seventeenth century</b> Rita Regina Trimonienė	<b>6.9.4. Economic Inequality in 18th-century Hungary</b> Antal Szántay		Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>6.10. Historical perspectives on accounting as a social practice in organisational management: Pathways to accountability and sustainability 1</b> Liliana Pimentel, Leonor Fernandes Ferreira, Andreia Fernandes	<b>6.10.1. Inequality in Northern Portugal through the “Foral” charters (16th to 19th centuries)</b> José Luís Barbosa	<b>6.10.2. Beyond farm accounts: methodologies for analyzing farm self-sufficiency without written records</b> Leonida Ravšelj	<b>6.10.3. Sources of rural history and its use in Hungary</b> Eva Laczka	<b>6.10.4. Accounting history: bibliometric analysis between 1992-2024</b> Inês Milheiras, Liliana Pimentel, Dulce Freire		Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>6.11. Meet the autor: Rural Films (Rural History Yearbook 2024)</b> Brigitte Semanek, Peter Moser, Andreas Wigger						Sala 2, 3rd floor

# Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

17h00 – 19h00  
PARALLEL SESSIONS 6

<div>[Room <b>Instituto de Paleografia</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</div> <div><b>6.1. Pigs in the late Medieval and Early Modern Mediterranean Europe: breeding, production and consumption (11th-16th centuries) 2</b></div> <div><div><div>ORGANISERS</div><div><b>Davide Cristoferi</b> Free University of Brussels, Belgium, <b>Valentina Costantini</b> University of Glasgow, Scotland</div></div><div><div>MODERATOR</div><div><b>Pere Benito i Monclús</b> University of Lleida, Spain</div></div></div>	<p>The aim of the panel is to bring together new contributions that examine two novel aspects. On the one hand, the relevance, extent and forms of pig breeding; on the other hand, the trends and typologies of pork consumption in Italy and Europe between the Middle Ages and the early modern period, particularly in the Mediterranean area. Both topics have recently been the subject of conferences (Flaran 2023) and publications (Kreiner 2020; Jørgensen 2024). While revisiting the history of pork production and consumption in medieval and early modern Europe, scholars have highlighted the geographical, chronological and thematic gaps in this field of research. In this respect, our panel will emphasize contributions that depart from the previous historiographical paradigm to show the evolution and persistence of pig farming and pork consumption in the long term. This will allow us to present a more nuanced and complex interpretation of the role of the pig in medieval and early modern society, especially in relation to environmental constraints and market demand. The panel is intended to be organized as a double session with four papers studying Italy and four papers analysing the Iberian Peninsula. An introduction and the discussion of each paper will allow the comparison among the different case-studies at both regional and sovra-regional level.</p>
<div><b>Pig farming in the Valencian rural world: breeding and consumption (14th-15th centuries)</b></div> <div><b>Salvador Vercher-Lletí</b> Municipal Archive of Alzira, Spain</div>	<p>The paper focuses on the Valencian rural world. The study is structured into three sections. The first section examines the regulations concerning pig farming, not only at the local level but also providing a general overview of the ordinances in various municipalities, with particular attention to domestic pig farming and the roles of the swineherd. The second section offers an approach to pork consumption, the fiscal imposition on it, and its sale. Finally, the third section explores the hunting of wild pigs, specifically wild boars.</p>

## Swine husbandry amongst serf peasants in late medieval Catalonia

**Lluís Sales Favà** University of Girona, Spain

Scholarship has well assessed that rural households in late medieval Catalonia usually relied on an array of domestic animals. Thanks to the energy or the byproducts provided by these animals, families complemented the irregular incomes derived from the agricultural holdings. This paper will underline the role of pigs in the peasant economy of fourteenth-century Catalonia, focusing on the case study of the north-eastern county of Girona. At the time, the majority of the peasant population in this area were serfs. They usually worked at a mansus or rural household sublet by a lord. Although the use and purchase of the land was usually supervised by the lord –who also profited from it–, the ownership of animals was not subject to these burdens. The paper describes how the breeding of pigs became one of the backbones of the domestic economies. It will interpret the ecological factors that yielded the success of this activity, the ways that these animals were marketed (i.e. the comenda contracts), and also the social actors involved in the swine market. To this respect, it will portray how the growing urban demand extended the breeding of pigs in the rural hinterland of towns and cities.

## Pig breeding and pork consumption in 15th century Castile

**Ricardo Córdoba** Córdoba University, Spain

This work deals with the relationship between Castilian society in the late Middle Ages and the materials provided by pig farming from a twofold perspective. Firstly, it examines pig breeding in both urban and rural areas, where two customs were of particular importance: the stays in holm oak pastures during the autumn to consume the acorns (montanera) and in cereal farms during the month of August to make use of the stubble (agostadero). Secondly, the consumption of meat is reviewed, both fresh meat and marinated and salted meat. Of greater importance were bacon (tocino), black puddings and sausages, as ways of preserving meat for a long period of time using garlic and onion, oregano and cumin. Among the derivatives for craft use, the most important was pork fat (saín), a fatty substance extracted from the abdominal cavity used to polish hides and as a greasing agent for materials, tools and machinery (it was used to grease the threads with which shoemakers attached the shovel to the sole of shoes, to facilitate the movement of the shearing shears' shafts or to prevent friction in the eyelets of the stones of flour mills).

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**6.2. Environment,  
health and disease:  
perceptions  
and problem-  
solving in rural  
and agricultural  
communities 2**

ORGANISERS **Karen-Beth Scholdthof** Texas A&M University, United States of America,  
**Cherisse Jones-Branch** Arkansas State University, United States of America, **Jeannie Whayne** University of Arkansas, United States of America

MODERATOR **Debra A. Reid** The Henry Ford, United States of America

DISCUSSANT **Karen-Beth Scholdthof** Texas A&M University, United States of America

The role of the environment in understanding health or disease outcomes in rural and agricultural communities can be enriched with a particular focus on historical case studies that reveal the influence of science or scientific thinking on outcomes. This has relevance today in showing that problem-solving is the nature of the human experience. Increasing concerns about the role of the environment in climate change, health outcomes, and social justice, has coincided with a public suspicion about the process and utility of science and the humanities. We are intrigued by the possibility of bringing together tools of humanists and scientists to understand and contextualize how humankind has and does problem-solve and persist through times of crisis.

Through a series of case studies focused on rural and agricultural perceptions about disease/health and the environment, we can evaluate how concerns about the present can be interpreted through known historical outcomes. “One Health” is the term used to frame the complexity of the interactions between the environment, plants/crops, humans, and animals (wild and domestic), that drive disease/illness outcomes (K-BG Scholthof. 2024. Annual Review of Phytopathology, <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-phyto-121423-042102>). One Health-related environmental conditions include parameters that such as socioeconomic status, race and gender, and the physical/geographic climate (e.g., water quality, weather).

In the late nineteenth century, a seminal advance was germ theory – the determination that many illnesses could be attributed to infections by microbes. In rural and agricultural communities, this knowledge was of key importance in beginning to understand how human, animal, and plant disease was predicated on environmental conditions that were permissive for microbial infection. We are interested in broad questions about how rural people interpreted and acted on their local environment, with a focus on health and disease. Studying the co-dependence of humans, animals and/or plants on local environmental vagaries can be used to historically document what precipitated or resolved disease processes. Our intent in this panel is to 1) more broadly interpret historical health threats in rural areas being attentive to a One Health framework; and 2) to suggest the utility of these historical interpretations to understand and comment on existential health threats today considering current environments (such as built and lived environment, climate change, social justice, and ongoing interactions between humans, animals, and plants).

## Nutrition as freedom: George Washington Carver's rural health agenda

**Camille Goldmon** University  
of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,  
United States of America

In 1916, George Washington Carver estimated in an infamous "Carver Bulletin" (the publication of the segregated Negro Extension Service headquartered at Tuskegee Institute) that 112,000 African Americans in the southern United States suffered from preventable illnesses at any given time, most due to malnutrition. He calculated lost earnings resulting from days of ill health, totaling nearly \$45,000,000 collectively. These earnings, he noted, could make the difference between sharecropping and landownership.

Outraged at the irony that farmers were "the most poorly fed class of people when he should be the best," Carver launched a rural health and nutrition program from Tuskegee, particularly aimed at pellagra and metabolic diseases. From 1898 to 1943, he mobilized home and farm extension agents to guide Alabama Black Belt farm families away from processed, expensive foodstuffs and toward home-produced, nutritionally robust diets.

This paper explores Carver's scientific and economical approaches toward rural health within the context of 20th-century environmental Progressivist thought. It argues that the bulletins represent Carver's shift from a strict focus on agricultural productivity toward the use of the Negro Extension Service to improve rural health outcomes and overall quality of life by emphasizing available environmental resources.

## "A natural protective mechanism in favour of the potato": remote rural landscapes and disease-free seed potato production in interwar Great Britain

**João P.R. Joaquim** University of  
Cambridge, United Kingdom

By the early 1920s, plant virus diseases were identified as a significant cause of reduced potato yields, with aphids discovered as the primary vectors for their spread. This realisation led researchers to create insect-free environments, such as specialised glasshouses and experimental fields, which avoided fertile lowlands in favour of more rugged, isolated locations. Over time, a deeper understanding of how plant viruses spread prompted scientists and government officials to propose establishing virus-free seed potato production in remote, damp, and windy regions. These included areas like the Welsh mountains and Scottish islands, where the harsh climate was believed to naturally deter aphids and protect the crops.

This paper examines the work of Welsh entomologist Maldwyn Davies and Cambridge-based potato geneticist Redcliffe Salaman, focusing on their competing efforts to combat aphid-transmitted potato virus diseases. Their proposals emerged within a highly contentious context, where scientists, potato breeders, growers, and government officials debated the best strategies for producing the potatoes necessary to feed Britain. The presentation explores how scientific methods, spaces, practices, and organisms were chosen and developed, not only in response to socio-political and economic pressures but also considering the biogeographical and climatic factors at play.

**Kavli among humans and livestock: genres of healing in the rural landscapes of Vindhyanchal**

**Bina Sengar** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, India

The research work presented problematizes the aspects of human and veterinary diseases endured due to implications of climate change and what different ethno-medicinal remedies are utilized by local population primarily of the rural areas of the Vindhyanchal hill region of the Uttar Pradesh. The landscapes of Vindhyanchal region remain abode of various ethnomedicinal practices and faith healing since the historic times. Vindhyavasini Dham believed to be sacred landscape since times of Mahabharata. Through this research paper I seek to understand genres of therapeutics for human and veterinary healing through contemporary challenges for the traditional healing practices as well as through contemporary means of cure. To understand social perceptions for traditional therapeutic of a landscapes the small towns and villages in the environs of the Vindhyanchal Dham are taken for the empirical study. The paper considers the nature of the parallel existence of these places, the kinds of treatment performed there and the traffic between them of suffering people. From these perspectives it is perceived with posing of questions about the interrelationships and challenges of ‘traditional-healing’ and ‘biomedical cure’ especially with the kavli or Jaundice as disease. It is attuned to the marginal positions of healing and continuity and change.

**Using oral history to chart community resilience in response to climate change and environmental disaster: insights from the deepwater horizon oil spill oral history project**

**Louis M. Kyriakouides** Middle Tennessee State University, United States of America

Environmental disasters and climate change are undermining United States coastal communities and forcing residents to adapt to new social, economic, and health impacts. Community resilience, a widely recognized factor in public health, plays a central role in how communities are facing these challenges.

The U.S. Northern Gulf Coast is the site one of the most productive U.S. fisheries and is an energy and chemical manufacturing center. It faces rapid climate change-induced sea level rise, extreme weather events, land loss, coastal erosion, and frequent industrial-environmental disasters. It is home to diverse communities dependent upon marine harvesting, including Native American, Vietnamese, Francophone Acadian, and Hispanic communities.

In 2011-12, Louis Kyriakouides led a NOAA-funded research team conducting oral history interviews in this region to document the social, economic, and health impacts of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Disaster and Hurricane Katrina on these communities. The interviews document how Northern Gulf Coast fishing communities are coping with climate change and environmental disaster through complex adaptive strategies.

[Room **Anfiteatro I**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

**6.3. Family farming  
from a gender  
perspective in the  
20th century 2**

ORGANISERS & MODERATORS **Ana Cabana Iglesia, Uxía Otero González & Alba Díaz Geada**  
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Throughout the 20th century, many European agricultural systems have experienced periods of hegemony of different production systems and paradigms of agricultural development: traditional organic agriculture based on the maximum use of land resources, agriculture linked to industrialization and increases in production, profitability and competitiveness typical of the Green Revolution and, finally, the time marked by the shift towards sustainable agriculture that is respectful of the environment and people’s health, guaranteeing agricultural and livestock biodiversity. Our objective in this session is to understand the role played by rural women in these different production systems, paying attention to their productive and reproductive work and, at the same time, to analyse the different models of rural women that were built in accordance with each of these models of economic development. We propose to pay attention to the study of the processes of historical construction of the sexual division of labour within the farm and the family and to investigate those who continue to be “on the margins” of historiography as subjects.

To this end, we propose three study themes: 1) reproductive work, understood as all work that is outside the market, and which includes care for the maintenance of life; 2) environmental knowledge and the role of women in safeguarding ecological and cultural diversity; and 3) the processes of constructing certain models of femininity, in the context of different models of economic and rural development and in relation to the agrarian policies through which these were implemented. We consider it relevant to historically study the changes that have occurred in family and community reproduction, the transformations observed in the cultural transmission and the changes that have occurred in gender models. We must pay attention to the historical subjects involved, to the causes and times in the generation of new values, and to their long-term consequences. Research that addresses these issues from different spatial contexts on the four continents is welcome. We invite to participate researchers presenting both case studies and comparative works, as well as theoretical or conceptual reflection works.

**We feed you: protest  
fashion and the United  
Farm Workers Union**

**Michelle McVicker** The Metropolitan Museum of Art, United States of America

The United Farm Workers of America, the first effective labor union of farmworkers in the United States, was founded in 1962 by César Chávez, Dolores Huerta, Gilbert Padilla, and other early organisers. Through her dress, Huerta prioritized functionality (she led many physical acts of protest including marches, pickets, boycotts, and sit-ins) and the visibility of protest symbols and messages over mainstream fashionability. At the height of the labor strikes during the 1970s, women turned their living quarters, which were provided by agricultural companies, into factories to manufacture banners and flags for upcoming protests. Since then, the UFW Eagle Mark has symbolized victory in its successful contract negotiations and “the extensive goodwill and recognition built up by the UFW in the broader Latino and Hispanic communities.” Agriculture continues to be one of the

	<p>most dangerous labor industries in the United States as farmworkers are exposed to numerous environmental and chemical hazards. The intersectional issues of agricultural workers' rights, protest fashion, and the global health crisis came together in UFW face masks designed in 2020 and bearing the hashtag slogan #WeFeedYou. Like food, fashion creates a powerful and complex platform to address and explore social justice for marginalized groups.</p>
<p><b>Sexual division of labour and rural economy in the grape sector of south-eastern Spain (20th century)</b></p> <p><b>María Dolores Haro Gil &amp; María del Carmen Pérez Artés</b> University of Almería, Spain</p>	<p>This study examines gendered division of labour and rural economies in the table grape sector of Almería, an iconic crop for its resilience in long-distance exports to markets such as England, the United States and Russia. From the mid-nineteenth to the late twentieth century, grape production in Almería relied on a hybrid agricultural system that combined traditional Mediterranean practices with modern labour-intensive techniques, in which women's labour played a crucial but often undervalued role. Using a database of over 14,000 nominative records with occupational and wage data from 1910 to 1992, this research reconstructs men's and women's wages to analyse the economy in the sector. In addition, union regulations that grouped men and women with ties to this productive sector have been analysed and compared with the aim of detecting their differentiating features. This work addresses key issues such as the historical construction of the sexual division of labour within farms and the development of gendered models of femininity within different rural economic paradigms. It enriches global debates on gender studies and rural labour history by focusing on women's persistent participation in the labour force, providing new insights into rural family strategies and gender relations in the southern Spain.</p>
<p><b>Women's everyday life on the family farm in Finland in the 1950s and 1960s</b></p> <p><b>Maria Vanha-Similä</b> University of Jyväskylä, Finland</p>	<p>Women on Farms – Everyday Life and Roles of Women on Farms in the 1950s–1970s is a research project that examines the lives of women on farms in Finland during this period. In my presentation, I discuss, through a case study, the lives of women on the farm in southern Finland, especially in the 1950s and 1960s. The research is based on very detailed and comprehensive archived accounting material. The research material describes in an interesting way the everyday life of women, their work and consumption, as well as changes in daily life on the farm and in society at large.</p>

## «We women fought hard in the fields»: rural women and the Portuguese Revolution

**Rita Calvário** University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal, **Cecília Honório** NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

In studies of the Portuguese Revolution, rural women have been largely ignored as an object of analysis, both empirically and concerning gender dynamics. Research on the Agrarian Reform movement in the South and peasant struggles in the North tends to present them as a homogeneous and static group and as victims, subordinate, and in perpetual need.

This paper presentation explores rural women's role in agrarian struggles in the Revolution, scrutinizing their contributions and shifts in their lives from a gender perspective. We address this through archival research and oral testimonies.

## The myth of the “bumpkin” woman and rural modernization: gender, identity, and social change in Francoist Spain

**Laura Cabezas Vega & Silvia Canalejo Alonso** University of Granada, Spain

This article investigates the construction of “modern” social and gender identities linked to the expansion of the postwar capitalist economic model in rural Spain during the second half of Francoism. The expansion and hegemony of urban culture, tied to the consumer society, overshadowed the ruralism that had characterized the regime's discourse during the early years of the dictatorship. In this context, the myth of the “bumpkin” emerged strongly (and continues to function today) as a derogatory figure used to describe “backward” individuals, i.e., those associated with the countryside both in their subjectivities and social practices. Rural women were thus categorized pejoratively, yet they were also tasked with educating their families in “good manners.” To analyze these transformations, the article focuses on the National Institute of Colonization as a driver of modernization in rural life, specifically examining the discourses related to social and cultural modernization promoted through its media outlets, such as *Vida Nueva* magazine, published between 1956 and 1965. These periodical sources are complemented by a study of materials linked to the Ministry of Agriculture, as well as an analysis of documents and audiovisuals produced by the Francoist government, particularly by the Sección Femenin.

[Room **TP2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 6.4. The organisation of work and workers in England (c. 1250 – 1850)

**ORGANISER** **Grace Owen** Durham University, United Kingdom

**MODERATOR** **Jane Whittle** University of Exeter, United Kingdom

This session brings together three papers that all examine the organisation and structure of the rural workforce in England, for the period c. 1250 – 1850. The first paper explores the role of women in agriculture in the Middle Ages, focusing upon the number and proportion of women in the workforce and how they were remunerated. It also analyses the limitations of manorial records, in particular accounts, for analysing gender and the implications this has upon our understanding of women and the rural economy. The second paper similarly utilises accounting records to examine the diverse forms of wage payments given to individual workers in sixteenth and seventeenth century England. It analyses and calculates the different forms of remuneration given to workers and how it is essential that these are understood within the wider context of the grain market, remuneration practices, and wage control. This paper highlights the complexity of examining wage rates and that the organisation of workers and how they were remunerated does not always appear to have been economically sound

but was influenced by individual practices and preferences. The final paper in this session presents new evidence on the gendered labour division for the period 1700–1850. It explores the structure of the labour workforce and how the transition for women from breadwinner to homemaker can be observed but was not complete by 1850. The conclusions of this research challenges previous perceptions of a decline in the role of women in the agricultural economy. Utilising a variety of methodological approaches and source types, the findings from these three papers reveal a complex landscape of rural labour across the period. Together, these papers collectively enhance our understanding of the shifting structures in the workforce, how work was organised, how labourers were remunerated, and the role of women in the agricultural economy.

### **Women's hidden agricultural work and the slow transition to the breadwinner-homemaker family in England, 1700-1850**

**Nick Collins** University of Exeter, United Kingdom

This paper will present new evidence on the gender division of labour in England between 1700 and 1850, with a particular emphasis on agricultural work. It is based on an extensive dataset constructed using the verb-oriented method, in which incidental examples of specific work tasks and the people doing them are extracted from historical sources, usually court records of some kind. The resulting data show that women's work remained important across all sectors of both the rural and urban economies throughout the period. The transition to a breadwinner-homemaker family was underway but it was not complete by 1850. After presenting this overview of the data, the paper will give a more detailed account of agricultural work, showing that women continued to work in significant numbers in that sector, even in 1850. This challenges accounts of this period based on other forms of evidence, which have tended to show that women's agricultural work was declining. The reason for this difference is that previous approaches have been unable to account for women's unpaid work in agriculture.

### **The value of waged labour: a reconsideration of remuneration in early modern rural England**

**Li Jiang** University of London, United Kingdom

While early modern English wage remuneration has been known for its mixed component, including cash money and in-kind payments, less attention has been paid to the actual remuneration practice under local economic and social background. Concentrating on the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, a period which has been identified as a period of crisis by using real wage series, this article uses early modern English household accounts and other primary sources to examine the diverse forms of wage payments earned by individual rural wage workers. Different levels of 'tabling fees', the payments to local inhabitants who prepared food and drink for employees when they worked away from the main house, the calculated costs of diet according to wage rates with or without diet, and the calculated legal costs of diet are explored in detail to present the interaction among remuneration practice, grain market influence and official wage control. The findings show that the organisation of wage payments was complicated and

## Acknowledging the known unknowns: gender and wage labour in medieval England

**Grace Owen** Durham University, United Kingdom

did not always follow the economic logic. Despite the harvest changes and legal wage control, employers' preference mattered the most in the remuneration practice.

This paper examines the role of women in wage labour in rural England between 1250 and 1450. Focusing upon two key issues, the first section will consider the complexities of the "known unknowns", that is, what the sources, manorial accounts in particular, do not tell us about the labour force. The second part will explore the variety of different activities undertaken by women, with a particular focus upon the tasks for which daily wages were given. Consideration has also been given to how female labour and wages compared to that of men; did men and women perform similar tasks, and if so, were they paid differently, and why? This characterisation allows for an examination of whether the roles of women are hidden by the language used to document workers and if this has led to an understatement of their work within the accounts. Through the exploration of changes over time, variations by task, and the comparative analysis between genders, the findings significantly enhance our understanding of the complexities of women's participation in wage labour during the medieval era and what gender can tell us about waged work in the medieval rural economy.

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 6.5. Agroecological landscapes and food systems in Europe in the long term 1

**ORGANISERS** **Guiomar Carranza Gallego** University of Jaén, Spain, **David Soto Fernández** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, **Gloria Guzmán Casado** University of Pablo de Olavide, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Manuel González de Molina** University of Pablo de Olavide, Spain

Over the last six decades, industrial farming has led to a loss of land cover diversity and landscape degradation. This entails a worrisome bio-cultural loss of an age-old legacy of site-specific knowledge, farm practices, landscape mosaics, crop varieties, livestock breeds and cultural foodscapes that peasants had accumulated over centuries. There is a consensus in the European Union on the need to promote sustainable agriculture and, consequently, to link back to the territory the provision of basic environmental services of agroecosystems, now outsourced, such as the conservation of genetic diversity, of pest and disease control and the replenishment of soil fertility among others. Such services are provided optimally through organic management of agroecosystems but also through the proper management of landscapes, where the physicalbiological cycles that ensure the sustainability of agricultural production are closed. Consequently, the management of agroecological territories requires a land-use planning performed on a larger scale than the farm gate level, a task for which there is hardly any accumulated knowledge. The comparative study of past and present agricultural landscapes, associated with larger units of cultural management of agrarian systems in their historical dimension, can be extremely useful for this purpose. In this sense, history can cooperate to rescue peasant and scientific knowledges about landscape organization through the study of past agrarian systems. This study requires the use of historiographic techniques

	<p>in combination with other disciplines. This session aims to bring together research that incorporates different disciplinary contributions to the historical study of agricultural landscapes.</p>
<p><b>The Portuguese Wheat Campaign: evaluating the impact of production inputs</b></p> <p><b>Alexandre Macedo João</b> University of Coimbra, Portugal</p>	<p>The inability to successfully produce wheat to satisfy domestic consumption has been a constant in the Portuguese agricultural sector. To reverse this trend, the government implemented a wide range of measures to protect national wheat production, which became known as the “Wheat Campaign”. Its main objective was to stimulate an increase in wheat production in order to satisfy domestic consumption and thus reduce external dependence on imported cereals. The campaign was in full swing between 1929 and 1939, but its negative effects are still visible today. Despite this, it was successful in the sense that the rates of self-sufficiency achieved are the highest recorded. The policies were essentially centred on the maximisation of the cultivated area, the introduction of more productive seeds and increased use of fertilisers.</p> <p>The aim of this communication is, through the application of econometric and statistical analysis, to calculate the impact of various production factors while also factoring in the influence of climatic conditions, and calculate the weight that these variables had on the variation in production and which ones had the greatest impact on its increase. This paper can provide valuable insights for future strategies aimed at increasing domestic wheat production and reducing reliance on imports.</p>
<p><b>From wetland to farmland: historical transformations of Denmark’s agricultural landscapes through land drainage</b></p> <p><b>Nele Lohrum, Morten Graversgaard &amp; Tommy Dalgaard</b> Aarhus University, Denmark</p>	<p>This study investigates the role of land drainage in shaping agricultural development and landscape transformation in Denmark during the late 19th century - a period characterised by rapid agricultural intensification. Using a multidisciplinary approach that integrates historical analysis, spatial modelling, and statistical methods, we trace the expansion of drained areas and examine their influence on key agricultural metrics, including crop yields, agricultural intensification, and demographic changes. Our findings demonstrate how drainage practices expanded arable land, enhanced productivity, and reshaped landscape mosaics, influencing shifts in agricultural practices such as the balance between crop production and livestock grazing. Regional disparities in drainage adoption highlight the socio-ecologic and environmental drivers behind these trends, offering insights into the interplay between landscape management and agricultural intensification. By contextualising these findings within the industrialisation of 19th-century agriculture, the study provides valuable lessons for addressing contemporary challenges, in sustainable land management and climate resilience.</p>

## Where happened the agricultural revolution? Food production Saxony

**Oscar Dube** Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Utilizing a multitude of sources, including historical maps and statistics, as well as farm accounts, it was possible to reconstruct land use, crop rotations, and yields for the period from the 18th until the early 20th century. In this time, Saxony underwent rapid population growth and industrialization. Drastic changes forced on domestic agriculture can now be quantified and measured. The findings shift the view on early modern agriculture, which was held insufficient for sustained productivity growth because of its closed nutrient and energy cycle. It can be shown that nitrogen fixing crops improved soil fertility, put apart from that, the actual transformation differed from the standard model: During the whole period, grain cultivation dominated. Adaption of new crops and intensification happened in a framework of mixed farming on small and medium sized estates, with scattered plots in an open field system. But most of all, it appears that labor intense care, namely the management of soil humidity and acidity, and the fight against pests, was of a more crucial role than the improved availability of plant nutrients. Preindustrial agriculture held greater reserves for food production than previously thought, thus new questions arise about the motivations for modern farming practices.

## Landscape assessment to sustain a healthy diet: case of the Vega (Granada, Spain), 1983-2016

**Guiomar Carranza-Gallego, Gloria Guzmán Casado, Pablo Saralegui-Díez, Sergio Salazar Galán, Manuel González de Molina** University of Pablo de Olavide, Spain

Landscapes tend to be more diverse and resilient the more capable it is of sustaining a balanced diet for the local population. For this reason, agro-ecological transition requires a reconfiguration of the landscape at a larger scale than the farm. Based on this premise, we focus on the study of the capacity of the landscape of a region historically dedicated to agriculture, Vega de Granada (Andalusia, Spain) to provide a healthy diet to the local population in 1983 (before the incorporation of Spain to the European Union) and 2016. The hypothesis is that the incorporation to the EU has induced the loss of the capacity of the territory to provide a healthy diet to the local population. Preliminary results indicate that food production declined, since food production for the local population fell by 28% (although the cultivated area increased by 17% and the irrigated area rose from 30% to 45%). In other words, the capacity of the landscape to provide local and healthy food to the population has decreased over decades. This is mainly due to the specialization in export crops, and the recession of the crops for the domestic market, motivated by the agricultural policies of the UE.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 6.6. Rural cooperatives in East Central and South-Eastern Europe in the interwar period: growing influence of national politics and simultaneous internationalization of the cooperative movement?

**ORGANIZER Uwe Müller** Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Germany

**MODERATOR Zarko Lazarevic** Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia

Historiography on the history of cooperatives in interwar Europe has focused primarily on the growth of (mostly urban) consumer cooperatives, the expansion of their field of activity and centralization tendencies of various kinds. (Patmore, 2018; Hilson 2017) These trends were caused in many countries by the supply problems during the First World War, and after the war by the closer connection with the labor movement (but also other political parties). In this context, state influence on the co-operative movement grew, which in the authoritarian states of the 1930s (Italy, Germany) led to the dissolution of some co-operatives, while other co-operatives and co-operative associations became de facto state institutions. However, the co-operatives active in rural areas (mostly credit unions) already became an instrument of political upheaval in the turbulent post-war period to a much greater extent than before the war. This was particularly the case in East-Central and South-East Europe in the context of land reforms and settlement movements. At the same time, there was a significant intensification and thematic expansion of international cooperative activities. At the first congress of the International Cooperative Association (ICA) in Basel in 1919, it was decided to set up three specialized committees to focus on co-operative banking and the possibility of creating an International Co-operative Bank, co-operative insurance, and encouraging women in the co-operative movement. The League of Nations and the International Labor Organization (ILO) in particular were concerned with the development of the co-operative system and saw these institutions as a key to social reform and the improvement of international co-operation. The panel will explore the relationship between these (seemingly?) contradictory tendencies of nationalization and internationalization. It starts with a comparative analysis and examination of transnational entanglements of the region. Furthermore, it presents case studies about Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Greece. The panel is open for a further paper or a comment.

## Polish rural cooperatives in the interwar period between nationalization and internationalization (1918-1939)

**Torsten Lorenz** Freelance, Germany

When Poland reemerged in 1918 as an independent state, its cooperative movement was divided in three regional branches: the Western one, which had developed according to Prussian/German patterns, the South-Eastern one, shaped by Austrian politics, and the Eastern one, shaped by Russian rule, and where the development of coops had set in very lately. Because of these differences politicians and cooperators strove to integrate and unify the cooperative movement. While in the first 10-15 years this trend was restrained, it became stronger during the crisis of the 1930s and with the increasing interference of the state finally led to the complete subjugation of the cooperative sector under state control. At the same time, however, Polish cooperators participated in meetings and events of the international cooperative associations, discussed the developments on the global cooperative stage adopting some solutions and rejecting others.

	<p>I will analyze the contrary developments of nationalization and globalization in the Polish cooperative movement between the World Wars, ask for the driving forces and protagonists behind these developments and try to give an answer why the state successfully brought the cooperative system under its dominant influence, but at the same time failed to stop the trend towards internationalization.</p>
<p><b>Rural cooperatives in interwar Czechoslovakia: roles, political affiliations and interactions with a democratic state</b></p> <p><b>Jan Slavíček</b> National Library of Technology, Czechia</p>	<p>The paper deals with the development of rural cooperatives (Raiffeisen-type credit cooperatives, agricultural cooperatives) in inter-war Czechoslovakia. The cooperative movement was very different in both parts of this newly established democratic state (until the end of the First Republic in 1938). While the cooperative network was very dense and diversified in the Bohemian Lands, it was quite thin and backward in Slovakia and even more in Ruthenia.</p> <p>Based on methods of modern economic historiography, the paper seeks answers to the following questions: 1. How strong (or how weak) were cooperatives in the national economy? 2. What were the interactions between the state and cooperatives (mostly mediated through mighty cooperative unions)? 3. What were the interactions of cooperatives and political parties or ideologies (agrarianism, socialism, liberalism, Christian socialism)? 4. Did cooperatives become involved in the international organizations of rural cooperatives, did the Czechoslovakian representatives play any role there?</p>
<p><b>Rural conferences in the Interwar Greece and the gradual perception of cooperatives as State's "bodies": an appraisal using discourse analysis</b></p> <p><b>Katerina Brégianni</b> Academy of Athens, Greece</p>	<p>Rural cooperatives in interwar Greece were mainly credit associations, so as to facilitate the dissemination of agricultural credit in rural areas: During the 1920s, rural reform and rural refugee settlement created the context for the reinforcement of cooperative movement under the auspices of the State. Rural modernisation and the foundation of the public Agricultural Bank of Greece reinforced this relation (Brégianni, Antoniou 2015). Moreover, during the General Ioannis Metaxas pro-royal dictatorship (1936-1941) cooperatives became vehicles for the dissemination in rural space of authoritarian ideology (Brégianni 2007). The paper will examine the perception of agricultural cooperatives and their role in the diffusion of the regime's pro-agriculture profile using the proceedings of the rural and rural cooperatives conferences, taking place in several Greek regions during the dictatorial regime. For this objective, the analysis will combine historical tools and discourse analysis (cf. inter alia Foucault 1971).</p>

## Consumer cooperatives in Hungary (1898–1923)

**Gábor Koloh** Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungary

My research questions focus on the development of consumer cooperatives in Central and Eastern Europe, especially in Hungary. What was the amount of turnover of these cooperatives and who established them? How can the intervention of the political elite in their operation be captured and why did industrial workers and left-wing movements fail to play such a dominant role in the creation and operation of consumer cooperatives as in other parts of Europe?

The small rural settlements in West Hungary suffered a significant loss of labour during the period, due to high rates of internal migration. In this paper I will examine whether these settlements were less able to maintain cooperatives with a complex operational profile and therefore several settlements and micro-regions tended to maintain one together? Is this supported by the fact that consumption and production cooperatives with a simpler operational profile, especially milk and egg cooperatives, which were established independently of 'Hangya', have also proved viable in the small villages of the South West?

My paper aims to analyse the spread of consumer cooperatives in Central and Eastern Europe, the social embeddedness of agribusiness and their policy context.

## Rural co-operatives as instruments of national economic policy in interwar East Central Europe

**Uwe Müller** Leibniz-Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe, Germany

The purpose of the co-operatives founded from the mid-19th century onwards was to strengthen the economic development of weak social strata in a capitalist society. Particularly in rural regions of East Central Europe, co-operatives were also used as instruments for the economic strengthening and organization of underprivileged ethnic groups. (Lorenz, 2006) For this reason, the state authorities of the East-Central European empires usually behaved in a distanced or even repressive manner towards large parts of the co-operative movement. As a result of the First World War, many formerly underprivileged ethnic groups succeeded in founding 'their own' nation states - which, however, were also mostly multi-ethnic. In this situation, co-operatives and in particular co-operative associations have been used as instruments to implement national policy, for example in the implementation of land reforms. Since the late 1920s, East Central European states have also used rural cooperatives to pursue economic and socio-political goals, combat crises or at least mitigate the negative consequences of crises. The paper aims to systematize the use of cooperatives for national economic policy in East Central Europe (Estonia, Latvia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Romania) during the interwar period. It uses comparative analyses and examines transnational entanglements.

[Room **TP1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 6.7. Meet the author: *The formation of agricultural governance. The interplay between state and civil society in European agriculture, 1870- 1940*

**Jordi Planas**, **Anton Schuurman**,  
**Yves Segers**

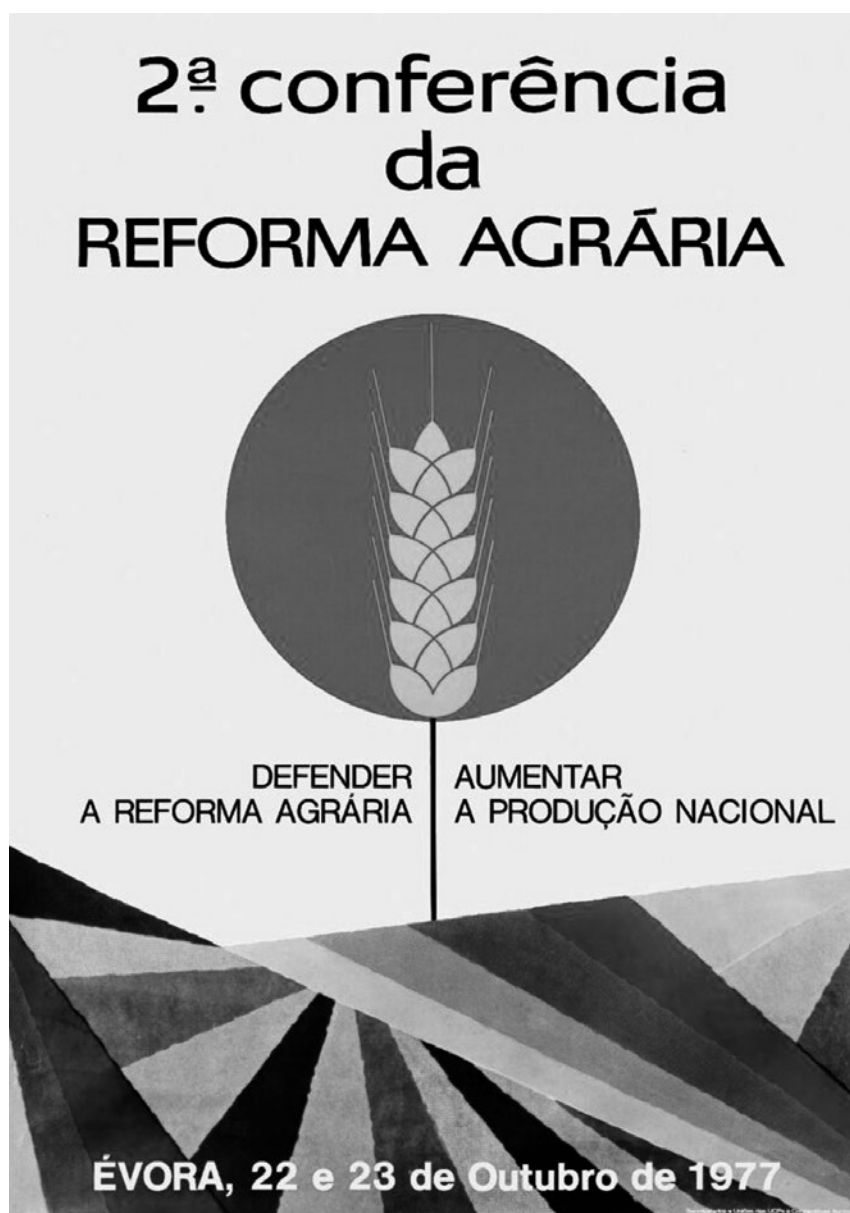
ORGANISERS **Jordi Planas**

University of Barcelona, Spain,  
**Anton Schuurman** University of  
Wageningen, Netherlands, **Yves  
Segers** Catholic University  
of Leuven, Belgium

DISCUSSANTS **Clare Griffiths** Cardiff

University, Wales, **Vicente Pinilla**  
University of Zaragoza, Spain,  
**Nigel Swain** University  
of Liverpool, United Kingdom,  
**Jordi Planas** University  
of Barcelona, Spain,  
**Yves Segers** Catholic University  
of Leuven, Belgium

The role of the state in agricultural governance and policy has attracted much attention from historians and other researchers, with the overall view being that the relationship which existed between the state and agricultural civil society was one of two separate, autonomous actors, the former being the active partner, the latter the demanding one. However, this relationship was a much more dynamic and multi-layered interplay that evolved over time. This book focuses on the relationship between state and civil society in European agriculture between 1870 and 1940, which are the formative years of this interplay. These decades are characterized by growing state intervention in agricultural markets and a gradual organisation of the rural society in associations, cooperatives, political parties and knowledge institutions, with different speeds and intensity. The contributions in this edited volume unravel and analyze how this process changed agriculture in Europe, from Sweden to Greece.



2nd Agrarian Reform Conference: defend agrarian reform, increase national production, 1977, National Library of Portugal

[Room **Anfiteatro III**,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 6.8. Insect invasions and agriculture in Europe: institutions, tools and strategies of defense (17th-20th centuries) 2

**ORGANISERS** **Omar Mazzotti & Luciano Maffi** University of Parma, Italy

**MODERATOR** **Luciano Maffi**  
University of Parma, Italy

Despite in recent years the role of insects in human activities has been taking on a new connotation in Europe, especially as a function of the gradual reevaluation they are gaining in the food sector, the general perception of them is not related to their potential usefulness, due to the negative impact that certain insects have exerted on agricultural and forestry activities over time. Despite the relative importance of entomofauna also as a key component of the natural ecosystem, historical research still needs to be done on this last issue, in particular concerning the analysis of the policies adopted to face the impact of pests on agriculture. Various strategies were developed over time by public actors to provide a valuable tool to counter the devastating effects of certain insects (consider, for example, the fundamental role of phylloxera in radically changing the characters of French and Italian viticulture), sometimes based on an attempt to disseminate the most effective techniques, tools and products to farmers. Until the 19th century, pest management was implemented primarily through agronomic practices and the exploitation of natural antagonists. With the intensification of cultivation, its orientation toward market production, and the advent of powerful synthetic organic pesticides, phytosanitary defense became identified during the 20th century with chemical control of plant enemies.

The goal of the panel is to focus on the damage caused by insects on agricultural production in the 17th to mid-20th century. National and local institutions have often tried to counter these phenomena with forms of territorial defence, albeit partly with little effectiveness, due to the poor timing of intervention or the technical and organisational inability to manage it. We aim in particular to devote the session to analysing the intervention of institutional actors to combat insect invasions, as well as the remedies adopted (natural or chemical), and the consequent environmental impacts. But also the way of expanding knowledge on this issue, useful to fighting the effects of pest invasions, is a focus of our reflection.

Some emerging questions concerning this field of research:

What impact did pests have on the agriculture and more in general on the economic system from the 17th to the early 20th centuries? Which institutions were engaged in the fight against insect invasions and what means were used?

Thanks to advances in chemistry, insecticides and pesticides have been extraordinarily popular since the late 19th century. What impact did these industrial products have in defending the agricultural activities from the negative effects produced by the presence of insect pests?

How has entomological knowledge been transmitted over the centuries in Europe, both scientifically and in terms of popular knowledge and how did this expansion of knowledge translate into a diffusion of this topic in school education? To what extent this increased knowledge was useful and effective in counteracting the effects of pests on the agricultural systems?

## Mapping agricultural pests: patterns of insect damage in the Low Countries, 1780-1840

**Paulien Daelman** Ghent University, Belgium

The panel aims to answer to these questions with an interdisciplinary approach, fostering the dialogue between the different disciplines that in historical perspective deal with these topics.

During the late 18th and early 19th centuries, rural communities in the Low Countries faced a persistent challenge: safeguarding their crops and trees from the destructive activity of insects. By threatening agricultural yields and causing significant losses, these insects revealed the inherent vulnerabilities of pre-industrial farming systems. Insect infestations varied across time and space, with some regions and periods experiencing particularly severe outbreaks. In response to food insecurity and environmental challenges—and in the absence of chemical pesticides—farmers and communities developed a range of institutional and individual pest management strategies to mitigate losses.

This paper investigates the geographical and chronological patterns of insect damage and examines the factors (ecological, climatic, and socio-economic) that made certain areas more susceptible to this damage. The research draws on a range of sources, including agricultural surveys, regional statistics and geographical dictionaries, such as the *Staat van den Landbouw* (1806–1828), reports for the *Code Rural* (1808–1812) and the agricultural survey of 1800, that enable the construction of a dynamic atlas of agricultural damage. The study highlights the significant role insects played in shaping agricultural practices and examines how regional ecological features, climate, agricultural practices and socio-economic structures influenced regional susceptibility to insect damage.

## Insects in scientific and agricultural knowledge, 1600-1800 c.

**Martino Lorenzo Fagnani & Matteo Di Tullio** University of Pavia, Italy

Insects as objects of study flourish from the seventeenth century onward thanks to the refinement of the microscope and to a better knowledge of species – both European and from distant lands. At the same time, some species periodically damage the agricultural sector and spoil crops. Both as fascinating objects of research and as enemies to be fought, insects carve out a space in essays, collections and experiments of scientific institutions, from academies to universities, from agricultural societies to scientific cabinets.

Through the analysis of some Italian cases as part of a wider European network and adopting different perspectives – history of science and technology and social and economic history – the paper investigates the space dedicated to the dialogue between evolving entomology, the ‘experts’ dedicated to supervising the agricultural sector, and the rural communities affected by insect-related issues.

## The role of Hungarian elementary school teachers in the fight against phylloxera at the end of the 19th century

**Attila Nóbik** University of Szeged, Hungary

Phylloxera reached Hungary in 1872. For a few years, Hungarian wine-makers and viticulturists didn't take the threat seriously. In the late 1870s, phylloxera began to spread rapidly, infecting Hungary's traditional wine-growing regions. The worst crisis occurred in the first half of the 1890s, when the size of Hungary's vineyards fell from almost 350,000 hectares to less than 200,000 hectares.

The crisis necessitated government intervention. The government issued decrees to combat and prevent phylloxera. They provided financial aid to winegrowers to compensate them for the lost vineyards and to help them repopulate the vineyards with more resistant varieties of wine. While the effects of the phylloxera outbreak and the history of the government's measures are explored in some Hungarian publications, the role of the elementary school teachers is not well studied.

As agents of the state, elementary teachers played a crucial role in the modernisation of agriculture in Hungary in the 19th century. This included the dissemination of 'modern' agricultural knowledge and practices among the rural population. In my paper I analyse the role of Hungarian elementary school teachers in the fight against phylloxera.

## The phylloxera invasion in Italy: new empirical evidence on policies and instruments of counteraction (19th century)

**Omar Mazzotti & Luciano Maffi**  
University of Parma, Italy

The last two decades of the 19th century were characterised in Italy by the appearance of phylloxera (*Viteus vitifoliae*). This insect was responsible for the complete destruction of Italian viticulture between the 1880s and the 1920s. Since its first appearance in 1879, various public and private institutional players, aware of the damage already produced in France, took steps to identify the most suitable systems to combat this phenomenon - especially with the use of American vine cuttings as a base on which to graft European vines - given the importance of the wine industry for the Italian economy.

On the basis of unpublished documentation produced by both the central authority (Ministry of Agriculture) and local public administrations (provinces and municipalities), as well as the publications of farmers' associations, it is possible to analyse the strategies and measures adopted to combat the effects of phylloxera invasion. In particular, we will focus on the specific initiatives organised by the anti-phylloxera consortia set up for this purpose in the various Italian areas: identification and analysis of infested vineyards, destruction of the same, management of nurseries for vines with American stock, training of farmers in the field.

[Room **Sala 1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 6.9. Rural economic inequalities in the Central and Eastern Europe in the late Middle Ages and Early Modern period 3

**ORGANISER Radosław Poniak**  
University of Białystok, Poland

Although the issue of economic inequality in past societies has been of considerable interest to historians for years, most of the work devoted to it concerns Western Europe. Central and Eastern European societies, often operating under serfdom, which could lead to restricted access to the markets, significant restrictions on mobility experienced by many members of the population and incomplete property rights have been much less frequently the subject of research. Many scholars interested in historical economic inequalities also assumed that its higher levels was primarily observed in precapitalist or capitalist urban communities, and that rural areas were characterized by a markedly lower level of economic differentiation. Such a perspective was in tune with some classical scholars of serfdom, who described serf communities as relatively equal, where both the policies of the lords and the attitudes of the peasants themselves did not encourage individual attempts to acquire wealth.

The aim of the proposed session is to at least partially fill the gaps in our knowledge of the economic inequalities in societies that existed under the serfdom system. The key questions we will seek to answer are the question of the impact of serfdom on the global levels of economic inequality, the role of landlords' policies in creating or reducing economic differentiation among serfs, the relationship between the level of feudal burdens and inequality, and the social consequences of economic inequalities.

Both researchers working on inequality among peasants and among landlords are invited to participate. In addition to quantitative approaches, which are most often used to study inequalities, we are also interested in studies using other methodologies. In addition to detailed studies, we also welcome approaches of a more synthetic nature and even focusing on a more theoretical and model-based perspective. The spatial and chronological scope of the session covers all societies living under the serfdom system from those experiencing it harshest forms to those where the system was limited or even disappearing.

## Economic aspects of the activities of the rural population in the Medieval Serbian lands

**Marija Koprivica** University of Belgrade, Serbia

Agriculture was a dominant enterprise in Slavic countries during the Middle Ages. In the Serbian lands, all the groups of the dependent people - serfs had labor duties towards their master. In medieval sources they are frequently referred to as "rabotnici" (workers), whereas their duty towards the feudal master is "rabota" (work, labor). It may be said that the Medieval Serbia tax system was not primarily based on barter or money (although there were such obligations), yet the focus was on the villagers work on feudal landlord's field. Social differences inside serf layers were expressed by the quantity of labor they owe to their masters.

The aim of this paper is to view economic contribution of the serfdom work duties. We shall try to compare this system with that of giving a tenth of the field yield ("desetak"), which was present in the Byzantine Empire. Through a

	<p>special analysis of some of the well-known manors (mostly of monasteries) we shall try to determine the economic efficiency of this system: whether feudal masters had a satisfactory profit, whether the workers were exploited more and whether or not the yield products were satisfactory, bringing a surplus.</p>
<p><b>Wealth inequality in Early Modern Northern Europe: Sweden 1571–1627</b></p> <p><b>Martin Andersson</b> Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden</p>	<p>Economic inequality in early seventeenth-century Sweden was low compared to other European countries, both in Western Europe (England) and in Eastern Europe (Poland). Inequality was however still important for social and regional differences within Sweden, as well as between rural and urban areas. This paper presents results from a new research project which uses AI-powered methods (HTR) in order to automatically transcribe and analyze handwritten Early Modern taxation records. This enables us to process large quantities of Early Modern economic data. The paper will both present these methods, and preliminary results regarding regional wealth inequality in Sweden based on taxation record data for a number of communities (concerning metals, grain, and cattle) from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century. These results will then be compared to previous studies of Central and Eastern Europe.</p>
<p><b>Economic stratification and entrepreneurship in the Šiauliai economy community in the late of seventeenth century</b></p> <p><b>Rita Regina Trimonienė</b> Vilnius University, Lithuania</p>	<p>This paper examines the economic stratification and inequality within the community (approximately 5600 households) of the Šiauliai royal Economy (hereafter SE; Grand Duchy of Lithuania) comprising peasants and small-town residents in the late seventeenth century. It also investigates how some community members could engage in business – primarily flax production – and trade, leading to wealth accumulation. From the early seventeenth century, most peasants and townspeople in the SE paid rent in cash (Pol. czynsz), significantly lightening their serfdom compared to communities subjected to labor obligations. The SE bordered the Duchy of Courland and was near key ports such as Riga, Klaipėda, and Königsberg. Such a location facilitated economic activity and encouraged some residents to develop an entrepreneurial spirit.</p> <p>The author adopts a community studies research approach, which offers micro-level insights into how major processes were reflected in specific local societies and their impact on individuals' lives. This method involves beginning research at the community level and subsequently situating the community within a broader national and global context. It facilitates using quantitative approaches to examine community inequalities and judicial and other written sources, enabling a deeper analysis of individual social decline and ascent paths and methods.</p>

## Economic Inequality in 18th-century Hungary

**Antal Szántay** Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

The paper aims to provide an overview of economic inequalities in 18th-century Hungary. The focus is on rural areas, thus excluding city burghers and town dwellers. While nobles in Hungary had the same status (“una eademque nobilitas et libertas”), there were apparent differences in wealth and income. The same applies to the peasantry and other rural social groups. Data from the different conscriptions and surveys offer the possibility of giving an accurate description and analysis of the economic inequalities in rural settings. Furthermore, wage and price data also allow the study of regional differences in standards of living. Thus, the paper will contribute to a better understanding of the socioeconomic circumstances in 18th-century Hungary, comparable with the planned sessions’s other results from Central Europe.

[Room **Sala 4**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 6.10. Historical perspectives on accounting as a social practice in organisational management: Pathways to accountability and sustainability 1

**ORGANISERS** **Liliana Pimentel**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal,  
**Leonor Fernandes Ferreira**  
NOVA University of Lisbon,  
Portugal, **Andreia Fernandes**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal  
**MODERATOR** **Liliana Pimentel**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal

This session will explore the historical transformation of accounting as a technical practice focused on financial record keeping, and as a socially integrated mechanism in organisational governance and the promotion of corporate responsibility. Focusing on a timeline from the early modern period to the present, we aim to discuss how accounting has evolved to serve as an essential practice in promoting sustainability and building accountability frameworks within organisations. This analysis will allow us to explore how accounting systems have been shaped to respond to social and regulatory pressures, promoting practices that not only meet stakeholder interests, but also contribute to broader goals of sustainable development and organisational ethics.

The main purpose of this session is to discuss new evidence on the historical links, dialogues and knowledge exchanges between organisational members and accounting agents that have influenced these practices over time, in both corporate and institutional contexts (monasteries, universities, landlords, associations, court and state departments, companies, etc.). This exchange will be examined in the light of the dynamic role of accounting, not only as a top-down control practice, but also as a bidirectional channel that promotes collaboration and the creation of shared value between organisations and their stakeholders. This session aims to provide insights into how accounting, as a multidimensional social practice, contributes to building more responsible organisations in line with the expectations of a more conscious and ethical society.

## Inequality in Northern Portugal through the “Foral” charters (16th to 19th centuries)

**José Luís Barbosa** University of Coimbra, Portugal

The fields of the history of inequality and fiscal history have received important contributions over the last 20 years. However, the study of tax inequality in particular have not received due attention from the academic community, a gap that we intend to fill. This presentation is situated at the intersection between the field of Regional Development and New Fiscal History, with the aim of analysing how political institutions influenced inequality in taxation in the Portuguese regions of Entre Douro e Minho and Trás-os-Montes between the 16th and early 19th centuries. The primary source to be used is

	<p>the Manueline Foral charters, documents that compile royal and, in some cases, manorial rights at the municipal level. Using a database that includes all the agricultural and per capita taxes included in the charters, the aim is to calculate tax inequality between the two provinces (using GINI), but also between some municipalities, in order to determine whether the institutional differences were felt more at regional or local level. The aim is also to understand the impact of the institutions over time and how the different taxes (in cash and in kind) were valued/devalued over time, until the extinction of the charters in 1832.</p>
<p><b>Beyond farm accounts: methodologies for analyzing farm self-sufficiency without written records</b></p> <p><b>Leonida Ravšelj</b> University of Primorska, Slovenia</p>	<p>Farm accounts play a crucial role in reconstructing the economic history of farms and understanding the decisions made by family, whether these decisions were personal, related to marriage, income generation or other factors. However, due to the low levels of literacy among Slovene farmers prior to the 20th century, such records are absent for earlier periods. To comprehend the dynamics of farming in these times, it is essential to rely on alternative sources and methodologies for integrating them. In an effort to assess the food self-sufficiency of farms in the Karst village of Tomaj at the beginning of the 19th century, I utilized diverse types of sources (Franciscan cadastre and Vital records). This approach enabled me to reconstruct family structures, the extent of their farms, and their food requirements. From this analysis, it became possible to identify which farms produced sufficient food to sustain their family members. In my paper, I aim to demonstrate the methodology that facilitates the extraction of such critical insights into farm account, even in the absence of direct records.</p>
<p><b>Sources of rural history and its use in Hungary</b></p> <p><b>Eva Laczka</b> Hungarian Central Statistical Office, Hungary</p>	<p>Due to the excellent natural conditions of the country Agriculture has played an important role in the Hungarian economy, traditionally, nearly half of the population of the country deals with agricultural activity.</p> <p>The first Census of Agriculture was implemented in 1895, while the second Census was conducted in 1935, since 1972 Agricultural Censuses have been carrying out every ten years.</p> <p>Annual and regular surveys are based on the results of Censuses, since the nineties, the Hungarian Statistical Office used to carry out 30-40 surveys every year on agricultural activities.</p> <p>Over the past decades - the statisticians - took 3 initiatives: Long time series of data (1870-1990) were harmonized, made comparable in methodological and administrative terms; Before EU accession (2004) an analysis on "Structural changes in Agriculture in the nineties" was compiled and published; Based on the Agricultural and Population Censuses integrated data was compiled at farm level and 7 volumes (analysis) were published at region level.</p> <p>The above mentioned 3 initiatives, projects provided new, important information on rural population for researchers, decision-makers and actors</p>

## Accounting history: bibliometric analysis between 1992-2024

**Inês Milheiras, Liliana Pimentel,  
Dulce Freire** University  
of Coimbra, Portugal

of Hungarian Agriculture, helping their work. The purpose is to present the methodology and results of the projects, which are unique sources of Rural History in Hungary.

The present study aims to carry out a literature review, mapping, systematizing and deepening the contributions made by national and international authors, in order to identify the most recent studies carried out in the area of History of Accounting. The study is based on a bibliometric analysis, supported by the similarity visualization technique 495 articles published between 1992 and 2024 were used and were analyzed using the VOSviewer software.

The results of the study revealed an increasing number of publications, namely in 2011, 2019 and 2023. Additionally, the results reveal the existence of 6 clusters, and the expressions that are most repeated in each of them are: accountability, accounting history and history. By analyzing the Portuguese case, the results showed that studies in the area of accounting history focus mainly on religious organizations, analyzing the accounting of monasteries and religious orders of the eighteenth century, as well as the period of the Discoveries. Thus, when analyzing the results alluding to agricultural accounting, framed in the History of Accounting, there are no studies that focus on this subarea, so it is necessary to fill this gap in the literature.

[Room **Sala 2**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 6.11. Meet the author: *Rural Films* (*Rural History* *Yearbook 2024*)

**Brigitte Semanek, Peter Moser,  
Andreas Wigger**

ORGANISERS **Brigitte Semanek**  
Institute of Rural History, Austria,  
**Peter Moser & Andreas Wigger**  
Archives of Rural  
History, Switzerland

DISCUSSANTS **Brigitte Semanek**  
Institute of Rural History, Austria,  
**Peter Moser & Andreas**  
**Wigger** Archives of Rural History,  
Switzerland, **Karen Sayer** Leeds  
Trinity University, United Kingdom

Films have been an important topic at the last three Rural History Conferences in Paris, Uppsala and Cluj. In several panels the relevance of films to rural historians as sources and as a means of communicating historical findings has been discussed. Methodological challenges that historiography faces when dealing with films were also discussed in several contributions. And the 2024 edition of the Rural History Yearbook is also dedicated to the topic of films. It contains more than a dozen contributions by authors from Europe as well as the Americas. In this panel, we, the editors of the Rural History Yearbook 2024, would like to discuss together with some of the authors both the potential and the difficulties that arise when rural historians are using films as sources or as a means for communicating historical insights. Questions of access to this specific source material will be discussed as well as the possibilities historians themselves have, when it comes to develop the analogue and digital infrastructures that make it possible to scientifically evaluate films.

## Thursday, 11th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 08h30 – 10h30 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 7**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>7.1. The history of horticulture 1</b> Magnus Bohman, Inger Olausson	7.1.1. Technological Entanglement and Exclusion: Growers, Insects and Pesticides in Horticulture, 1945-1960 Hilde Røsstad	7.1.2. The role of horticulture in the food supply of a besieged city in the Hellenistic period: an analysis of the Paraskeuastika by Philo of Byzantium (fl. c. 200 BCE) Rodrigo Simões Ferreira Gomes	7.1.3. The Finnish Horticultural Society and the breakthrough of horticulture in the late 19th century: a case study Nina Edgren-Henrichson	7.1.4. Cultivating fruit specialization in Italy (1920s-1960s) Niccolò Mignemi	7.1.5. The horticultural machine of the Napoleonic state: its ambitions, achievements and limitations Laurent Brassart	Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>7.2. Comparing agrarian reforms throughout the 20th century: conflicts and oppositions 1</b> Sergio Riesco Roche, Carlos Manuel Faísca, Dimitris Angelis-Dimakis	7.2.1. How land reforms affected Albanian highlands (communities) Irhan Jubica, Eltjana Shkreli, Liridona Ura	7.2.2. By design: de-collectivisation in post-socialist Romania and the rise of land grabbing Hestia-Ioana Delibas	7.2.3. Mobilise, modernise, and re-intensify: land reform in early Soviet Uzbekistan Beatrice Penati	7.2.4. Nicaragua and Cuba: experimental, coyuntural or alternative land reforms in Latin America? Elisa Botella-Rodríguez	7.2.5. Amortisation and Disentailment in Mexican Agrarian Reform 20th century Horacio Mackinlay	Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>7.3. Meet the author: Before banks: the making of credit and debt in preindustrial France</b> Elise Dermineur						Sala 1, 3rd floor
<b>7.4. Rural violences in Europe 1</b> Miguel Cabo Villaverde, Óscar Bascuñán Añover	7.4.1. State violence and control of population mobility on the Portuguese-Spanish border (1950s) Marta Nunes Silva	7.4.2. The village and the military: violent contestations and enforcements of the land distribution at both ends of the Tsarist empire & USSR (1875-1935) Jean-Paul Gagey	7.4.3. Violence against farmers classified as kulaks in Hungary Judit Tóth	7.4.4. The contentious Galician: a long-term analysis of violence in a rural society (1850-1950) Miguel Cabo Villaverde, Antonio Míguez Macho	7.4.5. From threat to violence: the use of force in the border communities of Tomiño and Vila Nova de Cerveira Natalia Jorge Pereira	Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>7.5. Commons and economic inequality in rural Europe (1500-1800) 1</b> Giulio Ongaro, Matteo Di Tullio, Benedetta Maria Crivelli	7.5.1. Exploiting the commons: resource management and economic inequality in the mountain borderlands of Portugal and Spain (18th-19th centuries) Pedro Mota Tavares	7.5.2. Redefining the commons: forest rights, resource access and economic inequality in late 17th century Sweden William Renström	7.5.3. Political inclusion and management of the commons in Early Modern Alps Martina Motta, Matteo Di Tullio, Umberto Signori	7.5.4. Taxation, public spending and economic inequality in Venetian Lombardy (1400-1800) Matteo Di Tullio, Giulio Ongaro	7.5.5. Property relations and unequal distribution of wealth in Transylvanian mining towns (16th and 17th centuries) Petra Mátyás-Rausch	Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>7.6. Working with visual archives 1</b> Patrick Wichert, Peter Veer, James Quinn	7.6.1. Images in the archive, stories on the web: retelling the peasant past in contemporary Poland Agata Koprowicz	7.6.2. Printing propaganda: recovering the Russian countryside from the textile archive Yashaswi Sagar	7.6.3. Commissioned films: a multifaceted source for thematising the agrarian worlds of the 20th century Andreas Wigger	7.6.4. Site-visit: a joint practice-led investigation of Norfolk's archival footage James Quinn, Craig Barber		TP1, 4th floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>7.7. Rural landscape of Medieval Slavonia</b> Branimir Brgles, Hrvoje Kekez, Marija Karbić	7.7.1. The oppidum in the Late Medieval South Hungary between rural settlement and urban center: an overview of the central functions of the rural market towns on the example of settlements in the lower interamnium of the Drava, Sava and Danube rivers Petar Seletković	"7.7.2. How to locate a medieval landed estate based on scarce medieval written sources and early modern cartographic sources: a case study of Poljana on the river Uma Hrvoje Kekez	7.7.3. Development of medieval rural settlements in Western Slavonia Branimir Brgles	7.7.4. Towns and villages – societies in interaction: examples from the Sava and Drava interamnium in the Middle Ages Marija Karbić		Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>7.8. Engineers and the rural environment in 20th century Europe 1 (Crops and agronomic research)</b> Iñaki Iriarte Goñi, Francesco D'Amato, Judit Gil-Farrero	7.8.1. The economic life of the peasant: Cruz Gallástegui Unamuno's vision of environment and the agricultural economy of Galicia (1891-1960) Roque Sanfiz Arias, Lourenzo Fernández Prieto	7.8.2. Endangered agrobiodiversity: the generalisation of foreign varieties in Iberian rye breeding Alberto González Remuiñán	7.8.3. From the breeding insectary to the open field: biological pest control and the action of spanish agronomists (1924-1936) Jesús Catalá-Gorgues	7.8.4. Agricultural engineers and the DDT dilemma: studying effectiveness, convincing farmers, and balancing impact Silvia Pérez-Criado		Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor
<b>7.9. Meet the project: Soy and agro-food change</b> Ernst Langthaler						Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor
<b>7.10. The making of naturalistic and technical-environmental knowledge: a long-term perspective across different chronologies, geographic areas, and disciplinary approaches</b> Simona Boscani Leoni, Giulia Beltrametti	7.10.1. Building agronomic knowledge: the origins and development of agronomic literature in the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth (16th–18th centuries) Monika Kozłowska-Szyc	7.10.2. The construction of viticultural technical and environmental knowledge through physiocratic and scientific publications in the Pays de Vaud from 1750 to 1900 Guillaume Favrod	7.10.3. Knowledge and infrastructures of empire: peasant settlement and the environment on the Kazakh Steppe, 1880s-1917 John B. Seitz	7.10.4. Imperial commissions, universal expositions, and local practices: the woods of the Habsburg Karst on the trial of forestry knowledge (late 19th - early 20th century) Giulia Beltrametti		TP2, 4th floor
<b>7.11. Reassessing narratives on land tenure and empire (16th-17th centuries)</b> Roger Lee de Jesus, Alina Rodríguez Sánchez	7.11.1. General land inspections in sixteenth century Peru: new approaches to old problems José Carlos de la Puente	7.11.2. Beyond mortality: capelas as guardians of spiritual and material legacies in Cape Verde (16th-18th centuries) Edson Edy S.C. de Brito	7.11.3. How to think about land ownership in the Portuguese Empire: the case of the villages of Goa (16th-17th centuries) Roger Lee de Jesus			Sala 3, 3rd floor
<b>7.12. Sustainability in the wine supply chain in Europe after World War II to the present: institutions, technologies, and markets</b> Luciano Maffi, Dario Dell'Osa, Omar Mazzotti	7.12.1. The wine of Italian valleys: some case studies Andrea Maria Locatelli, Paolo Tedeschi, Manuel Vaquero Pineiro	7.12.2. Sustainable agriculture, organic production and quality certification in the Italian wine supply chain Omar Mazzotti, Dario Dell'Osa, Luciano Maffi	7.12.3. The Douro wine region in the second half of the 20th century: technical innovation, vertical integration and new business players Carla Sequeira, Pedro Almeida Leitão			Instituto de História económica e social, 3rd floor

# Thursday, 11th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

8h30 – 10h30

## PARALLEL SESSIONS 7

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**  
3rd floor]

### 7.1. The history of horticulture 1

**ORGANISERS & MODERATORS**  
**Magnus Bohman** Kristianstad  
and Umeå University, Sweden,  
**Inger Olausson** Swedish National  
Maritime and Transport  
Museum, Sweden

The history of horticulture is a novel research field in many parts of the world. It is distinguished from established fields such as garden history, which emerges more out of art history and landscape architecture. It is also distinguished from agricultural history through its typical objects of investigation: garden produce such as vegetables, fruits and ornamentals – all of which are different from agricultural produce due to scale, crop species, and intensity of cultivation. In fact, the contributions of horticulture to the scientific development of agriculture are often overlooked. Horticulture relates to many aspects of rural history, life and economy. Thus, it enables to study important issues such as food security, gendered and class-based division of labour, urban-rural dynamics and eco-cultural perspectives.

A paramount aim of the session is to develop this dynamic research field further. Therefore, it welcomes proposals from many disciplines. However, in order to bridge gaps and find common denominators in terms of theory, methods and sources, we especially welcome proposals that consider long-term, comparative and inter-disciplinary perspectives. Objects of study may include for instance the cultivation of different types of crops and their end-uses (in rural and urban environments, commercially and for self-sufficiency), labour conditions (including gardeners, employees and family enterprises), horticultural techniques (such as soil management, plant protection, tools, machinery and buildings, cultivation on open field and in greenhouses), issues related to trade and transportation, and crop improvement (for example adaption and breeding, and preservation of historical plant material). Traditionally, research on food supply issues has focused primarily on agricultural production. However, recent research has revealed a significant importance of horticultural produce throughout history, in towns and on the countryside and in all social strata. All these examples demonstrate the wide range and relevance of the research field.

## Technological Entanglement and Exclusion: Growers, Insects and Pesticides in Horticulture, 1945-1960

**Hilde Røsstad** University of Agder, Norway

In this paper Røsstad presents a study of the motives governing the use of insecticides among Norwegian Horticulturists. The investigation is based on oral history interviews with horticulturists, and a 1950 student diary from a Norwegian Horticultural College. In certain ways, the diary provides a 'snapshot' into pesticide practices at the horticultural college from March through October 1950. The analysis focus on pesticides as a technological praxis, whereby for the first time an array of traditional and new synthetic pesticides promised growers to be able to fully control nature and bring about a prosperous future. In reality, as this paper shows, control was not possible – and the horticulturists often ended up poisoning themselves as well as the insects. The paper explores how the pesticide technology affected the interaction between growers, plants and insects in Norwegian horticulture between 1945-1960. The paper proposal builds on an article from Røsstad's doctoral dissertation.

## The role of horticulture in the food supply of a besieged city in the Hellenistic period: an analysis of the *Paraskeuastika* by Philo of Byzantium (fl. c. 200 BCE)

**Rodrigo Simões Ferreira Gomes** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Philo of Byzantium (fl. c. 200 BCE) was a Hellenistic theoretician on mechanics and warfare from the intellectual center of Rhodes or Alexandria, best known for having written a civil and military engineering compendium, the *Mechanike syntaxis*, largely inspired in the mechanical innovations of Ctesibius of Alexandria (c. 270-230 BCE) and the Hippocratic corpus. Of particular interest for the study of military and civilian food, the *Paraskeuastika*, Book VII of the *Mechanike syntaxis*, is one of the first Ancient Greek theoretical writings to deal with the issue of food provisioning in a city under siege.

This paper aims to analyze the section of this treatise dedicated to the role of gardens and orchards (public and private) in the city's food production, especially in extremis situations of widespread hunger. It will be shown that Philo had a clear idea of the importance of these places and the contribution of wealthier citizens in feeding the population, as a way of avoiding stasis (sociopolitical unrest). It will also prove that the crops cultivated in these locations were carefully selected, in order to supplement the cereal and meat-based diet, food previously stored in the warehouses even before the siege began.

## The Finnish Horticultural Society and the breakthrough of horticulture in the late 19th century: a case study

**Nina Edgren-Henrichson** University of Helsinki, Finland

The Finnish Horticultural Society was founded in 1881 to promote the horticulture in Finland. Gardening culture in the country was considered to be neglected and plans for an association to promote it had already existed for two decades. The main model was the Swedish Horticultural Society, which had been operating in Stockholm since the 1830s. The initiators of the Finnish Horticultural Society—university men and members of the wealthy bourgeoisie of Helsinki—had already requested a plan for a garden facility with a gardening school from the director of the Swedish Horticultural Society, Nils Uno Blomberg, ten years before the society was founded, as well as a statement on the benefits of an association from the director of

	<p>the botanical garden in St. Petersburg, Eduard Regel. The presentation discusses the role of associations in strengthening horticulture as a livelihood in the latter half of the 19th century. It uses the example of the Finnish Horticultural Society and the influences the founders took from associations founded in other countries, especially Sweden. The cultural and political aims of the founders of this association to strengthen the status of horticulture in the country are also discussed.</p>
<p><b>Cultivating fruit specialization in Italy (1920s-1960s)</b></p> <p><b>Niccolò Mignemi</b> French National Centre for Scientific Research, France</p>	<p>The case of an agricultural school with annexed experimental fields will be used in this paper to analyze the development of fruit specialization in north-eastern Italy (province of Ferrara), during the first half of the 20th century. In this rural region close to the Po River delta, a center dedicated to agricultural teaching and experimentation was created in the early 1920s thanks to a testamentary bequest. After a few years, an observatory dedicated to fruit farming was set up within the school, aiming to provide technical assistance and to train skilled workers. Looking at the school's archives and printed materials, our paper will investigate the trajectories of the teachers and technicians, as well as the local circulations of practices and techniques. It will thus explore the observatory as a place where knowledge about fruit growing was collected, tested, and eventually transferred and adapted to local conditions. This special case will be connected to the existing expert and economic networks, at least on a national scale. Our goal is thus to analyze how interactions and power relations between farmers, science, and the state evolved over three decades, making this area a hotspot of industrial fruit farming after the Second World War.</p>
<p><b>The horticultural machine of the Napoleonic state: its ambitions, achievements and limitations</b></p> <p><b>Laurent Brassart</b> University of Lille and French National Centre for Scientific Research, France</p>	<p>A new horticultural machine was invented by the techno-structure of the Napoleonic State (1799-1815). Conceived by scientists-economists and administrative authorities, as a centralised and vertical system, a real top-down system, its aim was to organise the circulation of tree species and horticultural knowledge within the territories conquered by Napoleonic France. State injunctions forced local authorities to create public nurseries and to collaborate with private nurseries and the major scientific establishments in Paris.</p> <p>What were its economic goals? What horticultural species were favoured and why? What knowledge was favoured, or in other words, did the Germanic art of forestry spread throughout Napoleonic Europe?</p> <p>Over and above these questions, the aim of this paper is to draw up an economic and ecological balance sheet of this imperial horticultural policy.</p>

[Room **Sala 7**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 7.2. Comparing agrarian reforms throughout the 20th century: conflicts and oppositions 1

**ORGANISERS** **Sergio Riesco Roche**

Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, **Carlos Manuel Faísca**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal, **Dimitris Angelis-Dimakis**  
University of Crete, Greece

**MODERATOR** **Sergio Riesco Roche**

Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

**DISCUSSANT** **Carlos Manuel Faísca**

University of Coimbra, Portugal

The traditional pattern of modernization involves a decline in the primary sector, both in terms of its share of national wealth and its contribution to the labour force. All this, as we learned from the British reference, gives way to a sustained industrialization over time that gives way to a progressive tertiarization of society (Mokyr, Allen). However, this pattern is not at all satisfactory for creating an interpretative framework on the role of the primary sector not only in today's world but in all processes of social change. Often, such situations are sometimes accompanied by democratizing processes and sometimes by authoritarian paths. In this framework, agrarian reform as an institutional process in a broad sense (Ostrom), can be an analytical meeting point, singular and at the same time differential, to explain the peculiarities of the aforementioned processes of social change. If the concept of liberal agrarian reform has triumphed as a modeler of the processes of change associated with the nineteenth century, why does agrarian reform not relate to the twentieth century in the same way? The existence of pending structural problems in world agricultures in the century of conflicts has endowed the concept with an extraordinary semantic charge. During the interwar period, it served to define new nationalities in Eastern and Central Europe and to exclude others from access to land ownership, especially visible in modern Greece. If the "Spanish War" is often referred to as a prologue to World War II, land issues played a central role in the difficulties of establishing democracy in Spain (Simpson and Carmona, 2020; Robledo, 2022). It seems more or less clear that the victorious powers in 1945 embarked on the path of a more or less stable primary sector, consolidating a capitalist agriculture on the basis of viable medium-sized farms in the midst of a Green Revolution that was first latent and then visible throughout the world. In this process preceding the great globalization, it was possible to observe how unequal access to land was a major problem in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia, thus limiting any democratization process. During the 1960s and 1970s, the issue of agrarian reform took on an enormous protagonism, especially in Latin America, either in the form of revolutions, as had occurred in Mexico and later in Bolivia, or in those cases in which major alterations took place in Chile, Peru and several Central American countries. (Robles, 2020). Somehow these processes, together with the role of China, rekindled the irredentism present in some parts of Europe, as happened in Portugal during the 1970s. Thus, the aim of this panel is to serve as a meeting point for researchers from southern Europe and Latin America so that, from different perspectives, they can discuss the role of the European Union in the development of the region.

# How land reforms affected Albanian highlands (communities)

**Irhan Jubica & Liridona Ura**  
GO2Albania\_Sustainable Urban  
Planning Organization, Albania,  
**Eltjana Shkreli** University of  
Genoa, Italy

Comprising almost 1/3 of the territory, mountainous areas remained less affected by any state land reform in Albania. The region's tribal social organization, governed by the medieval laws, regulated land use and limited Ottoman authority to taxation. In the north, where no feudal system existed, collectivization following the 1945 Agrarian Reform primarily impacted properties of regime opponents and religious institutions, while family-owned land remained largely unaffected. Impossible in a dictatorship, opposition to land reform became epidemic through the informal use of any space considered public in post-communism area, leading to socio-economic conflict between individuals, but also between them and the state. But highland communities rejected the land reform in 1991, standing by the former pre-war property ownership to mitigate disputes, resulting in stronger conflicts with the state. Previous studies on these particular agrarian reforms have tackled a general impact at national level, lacking a case-study based analysis, particularly in the mountainous regions. Using primary field data and archival sources for a comparative analysis and oral history, the paper investigates whether these conflicts originated from the 1945 reform or the 1991 law, ultimately arguing that, despite its challenges, the reforms contributed to a more equitable distribution of land.

# By design: de-collectivisation in post-socialist Romania and the rise of land grabbing

**Hestia-Ioana Delibas** University  
of Coimbra, Portugal

The collapse of the communist bloc in Eastern Europe triggered significant economic restructuring and widespread disruptions across all levels of society. These shifts were part of a broader move toward neoliberal policies, often referred to as "shock therapy." Focusing on the rural context, one of the most significant changes brought about by the fall of the Communist Bloc was the process of de-collectivization, which occurred in most former socialist countries. De-collectivization was a major agrarian reform in which land was redistributed, dismantling both agricultural cooperatives (CAP) and state farms. In Romania, this reform resulted in the emergence of a large number of peasant landowners. However, within just a few years, the number of agricultural holdings drastically declined, leading to the transfer of land from small and very small holdings to mega-farms— a phenomenon now understood as land grabbing (Bouniol,2013). But why did this happen? In the following analysis, I will conduct a historical examination of the land reforms in post-socialist Romania, aiming to unravel their contradictory goals and their role in the advancement of land grabbing in Eastern Europe.

## Mobilise, modernise, and re-intensify: land reform in early Soviet Uzbekistan

**Beatrice Penati** University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

In the mid-1920s, the newly formed Soviet republic of Uzbekistan promoted a wide-ranging redistributive land reform that overhauled landownership patterns in the countryside. This reform far exceeded previous measures, which had focused on nomads' land, to embrace areas of settled agriculture, where the cultivation of cotton had dominated since the 1890s, but had collapsed in the years of revolution and civil war. Indeed, Soviet authorities embraced the idea of the reform when they became persuaded that the latter was their best chance for reviving the cotton sector, both by discouraging spontaneous seizing of land by farmhands, and by creating or strengthening smallholdings. This paper proposes a sketch of this land reform and suggests possible lines of comparisons with others in the 20th century, focusing on the role of peasant activism in precipitating the reform, the underpinning debate about the superiority of smallholdings, the importance of capitalisation measures and titling, and the ways in which the reform contributed to the spread of Soviet institutions (eg. co-operatives) to the Uzbek countryside.

## Nicaragua and Cuba: experimental, coyuntural or alternative land reforms in Latin America?

**Elisa Botella-Rodríguez** University of Salamanca, Spain

This paper discusses land reform processes in Cuba (1959-2019) and Nicaragua (1979-1989). Few scholars have compared these two socialist experiences as successful examples of redistributive land reforms. The cases of Cuba and Nicaragua further lack a deep conversation with the literature on agrarian reforms during the Cold War in Latin America. This manuscript, based on literature review, secondary sources and previous author's research, aims to provide an agrarian political economy analysis to understand both land reform processes in terms of state-society interactions and changes in agrarian structures after their implementation.

## Amortisation and Disentailment in Mexican Agrarian Reform 20th century

**Horacio Mackinlay** Metropolitan Autonomous University, Mexico

There is a sharp division between 'historical' studies of nineteenth-century Mexican rural society marked by the liberal disentailment of ecclesiastical and communal-indigenous corporate property (1856-1917), associated with a significant concentration of land and wealth, and the trend towards the proletarianisation of indigenous and peasants, on the one hand, and 'sociological' studies of the twentieth century, on the other. The latter focus on analysing the Mexican agrarian reform (1917-1992) resulting from the Mexican Revolution of 1910 –without much consideration of its immediate past– characterised by a new amortisation of land, albeit this time in a distributive form, and with a significant peasantisation of the rural population. Little analysis has been made of the historical dynamics of these phases: how the transition from one to the other took place and how some of the distinctive features of 20th century agrarian reform emerged as a result. This paper proposes to analyse the forms of articulation between the policies implemented in both phases and their underlying philosophies. Considerations will be made on the new neoliberal disentailment of

	<p>post-revolutionary ejidos and communities motivated by the 1992 reforms to agrarian legislation, and its similarities and differences with respect to that which occurred in the 19th century.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 1</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>7.3. Meet the author:</b>  <b><i>Before banks: the making of credit and debt in preindustrial France</i></b></p> <p><b>Elise Dermineur</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISER</u> <b>Elise Dermineur</b>  Stockholm University, Sweden</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Elise Dermineur</b>  Stockholm University, Sweden</p> <p><u>DISCUSSANTS</u> <b>Janine Maegraith</b>  University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, <b>Stephan Nicolussi-Köhler</b> University of Innsbruck, Austria</p>	<p>This innovative book delves into the world of ordinary early modern women and men and their relationship with credit and debt. Elise Dermineur focuses on the rural seigneuries of Delle and Florimont in the south of Alsace, where rich archival documents allow for a fine cross-analysis of credit transactions and the reconstruction of credit networks from c. 1650 to 1790. She examines the various credit instruments at ordinary people's disposal, the role of women in credit markets, and the social, legal, and economic experiences of indebtedness. The book's distinctive focus on peer-to-peer lending sheds light on how and why pre-industrial interpersonal exchanges featured flexibility, diversity, fairness, solidarity and reciprocity, and room for negotiation and renegotiation. Before Banks also offers insight into factors informing our present financial system and suggests that we can learn from the past to create a fairer society and economy.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 4</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>7.4. Rural violence in Europe 1</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Miguel Cabo Villaverde</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, <b>Óscar Bascuñán Añover</b> Complutense University of Madrid, Spain</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Óscar Bascuñán Añover</b> Complutense University of Madrid, Spain</p> <p><u>DISCUSSANT</u> <b>Miguel Cabo Villaverde</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>This session proposes to analyse the violence used in the countryside as a tool for imposing political domination, an action of social control, a mechanism for conflict resolution, a social expression of norms and values, an interaction with the state and a source of images and representations fed by outside observers. The project is framed chronologically between 1880 and 1950, a sufficiently broad period to observe the role played by violence in the rural environment and the changes it brought about in contemporary society.</p> <p>Studying violence in its different forms makes it possible to analyse conflicts within the community, whether due to the weight of political and social factors, economic transformations or personal relationships between neighbours themselves. Rural society, in general, is a privileged place to question the capacity of the spatial sphere to generate models of violence, a specificity in the causes and forms of violence, subjects, norms, institutions involved, responses, changes in attitudes and differentiated representations.</p> <p>The traces of this violence in judicial sources, in government and military reports, in the press and in the literature raise a score of questions that this session aims to address. What were the main causes or motivations</p>

for this violence? How was the violence staged and why did its forms or repertoires evolve? Who were the actors? Can a social profile of the subjects of violence and its victims be identified? What role did the prevailing gender convictions play? How did the cycles of collective violence play a role in interpersonal violence? Was there a trend towards a decrease in violence in social relations? Did social attitudes towards violence change during this long period? If so, who or how were these changes promoted? Were there societies, regions or states that were more violent than others? What were the particularities of violence in rural society compared to the emerging urban centres? Were there types of violence more associated with rural than urban areas? How did the authorities manage violent practices? Did they deploy specific policies to control and pacify the rural world? How did the press represent violent episodes coming from the rural world? Was there a defined narrative about rural society shaped by the accounts of violence coming from it? Are there different representations of rural and urban violence? In short, the session seeks to revitalise historiographical interest in a rural space in which political activity, social and economic relations and the values that gave meaning to community life had a specific definition and evolution.

### **State violence and control of population mobility on the Portuguese-Spanish border (1950s)**

**Marta Nunes Silva** NOVA  
University of Lisbon, Portugal

In the 1950s, the Portuguese dictatorship and its political arm on the periphery, began to fear that the growing number of cases of irregular emigration in the border villages of Sabugal would reach an uncontrollable number and would have a contaminating effect on other regions. As a way of curbing these departures that were not framed by state rules, the local authorities, in dialogue with the central state and the political police, took concerted action to identify and punish irregular emigrants and, above all, smugglers. Police violence was among the strategies used. This paper aims to analyse these events, where the state emerged as an actor of violence (preventive or punitive), which have left traces in the collective memory of the inhabitants of those rural villages, allowing us to ask: what led the central and local authorities to proceed in this way? How would these actions define the repression of emigration in rural areas from then on? What do the judicial sources on which this study is based tell us about the representations that existed at the time about rural areas and how they were to be controlled?

## The village and the military: violent contestations and enforcements of the land distribution at both ends of the Tsarist empire & USSR (1875-1935)

**Jean-Paul Gagey** Paris 1  
Panthéon-Sorbonne University,  
France

The Tsarist empire and then USSR staged lasting rural conflicts that tied in violence the village and the state over the question of land (re)distribution. Proposing a diachronic case-study of these relations, the paper follows generations of peasants, first revolting in the name of equal access to land in 1875's Ukraine, then claiming in the 1900's the fulfillment of the promises for colonization plots in the Tsarist Far East to where they resettled and eventually resisting the Soviet collectivization there in 1932.

In each case, the successive authorities sent military forces to the village, from tsar's dragons to Cossacks and decommissioned Red Army's soldiers, in order to halt the upheavals. Reports from state officials and writing from the village itself (assembly's decision, petitions...) consequently allow looking into the conflicting repertoires of violence and resistance as much as assessing their transmission and transformations in evolving settings.

If violence was a continuously used tool for governing the rural world, the state got gradually able to muster it for social engineering purposes rather than for solely responding to rural unrest. In an ever-reinforcing authoritarian context, the village reversely lost its capacity to articulate its claims outside its own borders.

## Violence against farmers classified as kulaks in Hungary

**Judit Tóth** Freelance, Hungary

In 1945 the large estate was eliminated by the land reform in Hungary. According to this kulaks, rather regarded to be medium land property owner, became the biggest group of the rural society making individual farming and having the biggest land property. They were not only the most proficient in farming but took significant role in the local communities. The one-party state considered this social group as the last survival of the exploiting capitalism. They were regarded to be the biggest obstacle of reorganization of agriculture on socialist base and they were qualified to be enemy. Consequently, this group fell to prey to the inevitable feature of communist regime was the constant enemy-making.

Those farmers were regarded to be kulak whose land property exceeded 14 hectares. From 1948 based on these farmers were collected on the kulak's list and had to pay extra taxes. If they did not comply, they were sanctioned. In addition, the authorities used many measures of violence against them, citing a multitude of pretexts. As a result, the number of them decreased significantly by 1950.

In my lecture, I intend to list the types of physical and psychological violence used against them and present their consequences.

## The contentious Galician: a long-term analysis of violence in a rural society (1850-1950)

**Miguel Cabo Villaverde & Antonio Míguez Macho** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Almost forty years after the publication of Charles Tilly's seminal "The Contentious French", his concepts and theoretical approaches such as repertoires of collective violence or the typology of competitive, reactive and proactive forms of conflict have become mainstream for social scientists researching a wide array of historical contexts.

In our paper we will apply Tilly's approach to Galicia, a Spanish region whose characteristics make it particularly interesting as a case study, given its overwhelming rural character until very recent times, its peripheral situation within a centralist State, the weight of local communities and its strong peculiarities from a cultural point of view. Our research will extend over an extended period covering diverse political regimes and far-reaching socio-economic transformations. Both the potential of Tilly's concepts and their limitations will be tested, as well as those of other authors such as James C. Scott.



*Man with a cow on Madeira Island, 1928, Photographia Vicente, Madeira Archives and Library*

## From threat to violence: the use of force in the border communities of Tomiño and Vila Nova de Cerveira

**Natalia Jorge Pereira** University of Santiago de Compostela

What causes a threat to transform into violence? Is this a practice employed by the entire community or is it associated with marginalized groups? We aim to approach violence through judicial sources, specifically from the peace court, the institution closest to the population. We intend to do this from a comparative and transnational perspective, taking two bordering municipalities, Tomiño (Galicia) and Vila Nova de Cerveira (Portugal).

Our spatial framework is characterized by high rates of cross-border marriages between the two countries, established processes of mobility, and a settled culture of smuggling that reached its peak during the 1940s.

Our aim is to analyze the profiles throughout the 1940s, uncover the motivations and outcomes, and understand the role of violence within the judicial framework. Additionally, we will delineate the causes through witness accounts, seeking to understand from a micro perspective the perceptions and behaviors of the inhabitants, which complaints were supported, and their justifications.

[Room **Anfiteatro III**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 7.5. Commons and economic inequality in rural Europe (1500-1800) 1

ORGANISERS **Giulio Ongaro**

University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy,

**Matteo Di Tullio** University of

Pavia, Italy, **Benedetta Maria**

**Crivelli** University of Parma, Italy

MODERATOR **Giulio Ongaro**

University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy

Recent years have seen a flourishing of studies which have added considerably to our knowledge of inequality dynamics in preindustrial times. Scholars focused also on the determinants of these dynamics and some of these suggests a direct connection between the growth of economic inequality and the functioning of the public finances (i.e., Alfani and Di Tullio in their book on the Republic of Venice). Basically, the argument is that regressive taxation would have fostered this phenomenon, but we still have little knowledge about the mechanisms beyond this process. Why did this happen? How did the public economy's choices influence these dynamics? How did the management of the common pool resources and the level of municipal and state direct taxation affect the paths of wealth distribution? Which were the correlations and causations mechanisms between the different elements?

Clearly, a depletion or a private use of the common pool resources, thanks to its narrowed management, could have produced important effects in terms of increase of direct taxation and, therefore, of increase of economic inequality. However, the availability of the commons could have affected economic inequality not only impacting on the level of taxation, but also on the capacity of the taxpayers to face the State and municipal fiscal needs. Starting from these assumptions, the panel will focus on the complexity of the relationship between the management of the commons and the trend of economic inequality, dealing (but not exclusively) with the following topics in the long run (1500-1800):

How did the depletion of the incomes from the commons could have caused the increase of direct taxation at the local level?

	<p>Did a certain management of the common could have affected economic inequality in other ways – such as lowering the incomes (i.e., the fiscal capacity) for a part of the population and/or increasing them for another? In other words, how did the presence, or the absence, or a different way to manage these resources affected the capability of the rural population (or of a part of it) to meet the fiscal needs of the State?</p> <p>Did the direct use of the common pool resources or the renting out of them have different effects in terms of the redistribution of the wealth they produced among the rural population?</p> <p>More, did the presence of specific resources (public woods, buildings for the lodging of soldiers, and so on) produce, at the roots, the absence of the need to purchase/rent them and, therefore, to impose a tax to pay the purchase/rent?</p> <p>Was there an awareness of local/State institution of the connection between the presence (or a certain management) of the commons and the functioning of the fiscal system?</p>
<p><b>Exploiting the commons: resource management and economic inequality in the mountain borderlands of Portugal and Spain (18th–19th centuries)</b></p> <p><b>Pedro Mota Tavares</b> NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal</p>	<p>The commons were essential to the survival and economic structure of rural communities in the Iberian Peninsula, particularly in the mountainous border regions between Portugal and Spain. However, their management often deepened social and economic disparities, shaping patterns of wealth distribution and local power dynamics. This paper examines how access to and control over common resources—such as forests, pastures, and water sources—contributed to economic inequality in these marginal landscapes during the 18th and 19th centuries.</p> <p>Adopting an environmental history approach, this study explores the interplay between ecological constraints, agrarian practices, and state fiscal policies in shaping the sustainability of commons and rural livelihoods. It assesses the effects of privatization, shifting governance strategies, and resource conflicts on wealth stratification. Additionally, it considers whether the depletion of communal resources led to increased direct taxation, further exacerbating economic inequality.</p> <p>By analyzing local archival sources, land-use records, and legal documents, this paper contributes to broader debates on rural inequality, commons governance, and state intervention in preindustrial Europe. Through a nuanced understanding of resource management and socio-economic disparities, it aims to illuminate the historical mechanisms that shaped economic inequality in rural Iberia.</p>

## Redefining the commons: forest rights, resource access and economic inequality in late 17th century Sweden

**William Renström** Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden

This paper examines the organization of forest rights and resource access in the Bergslagen mining district of central Sweden during the late 17th century, challenging traditional narratives of pre-enclosure property regimes. Drawing on extensive land surveys and cadastral maps from the 1690s, it reconstructs a complex system where individual and collective rights coexisted and were continuously redefined through local self-governance and state intervention. The importance of control over forest resources was central given that iron production, key to the local economy, depended on locally produced charcoal. However, these forests were also used for grazing, gathering firewood, fishing, and other subsistence activities subject to their own customary rights. The delineation and formalization of forest rights thus created and reinforced patterns of economic inequality, as access to forest resources determined both participation in the lucrative iron industry and other subsistence opportunities. Analyzing the management and ownership of over 140 “village forests”, the study demonstrates how varying systems of rights, from strictly individual to collective, shaped economic differentiation between social groups. The transformation of property rights emerges as more gradual and complex than previously assumed, with formal individual rights and resulting inequalities existing well before the major enclosure movements.

## Political inclusion and management of the commons in Early Modern Alps

**Martina Motta, Matteo Di Tullio & Umberto Signori** University of Pavia, Italy

The paper aims at observing the relationship between the inclusiveness of the rural political institutions and the management of the commons, comparing two case studies: the Susa Valley (western Alps) and the Cadore (eastern Alps). After a general overview on the characterisation of the common pool resources and of the public institutions in the two areas, the presentation will analyse how potential differences in the level of inclusiveness of the local political institutions, such as of the fiscal policies, could have affected the management of the commons and, consequently the trend in economic inequality.

## Taxation, public spending and economic inequality in Venetian Lombardy (1400-1800)

**Matteo Di Tullio** University of Pavia, Italy, **Giulio Ongaro** University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy

The paper will show the aims and the first results of the research project “Taxation, Public expenditure, and Economic inequality in preindustrial Venetian Lombardy (1400-1800)”, funded by the CARIPO Foundation for the period 2024-2026. The project will use the documents produced by cities and rural villages in the provinces of Brescia and Bergamo, in order to observe the relationship between the inclusiveness and the functioning of the local political institutions, the management of the local public finances, and the trend of economic inequality in the long run.

## Property relations and unequal distribution of wealth in Transylvanian mining towns (16th and 17th centuries)

**Petra Mátyás-Rausch** Hungarian Research Network, Research Centre for the Humanities, Institute of History, Hungary

General mining freedom (Bergbaufreiheit) would in principle have meant that the material wealth accumulated through mining would also have been less unequally distributed. In practice, however, this was not the case, and this is particularly true of the Transylvanian mining towns in Transylvania. Although vertical social mobility is more common among the middle classes of these market towns than in other field towns, there is still an unequal distribution of wealth in this region. The most valuable mines, mills, agricultural land were concentrated in the hands of members of a very closed social group. Members of this group used their economic power to take over the management of mining towns.

In my lecture, I will attempt to describe the process that started in the 16th century with the weakening of the local elite and ended in the 17th century with the mining entrepreneurs taking the place of the old elite, accumulating capital in a way never seen before, and shaping the administration and functioning of the towns in their own image. Several families are described which, over generations, used their economic advantage to further reinforce existing social and economic inequalities and thus to pursue successful careers in contemporary public life.

## Common rights vs. Landlords' below Etna's shadow: the case of Bronte against the Duke of Carcaci (Sicily, 1770 ca. -1842)

**Jerónimo Miguel Rueda Dicenta** University of Murcia, Spain

At the end of the XVIIIth and the beginning of the XIXth centuries a cultural and political elite started to claim for an agrarian reform. In spite of land redistribution, many proposed the privatisation of the common lands of the municipalities.



*Cork pullers, Montargil, 1930, published in Ana Isabel Silva, Carlos Manuel Faísca e Rui Carapinha (2013). Ponte de Sor: Encontro de Memórias. Ponte de Sor: Município de Ponte de Sor, p. 139.*

[Room **TP1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 7.6. Working with visual archives 1

**ORGANISERS** **Patrick Wichert**

Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, **Peter Veer** University of Amsterdam, Netherlands,

**James Quinn** Norwich University of the Arts, United Kingdom

**MODERATOR** **Karen Sayer** Leeds

Trinity University, United Kingdom

**DISCUSSANTS** **Peter Veer** University of Amsterdam, Netherlands,

**James Quinn** Norwich University of the Arts, United Kingdom

The session will provide a platform from which to expand research discussions initiated at recent EURHO conferences regarding visual approaches to working with film and photographic archives. Visual material has become a fertile ground for cross-disciplinary research and collaborations, creating new spaces for interpretations of historical places, persons and events. An increased interest in the 'local' as it relates to wider global issues and contemporary concerns about the impact of the climate emergency, migration and identity have generated renewed interests in historical actions and events.

Many visual archives, particularly film, are dominated by corporate and governmental 'educational' examples at the exclusion of private archive materials. With photography becoming more widely available from the late 19th century and, from the mid-20th century, the expansion of 'home movie' technology, the availability of personal films and photographs have become a rich new source of material for researchers.

Personal films and photographic collections are being absorbed into official archives, such as the East Anglian Film Archive at University of East Anglia, where digitisation increases their accessibility beyond academic research. Family and place-focussed, these visual archives provide a more diverse view of rural life, one that requires an analytic approach that uses a more affective, haptic, research methodology that is open to gaps, silences, and events taking place in the margins. The session explores the relationship between analogue and digital media not as binary opposition, but as a complementary relationship that generates a back-and-forth between the two to find new readings and to present associated new visualisations through film, photography, mixed media, and painting. It complements a conference proposal submitted by Brigitte Semenek addressing methodological issues in analysing films from rural areas by placing the focus on methodologies (e.g., Grounded, Haptic, Affective) used in the production of exhibitions, films and artworks.

Themes could include: Family archives and place, Using digital archives; Research projects involving specific visual archives; Methodologies used to interpret visual material; Emergent practice-led (or practical) methodologies; Cross- or inter-disciplinary approaches to working with visual archives; Archival material on coastal environments; Returning the digital to analogue.

## Images in the archive, stories on the web: retelling the peasant past in contemporary Poland

**Agata Koprowicz** University of Warsaw, Poland

In the last decade, interest in the history of peasants in Poland has increased. This phenomenon is currently called the 'people's turn' in the humanities and focuses on recovering the history of subordinated classes, especially peasants. For centuries, their experiences have been marginalised or presented through the prism of the elite.

In my academic research, I analyse photographs of peasants from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Photographic archives offer a unique opportunity to look at the lives of peasants through their own eyes - or at least through

	<p>the lens of those who photographed them. In my paper, I will discuss the methodology of working with these archives and the potential for popularising knowledge of peasant culture through visual essays or other short visual forms on platforms such as YouTube and Instagram. I recently started my social media popularisation project (<a href="https://www.youtube.com/@Trzesisochawkadrze">https://www.youtube.com/@Trzesisochawkadrze</a>, @trzesisocha_w_kadrze). I will share my reflections on the challenges and opportunities of combining academic research with modern forms of visual communication. I will highlight the importance of the image in constructing history and consider how archival photographs can shape our contemporary perception of peasant heritage.</p>
<p><b>Printing propaganda: recovering the Russian countryside from the textile archive</b></p> <p><b>Yashaswi Sagar</b> University of Delhi, India</p>	<p>Early twentieth-century 'agitprop' textiles produced in the new-found Soviet Union were often decorated with symbols of flourishing agriculture - tractors, sheaves of wheat, fruits, ploughs, cotton flowers, farmers, store-houses - projecting the state's optimistic vision of transformation and prosperity in the Russian countryside.</p> <p>The paper aims to study this state-sponsored portrayal of an agriculturally and technologically advancing Russia, in the aftermath of the Bolshevik revolution, through the printed textiles produced in Ivanovo state factories, in the 1920s. These textiles are preserved and digitised by the Ivanovo Calico Museum.</p> <p>To analyse the images on these "propaganda textiles," this study uses writings of Lenin, mainly - "The Development of Capitalism in Russia" and "Capitalism in Agriculture." By comparing and contrasting the printed designs with the contemporary realities of the countryside, the vision of prosperity is challenged, centering on the discussion of the roles of peasants, the state's ideology and reforms. The discussion proceeds with an analysis of the perceptions of the aesthetic quality of these textiles and their utilisation by general public, based on secondary literature. The paper concludes with an examination of the act of producing a textile archive and its unique importance in commemorating and memorialising the Russian countryside.</p>
<p><b>Commissioned films: a multifaceted source for thematising the agrarian worlds of the 20th century</b></p> <p><b>Andreas Wigger</b> Archives of Rural History, Switzerland</p>	<p>Little good can be said about the Swiss documentary film before 1960. What was called documentary film consisted largely of commissioned films that were intended to advertise companies, brands or products in a more or less disguised form in the cinema programme.' This was the opinion of Alexander J. Seiler, a Swiss documentary filmmaker, about the films produced before the introduction of Swiss federal film funding in 1963.</p> <p>Contrary to this assessment, the paper argues that commissioned films are historical sources of particular value. Commissioned films prove to be multi-layered testimonies to the context of their making. They provide us with insights that would not be possible from other types of sources. They</p>

	<p>are an expression of the context in which they were made - but have also actively shaped it. And today they can be used in a variety of ways as historical sources and as forms of communication (for example in video essays).</p> <p>This paper, including extracts of a video essay, focuses on the following questions: What are commissioned films and how do they differ from other film categories? Why did Seiler (and many others) judge them so negatively? And what value do commissioned films have for rural history today?</p>
<p><b>Site-visit: a joint practice-led investigation of Norfolk’s archival footage</b></p> <p><b>James Quinn &amp; Craig Barber</b> Norwich University of the Arts, United Kingdom</p>	<p>This presentation showcases two practice-led researchers individual and collaborative works investigating archival material and direct experience of key sites in Norfolk.</p> <p>James Quinn: My research investigates the complex aggregate of ecological, socio-political, or unlawful histories in Norfolk’s rural and urban areas. My work attempts to uncover, interpret and reconcile these notions by employing hybrid practice-led methodologies developed in two sequential residencies at Cromer Artspace (2023/24).</p> <p>This research aims to re-interpret archival content specifically involving inland and coastal Norfolk locations and provide a contemporary mapping in response.</p> <p>Craig Barber: This research encompasses my perspective as a painter engaging with film archives as source material. Examples of filmic influence on painting practice include Peter Doig’s works inspired by ‘Friday the 13th’ and Beth Harland’s ‘zone’ paintings expanding from Tarkovsky’s ‘Stalker’, each exploring the multiple dynamics of temporality, vision and genre.</p> <p>My body of research will reference Norfolk’s archival films and their relevant insight into notions of heritage and the people operating within specific contexts, as well my own primary experience of visiting these filmed locations. I therefore aim to explore the temporal dynamic which persists within paintings and painting practice.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 2</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>7.7. Rural landscape of Medieval Slavonia</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Branimir Brgles</b> Institute of Croatian Language, Croatia, <b>Hrvoje Kekez &amp; Marija Karbić</b> Catholic University of Croatia, Croatia</p>	<p>The session focuses on several topics concerning Medieval (and Early Modern) historical region of Slavonia. The region is settled between two major lowland rivers, Sava and Drava and in medieval era it was a part of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia. In historical sources, we usually encounter the functional dimension of space; its control, the ownership of specific spatial units, etc. However, it is equally important to study the symbolic dimension of space, which is often linked to the development of social identity. The physical characteristics of space are linked to the influence of the environment on historical societies, which has not been sufficiently emphasized in historical research of medieval Slavonia. In terms of systematic research, rural history of medieval and early modern Slavonia has been rather</p>

	<p>neglected. For this reason, the proposed session would welcome papers focusing on the analysis of written and cartographic sources, as well as field research and archaeological evidence of rural networks, towns and market-places in Slavonia and, comparatively, in other Central European regions.</p>
<p><b>The oppidum in the Late Medieval South Hungary between rural settlement and urban center: an overview of the central functions of the rural market towns on the example of settlements in the lower interamnium of the Drava, Sava and Danube rivers</b></p> <p><b>Petar Seletković</b> Croatian Institute of History, Croatia</p>	<p>Settlements called oppidum in late medieval Hungary usually denoted settlements of a lower rank than those bearing the name civitas (or cities), but still higher than the rank of an ordinary village. These were often settlements of primarily rural characteristics which were at the beginning of the urbanization process and whose population was mainly engaged in agriculture and basic crafts, and in the literature, the mentioned settlements are called market towns because they mainly held annual or weekly fairs at the local level. In addition to their central function in terms of trade and crafts, market towns often played the role of religious centres or parish centres, and in more significant settlements of the aforementioned type there were also monasteries of mendicant orders. Many market towns were often the most important settlements on noble estates, or centres to which villages on the estates gravitated. It was in the interest of the nobles to strengthen the prestige and role of the market towns in their ownership, so they often contributed to their development. This presentation will discuss the network of late medieval marketplaces using the example of settlements in the lower interamnium of the Drava, Sava and Danube rivers.</p>
<p><b>How to locate a medieval landed estate based on scarce medieval written sources and early modern cartographic sources: a case study of Poljana on the river Una</b></p> <p><b>Hrvoje Kekez</b> Catholic University of Croatia, Croatia</p>	<p>The paper will examine how changes in various watercourses from the late Middle Ages to the appearance of more precise and detailed maps in the 18th century can be traced, using the example of the Poljana estate, which was located near the confluence of the Una and Sava rivers during the Middle Ages. It will also explore how these processes have shaped our modern understanding of the medieval rural landscape.</p>
<p><b>Development of medieval rural settlements in Western Slavonia</b></p> <p><b>Branimir Brgles</b> Institute for Croatian Language, Croatia</p>	<p>The paper will present the data on different types of settlements in the western part of late medieval Slavonia. Initial data on rural settlements was based on historical records and correlated with other sources. The presentation will include several examples of different types of medieval rural settlements. The research methodology includes analyzing historical records of toponyms and applying the methodology of onomastics. Most of the toponyms can be associated with either environmental or</p>

	<p>socio-economic features of the area. The results of the research are in turn used to draw conclusions about the characteristics of late medieval rural society in Western Slavonia.</p>
<p><b>Towns and villages – societies in interaction: examples from the Sava and Drava interamnum in the Middle Ages</b></p> <p><b>Marija Karbić</b> Croatian Institute of History, Croatia</p>	<p>The paper will discuss various forms of interaction between urban settlements and villages in the interamnum of the Sava and Drava rivers (then part of the Kingdom of Hungary-Croatia, in today Croatia) during the Middle Ages. Due to the extant sources, the focus will be primarily on Zagreb and Varaždin and the villages in their vicinity. The paper will analyse the migration of populations from villages to urban settlements and their consequences. The analysis will include daily migrations for activities such as selling of rural products in town market or different other jobs, as well as permanent settlement of the rural population to cities, the reasons for it, its consequences, different groups within the settlers, their integration into the urban community, and the maintenance of connections with the communities from which they originated. The paper will discuss the importance of villages for the economy of cities and the everyday lives of their inhabitants, as well as the significance of cities for the surrounding villages, whether as their landowners or as economic, cultural, and religious centres of the region in cases of the villages that did not fall under their jurisdiction.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Anfiteatro I</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>7.8. Engineers and the rural environment in 20th century Europe 1 (Crops and agronomic research)</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Iñaki Iriarte Goñi</b> University of Zaragoza, Spain, <b>Francesco D’Amaro</b> Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain, <b>Judit Gil-Farrero</b> University of Zaragoza, Spain</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Iñaki Iriarte Goñi</b> University of Zaragoza, Spain</p>	<p>Since the late 19th century, different corps of engineers have intervened in European rural environment and, consequently, on European rural societies. Agronomists sought to modernize production by analysing the best farming systems or livestock management practices and recommending or, in some cases, imposing the techniques that should be adopted by farmers. Civil engineers, on the other hand, planned and developed transport networks or irrigation systems, which could include the construction of large reservoirs, significantly impacting the affected societies. Meanwhile, forestry engineers implemented reforestation projects or the economic exploitation of forests according to the criteria established by forest science. These technical corps, either implicitly or explicitly, held a particular conception of nature that underpinned their operations and largely determined the environmental impacts of their actions. This conception of nature was not fixed but evolved in response to a variety of factors. Scientific and technical discoveries, changes in the demand for goods and services driven by income growth and technological change, economic and agricultural policies implemented by different governments, and, ultimately, the varying degrees of resistance from civil society to engineering projects, all shaped approaches to resource management and exploitation and their effects on the environment. Based on this framework, this session aims to bring together specialists working on different engineer’s corps who historically acted upon the rural environment. The goal is to discuss the views these engineers held</p>

## The economic life of the peasant: Cruz Gallástegui Unamuno's vision of environment and the agricultural economy of Galicia (1891-1960)

**Roque Sanfiz Arias & Lourenzo Fernández Prieto** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

regarding nature and the environment, trying to discover at what extent it was convergent or divergent in the different corps and how these views evolve throughout the 20th century. This discussion can be relevant for a better understanding of the outcomes of the engineer's actions in terms of better or worse nature conservation, or even the destruction of natural spaces and resources, and consequently, to approach the degree of sustainability achieved in rural societies through history.

Since the end of the 19th century, the intensification of agricultural production has been the objective of institutions and technicians. Agricultural research centres put forward various proposals to improve the lives of farmers and their economy. Although the final objective was similar, the formulas and means to achieve it were very different among individuals and at different times in the 20th century.

Cruz Gallástegui Unamuno (1891-1960) studied in France, Germany, the United States and Galicia, obtaining degrees in agricultural engineering and veterinary science, specialising in genetics. As director of the Galician Biological Mission between 1921 and 1960, he carried out pioneering research into hybrid maize, pig genetics and various crops. He also set up the Sindicato de Productores de Semillas, a cooperative that ran parallel to the centre and contributed to the research and distribution of double-hybrid maize seeds.

In this paper we analyse his writings and actions to understand the logic of the Galician peasant, which he considered essential to develop research that would help improve Galician agriculture. His prolific work also allows us to follow the evolution of his proposals from the 1920s to his last work in 1958.

## Endangered agrobiodiversity: the generalisation of foreign varieties in Iberian rye breeding

**Alberto González Remuiñán** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Rye offers advantages over other grasses in cold, dry or high-altitude environments. However, in the Iberian Peninsula, these characteristics did not prevent the development of a negative social valuation of the plant, which limited the interest of scholars, botanists, and agronomic engineers in its study for several centuries. Calls for classifying their morphology and types are present from the 19th century onwards in agronomic literature. In the 20th century, with an inadequate base of knowledge, Iberian scientific research on rye had to be exogenous. Its breeding relied on genetic material from the German sphere, where some entrepreneurs produced varieties of great agronomic interest widely accepted throughout Europe. In some Iberian institutes, there is also a strong presence of American varieties. All of them have undoubtedly contributed to a narrowing of the natural genetic variability of the crop.

Based on an analysis of agronomic literature, technical texts and activity reports from various Spanish and Portuguese centres –such as the Biological Mission of Galicia, the Aula Dei Experimental Station or the Elvas National

## From the breeding insectary to the open field: biological pest control and the action of spanish agronomists (1924-1936)

**Jesús Catalá-Gorgues** University of Alcalá, Spain

Plant Breeding Station– this paper addresses the essential lines of research on plant breeding in rye and its hybrid with wheat, triticale, to highlight these issues.

The open field application of biological control procedures for agricultural pests arrived in Spain around 1925. Although studies on the so-called 'useful insects' were already taking place long before that date, with a view to their potential implementation in phytosanitary management, these first experiments on agricultural plots adopted procedures already tested in other countries. It was only in a second phase that attempts were made to go beyond this adaptation of foreign experiences. In the meantime, agronomists developed information campaigns for landowners and farm workers, although, unlike other control methods, they largely retained the field management of the introduction, management and monitoring of the control species. In this paper, we study the actions of the agronomists of the Estación de Patología Vegetal de Valencia (the one that most successfully applied biological control in Spain) in the specificity of their work in the plots and in interaction with the rural population, and the processes of transfer to these plots from the controlled space of the breeding insectaries.

## Agricultural engineers and the DDT dilemma: studying effectiveness, convincing farmers, and balancing impact

**Silvia Pérez-Criado** Inter-university Institute López Piñero and University of Valencia, Spain

After the emergence of their profession in the 19th century, by 1930 Spanish agronomists had consolidated their position as key players in the country's development, playing a significant role in INIA and many research stations, and dominating a wide network of provincial agricultural sections. In addition to pest control, they tested fertilisers, conducted experiments in plant breeding, introduced new seeds and promoted new machinery in agriculture. They considered these issues as key ingredients for the modernisation of Spanish agriculture.

With their technical expertise and practical field experience, agricultural engineers were instrumental in supporting the introduction of DDT and advocating for its use in farming. Backed by governmental support, they launched dissemination and promotion campaigns. In collaboration with the Hermandades de Labradores y Ganaderos, they organised conferences, lectures, and seminars to educate farmers on the perceived benefits of DDT.

However, their publications also revealed a deeper, more complex dilemma: the immediate effectiveness of DDT in pest control versus the potential long-term environmental consequences. This debate underscores the awareness that some agronomists had regarding the risks posed by the intensive use of this chemical, balancing their early enthusiasm with a more critical, reflective approach to its long-term implications.

[Room **Instituto de Paleografia**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 7.9. Meet the project: *Soy and agro-food change*

**ORGANISER Ernst Langthaler**

Johannes Kepler University  
Linz, Austria

**MODERATOR Brigitte Semanek**

Institute of Rural History, Austria

**DISCUSSANTS Harro Maat**

Wageningen University,

Netherlands, **Zsuzsanna Varga**

Eötvös Lorand University, Hungary,

**Jeannie Whayne** University of

Arkansas, United States of America,

**Gabriel Tober** Johannes Kepler

University Linz, Austria,

The research project “Soy and Agro-Food Change” (SoyChange), funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF), addresses agro-food regimes and their transitions through the lens of soy with a focus on Austria from the 1870s to the 2020s. Over the last 150 years, soy has risen from a Far-Eastern curiosity to the biggest commodity of agricultural world trade. Austria is no special case within this general trend: Soy has conquered a big share of the domestic fields and has been imported en masse to the country from overseas. However, soy’s emergence from diverse niches to the mainstream was a rocky road. Some scientific, commercial, or political attempts to promote soy production and consumption remained niche phenomena. Others became innovative solutions to crises of a previous regime and key elements of a follow-up regime. Talking about soy in the singular would be an oversimplification of a much more complex story, given its plural, sometimes paradoxical roles in agro-food change: The cultigen simultaneously acted as a protagonist of the mainstream ‘Western diet’, rich in meat and dairy products, in the form of feeding stuff as well as its antagonist, endorsing alternative vegetarian and low-meat diets, in the form of soyfoods. The soy-focused perspective adopted by the project reveals that Austria’s relations to the global agrofood regime changed considerably from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first centuries. The country was rather loosely connected to the British-centered global regime (1869-1929) due to the strong ties of the Austro-Hungarian sub-regime, comprising inter-regional interdependencies between the Austrian, mainly industrialized parts and the Hungarian, mainly agrarian parts of the Habsburg Monarchy as a customs union with high-tariff protection against international competition. After the short-lived soyfoods boom under the German-centered sub-regime (1933/38-1945), Austria was incorporated into the US-centered global regime (1947-1973) through imports of soyoil as industrial raw material and soycake as animal feed in the GATT framework. Attempts to overcome international dependence through promoting domestic soy production and processing by the government and agroindustry in the 1970s, striving for an Austrian sub-regime, failed due to resistance from the USA. Within the WTO-centered global regime (1995-2020), however, Austria emerged as an eminent producer, processor, and trader of European GMO-free soy as an alternative to transgenic soy from the Americas.

[Room **TP2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 7.10. The making of naturalistic and technical-environmental knowledge: a long-term perspective across different chronologies, geographic areas, and disciplinary approaches 1

**ORGANISERS** **Simona Boscani Leoni** University of Lausanne, Switzerland,  
**Giulia Beltrametti** University of Roma Tre, Italy

**MODERATOR** **Simona Boscani Leoni** University of Lausanne, Switzerland

How is naturalistic knowledge constructed - historically? How do scientists, technicians, administrators, experts, and travellers approach the environment and its resources? How does naturalistic savant knowledge stand in dialogue with local knowledge and practices? This session, which hosts five papers devoted to different research experiences in different European geographic areas, with different long-term chronologies, attempts to trace, at least in part, some of the lines along which this knowledge has been historically constructed. From the Swiss Alps, to the Apennines and the Italian coastline, to the Slovenian Karst, the session will discuss paths of scientific construction of environmental knowledge and use of its resources read in the light of dialogue with local and empirical knowledge of places, practices, and techniques. The attempt is to identify the lines of continuity and discontinuity that lead, beginning in the second half of the nineteenth century, to the definition of a scientific approach to nature that, with its wellformulated categories, risks not fully grasping the complexity, including anthropological complexity, of environmental knowledge and practices. Additional papers wishing to contribute to this reflection from different chronologies, geographical areas, and disciplinary approaches are welcome.

## Building agronomic knowledge: the origins and development of agronomic literature in the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth (16th–18th centuries)

**Monika Kozłowska-Szyc** University of Białystok, Poland

The origins of Polish agricultural writing can be traced back to the mid-16th century when agrarian manuals first appeared. While these works did not yet constitute professional scientific agricultural publications in the modern sense, they laid the foundation for developing organized natural knowledge, based on empirical experience and environmental observation.

This paper examines agronomic literature produced in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (encompassing present-day Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine). The analysis includes agrarian manuals, economic instructions, and agronomic calendars.

The focus is on two key aspects: Sources and methods of agronomic knowledge – the combination of practical experiences from local communities with elements of scientific knowledge assimilated from Western Europe.

Local adaptation and innovation – the adjustment of cultivation strategies to specific soil types and landscapes in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, alongside the implementation of agricultural innovations introduced from the 18th century onward. Particular attention is given to the popularity of agronomic literature, its readership, and the practical application of its recommendations.

	<p>Comparing these texts reveals both terminological continuity and changing practices, shaped by local and European influences. The authors highlighted selecting suitable crops and strategies for local conditions, reflecting the deep environmental foundation of their knowledge.</p>
<p><b>The construction of viticultural technical and environmental knowledge through physiocratic and scientific publications in the Pays de Vaud from 1750 to 1900</b></p> <p><b>Guillaume Favrod</b> University of Lausanne, Switzerland</p>	<p>From the 18th century, the Pays de Vaud (Switzerland) is a place where technical and scientific knowledge of the wine industry was built up. This pre-Alpine territory, characterized by a rural economy, was occupied by the City and Republic of Bern, which practiced an agrarian and physiocratic policy.</p> <p>Since 1750, societies such as the Abbaye de l'Agriculture in Vevey or the Société économique de Berne have been promoting a scientific production, memoirs and treatises, dedicated to trade, economics, science and rural culture, incorporating comments and observations on climatic and natural changes. Their members - scholars, ecclesiastics, jurists, often landowners - created a number of institutions : Musée d'Histoire Naturelle, Société d'agriculture et d'émulation. For exemple, around 1880, the epidemics of cryptogamic diseases encouraged the development of important scientific and trans-disciplinary research, leading to the creation of viticulture schools and an improvement in knowledge of the vine and its environment.</p>
<p><b>Knowledge and infrastructures of empire: peasant settlement and the environment on the Kazakh Steppe, 1880s-1917</b></p> <p><b>John B. Seitz</b> Tennessee Wesleyan University, United States of America</p>	<p>In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the Russian Empire was engaged in a massive project to move over 1.5 million peasant settlers from European Russia to the arid lands of the Kazakh Steppe, a region already home to nomadic Kazakhs. Upon arrival, these settlers faced numerous difficulties in transplanting the forms of sedentary agriculture they were familiar with in their homelands, including challenges of climate, pests, vast distances, and plant and human diseases. To keep settlers on the land, the empire deployed a sizable physical, human, and technological infrastructure in the form of agricultural scientists, research stations, agronomic outreach, new crop varieties, hydrologic surveys, wells, and large-scale pesticide-spraying campaigns. This paper examines these infrastructures and processes that created a "naturalistic knowledge" of the Kazakh Steppe, and how they interacted in a settler-colonial environment. In particular, it explores the ways that the demographic and environmental transformation of the steppe that predated Soviet rule was rooted in diverse sources and circulations of knowledge that included Kazakhs, nearby Central Asians, global and local agronomists, peasant settlers, and the environment itself. Finally, it explores the global reach, connections, and influence of steppe agronomy through professional scientific networks across various empires and states.</p>

## Imperial commissions, universal expositions, and local practices: the woods of the Habsburg Karst on the trial of forestry knowledge (late 19th - early 20th century)

**Giulia Beltrametti** Roma Tre University, Italy

At the end of the 19th century, particularly in the territories of the Habsburg Empire, forestry knowledge experienced great scientific fervour. The newly established Karst Reforestation Commission began its work in Trieste, producing various reports. One in particular, written by the official Puchich, was "brought" to the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1900 as an admirable product of 19th century (agronomic and forestry) knowledge. The Karst reforestation, however, at the time of its implementation had caused a great deal of social and political tension and had damaged many of the local practices of environmental resource management. The locals were very conflicted about these reforestation policies, which - under the pretext of safeguarding the Karst land and making at least some agriculture possible - were certainly damaging livestock farming. The paper aims to investigate the sometimes conflicting shifts between the categories formulated by central administrations and local resource management practices in an attempt to understand the pathways of ecological knowledge construction.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 7.11. Reassessing narratives on land tenure and empire (16th-17th centuries)

**ORGANISERS Roger Lee de Jesus & Alina Rodríguez Sánchez** Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

**MODERATOR José-Miguel Lana Berasain** Public University of Navarre, Spain

This panel aims to analyze different cases of formation of land tenure law and land tenure experiences in colonized and occupied spaces in the early modern period.

Recent scholarship has already established the importance of local actors and agencies in understanding the establishment of institutions of land tenure, challenging the narrative of an empire unidirectionally establishing its legal institutions to enact control over its provinces, a model which persists for almost all 'imperial' formations, such as the Iberian crowns or Mediterranean empires. The simplistic diffusionist model, once used to explain conquest as the transposition and implementation of legal institutions to recently occupied spaces, is not enough to explain this complex and dynamic process.

In these imperial spaces, the readjustment of land use and ownership became a central element to guarantee the sustenance of both settlers and locals. Therefore, access to land was frequently the reason for conflict and violence, developing a vivid and intricate legal framework. The appropriation and utilization of preexisting structures of land tenure were vital to sustain these processes, with local communities often playing a key role in defining land ownership. Imperial structures relied considerably on these negotiated interactions, creating hybrid institutions that encompassed all the social structure, from enslaved people to colonized and colonizers.

This panel intends to reassess and rethink how land relations were readjusted and negotiated, and to nuance the idea of an 'imperial' land tenure law designed from an abstract metropolis. It aims to look at these issues from a global perspective, from Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas, not only to compare regions, but also to offer different perspectives, from the study of landscapes, to a social approach, and to critical legal history. Each case

	<p>departs from a local level by looking at the actions of local actors and agents.</p> <p>The panel's purpose is to question how land ownership was understood, debated and a central topic in imperial contexts, and to rethink the popular paradigm on how empires expanded by exporting legal institutions. Through different cases, it intends to show the current research about early modern conquest processes and to cross geographies, experiences and legal frameworks.</p>
<p><b>General land inspections in sixteenth century Peru: new approaches to old problems</b></p> <p><b>José Carlos de la Puente</b> Texas State University, United States of America</p>	<p>In this paper, I share some preliminary results of an ongoing investigation regarding communal property formation in the Central Andes of Peru. It is little known that the confirmation of the "términos y tierras" (district/jurisdiction) of native Andean communities unfolded during the First General Land Inspection (1594-1602) and that, even more importantly, such a confirmation was the prerequisite for the much better-known sale of title to land to individuals of Indigenous and Spanish descent. Relying on the two only extant "libros de repartimiento", I show that, for the main actors on the ground, the caciques and Indigenous commoners in these villages, the General Land Inspection came to confirm a bundle of rights to land, first recognized during the General Inspection (1570-75), but that clearly preceded them. Rather than reading these rare surviving records as evidence of a top-down imperial imposition or of the Iberian municipal model, I propose that we read them as the most significant effort, on the part of these historical actors, to adapt Native land-tenure regimes to the new imperial order, guaranteeing both the royal protection of these village districts from outsiders and the necessary flexibility to continue managing them internally, as part of a living commons.</p>
<p><b>Beyond mortality: capelas as guardians of spiritual and material legacies in Cape Verde (16th-18th centuries)</b></p> <p><b>Edson Edy S.C. de Brito</b> Leibniz University Hannover, Germany</p>	<p>From the 16th to 18th centuries, the islands of Santiago and Fogo in Cape Verde, within the Portuguese colonial context, featured an agrarian landscape dominated by institutions like morgadios and capelas. These entities concentrated land ownership with hereditary transmission, often only to the eldest son. Capelas were closely tied to Catholic principles, emphasizing life beyond death. Founders of chapels, motivated by religious beliefs, allocated part of their patrimony to pious works for soul salvation and community spiritual well-being. Piaae causae provided a way for founders to transcend death, remembered by future generations managing the capelas. Our proposal examines how founders' wills are respected over time. Can legal provisions be reinterpreted or ignored due to socio-economic changes, altering founder practices? Additionally, since managing capelas involves legal issues like accountability, we explore how the "soul" gains legal personality and land tenure. In summary, we seek to understand how norms from supernatural beliefs influenced social relations regarding land use and ownership in Santiago and Fogo.</p>

## How to think about land ownership in the Portuguese Empire: the case of the villages of Goa (16th-17th centuries)

**Roger Lee de Jesus** Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

This paper analyzes the intricate interplay between institutions, legal frameworks, and local responses during European colonialism in Goa, India, under Portuguese rule in the 16th and 17th centuries. Challenging the prevailing notion of land ownership tied to conquest rights, it analyzes the nuanced reactions of Goan communities. Despite Goa's status as one of the few Asian regions with European territorial presence, its unique case study reveals complex processes in land tenure. Colonial structures required negotiation with native norms and elites, while local villages upheld traditional social structures governing land relations. Consequently, debates between Goan villages and Portuguese authorities ensued, shedding light on evolving perceptions of land ownership and the boundaries of empire. This paper contributes fresh insights into the complexities of colonial dynamics and invites further exploration into the broader implications of land tenure disputes in colonial contexts.

[Room **Instituto de História económica e social**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 7.12. Sustainability in the wine supply chain in Europe after World War II to the present: institutions, technologies, and markets

ORGANISERS **Luciano Maffi & Omar Mazzotti** University of Parma, Italy, Dario Dell'Osa, University of Bari, Italy

MODERATOR **Omar Mazzotti** University of Parma

The objectives of this panel are to analyze the application of the concept of sustainability to the wine supply chain in Europe from the post-World War II period to the present focusing on the role of institutions, technologies and markets. Sustainability can be pursued by practices that have as a common basis attention to the interrelationships between environmental, economic and social dimensions. In sustainable viticulture, the environmental dimension can be manifested, for example, through reduction in energy consumption, reduction in polluting practices, greater efficiency in water consumption, soil conservation, respect for biodiversity, and landscape protection. Economic sustainability can be pursued through increased productivity and improved profit margins for companies, through the search for new markets, new products, and through the application of process and product innovations. Social sustainability translates into greater attention to the quality of the production process and product, and more generally in developing a sense of responsibility to society. The session aims to encourage the study of the following topics: a) The impact of climate change and sustainability practices on the wine supply chain. The last few decades have brought international attention to the fact that climate change has a major impact on this sector. A concrete example is the fact that areas under vine and wine production are also being developed in areas of northern Europe (southern England and Belgium). Legislation itself has evolved in favor of these practices. In addition, alongside the evolution of "traditional" viticulture, wineries based on the principles and practices of agroecology, organic farming and biodynamic agriculture have developed and consolidated in recent decades. b) The contribution of institutions to the development of sustainable viticulture. The evolution of national and European public policies for viticulture development has often favored the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices. The development of viticulture in many European countries provides a clear example of the interaction between the state and agricultural modernization. The phenomenon is extremely complex, and the

data describe a situation that requires proper analysis and appropriate studies from a historical and economic perspective. For example, EU regulations designed to improve quality have been exploited by some producers who have combined public intervention with new opportunities for sustainable growth and market expansion. c) The emergence of new technologies in the vineyard and winery that made production more sustainable. The evolution of the wine sector from the post-World War II period to the present has also taken place thanks to the application of innovations and technologies that have in some way affected the production chain: from the evolution of weather forecasting, soil analysis, laboratory analysis, genetics, machines for work in the vineyard and machines for all cellar operations. d) The role of the market and distribution networks in the development of sustainable viticulture. In recent decades, we have been able to observe an increased consumer propensity to purchase sustainable products; in this regard, we can observe an increasing importance of certifications on wine labels that provide information on the sustainable practices used by the producer. We should consider in particular the certification of organic production and the recent spread of certifications referring to sustainability standards.

## The wine of Italian valleys: some case studies

**Andrea Maria Locatelli** Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Italy, **Paolo Tedeschi** University of Milan, Italy, **Manuel Vaquero Pineiro** University of Perugia, Italy

The paper analyzes the evolution of viticulture and winemaking in two Alpine valleys and one Apennine valley. Viticulture in Valtellina, until the 19th century, was part of the polyculture system of the Alpine area. A series of crises and the loss of European markets led to stagnation, while the development of industry in the second half of the 20th century competed with vines. Only since the 1980s, partly as a result of an adulteration scandal, does a reaction mature with a modernization of viticulture: wine quality linked to the identity of the territory. Trentino presents the same condition, but from the 1950s the cooperative movement organizes a renewal of the entire fruit sector. Technical innovation and marketing strategies accompany the improvement of quality with the creation of "iconic" wines. In the Apennines, the Valnerina, characterized until the end of the nineteenth century by specialized viticulture with good quality products, then lost importance and only in the new millennium became again an example of innovative mountain viticulture. In addition to the search for milder temperatures, viticulture represents a tool against the abandonment and depopulation of the mountains. Old vines that had been relegated to marginal areas are recovered.

## Sustainable agriculture, organic production and quality certification in the Italian wine supply chain

**Omar Mazzotti & Luciano Maffi**

University of Parma, Italy, **Dario**

**Dell'Osa** University of Bari, Italy

Since the 1960s, a new model of sustainable agriculture centred on the interrelationships between the environmental, economic and social dimensions of production gradually become established in Europe. In the Italian wine supply chain, the theme of sustainable agriculture has been translated partly into the regulation of organic production, and partly into the preservation of cultural heritage and traditional production techniques. The first European regulations on "organic farming" were issued in 1991, while in 2012 specific European regulations enshrined the first wines with the "organic" label. While the debate on organic wine production legislation was ongoing, from the early 2000s consumers began to show a growing interest in sustainable products, so much so that sustainability became a major concern for wine producers. In response to market demands, producers have progressively modified strategies for the qualitative differentiation of their products, seeking to emphasize respect for the environment during cultivation and winemaking, and employing for this purpose sustainability certifications created by specific organizations. Starting from statistical sources, agricultural yearbooks and public reports, this contribution aims to reconstruct the history of sustainable viticulture in Italy.

## The Douro wine region in the second half of the 20th century: technical innovation, vertical integration and new business players

**Carla Sequeira &**

**Pedro Almeida Leitão**, University of Porto, Portugal

After 1945, the port wine sector faced a serious crisis in exports. Shippers were expecting a boom in sales to the countries where shipments had been put on halt during the conflict. But it never materialized.

Since the 1960s, port companies in Gaia were dragged into the merger that unfolded in the alcoholic beverages industry, on an international level. Port brands were included in the portfolios of multinational giants, and the sector became more marketing oriented.

The classic division between producers and shippers became blurred as the latter started acquiring land in the wine region. Changes were introduced in the production sector, with the compulsory formation of wine unions as part of the development of a corporative system, along with the slow emergence of co-operative wineries. Later, producers would gain the right to bottle and export directly from the Douro. The sector experienced a process of vertical integration in both directions: shippers moving upwards to control the wine making operations and producers gaining the power to market directly.

Apart from investment in wine making facilities with the purpose of mechanizing operations, vineyards were also subject to remodeling and experimentation. Grape varieties were selected and terraces were redesigned to accommodate machine work.

10h30 – 11h

**COFFEE BREAK**

# Thursday, 11th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities | 11h00 – 13h00 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 8**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	PAPER 6	ROOM
<b>8.1. Combatting starvation: how communities have fought hunger</b> Claire Strom	8.1.1. Women, social science, and the ongoing problem of hunger in the American South before World War II Rebecca Sharpless	8.1.2. Yugoslavia's agricultural transformation: western aid, hybrid corn, and the quest for food security Kornelija Ajlec	8.1.3. Food and coal crises in Prague, Vienna and Paris in winter 1916/1917 Marcela Hennlichová, Stanislav Holubec	8.1.4. Privatizing hunger: food relief after World War II and the development of food banks Claire Strom			Sala 2, 3rd floor
<b>8.2. The history of horticulture 2</b> Magnus Bohman, Inger Olausson	8.2.1. Desert, nomads and sacred trees – place attachment and landscape memories in the Negev desert of southern Israel Eli Ashkenazi, Guy Bar-Oz, Amots Dafni	8.2.2. On the words and water trails of Mediterranean Basin horticulture: the Palmeral of Elche as a case study Dominique Françoise Aviñó McChesney	8.2.3. A bias for hope: small-scale agriculture in Singapore Peter A. Coclanis	8.2.4. A muddy boot in the door: horticultural education as a mean for female emancipation? Inger Olausson, Magnus Bohman	8.2.5. Horticulture during collectivization in the Hungarian countryside Dániel Luka		Anfiteatro VI, 3rd floor
<b>8.3. Mutual construction and intertwining between community and hacienda in the Hispanic-Lusitanian worlds, 18th-20th centuries (Americas, Asia and the Caribbean) 2</b> Eric Léonard, Antonio Escobar Ohmstede, Marta Martín Gabaldón	8.3.1. The hacienda larandía and the expansion of the agrarian frontier towards the Colombian amazon floorland: 1933-1972 Edinson Ceballos Bedoya	8.3.2. Jesuits, Spaniards, haciendas volantes, caciques and Mixtec and Triqui pueblos in the Juxtlahuaca-Putla corridor, Oaxaca, during 18th century Marta Martín Gabaldón	8.3.3. The farm-school of Carahuasi: tenant system and school system. Puna de Jujuy, Argentina, 1908-1970 Guillermina Esposito	8.3.4. Colonies and settlements for the defense of internal and external borders in Bolivia: the cases of Guanay, Villa Rodrigo, and El Tremedal (1840s) Pol Colàs	8.3.5. The community divided: the resistible expansion of Xaagá estate, Oaxaca, Mexico, 18th-19th centuries Eric Léonard		Anfiteatro III, 4th floor
<b>8.4. Commons and economic inequality in rural Europe (1500-1800) 2</b> Giulio Ongaro, Matteo Di Tullio, Benedetta Maria Crivelli	8.4.1. Commons, commodities and community in a small town along the Venetian borders Erika Tomat	8.4.2. Collective wealth in premodern peasant societies: the role of commons in complementing the total income of rural households in the seventeenth and eighteenth-century Campine area (Southern Low Countries) Maïka De Keyzer, Jan Peeters	8.4.3. Common land use, social inequality and fiscal sustainability: the case of 18th-century South-West Germany Niels Grüne	8.4.4. The deepest pool? Inequality and large-scale upland common resources: Exmoor, England c. 1800 Henry French	8.4.5. Economic changes and wealth inequality in an Early Modern Alpine Community: the case of Pieve Tesino (Italy) Niccolò Caramel	8.4.6. Taxation, commons, and inclusiveness of the local public institutions in Central-Northern Italy (1500-1800) Tommaso Somigli Russotto, Giulio Ongaro, Federico Scribante	Instituto de Paleografia, 3rd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	PAPER 6	ROOM
<b>8.5. Agroecological landscapes and food systems in Europe in the long term 2</b> Guiomar Carranza-Gallego, David Soto Fernández, Gloria I. Guzmán Casado	<b>8.5.1. The role of water in the transformation of the agrarian landscape and its social metabolism: the case of the Vega (Granada, Spain), 1983-2016</b> Sergio Salazar Galán, Guiomar Carranza-Gallego, Gloria I. Guzmán Casado, Manuel González de Molina"	<b>8.5.2. An archaeological study of collective and semi-collective mountain socioecosystems in Cantabrian mountains</b> Pablo López Gómez, Margarita Fernández	<b>8.5.3. The role of local knowledge in building sustainable landscapes: the case of the Barbanza commons (Galicia, Spain) in the past decades</b> David Soto Fernández, David Fontán Bestilleiro, Lucía Santiago Sanmiguel, Carlos Armando San Clemente Erazo, Roque Sanfíz Arias, Nuria Salmerón, Lourenzo Fernández Prieto				Sala 4, 3rd floor
<b>8.6. Working with visual archives 2</b> Patrick Wichert, Peter Veer, James Quinn	<b>8.6.1. A photographic recalling of the Great Colchester/Essex Earthquake of 1884 using regional archives</b> Patrick Wichert	<b>8.6.2. "Here she come!": living on the edge as seen through the camera lens</b> Judith Stewart	<b>8.6.3. Old family portraits, heritage farms and historic regional networks</b> Peter Veer	<b>8.6.4. Minneapolis-Moline: putting agricultural industry film and filmmakers into rural and agricultural context</b> Debra A. Reid			TP1, 4th floor
<b>8.7. Agricultural practice, knowledge and the healthy farmers' sense in the 20th and 21st centuries 2</b> Jessica Richter, Přemysl Mácha	<b>8.7.1. Common sense as farmer's sense: family memory, oral history and farmer's knowledge in contemporary Czechia</b> Přemysl Mácha	<b>8.7.2. Knowing a peculiar kind of work: farming in early 20th-century Austria</b> Jessica Richter	<b>8.7.3. Learning affect through children's grazing practices in Southeastern Slovenia (1940-1980s)</b> Barbara Turk Niskač				Sala 7, 4th floor
<b>8.8. Gendered taskscapes: women, agricultural work and the politics of (un-) visibility in the 19th and 20th centuries 1</b> Juri Auderset, Peter Moser	<b>8.8.1. Landownership and reproductive labor: the case of homesteading women</b> Karen V. Hansen	<b>8.8.2. Women in agriculture in the interwar period</b> Peter Moser	<b>8.8.3. Contested visions of work: farm women's labor and the science of work in the interwar years</b> Juri Auderset				Anfiteatro I, 3rd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	PAPER 6	ROOM
<b>8.9. The making of naturalistic and technical-environmental knowledge: a long-term perspective across different chronologies, geographic areas, and disciplinary approaches 2</b> Simona Boscani Leoni, Giulia Beltrametti	8.9.1. How local knowledge shaped the process of division of common land into private ownership: the Karst region in the second half of the 19th century Nikita Peresin Meden	8.9.2. Measuring and mapping natural resources: southern Italy (18th-20th centuries) Giacomo Zanibelli, Alessandra Bulgarelli	8.9.3. When industry meets local knowledge on tinder: the Fomes fomentarius fungus collecting, processing and trading in the Ligurian Apennines (NW Italy) between the 19th and 20th century Alessandro Panetta, Anna Maria Stagno	8.9.4. Knowledge and techniques around the wood: the Alps from the Renaissance to the early 18th century Simona Boscani Leoni			TP2, 3rd floor
<b>8.10. Science to the rescue? Applied research and pastoral lands in Europe (1945 – nowadays)</b> Pierre Cornu	8.10.1. Heterodox science and marginal areas, a winning alliance? Farming system research and extension in Southern Europe in a transnational and environmental perspective (1970's – nowadays) Pierre Cornu	8.10.2. Forages, FAO, and the foundations of the genetic resources movement Derek Byerlee	8.10.3. Animal sciences, free-range pigs, and cured pork products as development tools for Corsica (1970's-1990's) David Drevon, Lucile Garçon, Marie-Odile Nozières-Petit	8.10.4. Which purpose for pastoral lands in French cattle-breeding intensification? The keys to improving and exploiting European pastoral zones imported by French agronomists (1940's-1960's) Charlène Bouvier			Sala 3, 3rd floor

# Thursday, 11th September 2025

Faculty of Arts and Humanities

11h00 – 13h00  
PARALLEL SESSIONS 8

[Room **Sala 2**, 3rd floor]

## 8.1. Combatting starvation: how communities have fought hunger

ORGANISER & MODERATOR **Claire Strom** Rollins College, United States of America

Hunger — the lack of adequate food — is ubiquitous in human history. No society has existed without hungry people and, until the last several hundred years, few have existed without periods of widespread hunger or famine. Methods of dealing with hunger are equally old, varying from individual actions to try and gain more food, to help from the wider community to religious charity, to government intervention.

Fighting hunger, however, has changed over time. Urbanization increased human density, making periods of hunger dangerous to social stability and affecting governmental policies around food relief. Technological advances have improved the global food supply and made it easier to preserve and transport. Corporations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have grown and assumed an outsized role in fighting hunger. And, finally, attitudes toward hunger--and the poverty that usually causes it--have fluctuated, varying from a belief that humans can and should eradicate need to a sense that poverty is an inherent representation of idleness or inadequacy and should not be rewarded. This session will explore four different responses to hunger in the twentieth century. Rebecca Sharpless will look at the hunger and malnutrition that affected the American South in the early twentieth century and the work of three social scientists in addressing the problem. Moving from individual academic recommendations to political action, the next two papers will look at government intervention to address food shortages. Marcela Hennlichova and Stanislav Holubec will compare governmental responses to hunger during World War I, looking at policies in Prague, Vienna, and Paris. Kornelia Aljec will examine the post-war famine in Yugoslavia that resulted in the government re-establishing ties with the West. These renewed ties bought material assistance, but also expert guidance to modernizing the agricultural sector. Finally, Claire Strom will discuss the partial abdication of governments from the responsibility of addressing hunger in the late twentieth century, with a growing western reliance on non-profit food banks.

**Women, social science, and the ongoing problem of hunger in the American South before World War II**

**Rebecca Sharpless** Texas  
Christian University, United States of America

In the eighty years between the Civil War and World War II, hunger remained a significant problem in the American South. With the failure of agrarian reform, many farm families, both formerly enslaved and free, lived in deep poverty. Many rural people subsisted on a combination of fat pork, corn-meal, and sorghum syrup. Pellagra, a niacin-deficiency disease, reached epidemic proportions across the region.

Reformers began expressing concerns about southern rural nutrition in the late nineteenth century. By the 1920s, they were conducting detailed social surveys and recommending changes that poor people could make in their diets. Three of the most thoughtful voices were women with PhDs in social science: economist Ruth Alice Allen and sociologists Margaret Jarman Hagood and Dorothy Dickins.

This paper will analyze the work of Allen, Hagood, and Dickins—from Texas, North Carolina, and Mississippi, respectively—with particular attention to their findings and recommendations on the food of southern rural poor. Their work represents the most sophisticated thinking about southern rural hunger at the time, and it demonstrates how intractable the problems of the South remained until World War II.

**Yugoslavia’s agricultural transformation: western aid, hybrid corn, and the quest for food security**

**Kornelija Ajlec** University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

In the aftermath of World War II, Yugoslavia faced extreme devastation and widespread famine, particularly in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and along the coastal regions of Croatia and Montenegro. Other regions west of the Danube and Sava rivers also struggled with severe shortages. The post-war government could not fully resolve these issues, and the situation worsened after 1948 due to the political rift between Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, which led to Yugoslavia’s isolation from both Eastern and Western blocs.

Repeated droughts in the late 1940s exacerbated the crisis, but Yugoslavia eventually reestablished ties with the West. This brought not only material and financial assistance but also agricultural expertise, especially from the U.S., through the Tripartite Aid program. These efforts focused on modernizing the agricultural sector, and hybrid corn production became a key component. Agricultural centers were set up across Yugoslavia to experiment with hybrid corn varieties, tailoring them to the country’s diverse regions. Through analysis of official documents, the presentation will bring to light, that by the late 1950s, these programs had enabled Yugoslavia to become largely self-sufficient in food production. Furthermore, agricultural industrialization allowed Yugoslav citizens to access a broader range of agricultural products, moving beyond basic subsistence.

## Food and coal crises in Prague, Vienna and Paris in winter 1916/1917

**Marcela Hennlichová** Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia,  
**Stanislav Holubec** Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia

This comparative study examines the situation in Prague, Vienna, and Paris during WWI, analyzing how the coal and food crises manifested and examining their social impact. Studying structural and social factors, we argue that the effects of both crises were worse in Austria-Hungary than in France due to French superior transport capacities and availability of colonial products. Within Austria-Hungary, Prague suffered more than Vienna. Therefore, the measures taken by the authorities there were harsher. Conversely, Vienna's food supply issues were more severe due to its larger size and the influx of refugees (rationing, soup canteens, and police controls of illegal trade as a reaction to the food crisis). We concentrate particularly on the winter of 1916/17, the time of the dire coal crisis. We argue the local population suffered more intensely in Prague than in Vienna or Paris, as the length of queues, complaints in the press, and the mortality rate suggest.

## Privatizing hunger: food relief after World War II and the development of food banks

**Claire Strom** Rollins College, United States of America

In the post-World War II era, many neo-liberal western governments reduced their involvement in social services, leading to traditional charities regaining importance. Simultaneously, the innovative creation of governmental-corporate-charitable partnerships became prominent in feeding the poor. These partnerships emerged in the 1960s, with America's national focus on hunger under JFK and then later as part of Johnson's Great Society. In 1967 the first food bank opened in Phoenix, Arizona.

Although starting in the United States, food banks spread to other countries, especially after the recession of the 1980s resulted in governmental cuts to welfare systems. Affluent countries with sizeable urban populations and robust agricultural production found the government-corporate-charity model appealing. Food banks appeared in Canada in 1981, in New Zealand in 1980, France in 1984, and in Australia in the 1990s. In the early twenty-first century, food banks expanded outside of the western world and the Global Food Banking Network founded in 2006, represents a much wider geography with countries in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East being part of its network.

This paper charts the emergence of the food bank network and explain how global corporations, changing technologies, and contracting governmental expenditure have made them an attractive, although still ineffective, option.

[Room **Anfiteatro VI**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 8.2. The history of horticulture 2

**ORGANISERS & MODERATORS** **Magnus Bohman** Kristianstad and Umeå University, Sweden,  
**Inger Olausson**, Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museum, Sweden

The history of horticulture is a novel research field in many parts of the world. It is distinguished from established fields such as garden history, which emerges more out of art history and landscape architecture. It is also distinguished from agricultural history through its typical objects of investigation: garden produce such as vegetables, fruits and ornamentals – all of which are different from agricultural produce due to scale, crop species, and intensity of cultivation. In fact, the contributions of horticulture to the scientific development of agriculture are often overlooked. Horticulture relates to many aspects of rural history, life and economy. Thus, it enables to study important issues such as food security, gendered and class-based division of labour, urban-rural dynamics and eco-cultural perspectives.

A paramount aim of the session is to develop this dynamic research field further. Therefore, it welcomes proposals from many disciplines. However, in order to bridge gaps and find common denominators in terms of theory, methods and sources, we especially welcome proposals that consider long-term, comparative and inter-disciplinary perspectives. Objects of study may include for instance the cultivation of different types of crops and their end-uses (in rural and urban environments, commercially and for self-sufficiency), labour conditions (including gardeners, employees and family enterprises), horticultural techniques (such as soil management, plant protection, tools, machinery and buildings, cultivation on open field and in greenhouses), issues related to trade and transportation, and crop improvement (for example adaption and breeding, and preservation of historical plant material). Traditionally, research on food supply issues has focused primarily on agricultural production. However, recent research has revealed a significant importance of horticultural produce throughout history, in towns and on the countryside and in all social strata. All these examples demonstrate the wide range and relevance of the research field.

## Desert, nomads and sacred trees - place attachment and landscape memories in the Negev desert of southern Israel

**Eli Ashkenazi, Guy Bar-Oz & Amots Dafni** University of Haifa, Israel

The Negev desert of southern Israel includes several locations with consecrated trees for the Bedouin nomadic tribes. These include wild trees such as acacia and Mt. Atlas mastic and domesticated olive, fig, and date palm trees. Most olive, fig, and Mt. Atlas mastic trees are predominantly found in the northern Negev and the Negev Highlands, while most acacia and date palm trees are located in the Arava Valley and the southern Negev. These trees are a strong testimony to the cultural history, place attachment, and heritage discourse of several Bedouin tribes. These trees were given special care by desert nomads for both religious and practical reasons, unlike other trees and plants that naturally grow in the desert. During our survey of the Negev, we documented sacred trees that hold significant cultural value and continue to receive care from local Bedouin communities. The efforts of local communities to conserve and protect these trees illustrate an important case study in tree preservation and emphasize their vital role as primary

On the words and water trails of Mediterranean Basin horticulture: the Palmeral of Elche as a case study

Dominique Françoise Aviñó  
McChesney University of Murcia,  
Spain

sources of tree history. Our paper aims to present these tree species and explain why they require special treatment and conservation programs.

The Middle Ages witnessed a true agricultural revolution led by the territories linked to the sphere of Islam and characterized by the expansion of irrigation systems and the consequent introduction of new crop species: warm season vegetables and fruit trees. Applying hydraulic engineering principles and toponymy to landscape archaeology, together with the study of Andalusian agronomy treatises, has allowed me to reconstruct an orchard landscape that although having lost today its original productive function, still survives with part of its original features designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site: the Palmeral of Elche, in the Spanish province of Alicante. What are now palm-tree orchards surrounding the city of Elche were originally urban and rural orchards dependent on the irrigation system that has survived to this day, and where numerous species were cultivated under both subsistence and market economies, as described in medieval agronomy treatises which attest to the combined legacy of theoretical and practical knowledge that has spread all over the Mediterranean Basin.

A bias for hope: small-scale agriculture in Singapore

Peter A. Coclanis University  
of North Carolina at Chapel Hill,  
United States of America

Over the past few decades the tiny island-nation of Singapore has embarked upon a hugely ambitious strategic resource policy intended to promote greater food and water security. One of the pillars of the new policy promoted by the Singapore government is an aggressive, multifaceted expansion of urban agriculture/horticulture, the principal goal of which to increase the percentage of locally-grown food from less than 10 percent today to 30 percent by 2030. As a result of this push, a considerable number of innovative schemes arising from the public sector, the private sector, and from private-public partnerships have sprung up, captured widespread international attention, attracting both agricultural/food entrepreneurs and investors from around the world.

In this paper, I shall detail, analyze, and critique Singapore's manifold efforts to increase local food production so dramatically, which efforts, I should add, are being coordinated with the government's equally ambitious efforts to become largely sufficient in supplying Singapore's water needs through better methods of rainwater capture and retention, the recycling of treated, reclaimed wastewater (NEWater), and enhanced desalinization efforts. Whether or not these plans will succeed is an open question, as, in my view, are the assumptions undergirding the quest for security defined in these terms.

## A muddy boot in the door: horticultural education as a mean for female emancipation?

**Inger Olausson** Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museum, Sweden, **Magnus Bohman** Kristianstad University, Sweden

A recent book project, co-authored by Olausson, has investigated the strive of women to receive horticultural education on equal terms as for men during the period circa 1860-1965. In doing so, it points to the role that horticultural education potentially had for promoting the skills of women and their entering into labour markets – a topic that has been overlooked in previous studies dealing with the bigger issue of gender equality in relation to the development of labour markets. Furthermore, the book project has revealed the characteristics and whereabouts of central actors in the process – a selection of women that in many ways were trailblazers and norm breakers, which coincided with their involvement in providing horticultural education to other women. Our proposal draws on the book project with the aim to extend and elaborate its findings further, with the aim to integrate horticultural education into the bigger narrative of the long strive for gender equality and female labour market participation during a formative period of economic and social development.

## Horticulture during collectivization in the Hungarian countryside

**Dániel Luka** PTE Endre Grastyán College of Advanced Studies, Hungary

Garden production during the Soviet-type collectivization of agriculture in Central Europe after the Second World War is barely elaborated in the literature. However, its significance cannot be underestimated. After the communist political takeover in Hungary in the second half of the 1940s, forced transformation of agriculture began, which included the partial abolishment of private gardening, i.e. liquidation of family enterprises. Fruit and vegetable production could not be replaced simply by large-scale farms, cooperatives. Even the so-called Bulgarian gardeners were persecuted that caused diplomatic tension with Bulgaria, a country that was a model for the Stalinist hardliners.

Methods varied to feed the population, in addition, rapid urbanization made food supply issues more urgent. This analysis tracks two main directions of the process, which were linked together: attempts to create large-scale horticulture through agricultural cooperatives with processing facilities as well as “green belt areas”, on the other hand, fruit and vegetable production on private plots of cooperative members. This topic is more relevant by the fact that private gardening prevailed, furthermore, that it was related to wine production, orchards, apiculture and small animal farming even in the mass collectivized Hungarian countryside.

[Room **Anfiteatro III**,  
4<sup>th</sup> floor]

### **8.3. Mutual construction and intertwining between community and hacienda in the Hispanic-Lusitanian worlds, 18th-20th centuries (Americas, Asia and the Caribbean) 2**

**ORGANISERS** **Eric Léonard** Research Institute for Development, France, **Antonio Escobar Ohmstede** Center for Research and Higher Studies in Social Anthropology, Mexico, **Marta Martín Gabaldón** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico

Agrarian communities and latifundia structures have constituted opposing paradigms in the socio-political organization, economic structure and development models of the rural world in developing countries, particularly in those that were part of the empires of the Iberian monarchies. In the Americas in particular, they took the respective forms of indigenous communities or pueblos de indios and haciendas. The oppositions and conflicts between these two kinds of property and organization have structured historiographical reflections and societal projects throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. They currently re-emerge in the processes of agribusiness expansion and extractive developments (minerals, energy or bio-resources), confronted by attempts to rebuild forms of community organization and collective property.

Contrasting with this binary perspective, the panel aims to examine the relationships and over-laps, at different possible levels, between community and latifundia structures of property and socio-political organization, considering the daily forms of interaction (cooperation, functional exchanges, conflicts...) that interweaved and reconfigured them between the colonial and contemporary periods.

It seeks to go beyond approaches of opposing or dichotomizing their respective dynamics, to examine the concrete forms of interaction between the two types of structures and the ways in which these translated into links of mutual influence in their processes of construction and (re)configuration in the long run. We are particularly interested in considering the interdependencies that arose through economic, social, symbolic, political and territorial exchanges associated with particular activities and particular social groups within both types of structures. The panel will also seek to illustrate and understand how political and institutional changes at the national or regional level (such as the formation of municipalities or parishes, the nominal dissolution of corporate property of communities and pueblos, the land reforms of the twentieth century, or the dismantling of these in recent times), were subject to appropriations and reformulations at the local and regional levels, which can be analysed through the light of the structural, political, territorial and economic imbrications that haciendas and communities (or certain social groups within them) had developed in previous periods.

More globally, the panel proposes to rethink the frontiers and boundaries between the two types of agrarian structures and socio-political organization, examining the porosities and reciprocal uses they made of each other. These issues can be explored through the following and non-limiting approaches:

The complementary forms of cooperation and conflict in the uses of natural resources (land, water, forests, pastures) and their relationships with legal changes; The spatial imbrications, boundary confusions, overlaps and shared uses of particular spaces between communities and haciendas: forms of shared governance, contracts and conflicts; The functional

## **The hacienda larandia and the expansion of the agrarian frontier towards the Colombian amazon floorland: 1933-1972**

**Edinson Ceballos Bedoya**

University of Amazonia and  
National University of Colombia,  
Colombia

relationships and exchanges in the markets of labour, inputs (credit, draft animals, intermediate goods), products and services; The processes of pueblos and private properties foundation in the geopolitics of the frontiers of empires or national states; The relationships between the two types of political-territorial structures in the processes of parish formation, municipalization and their subsequent reconfigurations (creation of new administrative entities, socio-political segmentation of communities, etc.); The hacienda towns and, conversely, the “communalization” of haciendas (through the purchase by communities, indivision among expanding kinship groups, the abandonment of estates, or the policies of agrarian reforms, among others).

In 1933 and 1972, two key events occurred in the configuration of the Colombian Amazon. In 1933, the largest cattle ranch in Colombia in the 20th century began to be formed – in the middle of the Amazon rainforest. In 1972, a peasant strike took place in the National Government of Caquetá due to the debt with the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform, created in 1961 by means of Law 135.

While Larandia was expanding and becoming more technical, the settlers who arrived due to the bipartisan Political Violence, the conflicts over land and the promotion of agrarian colonization in the Colombian Amazon.

Between the 40s and 60s, the demographic growth and the colonized jungle increased permanently as a result of spontaneous colonization and colonization projects under the promotion of institutions such as the Caja de Crédito Agrario and, later, INCORA. Poor planning, lack of technical assistance, poor infrastructure, and indebtedness generated a crisis among farmers (agriculture) in 1972.

This combination of elements contributed to livestock farming transforming the natural Amazonian landscape into an agrarian landscape with a livestock character throughout the 20th century.

## **Jesuits, Spaniards, haciendas volantes, caciques and Mixtec and Triqui pueblos in the Juxtlahuaca-Putla corridor, Oaxaca, during 18th century**

**Marta Martín Gabaldón** National  
Autonomous University of Mexico,  
Mexico

The western part of the Mixtec socio-historical space of the current state of Oaxaca is an ecological transition zone, as it is located between the Mixteca Baja, the Sierra Sur and the Montaña de Guerrero. It was also an inter-ethnic space where Nahuatl, Triqui, Mixtec, mestizo and Afro-descendant peoples met, as well as important cacicazgos. The environmental conditions of this corridor meant that, at least from the 17th century onwards, herds of small livestock moved through it from the Mixteca region of Puebla to the coast. Although haciendas understood as large estates were scarce in the area –although there were Spanish-owned mills (trapiches)– there were haciendas volantes, some of them in the hands of Jesuits, for the passage of cattle, established by renting land both to Mixtec and Triqui cacicazgos and to pueblos de indios, which implied negotiations over space at various levels. The interest of this paper is focused on reviewing the relationship

	<p>between the pueblos de indios and the cacicazgos during the 18th century and these haciendas and to reveal some essential points that help us to characterise their interweaving in space and terms of the ownership regimes deployed for this purpose.</p>
<p><b>The farm-school of Carahuasi: tenant system and school system. Puna de Jujuy, Argentina, 1908-1970</b></p> <p><b>Guillermina Esposito</b> National University of Córdoba, Argentina</p>	<p>In this presentation I analyze the case of the Carahuasi farm, in the Andean highlands of Argentina. The farm was organized at the beginning of the twentieth century based on the purchase of land by an indigenous former tenant. Since then, he reproduced tenant relations as a patron. As part of the expansion of the national education system, in 1908 a school was created inside the farm, which different members of the owner family managed from then on as teachers and directors. As part of an ongoing historical ethnography, I analyze the relationships that were established between the tenant system and the national school system in Carahuasi, and the imbrications between the public and the private, which in the daily interactions in the farm-school were mutually articulated and permeable to configure this space in the long term.</p>
<p><b>Colonies and settlements for the defense of internal and external borders in Bolivia: the cases of Guanay, Villa Rodrigo, and El Tremedal (1840s)</b></p> <p><b>Pol Colàs</b> University of Barcelona, Spain</p>	<p>In the immediate aftermath of independence, Bolivia faced a challenging geographical situation: with its primary population centres and economic production located in the Andean highlands, state control was far from being effective in some of the external borders. These borders were threatened by the ambitions of the Argentine, Peruvian, and Chilean states; however, the situation with Brazil appeared even more concerning. Between La Paz, Cochabamba, Potosí, or Chuquisaca and the Brazilian border lay the Orientes, vast flat territories where the administration struggled to exert any effective authority. Simultaneously, the dangers posed by the external border were compounded by the existence of an internal border in contact with the indigenous populations. This issue was jointly addressed in Bolivia during the 1840s, particularly under the government of José Ballivián, who promoted the establishment of settlements and production units in the Orientes to make advance the internal frontier and to consolidate the external border of the Bolivian state with Brazil, a movement that has been termed the “giro oriental”.</p>
<p><b>The community divided: the resistible expansion of Xaagá estate, Oaxaca, Mexico, 18th-19th centuries</b></p> <p><b>Eric Léonard</b> Research Institute for Development, France</p>	<p>Based on the history of land conflicts between the successive owners of Xaagá hacienda, in the central valleys of Oaxaca, and the surrounding communities, this paper looks at the complex and ambivalent relationships between different social groups within these communities and the hacienda's employees. It focuses in particular on the internal tensions within the pueblo of San Lorenzo Albarradas over access to and use of common resources -palm groves and prickly pear plantations used for cochineal production-, and the alliances some families forged with the hacienda organization to guarantee their access to these resources, to the detriment of other sectors</p>

	<p>of the community. These internal oppositions expressed in violent conflicts between hacienda employees and the comuneros of San Lorenzo at the turn of the 19th and 20th centuries, and again in the demands for agrarian reform in the 1920s and 1930s. These conflicts shed light on the complex relationships between large landowners, certain categories of their employees and socially heterogeneous, politically divided communities.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Instituto de Paleografia</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>8.4. Commons and economic inequality in rural Europe (1500-1800) 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Giulio Ongaro</b> University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy, <b>Matteo Di Tullio</b> University of Pavia, Italy, <b>Benedetta Maria Crivelli</b> University of Parma, Italy</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Matteo Di Tullio</b> University of Pavia, Italy</p>	<p>Recent years have seen a flourishing of studies which have added considerably to our knowledge of inequality dynamics in preindustrial times. Scholars focused also on the determinants of these dynamics and some of these suggests a direct connection between the growth of economic inequality and the functioning of the public finances (i.e., Alfani and Di Tullio in their book on the Republic of Venice). Basically, the argument is that regressive taxation would have fostered this phenomenon, but we still have little knowledge about the mechanisms beyond this process. Why did this happen? How did the public economy's choices influence these dynamics? How did the management of the common pool resources and the level of municipal and state direct taxation affect the paths of wealth distribution? Which were the correlations and causations mechanisms between the different elements?</p> <p>Clearly, a depletion or a private use of the common pool resources, thanks to its narrowed management, could have produced important effects in terms of increase of direct taxation and, therefore, of increase of economic inequality. However, the availability of the commons could have affected economic inequality not only impacting on the level of taxation, but also on the capacity of the taxpayers to face the State and municipal fiscal needs. Starting from these assumptions, the panel will focus on the complexity of the relationship between the management of the commons and the trend of economic inequality, dealing (but not exclusively) with the following topics in the long run (1500-1800):</p> <p>How did the depletion of the incomes from the commons could have caused the increase of direct taxation at the local level?</p> <p>Did a certain management of the common could have affected economic inequality in other ways – such as lowering the incomes (i.e., the fiscal capacity) for a part of the population and/or increasing them for another? In other words, how did the presence, or the absence, or a different way to manage these resources affected the capability of the rural population (or of a part of it) to meet the fiscal needs of the State?</p> <p>Did the direct use of the common pool resources or the renting out of them have different effects in terms of the redistribution of the wealth they produced among the rural population?</p>

	<p>More, did the presence of specific resources (public woods, buildings for the lodging of soldiers, and so on) produce, at the roots, the absence of the need to purchase/rent them and, therefore, to impose a tax to pay the purchase/rent?</p> <p>Was there an awareness of local/State institution of the connection between the presence (or a certain management) of the commons and the functioning of the fiscal system?</p>
<p><b>Commons, commodities and community in a small town along the Venetian borders</b></p> <p><b>Erika Tomat</b> Historical Archives of the Pieve di Venzone, Italy</p>	<p>The town of Venzone and its villages, located in the northeast of Italy, on the slopes of the Alps, along the borders of the ancient Republic of Venice, represent an interesting example of management of common pool resources, such as plains and mountain lands used as pastures, woods, animal shelters and farmhouses, during the period 1500-1800. In accordance with the local Statutes, authorities guidelines were aimed at preserving, within the local community, revenues and goods coming from such resources, by the way of issuing prohibition orders or applying fiscal measures.</p> <p>In the last years of Venetian domination, the individual use of pasturelands developed in the assignment of singular portions of them to local families, versus a periodical duty. In the meantime, the rent of common animal shelters and farmhouses continued discontinuously while common woods met a partial privatization. Such a background has then been received by the cadastral system, with its well-known tax purposes.</p>
<p><b>Collective wealth in premodern peasant societies: the role of commons in complementing the total income of rural households in the seventeenth and eighteenth-century Campine area (Southern Low Countries)</b></p> <p><b>Maïka De Keyzer &amp; Jan Peeters</b> Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium</p>	<p>Earning a monetary wage may have been important in market economies. Still, in most premodern peasant economies, it constituted only a minimal part of the total income of a rural household. Agricultural production, cottage industry, and piece wages were much more important. However, common pool resources could contribute even more in regions with extensive commons. Peasants could obtain fuel and food from the commons, but most importantly, they could sell animal products thanks to communal grazing or keeping beehives. While most scholars know the importance of the pluriactivity of peasants, it remains difficult to assess the contribution to household income. For this panel, I will delve into what an average rural household could earn thanks to their access to common resources and how this lowered the inequality in the premodern Campine area.</p>

## Common land use, social inequality and fiscal sustainability: the case of 18th-century South-West Germany

**Niels Grüne** University of Innsbruck, Austria

From the mid-18th century onwards, the South-West German countryside was swept by a wave of divisions of common lands, which converted pasture grounds into individually farmed, but still collectively owned arable plots, held as temporary or lifelong tenancies. This process was due to an alliance between village smallholders and reform-minded government officials, who faced the resistance of more substantial peasants and traditionalists in the administration. Based on a couple of microstudies, unearthing the actual disputes over interventions, this paper shows that both among advocates and opponents of changing the use of the commons, the link between socio-economic inequality, access to resources and the taxpaying capacity of rural inhabitants served as a key argument. Thus, at the local and state level alike, there was a remarkable awareness of the fiscal dimension of specific modes of managing the commons: However, while those in favour of reforms highlighted the mid- and long-term prosperity of a wide range of agricultural producers in a developmental perspective, their adversaries emphasised the current role of the peasant elite as the primary source of public revenue.

## The deepest pool? Inequality and large-scale upland common resources: Exmoor, England c. 1800

**Henry French** University of Exeter, United Kingdom

Most detailed studies of common pool resources/common lands in England have been of lands tied directly to individual settlements, manors or towns – because these provide the best records of usage. However, Angus Winchester's impressive recent history of common lands in Britain illustrates another type of common, where land was shared between settlements or jurisdictions. Such common rights were often 'nested' inside each other. A settlement might possess rights exclusive to its residents or jurisdiction, share some of these infra-jurisdictional rights with neighbouring settlements, and have access rights to an external, upland common moorland on the hills above.

This paper examines the unusual survival of records detailing commons users in the Royal Forest of Exmoor, in the three years before it was enclosed in 1816, and the social profile of rights holders in the two settlements that pastured the most sheep (20,000 in these three years). The reconstruction of the wealth/status of rightsholders and the analysis of the 'nested' rights to common lands reserved within these settlements as well, will enable the paper to assess the individual and combined effects of local and extra-local common pool resources in mitigating or deepening inequality in early nineteenth-century England.

## Economic changes and wealth inequality in an Early Modern Alpine Community: the case of Pieve Tesino (Italy)

**Niccolò Caramel** University of Parma, Italy

This paper focuses on economic changes and wealth inequality in the Early Modern Italian Alps, taking the village of Pieve Tesino – in what is now the Trentino region of Northern Italy – as a case study. In that period, Pieve Tesino was included in the County of Tyrol, located at an average altitude of 900 meters above sea level. As in other mountain settlements at similar altitudes, the low productivity of the terrain led to the predominance of pastoral over agricultural activities. During the 17th and 18th century, the

	<p>majority of the male workforce of the village moved from pastoralism to the print trade and a large part of the communal property destined for alpine pasture was leased to Venetian timber merchants, that contributed to increasing the community's income.</p> <p>In addition to these economic changes, the quantitative analysis of a previously overlooked corpus of sources, consisting in particular of local "es-timi" (property tax records), notarial documentation, municipal budgets and records of the municipal councils, highlights that the richest stratum of the population within the community did not consist of the print merchants, but of a few people who held political power and managed the community's common goods and incomes.</p>
<p><b>Taxation, commons, and inclusiveness of the local public institutions in Central-Northern Italy (1500-1800)</b></p> <p><b>Tommaso Somigli Russotto, Giulio Ongaro &amp; Federico Scribante</b> University of Milano-Bicocca, Italy</p>	<p>The paper will compare two different mountainous case studies, both located in the Apennines of the Grand Duchy of Tuscany - one in the administrative subdivision of the 'Contado', the other in that of the 'Distretto' - between the sixteenth and the end of the eighteenth centuries. It will observe the potential correlations between the functioning of the local institutions, the management of the commons and, broadly, of the local public finances, and the trend in economic inequality. The differences between the two case studies, in terms of local norms and socio-economic contexts, will enable to highlight similarities and peculiarities of the correlations identified.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 4</b>, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>8.5. Agroecological landscapes and food systems in Europe in the long term 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Guiomar Carranza Gallego</b> University of Jaén, Spain,  <b>David Soto Fernández</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain,  <b>Gloria I. Guzmán Casado</b> Pablo de Olavide University, Spain</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Manuel González de Molina</b> University of Pablo de Olavide, Spain</p>	<p>Over the last six decades, industrial farming has led to a loss of land cover diversity and landscape degradation. This entails a worrisome bio-cultural loss of an age-old legacy of site-specific knowledge, farm practices, landscape mosaics, crop varieties, livestock breeds and cultural foodscapes that peasants had accumulated over centuries. There is a consensus in the European Union on the need to promote sustainable agriculture and, consequently, to link back to the territory the provision of basic environmental services of agroecosystems, now outsourced, such as the conservation of genetic diversity, of pest and disease control and the replenishment of soil fertility among others. Such services are provided optimally through organic management of agroecosystems but also through the proper management of landscapes, where the physicalbiological cycles that ensure the sustainability of agricultural production are closed. Consequently, the management of agroecological territories requires a land-use planning performed on a larger scale than the farm gate level, a task for which there is hardly any accumulated knowledge. The comparative study of past and present agricultural landscapes, associated with larger units of cultural management of</p>

## The role of water in the transformation of the agrarian landscape and its social metabolism: the case of the Vega (Granada, Spain), 1983-2016

**Sergio Salazar Galán, Gloria Guzmán Casado & Manuel González de Molina** University of Pablo de Olavide, Spain,  
**Guiomar Carranza-Gallego** Jaen University, Spain

agrarian systems in their historical dimension, can be extremely useful for this purpose. In this sense, history can cooperate to rescue peasant and scientific knowledges about landscape organization through the study of past agrarian systems. This study requires the use of historiographic techniques in combination with other disciplines. This session aims to bring together research that incorporates different disciplinary contributions to the historical study of agricultural landscapes.

The so-called green revolution has promoted the use of agrochemicals and irrigation to increase crop productivity, among other technological leaps. Likewise, with the industrialisation and globalisation of the agri-food system, agricultural landscapes have been changing rapidly, mainly since the second half of the 20th century. The aim of this study is to analyse in historical perspective how irrigation has contributed to the change of the agrarian landscape and its social metabolism. For this purpose, we have selected a case study of the Spanish Mediterranean, the Vega de Granada, for the period 1982-2018 considering this is the period when technological improvements in irrigation have been implemented. Using official statistical documentary sources, historical cartography and an ecohydrological modelling tool, we have reconstructed the time series of changes in crops and natural land cover, as well as the changes in water, nutrient and energy flows associated with these changes from a social metabolism perspective. The results show that the landscape has been radically transformed towards a specialisation of crops increasingly dependent on irrigation despite the opposite trend of reduced water availability in the region, showing also an increase in water pollution due to the use of agrochemicals.

## An archaeological study of collective and semi-collective mountain socioecosystems in Cantabrian mountains

**Pablo López Gómez** University of Leon, Spain, **Margarita Fernández Mier** University of Oviedo, Spain

We present in this communication one of the lines of work of the LLABORLANDS group, on the spaces of collective and semi-collective use in the Cantabrian mountains.

The implementation of an archaeology of the commons, combined with historical and ethnographic studies, has allowed us to obtain a series of diachronic data that we have interpreted in a relational way, overcoming the historical-cultural frameworks -and the past/present ruptures-. Our objective is to define the social structures associated with landscapes of collective and semi-collective use in the Cantabrian Mountains. Highly resilient socio-ecological models that are still alive.

Transdisciplinary dialogue and attention to local knowledge allows us to put local communities at the center of attention. By empowering uses, access and forms of management that have traditionally been agroecologically more sustainable, but which have necessarily had to be built on a constant balance-in-imbalance. However, in recent decades the

## The role of local knowledge in building sustainable landscapes: the case of the Barbanza commons (Galicia, Spain) in the past decades

**David Soto Fernández, David Fontán Bestilleiro, Lucía Santiago Sanmiguel, Roque Sanfíz Arias & Lourenzo Fernández Prieto** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain,  
**Carlos San Clemente Erazo & Nuria Salmerón** University of Pablo de Olavide, Spain

transmission of this knowledge has been endangered and with it the resilience and biodiversity of mountain landscapes.

Local knowledge, built in the long term by peasant communities, is an essential tool for agro-ecological transition. The challenges of agro-ecological transition at landscape level require special attention to be given to local knowledge about territorial organization. Commons are privileged social spaces to reconstruct the historical management of land use planning. In this communication we present the results of an applied history project developed with commons in the Barbanza Peninsula (Galicia, Spain). The local communities managing these commons are developing multi-functional land management projects that require historical knowledge to accompany the transition. Historical knowledge about multifunctional management in the past is important to the design of the future projects. Applying the methodologies of the Agrarian Metabolism we analyze the synergies in the territory, as well as the forms of governance that have regulated these territories. Research is structured on the basis of participatory action research methodologies (living labs), with the participation of local communities in defining and developing research.

[Room **TP1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 8.6. Working with visual archives 2

ORGANIZERS **Patrick Wichert** Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom, **Peter Veer** University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, **James Quinn** Norwich University of the Arts, United Kingdom

MODERATOR **Karen Sayer**, Leeds Trinity University, United Kingdom

DISCUSSANTS **Peter Veer**, University of Amsterdam, Netherlands, **James Quinn**, Norwich University of the Arts, United Kingdom

The session will provide a platform from which to expand research discussions initiated at recent EURHO conferences regarding visual approaches to working with film and photographic archives. Visual material has become a fertile ground for cross-disciplinary research and collaborations, creating new spaces for interpretations of historical places, persons and events. An increased interest in the 'local' as it relates to wider global issues and contemporary concerns about the impact of the climate emergency, migration and identity have generated renewed interests in historical actions and events.

Many visual archives, particularly film, are dominated by corporate and governmental 'educational' examples at the exclusion of private archive materials. With photography becoming more widely available from the late 19th century and, from the mid-20th century, the expansion of 'home movie' technology, the availability of personal films and photographs have become a rich new source of material for researchers.

Personal films and photographic collections are being absorbed into official archives, such as the East Anglian Film Archive at University of East Anglia, where digitisation increases their accessibility beyond academic research. Family and place-focussed, these visual archives provide a more diverse view of rural life, one that requires an analytic approach that uses a more affective, haptic, research methodology that is open to gaps, silences, and events taking place in the margins. The session explores the relationship between analogue and digital media not as binary opposition, but as

	<p>a complementary relationship that generates a back-and-forth between the two to find new readings and to present associated new visualisations through film, photography, mixed media, and painting. It complements a conference proposal submitted by Brigitte Semenек addressing methodological issues in analysing films from rural areas by placing the focus on methodologies (e.g., Grounded, Haptic, Affective) used in the production of exhibitions, films and artworks.</p> <p>Themes could include: Family archives and place; Using digital archives; Research projects involving specific visual archives; Methodologies used to interpret visual material; Emergent practice-led (or practical) methodologies; Cross- or inter-disciplinary approaches to working with visual archives; Archival material on coastal environments; Returning the digital to analogue.</p>
<p><b>A photographic recalling of the Great Colchester/Essex Earthquake of 1884 using regional archives</b></p> <p><b>Patrick Wichert</b> Sheffield Hallam University, United Kingdom</p>	<p>My research investigates how landscape photographs communicate memories carried across generations which are 'imprinted' in the people's sub-conscious as well as their mind.</p> <p>The presentation explores oral history film accounts, historic photography, and archive texts documenting and recalling the Great Colchester/Essex Earthquake of 1884. The emergence of photography from the mid 19th century onwards enabled amateur and reportage photographers to capture the event which had its epicentre in Colchester, Essex, UK. Oral history accounts of local witnesses were now within reach of the fast-developing film industry too and this marked a distinct change in the visual representation of community memories.</p> <p>Although measuring only 4.6 magnitude on the Richter scale, it caused severe damage to many properties causing alarm in the largely rural communities. The impact of earthquakes is sadly too familiar to people across the globe, as well as their associated fears and imaginations of ruptured lives, of sudden uprootedness.</p> <p>Working with regional archives, such as the East Anglian Film Archive, I am analysing digital and visual materials held there while returning with my camera to the very sites captured then. My photography research combines archive study with a hybrid analogue-digital workflow using historic cameras.</p>
<p><b>"Here she come!": living on the edge as seen through the camera lens</b></p> <p><b>Judith Stewart</b> Freelance, United Kingdom</p>	<p>Low-lying lands on either side of the North Sea are particularly vulnerable to rising sea levels, with some predicting that Norfolk, in the East of England, will have disappeared by the end of the 21st century. These are marginalised communities sandwiched between the encroaching sea on one side and encroaching modernity on the other.</p> <p>The video essay draws on material from film and photographic archives at Norfolk Records Office and the East Anglian Film Archive at the University of</p>

	<p>East Anglia. These show images of devastation familiar to us regardless of of place and time - flooded roads and fields, boat rescues, broken houses and displaced locals. But alongside these records exist unofficial accounts, increasingly shared on social media platforms, that present more personal encounters. The video focusses on the gap between professional reporting of events and the responses of those living through, and with, external threats from the sea. Nowhere is this better illustrated than in the account of Ruth Holman whose intimate knowledge of her environment led her, on the morning of November 28th, 1897, to gather her children and, as the sea breached the shingle bank, "gleefully" cry out "Here she come!".</p>
<p><b>Old family portraits, heritage farms and historic regional networks</b></p> <p><b>Peter Veer</b> University of Amsterdam, Netherlands</p>	<p>Over the past decade, descendants of a fragmented rural 'clan' in the eastern Betuwe region of the Netherlands, a historically a somewhat neglected rural area, have faced challenges preserving their heritage. They have discovered 19th-century family portraits featuring affluent relatives, occasionally alongside farmworkers or domestic staff. While these photographs, taken by professional photographers in provincial towns, offer glimpses into the past, the identities and relationships of those depicted are often undocumented.</p> <p>Until around 1950, the clan lived on large farmsteads, playing pivotal roles in the communities. Today, these farmsteads, formal heritage sites, are no longer agricultural and are frequently sold. Despite bureaucratic hurdles, some descendants aim to archive the portraits in regional collections, aware of their significance in regional history.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to preserve the rural heritage and make the region's socio-cultural history s from 1850–1950 accessible to a wider audience. It seeks to combine the portraits with the history of the farmsteads and their place in the physical landscape. Themes include social roles, agricultural practices, WW I &amp; II time impacts, and family interrelations. The paper is a quest to innovative participative Design Thinking methodologies in rural history research and innovative presentation techniques.</p>
<p><b>Minneapolis-Moline: putting agricultural industry film and filmmakers into rural and agricultural context</b></p> <p><b>Debra A. Reid</b> The Henry Ford Museum, United States of America</p>	<p>This presentation will assess industrial films produced by agricultural implement manufacturer Minneapolis-Moline by putting the films into the context of global rural and agricultural change between the 1930s and the 1950s. MM advertised products using 16mm industrial films. The company sent filmmakers abroad to document MM's motorized products in fields in Europe and beyond. The company then packaged their films as promotional and educational material that pushed American exceptionalism and the benefits of motorized agriculture in the context of the Great Depression, World War II, and the Cold War. The films often contrasted motorized agriculture to the physically demanding agricultural practices based in human labor and draft power still practiced in much of the world at the time.</p>

	<p>Film and media-studies specialists have paid increasing attention to these industrial films over the past decade, but they ask for more information about rural and agricultural history so they better understand the context in which these films developed. This session presents a framework for analyzing these films with agricultural and social historical context and filmmaker biography as central to the analysis.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 7</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>8.7. Agricultural practice, knowledge and the healthy farmers' sense in the 20th and 21st centuries 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Jessica Richter</b> Institute of Rural History and University of Vienna, Austria, <b>Přemysl Mácha</b> Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Oliver Kühschelm</b> Institute of Rural History, Austria</p>	<p>At the turn of the 20th century, politicians and administrators across Europe had little doubt that agriculture was a special sector of the economy. Its dependence on natural and local conditions, seasonality, weather and climate forced farmers to constantly adapt to uncertainty and change. This alone ensured that farms and associated activities varied greatly between different places. Farming, moreover, defied official categories of work as much as many contemporaries' dreams of an industrialisation of agricultural production. While some saw farming as a "traditional" counter-model to social progress, others often associated life and work at farms per se with health, idyll, a high work ethic and, above all, a special understanding of nature, animals, plants and soil. This knowledge and the (constructed) features of farming were much discussed in the course of the twentieth century. Repeatedly, they became a political issue: in the context of debates about rural depopulation, state labour market administration or the public promotion of settlements and housing, vocational training and agricultural production. In the 21st century, farmers' knowledge and their abilities to adapt are increasingly assigned particular relevance in the context of environmental degradation and climate change. Even though farmers are often blamed to contribute to such issues politicians and media attribute to them a healthy farmers' or common sense that predestines them for best practice. Many researchers, in contrast, point to the importance of practical, experiential knowledge in farming. They frequently envision knowledge as something passed on in families over generations and or in daily practice shared with others. Scholars conceptualise it as "traditional", situated, local, or as embodied and intuitive, like a "feeling" for living things, soil and a farm's needs. Some studies focus on human – non-human relations and entanglements. On the basis of this research, the speakers of this session will investigate how farmers acquired knowledge, how they described and implemented it in relation to other forms of knowledge. The papers draw on approaches from history, (historical) anthropology and memory studies. They discuss for different historical contexts in 20th and 21st century Europe how this knowledge contributed or failed to meet specific challenges and how it was assessed in relation to other ways to make sense of the world.</p>

## Common sense as farmer's sense: family memory, oral history and farmer's knowledge in contemporary Czechia

**Přemysl Mácha** Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia

In the Czech popular discourse, the English term common sense is usually translated as farmer's sense (selský rozum). Farmers thus serve as the archetype of wisdom and sound decision-making. Farmers themselves use this term commonly to frame and justify (or criticize) various policies but also to draw a sense of professional pride. My research of contemporary Czech family farms indicates that common sense is an important, though internally complex and often contradictory, source of farmers' knowledge, together with family memory, practical experience, and formal education which all serve as a source of inspiration in the face of the need for adaptation to climate change as well as growing market competition. In my paper, I will focus especially on the role of common sense and family memory in shaping farmers' knowledge and farmers' response to contemporary ecological, economic and social challenges. The results I will present are based on interviews and oral histories recorded on small family farms across Czechia between 2022 and 2024.

## Knowing a peculiar kind of work: farming in early 20th-century Austria

**Jessica Richter** Institute of Rural History and University of Vienna, Austria

In the early 20th century, agriculture was a strange field of work from the perspective of nation-state administrations. It seemed to follow its own rules and eluded the newly established labour market administration as a result. Similarly, occupational statistics were ill-equipped to describe agricultural work relations. As crucial farming was, compared to industrial work to state officials it appeared as backward and traditional.

In contrast to that, agricultural organisations, conservative politicians and farmers positioned farming as the "backbone" of the state, guaranteeing food supply and a healthy population. From their perspective, this was due to farmers' enthusiasm for work and their specific practical knowledge. Such knowledge allegedly was passed down through generations and enabled farmers to adapt to changing natural conditions and imponderabilities. By praising farming, these parties underlined their opposition to supposedly harmful social developments. For some, this included state intervention in work, ranging from social insurance to labour regulation.

Which activities should be classified and promoted as "modern", "proper" work was highly contested. Against this background, this contribution investigates farmers'/farm workers' knowledge by analysing autobiographical accounts. How was this knowledge described? How did it translate into farming practices? How was it assessed in relation to industrial work?

## Learning affect through children's grazing practices in Southeastern Slovenia (1940–1980s)

**Barbara Turk Niskač** Tampere University, Finland

This paper examines children's participation in the domestic agricultural economy of Southeastern Slovenia during the second half of the 20th century, with a focus on the interplay between skill acquisition and learning of affect. Drawing on the experiences of individuals born between the 1940s and early 1970s, the study explores how children learnt through observation, play, trial and error, and gradual participation in work. Grazing activities, a common chore among the research participants, serve as the central lens of analysis. I argue that beyond acquiring practical skills in animal husbandry, during grazing activities children developed specific forms of attentiveness, ways of perceiving the environment, and attitudes toward domestic animals. While taking care of grazing cattle, the task of children was to take care that the animals got well fed and as the grazing areas were unfenced, simultaneously to take care of the cultivated land. Through narrated memories, this paper investigates how the practice of grazing created spaces of more-than-human sociality (Tsing 2013; Sillander & Remme, 2017) and how living and working in shared environment shaped affective relationships with animals and the land.

[Room **Anfiteatro I**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 8.8. Gendered taskscapes: women, agricultural work and the politics of (un-) visibility in the 19th and 20th centuries 1

ORGANISERS **Juri Auderset**

University of Bern and Archives of Rural History, Switzerland,

**Peter Moser** Archives of Rural History, Switzerland

DISCUSSANTS **Grey Osterud**

Freelance, United States of America

Women played key roles in 19th and 20th centuries agriculture, although their diverse labors on the farms were often subject to marginalization due to the hegemonial societal gender norms that also left an imprint on rural spaces. However, women in agriculture also struggled against such power asymmetries and pursued different strategies of making the importance of their work visible. Many farm women developed their own visions of womanhood that often centered on work, the entanglements between production and reproduction and its linkages to the family economy in which the farm and the household were inseparable parts. Their work thus became a crucial site for shaping collective identities, for representing women's roles in the rural economy and for making political claims, but it also constituted a sphere where the gendered divisions of labor were reinforced, undermined or independently interpreted. It was also the importance of their labor that provided women with crucial resources for negotiating the relationships within the farms but also for forging their social roles beyond the farm gates. Moreover, as the farms became sites of social scientific observation in the late 19th and 20th centuries, the work of women was rendered visible and became a key point of interest in diverse disciplines ranging from the science of work to rural sociology. At the same time, however, the social sciences often rendered women's work in agriculture invisible because the categories of perception were modelled on industrial capitalist realities and tended to overlook the idiosyncrasies of the agrarian worlds. This panel suggests to take a closer look at how work and conceptions of work shaped rural women's struggles for recognition and explores these forms of agency in comparative perspective. It invites contributions that explore the relationship between women's work and visions of womanhood and agriculture.

## Landownership and reproductive labor: the case of homesteading women

**Karen V. Hansen** Brandeis University, United States of America

In the early twentieth century, when homesteading was still possible, immigrants from Scandinavia and Europe took land. As landless laborers and committed agriculturalists, Norwegians and Swedes in particular, sought places across the northern Great Plains to make a living and establish ethnic-based communities, often amongst Indigenous peoples. Women used their labor power to ensure the success of the enterprise. Their reproductive labors included not only cultivating gardens, milking cows, churning and selling butter, and working in the fields, but also birthing and raising children.

They deeply understood that landownership enhanced the value of their labor and improved the prospect of survival and perpetuation of their families and communities. Along with other marginalized women, notably Native Americans, Scandinavian women sought land in their own name.

## Women in agriculture in the interwar period

**Peter Moser** Archives of Rural History, Czechia

Women in agriculture experienced the interwar period as an ambivalent time. On the one hand, the general tendency to push women out of areas of production and the public sphere left its mark on agriculture too. Newly founded schools for women farmers, for example, were now called Home Mother Schools and associations of women producers were renamed rural women's organizations. At the same time, however, the importance of women on the farms increased. Females were performing more, and more important tasks on the family farms than before. They were now contributing significantly to the family income through their commercial activities. Moreover, farmer's wives and women farmers founded not only their own organizations at the local, national and international level, they also began to get involved in agricultural organizations for the first time.

Based on examples from Switzerland and the Republic of Ireland, this contribution examines the causes for the significant increase in the importance of women and presents sources which document their temporarily increasing importance on farms and in the public sphere in the interwar period.

## Contested visions of work: farm women's labor and the science of work in the interwar years

**Juri Auderset** University of Bern and Archives of Rural History, Switzerland

In the interwar years, women's work in agriculture increasingly became a subject of the recently institutionalized science of agricultural work. While work physiology, psychotechnics, and scientific management had developed since the late 19th century with a specific focus on male industrial wage labor, agricultural work in general and farm women's work in particular had remained marginal in the preoccupations of work scientists. After World War I, however, the vision of rationalized farm labor had captured the imagination of work scientists, agronomists, and rural sociologist. As they struggled to come to terms with the complex taskscapes of farm work, they increasingly began to investigate the role of women's work in agriculture. Shaped by the normative assumptions of the gender division of labor that became prevalent in the bourgeois culture of industrial-capitalist societies,

	<p>however, their epistemic schemes and categories frequently ran up against the complexities of the gender relations on farms and farm women's own conceptualizations of their role as agricultural producers. By focusing on the controversies on women's work in agriculture in Switzerland, this contribution explores these tensions and analyses the contested conceptual approaches to perceiving and transforming women's work in agriculture in the interwar period.</p>
<p>[Room <b>TP2</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>8.9. The making of naturalistic and technical-environmental knowledge: a long-term perspective across different chronologies, geographic areas, and disciplinary approaches 2</b></p> <p><b>ORGANISERS</b> <b>Simona Boscani Leoni</b> University of Lausanne, Switzerland, <b>Giulia Beltrametti</b> University of Roma Tre, Italy</p> <p><b>MODERATOR</b> <b>Giulia Beltrametti</b> University of Roma Tre, Italy</p>	<p>How is naturalistic knowledge constructed - historically? How do scientists, technicians, administrators, experts, and travellers approach the environment and its resources? How does naturalistic savant knowledge stand in dialogue with local knowledge and practices? This session, which hosts five papers devoted to different research experiences in different European geographic areas, with different long-term chronologies, attempts to trace, at least in part, some of the lines along which this knowledge has been historically constructed. From the Swiss Alps, to the Apennines and the Italian coastline, to the Slovenian Karst, the session will discuss paths of scientific construction of environmental knowledge and use of its resources read in the light of dialogue with local and empirical knowledge of places, practices, and techniques. The attempt is to identify the lines of continuity and discontinuity that lead, beginning in the second half of the nineteenth century, to the definition of a scientific approach to nature that, with its wellformulated categories, risks not fully grasping the complexity, including anthropological complexity, of environmental knowledge and practices. Additional papers wishing to contribute to this reflection from different chronologies, geographical areas, and disciplinary approaches are welcome.</p>
<p><b>How local knowledge shaped the process of division of common land into private ownership: the Karst region in the second half of the 19th century</b></p> <p><b>Nikita Peresin Meden</b> University of Nova Gorica, Slovenia</p>	<p>Local knowledge of the use of common land was expressed in the specific adaptations of the environment according to local economic orientation and opportunities, needs, and traditional practices. At least since the end of the 18th century, the Habsburg monarchy had been working towards the abolition of collective land use. Nevertheless, the division of common land into individual use and private ownership was a long process. Local knowledge is analysed on the basis of archival correspondences between local communities in the Karst region and the authority regarding the division of common land. Studies prove that local knowledge of the optimal use of the common plots was one of the main factors that slowed down this process. Correspondences show that the authority requesting the</p>

## Measuring and mapping natural resources: southern Italy (18th-20th centuries)

**Giacomo Zanibelli & Alessandra Bulgarelli** University of Naples Federico II, Italy

division was not aware of all the natural characteristics of the land. Research revealed that this sometimes led to objections from commoners that were justified also by knowledge of the most appropriate uses of the land. The paper contributes to a better understanding of the attitude of local communities and authorities towards the use of common natural resources.

This study analyzes the evolution of the processes of measuring and mapping environmental resources in Southern Italy during a time span from the 18th century to the first half of the 20th century. The focus has been centered on the operations carried out by the specialized human capital in responsible for producing maps and technical reports relating to municipal land and its use by entitlement holders or to large land holdings of a feudal or state nature.

Archival records indicate that these technicians played a pivotal role in describing, measuring, and mapping forests, pastures, and land subject to rights of use by the population. This was done for a variety of purposes, including census-taking and responding to legal challenges in courts of all levels.

This research aims to address the following questions: To what extent have the operations of determining the real size in hectares and defining the limits of environmental resources, conducted by technicians, contributed to the protection of these assets from unregulated exploitation? Did the technical surveys contribute to the resolution of conflicts between various land stakeholders? Have they encouraged the adoption of sustainable resource use patterns by southern municipalities?

## When industry meets local knowledge on tinder: the *Fomes fomentarius* fungus collecting, processing and trading in the Ligurian Apennines (NW Italy) between the 19th and 20th century

**Alessandro Panetta** Institute of Mediterranean Europe History and National Research Council of Italy, Italy, **Anna Maria Stagno** University of Genoa, Italy

This paper focuses on the description of the gathering and processing activities of the tinder mushroom (*Fomes fomentarius*) and the development of industrial business related to its processing in 19th- and 20th-century Europe. The focus is on the activity of companies active in Fontanigorda (Genoa, NW Italy), in the mountainous area of the Ligurian Apennines, where the collection and trade of processed tinder was part of a larger and more complex system of environmental resource management. Through the cross-analysis of archaeological and documentary sources, it was possible to build a picture of the economy of the families engaged in this production and their social relations, both within and outside their community. The case study also allows us to reflect on methodological and disciplinary issues such as that of industrial archaeology and environmental history, and broader historiographical themes such as modernization and industrialization. Starting from the study of the phenomenon at the local scale, it does indeed seem possible to question certain generalizations that seem widely held, such as the alleged marginalization of mountain spaces and societies as a result of the thrust of modernity.

## Knowledge and techniques around the wood: the Alps from the Renaissance to the early 18th century

**Simona Boscani Leoni** University of Lausanne, Switzerland

In the 16th century, there was a renewed interest in the study of botanical knowledge in relation to medicine, but also to the use of plant resources in crafts. One region that was explored by physicians and naturalists was the Alpine region (think of Conrad Gessner or Pietro Andrea Mattioli). My talk will focus on the writings of humanists, physicians and naturalists from the 16th to the early 18th century, and aim to highlight the role they played in the construction of practical knowledge about wild plants in the early modern era. Particular attention will be paid to the role of empirical observation, the sensory aspect and the collection of local knowledge. One of the questions to be answered is whether and how these Renaissance experiences influenced research and technical approaches to forest management in later centuries.

[Room **Sala 3**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 8.10. Science to the rescue? Applied research and pastoral lands in Europe (1945 – nowadays)

**ORGANISER Pierre Cornu** National Institute of Agricultural Research, France

The modernization of agriculture and cattle-breeding in post-1945 Europe is often narrated as a tale of two contrasting destinies, the one of the winners – grain belts, industrialized dairy production areas... -, and the one of the losers – marginal lands, mountains, Mediterranean hinterlands... – as if economic rationality was writing history by itself. But the risk of an excessive concentration of farming in a few regions and of a desertification of vast areas has led public policies – at regional, national, and European level - to take early action for the preservation of some agricultural activities, mainly pastoral cattle-breeding, in vulnerable areas. This action did not only involve subsidiaries, but also research and shared innovation processes. Unable to join the mainstream of mechanization, specialization, and intensification, pastoral lands have welcomed research teams that proposed interdisciplinary research and complexity approaches, in order to codesign different paths of development at territorial level. For some research institutions, especially in the field of agronomical and zootechnical sciences, this kind of involvement was a way of gaining more agency and creativity in their work, while for farmers and other socioeconomic actors, it was a way of warding off their own disappearance. This alliance, often invisible, but a true cognitive asset for local development, has had very different outcomes, but an undeniable impact on the reinvention of rurality across the continent in the 1970's-1990's, especially by the way of enhancing agritourism, signs of quality and origins, and heritage policies – leading to an early positioning on the agenda of agroecological transitions at the turn of the new Millennium.

One particularly interesting point in this history is the early rise of interdisciplinarity in agricultural and rural studies, gathering biotechnical and social sciences - and even including history in some instances. By addressing the history of scientific involvement in the development and sustainability of pastoral lands, we thus gain an opportunity to highlight the rise of post-normal and transformative research. Far from being marginal, rural areas and especially pastoral lands have played a central part in this epistemological turn.

	<p>The aim of this panel is thus to highlight, by inviting several case studies, the role of applied research, action-oriented research, or whatever name was given to it, in the enlargement of the scope of development projects all across Europe, and especially in pastoral lands, be they in the Atlantic margins of the continent, its Northern parts, or its Mediterranean hinterlands.</p> <p>We propose three papers at this stage, but our idea is to offer room for other case studies outside France, in a resolute comparative perspective.</p>
<p><b>Heterodox science and marginal areas, a winning alliance? Farming system research and extension in Southern Europe in a transnational and environmental perspective (1970's – nowadays)</b></p> <p><b>Pierre Cornu</b> National Institute of Agricultural Research, France</p>	<p>The aim of this paper is to highlight in a transnational perspective the often-hidden collaboration between applied research and pastoral systems at territorial level, and the impact of the structuration of a network of researchers, involved in national and European programmes, for the circulation of new patterns of research, both interdisciplinary and action-oriented. France, Spain and Greece were thus linked by heterodox circulations, affiliated to farming system research and extension actors or to the European Federation of Zootechnics. Our hypothesis, based on both scientific archives and oral sources, is that applied research on and with pastoral systems have played a key role in helping them survive the process of agricultural modernization and reinventing them in the age of sustainability. Linking both case studies at territorial level, network analysis, and a diachronic reconstruction of the making of a postnormal science of agricultural and rural development, this paper would like to open a discussion on the contribution of science to the trajectories of marginal pastoral lands in Southern Europe.</p> <p>This paper will highlight the interest of an integrative approach to science and technology studies, environmental studies, and rural history in the context of the anthropocene.</p>
<p><b>Forages, FAO, and the foundations of the genetic resources movement</b></p> <p><b>Derek Byerlee</b> Georgetown University, United States of America</p>	<p>Broad scientific agreement on the urgency to conserve genetic resources for food and agriculture is generally dated to the 1967 landmark international conference on plant genetic resources organized by the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO). In this paper, I argue that this achievement can be traced to wide interest in collecting and exchanging pastures suited for Mediterranean climates after WWII especially Australian efforts to search for forage species suitable for its extensive areas with a Mediterranean climate. At the same time FAO focused on collection, exchange and evaluation of pastures involving countries and colonial territories bordering the Mediterranean. These joint efforts in turn built the expertise and legitimacy for FAO to formalize international cooperation in genetic resources culminating in the 1967 conference where the focus shifted from collecting pastures to the conservation of land races and wild species of major food crops. Drawing on extensive archival sources, this paper describes the critical events, people, and debates that led to what came to</p>

## Animal sciences, free-range pigs, and cured pork products as development tools for Corsica (1970's-1990's)

**David Drevon, Marie-Odile Nozières-Petit & Lucile Garçon**  
National Institute of Agricultural Research, France

be known as the global genetic resources' movement from the 1970s, highlighting the catalytic role of forages in the process.

In the 1970s, concerned by the human depopulation, economic downturn and poor ecosystem management affecting Southern France, scientists and public authorities turned their attention to Corsica. Animal scientists, geneticists, and ecologists were appointed to understand the interplay between social and environmental dynamics, identifying animal farming as a cornerstone of rural development in mountainous areas.

This led to the creation of a local research unit for livestock development. One major achievement was its support to the production of high-quality cured pork meats in Corsica. Recognizing the pivotal role of free-range pig farming, they initiated projects aiming at creating outlets for traditional cured pork products.

Far from mainstream agricultural specialisation, animal scientists cooperated with Corsican farmers towards the legitimisation of a free-range pig farming system. From the 1980s, zootechnicians launched an action-research program, impacting farming practices from rangeland management to cured meat production. In the 1990s, the integration into a scientific network between Italy and Spain supported the endeavour to develop quality labels and provided tools to enhance the value of products, especially the Corsican dry-cured ham.

Drawing on archival and oral resources, this case study highlights the central role of so-called marginal areas in thinking and developing alternative forms of modernisation.

## Which purpose for pastoral lands in French cattle-breeding intensification? The keys to improving and exploiting European pastoral zones imported by French agronomists (1940's-1960's)

**Charlène Bouvier** Lumière Lyon 2 University, France

From 1945, French agronomists start taking great interest in the already existing international scientific exchanges on the ways European agronomists study all types of grassland covers. If temporary and permanent grasslands which can be intensified are their primary focus, pastoral lands are not forgotten. Through various means, French agronomists discover ways to improve pastoral lands. British ecological and German and Dutch phytosociological approaches seem of great help to French agronomists who turn their attention to pastoral land. The knowledge produced by those approaches and the expertise assessment tools built upon them are seen as a way to guide pastoral land improvement and their integration in farming systems, using the complementarity between different herbaceous covers, such as in Sweden. Seen primarily as a forage resource, pastoral lands appear as a mean to keep mountainous regions viable, like in the Alps, a case we propose to discuss as a laboratory of scientific influences synthesis and application. Based on a transnational study of scientific archives and journals, this paper aims thus to highlight the relevance of scientific expertise in the subsequent legitimization of the revival of pastoralism in Europe.

13h – 14h30

LUNCH BREAK

14h30 – 18h

STUDY VISITS

[01] Lower Mondego River Area and Salt Museum

COORDINATION João Luís  
Fernandes University of Coimbra,  
Portugal

In addition to being the longest of the Portuguese rivers (that is, having their source and mouth in Portugal), the Mondego can be understood as a symbolic border between the north and south of Mainland Portugal. Furthermore, it was a historical route for transport and exchange of natural products between two geomorphologically distinct areas and two complementary geoeconomies: from the lowlands and seascapes west of Coimbra, to the eastern rougher soils and environments of the agro-forestry-pastoral complex of mountain landscapes. This study trip will travel through the Lower Mondego region, between Coimbra and Figueira da Foz, in which will be discussed its historical and contemporary dynamics, covering topics such as human landscapes, sustainability, floods, hydraulic works, agriculture, the planting of species such as rice or tourism. Finally, nearby the Atlantic, at the river mouth, with a visit to the museum centre and surrounding area of salines, the group will be presented with the topic of salt production.

[02] From Seed to Plate: The Europe’s Northernmost rice-growing region

COORDINATION Carlos Manuel  
Faísca University of Coimbra,  
Portugal

This fieldtrip is focused on the Estarreja area (Aveiro region) that is the northernmost location where rice has been cultivated in Portugal and is also one of the oldest. The earliest records of rice production date back to the early 19th century, with the crop gaining socio-economic significance, as in other parts of the country, particularly from the early 20th century onwards. However, due to less favourable climatic conditions and a highly fragmented landownership structure, local rice cultivation declined when the “green revolution” brought significant productivity increases further south. The lower yields of local landraces and a lack of capital largely contributed to the near extinction of Estarreja’s rice sector. Currently, the Estarreja municipality is working to revitalize this heritage, primarily as a means of territorial promotion. This visit will explore the entire rice production chain, from agricultural cultivation to industrial processing and final consumption, including a visit to a former rice milling factory that has been converted into a museum.

### [03] Changing Rural Territories: Long-term Perspectives on Heritage and Innovation

**COORDINATION** **Liliana Pimentel**

University of Coimbra, Portugal

**Mariana Rodrigues** NOVA

University of Lisbon and University of Coimbra, Portugal

This visit explores the transformations in rural territories around the Serra de Sicó area (slightly south of the city of Coimbra) over the past 2000 years. Departing from the town of Condeixa-a-Nova, the itinerary follows Roman vestiges embedded in landscapes, infrastructures, artefacts, and cultural values. While these remains highlight the centrality of these territories during the Roman Empire, they also reveal the profound changes that shaped the centuries following its decline. The itinerary includes a visit to the Fernando Namora House-Museum. As a physician, writer, and painter, Fernando Namora observed and documented rural daily life in the second half of the 20th century, a period marked by structural transformations in Portugal's economy and society. So, this visit offers a glimpse into the social and economic changes that have taken place in rural areas over the long term.

### [04] Building the city of Coimbra: The Roman marks through time

**COORDINATION** **Ricardo Costeira**

University of Coimbra, Portugal

In Coimbra there is one of the best preserved Roman cryptoporticus in the Iberian Peninsula. After being crucial to building the Roman city, this monumental structure now serves as the foundation of the Machado de Castro National Museum. The walking tour includes a descent into the cryptoporticus, an exploration of the museum's collections, and a visit to other areas associated with the construction of this urban space.

### [05] Between the rural and the urban: Itinerary of Coimbra's House-Museums

**COORDINATION** **Ana Isabel Ribeiro**

University of Coimbra, Portugal and

**Leonardo Aboim Pires** University of Lisbon, Portugal

The itinerary includes visits to the homes of three important intellectuals in 20th century Portuguese literature and science. The tour begins at the house museum of Miguel Torga, an essential writer for understanding the soul of rural Portugal. The next stop is the Bissaya Barreto House Museum, an impressive architectural and artistic ensemble that also reveals the dimension of this doctor's social and scientific work. The visit ends at the former home of João Cochofel (poet, writer, essayist and literary critic), which was a privileged meeting place for the neo-realist movement in Coimbra and is now a cultural and artistic space of the Municipality of Coimbra. All in all, these visits offer plural visions of the city and its cultural debates during the decades between dictatorship and democracy in Portugal.

### [06] University of Coimbra: Education, science and the city

**COORDINATION** **José Luís Barbosa**

**& Leonor Salguinho Ferreira**

University of Coimbra, Portugal

Founded in 1290, the University of Coimbra, classified by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in 2014, has influenced the organisation and development of the city in several ways. This visit explores the impacts of the university's infrastructure on urban space, from the first buildings still preserved to the new constructions of the mid-20th century, which forced the destruction of medieval neighbourhoods. This walking itinerary through the history of the university includes the impacts of the Enlightenment reforms on science and teaching, visible in buildings as the first laboratories, the astronomical observatory and the botanical garden.

## Friday, 12th September 2025

Faculty of Economics | 08h30 – 10h30 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 9**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>9.1. The countryside at war: peasant revolts and struggles in Medieval and Early Modern Europe 1</b> Antoni Furió	9.1.1. Peasants at war: the rural component in the anti-monarchical and anti-seignorial revolts in the kingdom of Valencia (14th-15th centuries) Antoni Furió	9.1.2. Rural revolts during the war of the communities of Castile (1520-1521) Hipolito Oliva Herrer	9.1.3. Who against whom? Actors in rural riots in Eighteenth-century Castile Mauro Hernandez			Sala 3.1, 3rd floor
<b>9.2. Rural violences in Europe 2</b> Miguel Cabo Villaverde, Óscar Bascuñán Añover	9.2.1. From the Great War to the economic crisis: reinventing peasant violence in 1930s France Edouard Lynch	9.2.2. Violence, state capacity, and a potato cellar Oliver Kühschelm	9.2.3. Deconstructing the “black legend”: the rural conflict in Lugo during Franco's dictatorship Tamara López Fernández	9.2.4. Stimulating violence in the rural environment: the outbreak of repression and deportations at the beginning of collectivization in Romania (1949-1950) Virgiliu Leon Tarau	9.2.5. “Slain by her husband”: communal rejection of violence against women in rural Spain (1890-1936) Óscar Bascuñán Añover	Sala 4.1, 4th floor
<b>9.3. Meet the project: Traditional knowledge for a sustainable future – the international “Water &amp; Land” project</b> Chantal Bisschop, Laura Danckaert						Sala 2.4, 2nd floor
<b>9.4. Class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies 1</b> Alba Díaz Geada, Alberto Franco Barrera	9.4.1. Development of a bibliographic database for the study of class differentiation in the rural world Vitor Gustavo Ribeiro de Matos	9.4.2. Introducing (digital) yeomanry: a potential remedy for contemporary capitalisms' burnout society Rene Brauer, Mirek Dymitrow	9.4.3. Searching for class in the semi-capitalist village: Soviet-era debates about Tsarist Central Asia Beatrice Penati			Sala 4.2, 4th floor
<b>9.5. Agrarian dynamics and state initiatives in Napoleonic Europe 1</b> Gérard Béaur, Laurent Brassart, Rosa Congost,	9.5.1. A spatial overview of the land and property market in the “Grand Empire” in 1810 Gérard Béaur, Anne Varet-Vitu	9.5.2. On the vicissitudes of feudal rents in Napoleonic Europe: some historiographical reflections Rosa Congost	9.5.3. Building a New Agrarian State within the Napoleonic Order: the Vaud case during the Act of Mediation (1803-1814) Frédéric Monachon	9.5.4. Between the Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Prussia: agrarian reforms on the borderland Franciszek Ignacy Fortuna		Sala 4.3, 4th floor
<b>9.6. Gendered taskscapes: women, agricultural work and the politics of (un-) visibility in the 19th and 20th centuries 2</b> Juri Auderset, Peter Moser	9.6.1. Farm women in twentieth-century Ireland: a comparison of two classic studies Tony Varley	9.6.2. “I wish I could provide daily support to the most unfortunate”: two peasant women's autobiographies in early twentieth-century Hungary Eszter Varsa	9.6.3. Women in collective farms in Northwest Hungary Eszter Lengyel	9.6.4. Gender and cooperative membership dynamic: the evolution of women's role in CASI (1945-2018) María José Mora Mayoral, María Dolores Haro Gil		Sala 2.1, 2nd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>9.7. Meet the project: Wooden bridge – bridging geography and history of woodlands: analyzing mountain wooded landscapes through multiple sources and historical GIS</b> Giovanni Cristina, Nicola Gabellieri, Vittorio Tigrino						Anfiteatro 3.2, 3rd floor
<b>9.8. Engineers and the rural environment in 20th century Europe 2 (Development and infrastructures)</b> Iñaki Iriarte Goñi, Francesco D'Amato, Judit Gil-Farrero	<b>9.8.1. Ponts et Chaussées engineers and water management in Cerdanya: at the heart of planning conflicts (19th-20th centuries)</b> Nathan Brenu	<b>9.8.2. The agricultural engineer Ángel Zorrilla Dorronsoro and his development programme for the new francoist state (1938-1946)</b> Fernando López-Castellano, Laura Cabezas Vega	<b>9.8.3. Agronomic engineers, the technological present and future of agriculture and the environment in Spain during the Fordist era, 1951-1975</b> Juan Pan-Montojo	<b>9.8.4. Public works engineering and environmental protection: a slow approach in late-francoist Spain and Italian republic</b> Francesco D'Amato		Sala 2.3, 2nd floor
<b>9.9. Access to land, social practices, and institutional hybridizations in two hemispheres 2</b> José-Miguel Lana Berasain, Marta Martín Gabaldón, Manoela Pedroza	<b>9.9.1. New world, immemorial possession: communal uses of nature in 18th century Portuguese America</b> Sarah Limão Papa	<b>9.9.2. Ligurian kinships, commons and their environment: an ethnographic point of view (Aveto Valley, XIX-XX centuries)</b> Matteo Tacca, Caterina Piu	<b>9.9.3. Smart marriages: patrimonial and matrimonial strategies of smallholders in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 18th and 19th centuries)</b> Manoela Pedroza	<b>9.9.4. The banana cows: cattle ranching and the banana commodity frontier in the early 20th century Caribbean</b> Santiago Colmenares	<b>9.9.5. Property and the spatial distribution of grazing violations in 18th-century Lorraine</b> Manuel Rios	Sala 2.2, 2nd floor
<b>9.10. Fishery policies, institutions and markets (1950-2020)</b> Jesús Giráldez Rivero, Álvaro Garrido, Pedro Varela-Vázquez	<b>9.10.1. Institutional change and national autarchy: science and maritime law shaping the Portuguese fishing policies (1945-1977)</b> Álvaro Garrido	<b>9.10.2. Companies and globalization of Spanish fishing</b> María del Carmen Espido Bello, Jesús Giráldez Rivero, Pedro Varela Vázquez	<b>9.10.3. The introduction of light tuna in Spain: companies and strategies</b> Xoán Carmona Badía, Adrián Dios Vicente	<b>9.10.4. Enhancing fisheries to boost development in the Iberian dictatorships throughout the Golden Age</b> Carlos de Francisco		Gonçalves da Silva, 4th floor
<b>9.11. Meet the author: The experience of work in early modern England</b> Jane Whittle, Mark Hailwood, Hannah Robb, Taylor Aucoin						Sala 4.4, 4th floor



*Agricultural worker, 1975, Inácio Ludgero, Mário Soares and Maria Barroso Foundation*

## Friday, 12th September 2025

Faculty of Economics

08h30 – 10h30

### PARALLEL SESSIONS 9

[Room **Sala 3.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

#### 9.1. The countryside at war: peasant revolts and struggles in Medieval and Early Modern Europe 1

**ORGANISER & MODERATOR** **Antoni Furió** University of Valencia, Spain

**DISCUSSANT** **Pau Viciano** University of Valencia, Spain

The year 2025 will mark the 500th anniversary of the Peasants' Wars in Germany, a historical phenomenon that has been widely highlighted and studied by historiography since the time of Karl Marx and, above all, Friedrich Engels, who devoted particular attention to it. On the other hand, the Peasants' Wars of 1525 not only close the Middle Ages and inaugurate Early Modern Times, but also allow us to delve into their nature as either revolt or revolution. Moreover, the Peasants' Wars in Germany do not constitute a single, isolated episode, but are part of a cycle of popular insurrections throughout Europe, from the French jacqueries in the second half of the 14th century and the English uprising of 1381 to the remensa wars in Catalonia, the peasant struggles in Majorca, the Irmandinhas revolts in Galicia, all in the 15th century, and the Germanies of Valencia and Majorca in the first quarter of the 16th century, coeval with the Peasants' Wars in Germany.

This session aims to explore the nature and motivations of peasant revolts and struggles in late medieval and early modern Europe, their protagonists (serfs, free peasants) and demands, based on the cases of Catalonia, Mallorca, Valencia, and the German region of Rheingau. The choice of these four observatories will make it possible to compare both the social composition of the insurgents and the different nature of their demands and ideology, as well as the balance of forces between the contenders, the scope of the revolt, its successes and, in most cases, its final crushing and subsequent repression.

#### Peasants at war: the rural component in the anti-monarchical and anti-seignorial revolts in the kingdom of Valencia (14th-15th centuries)

**Antoni Furió** University of Valencia, Spain

In the kingdom of Valencia there were no major peasant revolts in the late Middle Ages, unlike in other states of the Crown of Aragon, such as Catalonia and the kingdom of Mallorca. In general, the peasants preferred to go to court to settle their disputes with their lords. However, when the great revolts of the Union (1347-48) and the Germanies (1519-1523) broke out, despite their initial urban origin, they soon acquired a rural and anti-seignorial character, as is shown both by the scenes where the clashes took place and by the subsequent lists of the reprisals. The rebels attacked castles and manor properties, plundered them and also attacked Muslim vassals in order to undermine the foundations of the lords' wealth and power, and even ordered them to be baptised or die. Beneath the official accounts, chronicles and records of repression, it is possible to delve into the objectives of the peasants who took up arms, beyond their portrayed as violent and primitive rebels, lacking clear ideology or precise goals.

## Rural revolts during the war of the communities of Castile (1520-1521)

**Hipolito Rafeal Oliva Herrer**

University of Seville, Spain

The aim of this paper is to study a series of anti-seigneurial uprisings against the feudal lords that occurred in the second half of 1520, during the conflict now as the War of the Communities of Castile. It has traditionally been argued that the two processes were unconnected, that the popular revolts were opportunistic in nature, taking advantage of the more general turmoil, although it is accepted that they did end up determining the positions taken by the actors in the Comuneros confrontation. On the contrary, my paper will show their social and ideological connections and targets, showing that they were fuelled by an ideology that was clearly political, and nourished by a series of contacts that go far beyond the confines of a small town or a rural community.

## Who against whom? Actors in rural riots in Eighteenth-century Castile

**Mauro Hernandez** National University of Distance Education, Spain

Historical accounts of rural tumults often reduce the participants to two broad categories: the people—or popular classes, usually a synonymous—and the authorities or magistrates. However, the realities underlying these categories are, as is often the case, far more nuanced and complex. Drawing on documentation from the Council of Castile in the 18th century, this paper examines a diverse array of short-lived, geographically localized protests, driven by various causes, which predominantly erupted in small to medium-sized rural communities throughout the century. This documentation provides the basis for a more intricate portrait of the actors involved. Rioters were neither simply “the neighbours” (vecinos) nor “the people”, and the authorities did not constitute a monolithic bloc; instead, divergent ideas, actions, and objectives can be discerned among them, both at the local and state levels. This paper seeks to explore these complexities.

[Room **Sala 4.1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 9.2. Rural violences in Europe 2

ORGANISERS **Óscar Bascuñán**

**Añover** Complutense University of Madrid, Spain, **Miguel Cabo Villaverde** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

MODERATOR **Óscar Bascuñán**

**Añover** Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

DISCUSSANT **Miguel Cabo**

**Villaverde** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

This session proposes to analyse the violence used in the countryside as a tool for imposing political domination, an action of social control, a mechanism for conflict resolution, a social expression of norms and values, an interaction with the state and a source of images and representations fed by outside observers. The project is framed chronologically between 1880 and 1950, a sufficiently broad period to observe the role played by violence in the rural environment and the changes it brought about in contemporary society.

Studying violence in its different forms makes it possible to analyse conflicts within the community, whether due to the weight of political and social factors, economic transformations or personal relationships between neighbours themselves. Rural society, in general, is a privileged place to question the capacity of the spatial sphere to generate models of violence, a specificity in the causes and forms of violence, subjects, norms, institutions involved, responses, changes in attitudes and differentiated representations.

The traces of this violence in judicial sources, in government and military reports, in the press and in the literature raise a score of questions that

this session aims to address. What were the main causes or motivations for this violence? How was the violence staged and why did its forms or repertoires evolve? Who were the actors? Can a social profile of the subjects of violence and its victims be identified? What role did the prevailing gender convictions play? How did the cycles of collective violence play a role in interpersonal violence? Was there a trend towards a decrease in violence in social relations? Did social attitudes towards violence change during this long period? If so, who or how were these changes promoted? Were there societies, regions or states that were more violent than others? What were the particularities of violence in rural society compared to the emerging urban centres? Were there types of violence more associated with rural than urban areas? How did the authorities manage violent practices? Did they deploy specific policies to control and pacify the rural world? How did the press represent violent episodes coming from the rural world? Was there a defined narrative about rural society shaped by the accounts of violence coming from it? Are there different representations of rural and urban violence? In short, the session seeks to revitalise historiographical interest in a rural space in which political activity, social and economic relations and the values that gave meaning to community life had a specific definition and evolution.

### **From the Great War to the economic crisis: reinventing peasant violence in 1930s France**

**Edouard Lynch** Lumière University  
Lyon 2, France

Since the mid-19th century, “traditional” peasant violence has significantly declined in rural France, and the adoption of a new, pacified, and modernized repertoire appears to have prevailed until 1914. However, following the ordeal of the war and the impact of the economic crisis, both real and simulated violence resurfaced in the political and labor union spheres, laying the foundations for a new relationship with violence.

### **Violence, state capacity, and a potato cellar**

**Oliver Kühschelm** Institute of  
Rural History, Austria

In April 1892 Erich Count Kielmansegg, the governor of Lower Austria, participated in a session of the state parliament. Christian-social politicians had given voice to complaints that the state was not protecting decent people against attacks by vagrant beggars. Kielmannsegg, the province’s highest civil servant, was outraged: If the state did not enforce the monopoly of violence on a local level, it was due to the negligence of village municipalities. They did not fulfil their task as the lowest territorial authority: They failed to have municipal prison cells as each of them should. Indignantly he quoted from reports that one such prison cell was even misused as a potato cellar.

The paper will focus on the debate about an alleged “plague of vagabonds” to show how different political actors envisioned the relation of state and civil society on a local and regional level. While they agreed on the enforcement of violence as a core duty of the state, the debate also concerned

## Deconstructing the “black legend”: the rural conflict in Lugo during Franco’s dictatorship

**Tamara López Fernández**

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain and NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

the state’s transformation from a punitive instrument into a provider of infrastructures. The proposed paper takes inspiration from Michael Mann’s historical sociology of power to analyze the juncture of infrastructural, administrative and armed forms of social power.

The management of discontent in the Galician countryside led, occasionally, to the commission of crimes. However, the black legend has tended to overshadow the history of towns and small villages, exaggerating the struggles, the violence and blood crimes. With this paper we want to shed light on the existing conflict in rural areas, specifically in Lugo during Franco’s regime, avoiding localisms and to determine to what extent this was an everyday phenomenon. A study that will be supported by judicial documentation as a source to approach the reality experienced in these rural municipalities and from which to seek not only the formulas through which it manifested itself, but also the causes that led to the activation of such mechanisms, the profiles of its makers and the social and legal consequences of their actions. We will do the same with the response given by the authorities, specifically by the judicial authorities, an instrument that the regime used to channel the repression of the slightest social disorder. All of this will be supported by qualitative aspects, including numbers and percentages to avoid falling into the stereotype of rural areas as a violent context.

## Stimulating violence in the rural environment: the outbreak of repression and deportations at the beginning of collectivization in Romania (1949-1950)

**Virgiliu Leon Tarau** Babes-Bolyai University, Romania

Among the various strategies used by the communist authorities to prepare the initial stages of agricultural collectivization in Romania, the violent ones played a primary role. Back then, in the years 1949-1950, the law enforcement forces, the Gendarmerie, the Militia, and the Securitate acted on the orders of the communists to eliminate forms of resistance and to encourage the formation of kolkhozes based on the Soviet model. Our intervention, based on a variety of sources (from party milieus, police and secret services, as well as oral history interviews), will illustrate one of these strategies, that of inciting peasant uprisings and revolts, after which local elites were deported to allow the easy organization of collectivist structures. The case study we will present will focus on a prosperous and productive region of Romania, in the western part (the counties of Arad and Bihor), where, according to a well-organized plan, peasant revolts were orchestrated through propaganda and rumors, followed by military actions that led to dozens of deaths and injuries, as well as the deportation of many families to the southeastern region of the country (over 500 km away) so that the first collectivist structures could be successfully established in the region.

## **“Slain by her husband”: communal rejection of violence against women in rural Spain (1890-1936)**

**Óscar Bascuñán Añover**

Complutense University of Madrid, Spain

This proposal studies the communal rejection of the violence women have suffered at the hands of men in rural Spain. The physical and verbal abuse of women was one of the many conflicts recorded in the long transition spanning the late 19th and early 20th centuries, although it has aroused less historiographic interest than others which have been attributed to political, economic, and religious motives. The most violent crimes against women, the ones deemed to be the most serious, such as spousal homicide, filled the inside pages of newspapers from at least the final years of the 19th century. They scandalized public opinion and sometimes roused the local people to seek the perpetrator's exemplary punishment. The study of these collective actions provides a window into the ability contemporary society had to deal with behaviors that exceeded the threshold of the permissible, analyze the bundle of norms, beliefs, values, and notions on gender that justified or gave meaning to these communal sanctions, their relationship with people's perception of the state and its legal system, and how these actions were reported in newspapers. The main source informing this study is the national and provincial press.

[Room **Sala 2.4**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## **9.3. Meet the project: *Traditional knowledge for a sustainable future – the international “Water & Land” project***

**ORGANISER Chantal Bisschop & Laura Danckaert**, Centre for Agrarian History, Belgium

**DISCUSSANTS Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh** University of Galway and Archives of Rural History, wSwitzerland, **Sophie Elpers** University of Antwerp, Belgium, **Přemysl Mácha** Czech Academy of Sciences, Czechia

The Flemish-Dutch “Water & Land” project, initiated by the Centre for Agricultural History (CAG) and the Dutch Centre for Intangible Heritage (KIEN), offers an innovative approach to integrating traditional knowledge into contemporary climate transition efforts. It investigates how long-standing rural practices from Flanders and the Netherlands can inspire sustainable solutions to modern environmental challenges. By collaborating with a diverse network of stakeholders—including tradition bearers, historians, researchers, and civil society actors—the project seeks to provide policy-makers with actionable recommendations for a more sustainable future. “Water & Land”(www.waterenland.be) focuses on three key themes: water management, biodiversity, and soil fertility. These are explored through living heritage practices such as traditional irrigation, watermill landscape management, hedge-laying, beekeeping, and composting. Though often overlooked due to modern technological advancements, these practices offer valuable ecological insights that can inform current climate strategies. The project highlights that sustainability is not only a scientific issue but also a local and cultural one. UNESCO's concept of “intimate knowledge” emphasizes the deep connection between communities and their environments. By reviving and assessing these traditional practices, the project integrates them into future-oriented policy recommendations, ensuring that the outcomes are scientifically grounded, socially relevant, and practically applicable. Historians play a crucial role in this effort. Their understanding of long-term rural development and change allows them to contextualize how traditional practices can contribute to sustainability. “Water & Land” invites historians to examine how living heritage can provide solutions to today's environmental challenges, contributing to the emerging intersectional field

	<p>of intangible cultural heritage (ICH) and climate action.</p> <p>This “Meet-the-Project” session will offer a platform for dialogue on how historical expertise can intersect with environmental and policy-driven research. It will focus on three core areas:</p> <p>Knowledge Transfer: How historical practices related to land and water use have evolved and can be adapted to address future environmental challenges.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary Collaboration: Encouraging historians to work alongside ecologists, policymakers, and living heritage communities to create research frameworks that are historically informed and forward-looking.</p> <p>Research Opportunities: Exploring potential for historians to lead or participate in interdisciplinary projects aimed at applying traditional ecological knowledge to contemporary sustainability issues.</p> <p>The “Water &amp; Land” project exemplifies how historical knowledge can be harnessed for modern problem-solving, particularly in rural water and land management. This session not only presents the project’s findings but also encourages historians to engage in interdisciplinary collaborations. By integrating their expertise with current sustainability efforts, historians can help ensure that critical lessons from rural heritage are applied in building a more resilient future.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 4.2</b>, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>9.4. Class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies 1</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Alba Díaz Geda</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain, <b>Alberto José Franco Barrera</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p> <p><u>MODERATOR</u> <b>Alberto José Franco Barrera</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>At present, the dismantling of existing peasant communities and the creation of new forms of exploitation of the labour force in agrarian production continue to advance. At the same time, capitalism expands and renews its growth by dispossession, advancing in the plundering of nature. In this context, while the possibility of understanding historical processes is questioned, successive crises of capitalism once again invite the study of inequality. With this session proposal, we aim to continue to delve deeper into the research of the processes of class differentiation in contemporary rural societies. In order to do it, we propose to start from the field of Marxist discussion around the “agrarian question”. In this regard, it is necessary to keep in mind that, from the Marxist tradition, the efforts to understand the role of agriculture and the peasantry in the development of capitalism cannot be understood separately from the efforts to transform this mode of social relations. How have the advances of the capitalist mode of production, in its different historical phases, affected peasant social differentiation, within the framework of different concrete social formations? How has the articulation of this mode of production with pre-capitalist forms of exploitation affected the internal differentiation of rural societies? How can we explain the instrumental role of the State, in its accompaniment of the construction of a new hegemonic mode of social relations, in relation to peasant societies? How can we explain processes of privatization of the communal, access to land ownership, forced proletarianization, migration or return, in relation to the reproduction of peasant families? How can we</p>

	<p>explain the relationship between productive and reproductive processes, in their impact on social differentiation? How did class differences change, how did processes of social ascent or declassification occur, how were forms of distinction renewed, at different moments in capitalist society?</p> <p>We welcome a) theoretical studies or conceptual reflection on the study of class differentiation in contemporary rural societies; b) systematic bibliographic reviews on the study of class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies, in the field of human sciences; c) studies on class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies. Research on any people or territory and comparative studies are welcome.</p>
<p><b>Development of a bibliographic database for the study of class differentiation in the rural world</b></p> <p><b>Vitor Gustavo Ribeiro de Matos</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>Creating a bibliographic database is a crucial step in scientific research, particularly when it involves exploring social issues like class differentiation. In this presentation, we discuss the process and results of building a bibliographic database specifically focused on class differentiation within contemporary history. This work is part of the project titled "Community, Conflict, and Social Change in Rural Galicia in the 20th Century," which is led by Professor Alba Diaz Geadá. To compile this database, we utilized the reference management application Zotero and several major academic sources, including Scopus, Google Scholar, Jstor, Dialnet, and Iacobus from USC. Through a meticulous process of selection and refinement, we identified and organized numerous relevant works that met our inclusion criteria. These works are systematically categorized by language, type, thematic focus, methodological approach, and the specific database from which they originated. This comprehensive collection provides us with a solid overview of the current academic research on rural inequality and class differentiation. The insights gained from this database will guide and support the ongoing and future stages of the research project.</p>
<p><b>Introducing (digital) yeomanry: a potential remedy for contemporary capitalisms' burnout society</b></p> <p><b>Rene Brauer</b> University of Eastern Finland, Finland, <b>Mirek Dymitrow</b> Linnaeus University, Sweden</p>	<p>Contemporary globalization has amplified inequalities across societies, exacerbating exploitative practices that affect both resources and people. Peripheral rural regions, in particular, bear the brunt of economic, social, and environmental marginalization. This paper introduces the concept of the "digital yeomanry" to reframe such conceptualisations within a historic framework. Drawing inspiration from the medieval yeomen – a self-reliant landholding class central to societal stability – and historical precedents of societal change, we argue that this concept can help reimagine remote communities as modern centres of decentralized innovation and socio-economic resilience.</p>

## Searching for class in the semi-capitalist village: Soviet-era debates about Tsarist Central Asia

**Beatrice Penati** University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

The question of the nature of the economy of the sedentary parts of Tsarist Central Asia was of great import for Soviet-era scholars, sometimes because of its connection with preoccupation with the region's serving as a shop-window for socialism in Asia and Africa. At the centre of this debate stood the issue of the class stratification (or lack thereof) of the Uzbek peasants (dehqon), which was studied in particular by looking at landownership patterns, peasant household budgets, and the collection of evidence on sharecropping and the employment of seasonal labour from outside the household. Two important corollaries of this issue concerned the supposed proletarianization of landless farmhands, the role of Islamic law in producing land fragmentation, and the broader consequences of the 'cotton boom' (eg. debt peonage). This paper, which is part of a wider project on capitalism in colonial-era Turkestan, offers a reasoned review of Soviet-era scholarship in the light of ethnographic and statistical materials collected both before and just after the revolution, particularly the works of the later repressed Tashkent-based 'Seminar in Agricultural Economics'.

[Room **Sala 4.3**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 9.5. Agrarian dynamics and state initiatives in napoleonic Europe 1

ORGANISERS **Gérard Béaur** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France, **Laurent Brassart** University of Lille and French National Centre for Scientific Research, France, **Rosa Congost** University of Girona, Spain

MODERATORS **Laurent Brassart** University of Lille and French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

DISCUSSANTS **Nadine Vivier** Le Mans University, France

Curiously, historians were not very prolific on agrarian issues during the Napoleonic period, after the avalanche of works focused on the Revolution. Although they have not been totally ignored, and there are a number of high-quality works that have focused on them, historiography has not made them a priority. The aim of this session is precisely to try and partially fill this regrettable gap for two reasons. The first is that, far from being static, agrarian systems underwent major transformations, if only because of the effects of the conquest and the disproportionate extension of imperial influence. Secondly, it would be wrong to think that the Empire paid only discreet attention to these issues. On the contrary, they were at the heart of the State's action within the framework of the 130 departments, in the satellite states and beyond in the states invaded or attracted by the reforms undertaken in France. The aim of this session is precisely to help fill this gap, which is regrettable for two reasons. The first is that, far from being static, agrarian systems underwent major transformations, if only because of the effects of the conquest and the disproportionate extension of imperial influence. Two priorities guided the Napoleonic State's action in agrarian issues.

A financial priority: The redefinition of property rights, the redistribution of land, agrarian reforms and the reorganisation of the tax system, which was largely based on the taxation of land, were all aimed at finding the resources needed to implement a policy of expansion for France and recovery for other countries.

An economic priority: The aim of encouraging innovation and putting a lot of pressure on farming and technical experimentation was to create the conditions for growth and agricultural progress to satisfy the demands of the population and businesses.

## A spatial overview of the land and property market in the “Grand Empire” in 1810.

**G rard B aur & Anne Varet-Vitu** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

It is therefore the different aspects of this intervention from the State (or the states that are aggregated with it), and the ways in which they are managed in the agrarian field, that this session sets out to examine. We welcome proposals that will highlight these perspectives on the scale of the Napoleonic Empire or of all the territories that made it up.

For tax purposes, in 1810 Napoleon’s administration undertook to draw up a list of all property transfers that had taken place that year for each *arrondissement* in the 113 departments that made up the Empire at the time. We therefore have details of transactions involving different types of sale, inheritance, gift or lease in an area that covered not only France but also what are now Belgium, Germany on the left bank of the Rhine, and Italy from Genoa to Florence (454 “*arrondissements*”). By building a Geographic Information System, we set out to spatialise these data in order to understand the logic of these post-revolutionary property movements and measure their importance. In this paper, we will present some of the results concerning the land and property market and sales of the so-called “*biens nationaux*” at the height of the Empire. In this way, we will be able to identify the discrepancies that emerged in terms of market activity and property flows.



Wheat threshing, “Customs of Alentejo” postcard collection, early 20th century

On the vicissitudes of feudal rents in Napoleonic Europe: some historiographical reflections

Rosa Congost University of Girona, Spain

It is well known that in the drafting committee of the new French Civil Code there was dissension over the prohibition of perpetual annuities. A similar tension had clearly been observed at the time when an attempt was made to export the 1793 French provisions on feudal rents to other European areas. The Conseil d'État decided first to abolish and then to retain the rents of the direct dominions of Holland, northern Germany, northern Italy. In fact, among the European countries that managed to save the perpetual rents in Napoleon's time were some countries that a few years earlier had been considered models and pioneers in the process of abolishing feudal rights, while respecting the rights of the direct lords to be compensated. These considerations are of no small importance, as they invite us in a way to turn the view of the French case as a universal model on its head. This paper will attempt to reflect on this problem and provide some empirical data on the experience in Spain during the Napoleonic occupation (1808-1814).

Building a new agrarian state within the Napoleonic Order: the Vaud case during the Act of Mediation (1803–1814)

Frédéric Monachon Neuchâtel University, Switzerland

In Switzerland, the canton of Vaud owes a lot to Revolutionary France and Napoleon. After gaining independence in 1798, Vaud was granted an unprecedented degree of political autonomy through the Act of Mediation (1803). With a predominantly rural territory, the government prioritized agricultural development as the foundation for the new state's stability. Drawing on diplomatic and intellectual ties, Vaud implemented agrarian reforms inspired by France and emerging agricultural science.

How were these land and farming reorganizations enacted? How did the population respond to imposed constraints and contribute to these transformations? What was the influence of the Empire on these political measures? Key reforms included the abolition of grazing rights, which fostered the gradual disappearance of customary tenure. These changes particularly impacted the poorest, raising questions about the state's financial and social stability strategies. Therefore, examining this period requires a combined historical analysis of both local agriculture and state administration in the Napoleonic era.

Between the Duchy of Warsaw and the Kingdom of Prussia: agrarian reforms on the borderland

Franciszek Ignacy Fortuna University of Warsaw, Poland

The agrarian reforms initiated by Napoleonic France extended far beyond the empire's borders, influencing both its satellite states and hostile powers. One notable example was the Duchy of Warsaw. Article 4 of the Constitution granted by Napoleon declared, "Serfdom is abolished. All citizens are equal before the law." While serfdom was abolished, land ownership for peasants was not granted, giving rise to the saying in Poland, "The peasants were freed from their chains along with their boots."

In Prussia, reforms were spurred by these rapid changes but followed a different trajectory. Prussia implemented reforms more gradually, yet, unlike the Duchy, they included both the abolition of serfdom and the granting of land ownership to peasants.

	<p>This contrast is particularly notable in the southern parts of West Prussia, which temporarily became part of the Bydgoszcz Department of the Duchy of Warsaw. Residents experienced agrarian reforms under both systems, leading to future complications, especially in civil law. Numerous legal acts were issued after these territories were reintegrated into West Prussia in 1815. A microhistorical analysis of these laws, focusing on the borderland, seeks to compare the reforms in both neighboring states and highlight the challenges posed by the unique geographical position of these lands.</p>
<p>[Room <b>Sala 2.1</b>, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]</p> <p><b>9.6. Gendered taskscapes: women, agricultural work and the politics of (un-) visibility in the 19th and 20th centuries 2</b></p> <p><u>ORGANISERS</u> <b>Juri Auderset</b> University of Bern and Archives of Rural History, Switzerland, <b>Peter Moser</b> Archives of Rural History, Switzerland</p> <p><u>DISCUSSANT</u> <b>Zsuzsanna Varga</b> Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary</p>	<p>Women played key roles in 19th and 20th centuries agriculture, although their diverse labors on the farms were often subject to marginalization due to the hegemonial societal gender norms that also left an imprint on rural spaces. However, women in agriculture also struggled against such power asymmetries and pursued different strategies of making the importance of their work visible. Many farm women developed their own visions of womanhood that often centered on work, the entanglements between production and reproduction and its linkages to the family economy in which the farm and the household were inseparable parts. Their work thus became a crucial site for shaping collective identities, for representing women's roles in the rural economy and for making political claims, but it also constituted a sphere where the gendered divisions of labor were reinforced, undermined or independently interpreted. It was also the importance of their labor that provided women with crucial resources for negotiating the relationships within the farms but also for forging their social roles beyond the farm gates. Moreover, as the farms became sites of social scientific observation in the late 19th and 20th centuries, the work of women was rendered visible and became a key point of interest in diverse disciplines ranging from the science of work to rural sociology. At the same time, however, the social sciences often rendered women's work in agriculture invisible because the categories of perception were modelled on industrial capitalist realities and tended to overlook the idiosyncrasies of the agrarian worlds. This panel suggests to take a closer look at how work and conceptions of work shaped rural women's struggles for recognition and explores these forms of agency in comparative perspective. It invites contributions that explore the relationship between women's work and visions of womanhood and agriculture.</p>
<p><b>Farm women in twentieth-century Ireland: a comparison of two classic studies</b></p> <p><b>Tony Varley</b> University of Galway, Ireland</p>	<p>How the gendered politics of visibility (and invisibility) played out in twentieth-century Ireland is explored by comparing Arensberg and Kimball's Family and Community in Ireland (1940) with Patricia O'Hara's Partners in Production? Women, Farm and Family in Ireland (1998). To account for how gendered power imbalances were being negotiated at two different junctures we will examine the authors' theoretical approaches, how farm</p>

## **“I wish I could provide daily support to the most unfortunate”: two peasant women’s autobiographies in early twentieth-century Hungary**

**Eszter Varsa** Central European University, Austria

women are portrayed as viewing production agriculture and social reproduction, as well as the external environment in which the lives of Irish farm women were embedded in the 1930s and 1990s.

The paper analyzes two poor peasant women’s recollection of their working lives from their childhood to adulthood that spanned across several systemic divides and turbulent times between the 1890s and the 1930s in rural Southern Hungary. The women lived in the so-called Stormy Corner (Viharsarok) of Hungary known for its numerous peasant strikes and uprisings and the agrarian socialist movement that arose from that region in the late 1890s.

Taking a gender and class intersectional perspective, the paper reflects on the women’s perception of the tensions between their responsibilities in the fields of productive and reproductive work, struggle for survival against persistent poverty and accompanying (gender-based) violence. The paper addresses how the women’s experiences of work and violence, their religious beliefs and socialist labour activism shaped their critical analysis of and engagement for the improvement of the lives of poor peasant women.

The paper relies on the two peasant women’s autobiographies that were written and first published in the 1930s and, once rediscovered in state socialist Hungary, republished in the 1960s. The women knew each other and were involved in the mixed-gender social democratic agrarian workers’ movement and the social democratic women’s organization in Hungary from 1919 and 1927, respectively.

## **Women in collective farms in Northwest Hungary**

**Eszter Lengyel** Historical Archives of the Hungarian State Security and Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

This presentation examines the Hungarian collectivization in the Trans-Danubian region using micro-level analysis. I compare villages of the district of Kapuvár inhabited by agricultural labourers and peasants. This region has hitherto only rarely been studied by historians of socialist agriculture. I focus on the question what changes the agricultural cooperatives brought into the lives of rural women, and how women from different groups of peasant society adapted to the new agricultural system. For most of the women in Kapuvár the collective farm was the first workplace with independent incomes and agricultural cooperatives changed the nature and function of women’s agricultural work. This contribution explores the changes in family life and their changing life strategies. Even though the historical literature of women in collective farms can be said to be incomplete, it is certain that women had a key role in the labour force of socialist agriculture from the beginning. The high number and proportion of women members of the cooperatives I examine also indicate that this investigation deserves attention, if only to better understand the background of changing female roles and the individual and group motivations for the transformation of women’s work.

## Gender and cooperative membership dynamic: the evolution of women's role in CASI (1945–2018)

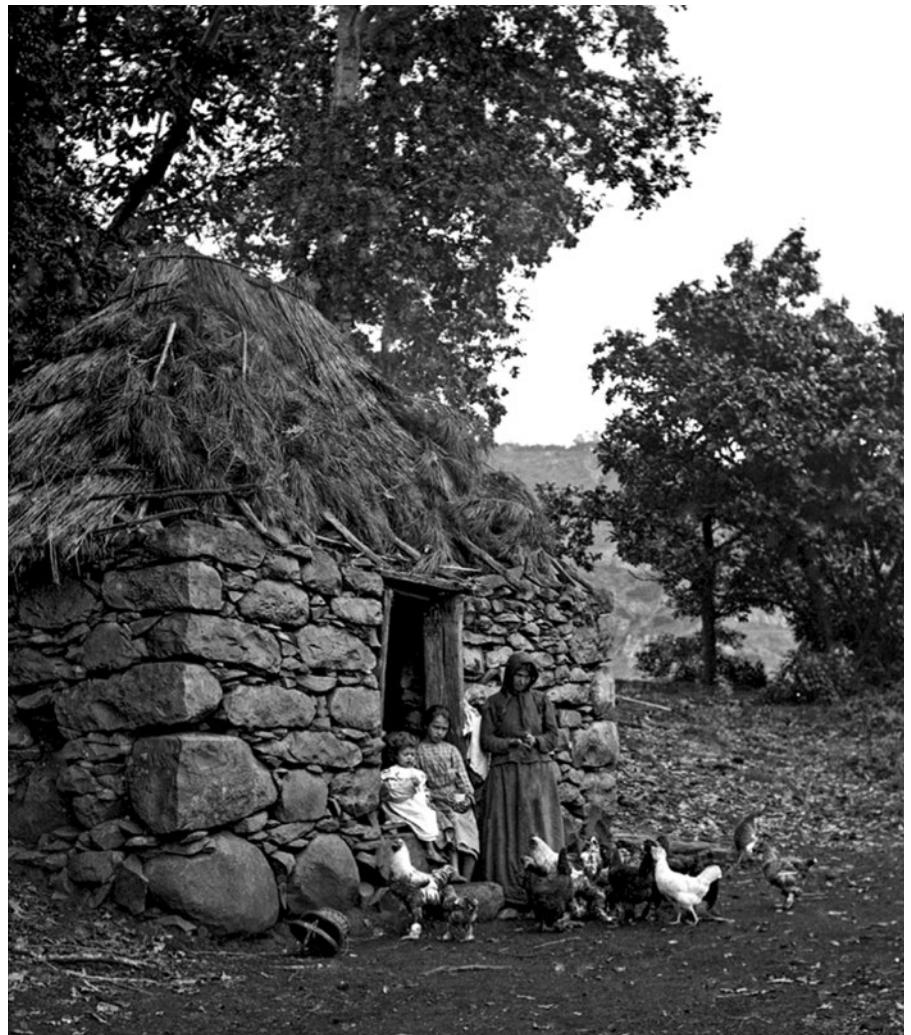
**María José Mora Mayoral & María Dolores Haro Gil**

University of Almería, Spain

Agriculture has been a cornerstone of economic and social development in the fertile plains of Almería, where favorable climatic conditions have fostered a thriving agricultural sector. Among the region's agricultural cooperatives, the Cooperativa Agrícola San Isidro (CASI) stands out as the oldest in the province. Founded in 1944, CASI has played a prominent role in agricultural production and commercialization in the area. Its historical evolution reflects broader socio-economic transformations that have shaped intensive farming practices over time.

This study examines the evolution of CASI's social membership between 1945 and 2018 through a comprehensive analysis of its business records. Drawing on this rich documentary corpus, we trace changes in the composition of its membership, from an initial six percent female presence to nearly forty percent by the mid nineties.

The case presented here provides insights into the role of women as cooperative members. It contributes to the literature on gender and rural economies, aligning with works such as those of Humphries and Sarasúa (2012) on women's labor in agrarian contexts and Borderías' studies (2020, 2003) on family economies, among others.



*Rural family in Madeira Island, ca. 1900, Russell Manners Gordon, Madeira Photography Museum.*

[Room **Anfiteatro 3.2**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 9.7. Meet the project: *Wooden bridge – bridging geography and history of woodlands: analyzing mountain wooded landscapes through multiple sources and historical GIS*

**ORGANISERS** **Giovanni Cristina**  
University of Roma Tre, Italy, **Nicola  
Gabellieri** University of Trento,  
Italy, **Vittorio Tigrino** University of  
Piemonte Orientale, Italy

**DISCUSSANTS** **Giovanni Cristina**  
University of Roma Tre, Italy, **Giulia  
Beltrametti** University of Torino,  
Italy, **Vincenzo Colaprice** University  
of Roma Tre and University of Torino,  
Italy, **Nicola Gabellieri & Federico  
Gestri** University of Trento, Italy

This session aims to present the national interest project PRIN 2022, “Bridging Geography and History of Woodlands: Analyzing Mountain Wooded Landscapes through Multiple Sources and Historical GIS,” funded by the Italian Ministry of Universities.

The project aims to consolidate a strategy for studying and documenting the socio-environmental dynamics of woodland cover by exploring selected case studies, using a diachronic approach to the landscape heritage. This approach seeks to highlight the relationships between wooded space transformations, changes in environmental resource management, and social dynamics between the 18th and 21st centuries. The goal is to develop a methodological framework for understanding the socio-ecological historical processes that have shaped Italy's woodland heritage, using geohistorical sources, with a focus on sustainable management. In this direction, increasingly common are ‘landscape biography’ approaches, which attempt to historically reinterpret landscapes at a topographical scale for their enhancement and management. The use of local case studies allows the integration of different sources and the development of appropriate multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary methods of inquiry. The broad range of sources allows for the comparison of diverse information. Additionally, the micro-scale approach enables the reconstruction of the contexts of source production and reveals the forms of ownership and management that linked communities to environmental resources. In this regard, the panel aims to gather various methodological and heuristic perspectives on the history of woodlands, combining documentary and field approaches, including the use of advanced Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies. The project places significant emphasis on processing geohistorical sources for the development of GIS software, also addressing the challenges posed by indeterminacy when processing historical documentation through GIS.

The synergy between geographical and historical research, multidisciplinary analysis, and geomatic technologies aims to develop a heuristic experimentation that can engage local communities in understanding their bio-cultural heritage and provide a knowledge base for sector experts in sustainable territorial planning and management. The result will thus be the experimentation, through local-scale case studies, of a methodology for collecting, analyzing, and visualizing qualitative-quantitative sources on the history of wooded landscapes, as well as the identification of cartographic and textual sources to reconstruct the changes in the extent and nature of forest cover over time in the case studies. Finally, the project seeks to discuss current regulations regarding the classification and management of forests, such as Ancient Forests. Recently, new opportunities for applied woodland history have emerged through the Nature Restoration Law (NRL), which includes the need for adequate diachronic studies and the provision of geolocated data to support environmental planning policies. From an applied perspective, the aim is to discuss the concept of restoration as presented in the NRL and to assess the socio-ecological nature of many of Italy's and the Mediterranean's mountain woodlands.

[Room **Sala 2.3**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## 9.8. Engineers and the rural environment in 20th century Europe 2 (Development and infrastructures)

**ORGANISERS** **Iñaki Iriarte Goñi**

University of Zaragoza, Spain,

**Francesco D'Amaro** Autonomous

University of Madrid, Spain, **Judit**

**Gil-Farrero** University of Zaragoza, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Judit Gil-Farrero**

University of Zaragoza, Spain

Since the late 19th century, different corps of engineers have intervened in European rural environment and, consequently, on European rural societies. Agronomists sought to modernize production by analysing the best farming systems or livestock management practices and recommending or, in some cases, imposing the techniques that should be adopted by farmers. Civil engineers, on the other hand, planned and developed transport networks or irrigation systems, which could include the construction of large reservoirs, significantly impacting the affected societies. Meanwhile, forestry engineers implemented reforestation projects or the economic exploitation of forests according to the criteria established by forest science. These technical corps, either implicitly or explicitly, held a particular conception of nature that underpinned their operations and largely determined the environmental impacts of their actions. This conception of nature was not fixed but evolved in response to a variety of factors. Scientific and technical discoveries, changes in the demand for goods and services driven by income growth and technological change, economic and agricultural policies implemented by different governments, and, ultimately, the varying degrees of resistance from civil society to engineering projects, all shaped approaches to resource management and exploitation and their effects on the environment. Based on this framework, this session aims to bring together specialists working on different engineer's corps who historically acted upon the rural environment. The goal is to discuss the views these engineers held regarding nature and the environment, trying to discover at what extent it was convergent or divergent in the different corps and how these views evolve throughout the 20th century. This discussion can be relevant for a better understanding of the outcomes of the engineer's actions in terms of better or worse nature conservation, or even the destruction of natural spaces and resources, and consequently, to approach the degree of sustainability achieved in rural societies through history.

## Ponts et Chaussées engineers and water management in Cerdanya: at the heart of planning conflicts (19th-20th centuries)

**Nathan Brenu** University of Genoa, Italy

In 1860, an affair caused a stir in Cerdanya and the Têt valley: an Ponts et Chaussées engineer was accused of having acted as an intermediary for two Parisian businessmen to buy the Carlit mountain, even though he knew that a project for a large canal had been envisaged, requiring access to the ponds on this mountain. These entrepreneurs proposed to build it themselves, but the public authorities refused, wanting to avoid stirring up any more local opposition. This story was only the beginning of a long conflict over the management of water resources in Cerdanya, at a time when major new irrigation projects were to be launched until the 1930s, and when new private actors, such as the Compagnie du Midi, were taking over Lake Lanoux to supply their factories. Although the Ponts et Chaussées engineers were no longer at the center of the controversy, this paper will examine the central role they continue to play as key actors in

## **The agricultural engineer Ángel Zorrilla Dorronsoro and his development programme for the new francoist state (1938-1946)**

**Fernando López-Castellano & Laura Cabezas Vega** University of Granada, Spain

reconciling irreconcilable interests, while simultaneously being required to justify each of their decisions with potential new prospects for capital gain in a context of drought and rural depopulation.

This paper studies the role of the agronomist Ángel Zorrilla in the configuration and institutionalisation of Franco's New Economic Order. A key figure in the agrarian policy of the early years of Franco's regime, in his capacity as the designer of the Servicio Nacional de Reforma Económica y Social de la Tierra and the first director of the Instituto Nacional de Colonización, he understood that the radical solution to the agrarian problem went beyond agrarian policy and was linked to the broader issue of economic development. To achieve this development, he proposed a programme clearly influenced by the 'National Economic System' of the German historicist Friedrich List, which consisted of promoting industry, expanding the territory through the colonisation of large irrigated and salvageable areas, and even a customs union between Spain and Portugal.

In order to show the great influence of List's System on Ángel Zorrilla's work and development programme, three of his most important texts are analysed: Política de Colonización del Nuevo Estado (1941); La colonización en España a la luz de las distintas teorías sobre la tierra (1945); and the translation he made of List's 'National System', signed in February 1944 and which he did not manage to publish.

## **Agronomic engineers, the technological present and future of agriculture and the environment in Spain during the fordist era, 1951-1975**

**Juan Pan Montojo** Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Between the 1950s and the 1970s, Spanish agronomic engineers openly discussed in their professional reunions and in the media the possibilities, advantages, and threats of different technologies that were being applied or could be applied to increase and diversify agricultural production. Among agronomic engineers, a techno-optimist discourse prevailed that even included technical utopias for agriculture, but there were also some critical voices that underlined the problems that were being created (polyvalent pesticides that annihilated all types of insects and poisoned the soils, growing erosion, water pollution...) and their mid-run consequences. This paper shall address both the dominant discourse and how it dealt with critical voices who used the language and the ways of reasoning of engineers and could not be simply ignored.

## Public works engineering and environmental protection: a slow approach in late-francoist Spain and Italian republic

**Francesco D'Amato** Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

The central decades of the 20th century can be considered the triumph of the paradigm of internal colonisation, of the land reclamation and of the great hydraulic infrastructures. Until the first international conferences on the environment, the construction of a water supply system was considered an indisputable form of progress and modernisation of the rural world and, therefore, of the nation. However, from the 1970s onwards, Spanish civil engineers and, a little earlier, the Italian ones began to reflect on the consequences of public works, to calculate the impact of a dam on the landscape, and to discuss the need for nature conservation.

In this paper, I will present the first steps in the paradigm shift from the transformation and control of nature, through hydrological measures, to the paradigm of landscape protection. I will analyse how Spanish and Italian hydraulic engineers translated the international debate on natural resources and, in particular, on the management of water and its effects, to their national territories, and how they related to environmental movements.



*Choosing the grapes after the harvest, 1940, Artur Pastor, Lisbon Municipal Archive.*

[Room **Sala 2.2**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

**9.9. Access to land, social practices, and institutional hybridizations in two hemispheres 2**

ORGANISERS **José-Miguel Lana Berasain** Public University of Navarre, Spain, **Marta Martín Gabaldón** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico, **Manoela Pedroza** Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

**New world, immemorial possession: communal uses of nature in 18th century Portuguese America**

**Sarah Limão Papa** Leibniz University Hannover, Germany

In recent decades, the social history of property has become a fruitful meeting point for discussing and understanding the social dynamics surrounding the management of natural resources and the distribution of their fruits. Understanding property as a social relationship, the analysis of the alignments of this relationship and the tensions that arise around them allows us to delve into the basic structures of the social order and its dynamics of transformation. The concept of “institutional bricolage” fits well with an approach that emphasizes the centrality of social interactions and popular agency in understanding the historical transformation of land rights. Beyond the literalness of legal codes, we are interested here in analyzing how the everyday practices of social groups contributed to erecting property systems with both exogenous and endogenous components. A relational approach allows for a better understanding of actors’ responses to processes of change and their ability to adapt to new circumstances through practices of institutional hybridization in specific contexts with particular balances of power. In this session, we hope to attract research regarding this issue through theoretical and methodological approaches or case studies in different latitudes or times.

This paper examines the normativity of communal land use in colonial Brazil, focusing on 18th-century conflicts in Maranhão and Bahia. Local communities claimed rights to natural resources essential for their subsistence—such as water, wood, fruits, and pastures. However, these customary rights often conflicted with the interests of the expanding rural frontiers, where monoculture agriculture increasingly dominated. Colonial authorities, including municipal councils and governors, played crucial roles in resolving these disputes, often framing them within the legal framework of the *ius commune* tradition. Arguments rooted in notions of common good and public utility were frequently employed to mediate tensions between communal use and private interests. The resolution of such conflicts was shaped by the interplay of legal norms, economic pressures, and colonial social hierarchies, particularly the roles of slavery and servitude in determining access to both resources and labor. By analyzing these case studies, this paper sheds light on the complex dynamics between communal rights, legal frameworks, and economic pressures in colonial Brazil, offering insights into the historical foundations of land use conflicts that continue to resonate in contemporary discussions on land rights and environmental justice.

## **Ligurian kinships, commons and their environment: an ethnographic point of view (Aveto Valley, XIX-XX centuries)**

**Matteo Tacca & Caterina Piu**

University of Genoa, Italy

This paper aims to discuss the role of kinship in the making and maintenance of common environmental resources between ancient regime and contemporary times. Kinship, understood as a form of local socio-political aggregation, enjoyed particular attention from Italian social micro-history for the early modern period, which demonstrated its close relationship with the definition of local spaces, jurisdictions and therefore with the appropriation of environmental and economic resources. On the other hand, recent historiography on commons acknowledged their economical and institutional role during the ancient regime but rarely considered how their continuity across the 19th c. have been related to the persistence of non-institutional factors such as kinships.

By observing a case of conservation of kinship commons in the eastern Ligurian Appennines (Bosco Fontana), this paper wants to highlight the strategy adopted by the Fontana kinship to give continuity to their common resources in spite of the great institutional and economical changes that characterized the 19th and the 20th centuries. The idea is thus not only to reconstruct a history of Ligurian commons, but also to propose a research hypothesis that sees the social formation of kinship as generating specific social and political environments characterized by collective practices of natural resource appropriation.

## **Smart marriages: patrimonial and matrimonial strategies of smallholders in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil, 18th and 19th centuries)**

**Manoela Pedroza** Federal Fluminense University, Brazil

The aim of this paper is to re-assess, through the prism of institutional bricolage, certain land ownership practices that transformed land rights in Portuguese America, subsequently Brazil, in the 18th and 19th century. In this paper, I analyze marriages involving the sharing of wealth, including land. Historical records utilized here were parish records of the baptism, marriage and death, six probate inventories, and the only record of land ownership carried out in Brazil, in 1850. The conclusion is that sugar cane plantations in Rio de Janeiro was maintained not only by laws and orders issued by colonial authorities but also by the designs and efforts of the subjects involved in this process. Social groups that have been largely subalternated by the official historiography in fact drove this process. These marriages between individuals of different social and economic standing were in effect a strategy by means of which smallholders families were able to create and maintain a sustainable pathway of reciprocities between two kins and served as a means of rapid social ascension by some family members. It demonstrates both their agency and the possibilities that existed for active interaction by dominated individuals and groups within the dominant system.

## The banana cows: cattle ranching and the banana commodity frontier in the early 20th century Caribbean

**Santiago Colmenares** University of North, Colombia

After sugar plantations, at the beginning of the 20th century the Caribbean experienced a new impact through the extension of a new commodity frontier: bananas. However, bananas did not come alone. Because of the demand for protein for banana workers and the population in general, and for animal power during the production process, cattle ranching appeared as a secondary commodity frontier along the banana plantation. This meant that companies such as the United Fruit Company invested in the formation of pastures and cattle ranches in all the Caribbean countries where they operated, mainly Colombia, Panama, Costa Rica, Honduras, Guatemala, British Honduras, Jamaica and Cuba, between 1900 and 1945.

In this paper I explore the environmental, social and economic impact of the extension of cattle ranching, as an auxiliary and complementary activity to the development of the banana commodity frontier, during the first half of the 20th century in the Caribbean, especially in Colombia. I also analyse the mechanisms used by the UFC to obtain the lands where cattle ranching was developed. This is relevant to understand the degree to which the cattle ranching activity was able to deprive peasant groups of access to vital resources such as land.



*Sargassum Harvesting, s.d., Estarreja. Abreu Nunes, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation*

## Property and the spatial distribution of grazing violations in 18th-century Lorraine

**Manuel Rios** CONICET and University of Buenos Aires, Argentina

In the last two decades, historiography has shifted its focus from formal property – defined by legal corpuses – to an approach centred on social relations. The rigid dichotomy between private and collective property has been abandoned in favour of a more nuanced perspective, where productive practices and social conflict challenge legal codes. This shift necessitates an emphasis on local power and its mechanisms. Among these, rural justice plays a pivotal role: local elites strive to control it to safeguard their interests against rival social groups or factions. Nevertheless, historiography has highlighted the inefficiencies and limitations of rural policing. But how do these inefficiencies manifest? In other words, is justice equally served across rural areas? Justice records from 18th-century Lorraine (France) and cadastral plans and data from the 18th and 19th centuries allow us to georeference instances of grazing violations. Emerging patterns reveal that what was once broadly categorised as private property actually encompasses diverse practices regarding land use rights. This analysis invites us to reconsider how property happens.

[Room **Gonçalves da Silva**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 9.10. Fishery policies, institutions and markets (1950-2020)

ORGANISERS **Jesús Giráldez**

**Rivero** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain,

**Pedro Varela-Vázquez** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain,

**Álvaro Garrido** University of Coimbra, Portugal

DISCUSSANT **Yorgos Stratoudakis**

NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

Since the 1950s, world fisheries and aquaculture production has experienced significant growth. Production figures increased almost tenfold, from 19 million tonnes to a record of more than 185 million tonnes in 2022. Capture fisheries remained relatively stable since the late 1980s at around 90 million tonnes, while aquaculture experienced spectacular growth. In 2022, aquaculture production (51%) surpassed capture production (49%).

This strong growth allowed the apparent consumption of aquatic food of animal origin to increase at an annual rate higher than that of the world's population. According to the FAO, the apparent per capita consumption of aquatic food of animal origin increased from 9.1 kg (live weight equivalent) in 1961 to 20.6 kg in 2021. Aquatic foods not only make an important contribution to the diet but are also considered to be among the healthiest. A source of quality protein and various nutrients that are difficult to obtain in other foods, the consumption of which is associated with improving public health.

This session welcomes proposals for papers that address the study of the factors that drove the continued growth of fisheries and aquaculture production and the changes that have taken place. More specifically, the session aims to provide knowledge along the following main lines. On the one hand, factors related to technical changes in catching systems, conservation and distribution technologies, as well as changes in consumer preferences. On the other hand, the work of both international organisations and national governmental interventions in the development of these productions (modernisation of fleets, product processing, logistics, promotion of research, etc.) and in stimulating fish consumption. Finally, the transformations resulting from changes in the international law of the sea, the emergence of Regional Fisheries Organisations or the forms of regulation and

	<p>management of fisheries. In this sense, we cannot forget those resulting from the emergence of new fishing powers, changes in international trade flows or the restructuring of company behaviour in a globalised environment.</p>
<p><b>Institutional change and national autarchy: science and maritime law shaping the Portuguese fishing policies (1945-1977)</b></p> <p><b>Álvaro Garrido</b> University of Coimbra, Portugal</p>	<p>International maritime historiography has made it clear that, after the Second World War, maritime fisheries experienced huge growth. How to provide scientific knowledge and international cooperation into an autocratic system of public decision? At the time, Portugal was living under a dictatorial regime whose model of maritime fisheries governance was still linked to the principles of the fascist autarchy of the inter-war period. With the naturalist heritage of the 19th century broken, public institutions dedicated to marine sciences were practically non-existent. However, between 1948 and 1955, the Portuguese state created a set of advisory bodies in the field of marine biology and research applied to fisheries, and its diplomacy made room for a regular presence at international meetings and conferences. In the case of the Atlantic cod fisheries, these levels of participation and co-operation were surprisingly high and coexisted with a protectionist political economy. Taking this case-study, firstly we discuss in what extent the institutional frame has shaped fisheries governance institutions in a context of changing fish markets (liberalization and changing consumption patterns). Secondly, how international co-operation has generated changes in public policy and new social perceptions about the management of fisheries and marine resources exploitation.</p>
<p><b>Companies and globalization of Spanish fishing</b></p> <p><b>María del Carmen Espido Bello, Jesús Giráldez Rivero &amp; Pedro Varela Vázquez</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>The economic crisis of the seventies and eighties of the twentieth century encouraged the business internationalization of maritime fishing. This process was accompanied by a “deterritorialization” of the activity, which was dispersed across different countries, creating a new division of labor within the framework of a global system. Companies will no longer just fish but will integrate or participate in one or more stages of the value chain. These changes have also profoundly transformed the international trade in fish products and the role of individual countries in this trade.</p> <p>This paper focuses on the study of freezing and chilling fish companies, their transformations, strategies and changes in the value chain. It seeks to map the main operators and the connections between the different nodes, which turned Spain into the main supplier of fish to the European Union.</p>
<p><b>The introduction of light tuna in Spain: companies and strategies</b></p> <p><b>Xoán Carmona Badía &amp; Adrián Dios Vicente</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>The Spanish fish canning industry was of great importance during the first half of the 20th century. As in California, France or Portugal, sardines were, at that time, its main raw material, although albacore tuna, mackerel and anchovies were also tinned. But by 1960, the exhaustion of the Spanish sardine fishing grounds was a major constraint to the growth of the sector and Spanish manufacturers looked, as the Americans had done before them, to yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna fishing as a way to mechanization and increasing the scale of production. A cheap and stable supply of this type of fish had to be</p>

Enhancing fisheries  
to boost development  
in the Iberian  
dictatorships  
throughout the  
Golden Age

**Carlos de Francisco** University of  
Santiago de Compostela, Spain

obtained, but it was also necessary to introduce the new product to the market and prompting its consumption to levels that would absorb the new scale of production. This was not easy since the new tuna species were perceived as different from the traditional albacora tune. This paper will try to explain the strategies used by the different companies, with the support of various institutions, to achieve both objectives, as well as the results obtained.

Indicative programmes were important strategies chosen by many governments in the period after the Second War World. In Portugal and Spain, these programmes were named, respectively, Planos de Fomento and Planes de Desarrollo. In both cases, all the plans included, among their main economic sectors, the promotion of national fishing. In this regard, they incorporate several information related to fishermen, seaports or boats. Considering the above, this paper aims to study the options assumed by the two countries to foster that sphere. In particular, it is necessary to consider national government interventions to enhance procedures to modernize the sector and, when it possible, to improve people’s nutrition. In this sense, taking into account that fishing had historically played an important role in the Iberian countries, it is interesting to examine the relevance of the sector as a part of the development strategy traced by the two dictatorships: both the Estado Novo and Francoism conceived national fishing as a useful instrument to improve living conditions of two countries that still had, at the time, an economic development below the average of Western Europe.



Rye Field in Trás-os-Montes, Portugal, July 2025 (Miguel Teodoro)

[Room **Sala 4.4**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 9.11. Meet the author: *The experience of work in early modern England*

**Jane Whittle, Mark Hailwood, Taylor Aucoin, Hannah Robb**

**ORGANIZER** **Jane Whittle** University of Exeter, United Kingdom

**DISCUSSANTS** **Jonas Lindström**

University of Uppsala, Sweden,

**Charmian Mansell** University of

Sheffield, United Kingdom, **Andrea**

**Caracausi** University of Padova, Italy,

**Maïka de Keyzer** Catholic University

of Leuven, Belgium, **Jane Whittle**

University of Exeter, United Kingdom,

**Mark Hailwood** University of Bristol,

United Kingdom, **Taylor Aucoin**

University of Edinburgh, Scotland,

**Hannah Robb** Birkbeck, University

of London, United Kingdom

10h30 – 11h00

**COFFEE BREAK**

This book applies an innovative approach to the history of work, the work-task approach, building on the 'verb-oriented approach of the Swedish 'Gender and Work' (GaW) project. This methodology captures the contribution that all workers and types of work made to the early modern economy. Drawing on tens of thousands of rich court depositions drawn predominantly from rural England, the individual tasks that made up the everyday experience of work for women and men are analysed to shed new light on the gender division of labour, and on the ways in which time, space, age, marital status and more shaped working life in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Combining both qualitative and quantitative analysis of a substantial dataset of tasks, the book deepens our understanding of how the preindustrial economy worked and not only provokes a revised understanding of who did what, but also of major debates about structural change, the nature and extent of paid work, and what has been lost as well as gained over the past three centuries of economic development.

The roundtable will discuss the significance of (a) the methodology and (b) the findings for the rural history of Europe before 1800.



September, Portraits of the Months, ca. 1580, Pieter Balten, Miranda do Douro Co-Cathedral.

# Friday, 12th September 2025

Faculty of Economics | 11h00 – 13h00 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 10**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	PAPER 6	ROOM
<b>10.1. Comparing agrarian reforms throughout the 20th century: conflicts and oppositions 2</b> Sergio Riesco Roche, Carlos Manuel Faísca, Dimitris Angelis-Dimakis	10.1.1. The Greek land reform of 1923 and its impact on the Greek rural space during the interwar period Dimitris Angelis Dimakis	10.1.2. Rural space and transformations: from Ottoman Sancak-i Tırhala to Greek Thessaly 1881-1940 George Gassias	10.1.3. The shadow of land reforms and their failures: the land question in 1930s East-Central Europe Lucian George	10.1.4. The troubled path of Portuguese agriculture at the end of the 20th century, under the sign of two reforms (1975 and 1992) António Themudo Barata	10.1.5. Talkin' bout a revolution within a revolution: transnational ideas and local approaches to the Portuguese agrarian reform (1975-1977) Leonardo Aboim Pires	10.1.6. From agrarian reform to land reform: Spain in a European perspective James Simpson, Juan Carmona	Anfiteatro 3.2, 3rd floor
<b>10.2. Landscape and legend: oral traditions as sources for rural history</b> David Hopkin, William Pooley, Timothy Tangherlini	10.2.1. Scottish peasants in the magical landscape Julian Goodare	10.2.2. Asaraat-Dargah-Dham: genres of healing in the rural landscapes of Deccan and Vindhyanchal Bina Sengar	10.2.3. The demise of the Danish witch: small holders and the rise of the dairy cooperatives, 1870-1910 Timothy R Tangherlini	10.2.4. Remembering feudalism in nineteenth-century France: shepherdess saints and sinister seigneurs David Hopkin	10.2.5. Giants, huns, and kings: geofolklore and erratic boulders in the Baltic Southern Lowlands Robert Piotrowski		Sala 4.1, 4th floor
<b>10.3. Engineers and the rural environment in 20th century Europe 3 (Forested landscapes: transformation-conservation)</b> Iñaki Iriarte Goñi, Francesco D'Amaro, Judit Gil-Farrero	10.3.1. Science against fire: the rise of agronomic sciences and the opposition to fire use in Portugal during the 19th century Miguel Carmo, Frederico Ágoas, Inês Gomes, José Miguel Ferreira	10.3.2. Foresters and land ownership in protected areas: the case of the Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park Judit Gil-Farrero	10.3.3. Spanish Foresters and changes in forests understanding and management, 1960-1995 Iñaki Iriarte Goñi	10.3.4. From genetic improvement to biodiversity conservation: seed orchards and environmental challenges in Spain in the dismantling of the Forest Engineering Regime (1966-1999) Max Bautista-Perpinya			Sala 2.3, 2nd floor
<b>10.4. Framing the countryside: the role of moving images in shaping rural perceptions and identities 1</b> Chantal Bisschop, Brigitte Semanek, Edouard Lynch	10.4.1. Revisiting "Speed the Plough": narrative turns in farming and film Oliver Douglas	10.4.2. From economic struggles to organic solutions: analyzing the representation of rural spaces in 1970s ORF documentaries Walpurga Friedl	10.4.3. Moving images, unmoved nation: capturing rural Irish life on film but not capturing rural Irish people's imagination Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh	10.4.4. The television series Les Cousins, a distorted mirror of rural France during the 1960's agricultural revolution Edouard Lynch			Sala 2.1, 2nd floor
<b>10.5. Access to land, social practices, and institutional hybridizations in two hemispheres 3</b> José-Miguel Lana Berasain, Marta Martín Gabaldón, Manoela Pedroza	10.5.1. Not the poor man's country: the unexplored intersection of women and the heritable long-lease farm in 19th Century Grampian Iain Riddell	10.5.2. Bylaws from two shores: contexts, players and rules in the 'ordenanzas' of Los Llanos (Venezuela) and La Montaña (Spain) José-Miguel Lana Berasain	10.5.3. The construction of a memory for the property in the Commonwealth of Aralar-Enirio (Gizpuzkoa, Spain) Camilla de Freitas Macedo	10.5.4. Grassland rules: transformation of pastoral practices in the Aragonese Pyrenees (19th-20th centuries) Íñigo Ena Sanjuán	10.5.5. Confronting tradition with authority: social reaction to the early land enclosures in 17th century Catalonia Marc August Muntanya Masana		Sala 2.2, 2nd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	PAPER 6	ROOM
<b>10.6. Peasant women in socialist Europe: diverse realities and experiences 1</b> Zsuzsana Varga, Zarko Lazarevic, Janja Sedlacek	10.6.1. Health-care and rural modernization: a comparative study of rural women in Poland and Hungary during the socialism Ewelina Szpak, Zsuzsanna Varga	10.6.2. Peasant women, co-operative activists and reproductive labour: the case of socialist Yugoslavia in the 1950s Jelena Tešija	10.6.3. Stratification and inequalities among peasant women in socialist Slovenia Janja Sedlaček	10.6.4. The representation of women in the journal Magyar Mezőgazdaság 1959 to 1989 Nigel Swain			Sala 4.4, 4th floor
<b>10.7. Revisiting labour on large rural properties in 19th and 20th centuries Brazil and Latin America: sociability, rights, and democracy</b> Gillian McGillivray, Marcus Dezemone, Leonardo Soares dos Santos	10.7.1. This land has an owner! Disputes and property rights in the sesmarias of Santo Antônio de Guarulhos (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 19th century) Marina Monteiro Machado	10.7.2. From rural to a tourist destination: land grants and the territorial transformation process in Florianópolis, Brazil (1900-1980) Kassia Rossi	10.7.3. Forms of sociability and leisure practices in Rio de Janeiro's sugar zone: football teams in Campos dos Goytacazes (1917-1990) Leonardo Soares dos Santos	10.7.4. From slavery to land access: sociability in the construction of rights in the province and state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1871-1987) Marcus Dezemone	10.7.5. From paternalism to precarity: land and labour policies under a French enterprise in Brazil, 1907-1969 Gillian McGillivray		Anfiteatro 4.1, 4th floor
<b>10.8. Wetlands as colonized and decolonized spaces 2</b> Harro Maat, Joana Sousa	10.8.1. Designing ideal wetlands for rice: Rokupr rice research station and the West Africa Rice Development Association Lin Yi-Tang	10.8.2. Navigating the end of slavery in Yorùbá wetlands Aaron Wilford	10.8.3. The ongoing end of rice in Biombo: colonial forced labour, sea-level rise and rural exodus Joana Sousa, Benício Có, Djone Camala	10.8.4. Farming on a gradient from wet to dry; Maroon rice cultivation in Suriname Nicholaas Pinas	10.8.5. Freedom among the mangroves: liberated African villages in Colonial Gambia and the environmental limits of abolitionist settler colonialism 1816-1869 Lamin Manneh		Sala 4.3, 4th floor
<b>10.9. The history of environmental resource management in Europe: sustainable practices through time</b> Matteo Di Tullio, Anna Maria Stagno	10.9.1. From law to landscape: environmental resource management and sustainability in 19th-century Southern Europe Pedro Mota Tavares	10.9.2. Social networks and transoceanic emigration: the role of 19th century emigration in the changes in property and environmental resources management Adele Repetto, Laura Gago-Chorén, Anna Maria Stagno	10.9.3. The memory of the landscape: reconstructing the past through fieldwork and documents in Sierra Nevada Ylenia Paciotti	10.9.4. Agrarian metabolism: a flow-fund model to analyse agroecosystem services in historical perspective: a case study from Spanish agriculture Manuel González de Molina, Gloria I. Guzmán Casado, David Soto Fernández	10.9.5. Indigenous resources management in Northern Europe: transition to large scale reindeer herding in northern Fennoscandia Jesper Larsson	10.9.6. Heritage, history, and ecology of rural churchyard cemeteries on the polish-czech border: their role in maintaining ecological corridors, sustainable spatial planning, and documenting historical landscape transformations Alicja Krzemińska, Anna Zaręba, Kamil Pawłowski, Mariusz Adynkiewicz-Piragas	Sala 2.4, 2nd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	PAPER 6	ROOM
<b>10.10. Historical perspectives on accounting as a social practice in organisational management: pathways to accountability and sustainability 2</b> Liliana Pimentel, Leonor Fernandes Ferreira, Andreia Fernandes	10.10.1. Accounting history in Portugal: a bibliometric look at accountability and sustainability Andreia Fernandes, Liliana Pimentel, Leonor Fernandes Ferreira	10.10.2. Agricultural accounting in Portugal: historical trends and social impact Inês Milheiras, Dulce Freire, Liliana Pimentel	10.10.3. Imperial accounting: a historical tool of power and governance Ángel Ballarín Garnica	10.10.4. Public accounting and social responsibility: auditing of municipal finances in the rural communities of the Kingdom of Valencia (15th-16th centuries) Pau Viciano			Sala 4.2, 4th floor
<b>10.11. Meet the author: The political economy of food: the moral and market economies of bread</b> Jonas Albrecht							Gonçalves da Silva, 4th floor
<b>Milk in Spain and the history of diet change</b> Fernando Collantes							

# Friday, 12th September 2025

Faculty of Economics

11h00 – 13h00

## PARALLEL SESSIONS 10

[Room **Anfiteatro 3.2**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

### 10.1. Comparing agrarian reforms throughout the 20th century: conflicts and oppositions 2

ORGANISERS **Sergio Riesco Roche**  
Complutense University of Madrid,  
Spain, **Carlos Manuel Faísca**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal  
**Dimitris Angelis-Dimakis**,  
University of Crete, Greece  
MODERATOR **Sergio Riesco Roche**  
Complutense University  
of Madrid, Spain  
DISCUSSANT **Dimitris Angelis-**  
**Dimakis** University of Crete,  
Greece

The traditional pattern of modernization involves a decline in the primary sector, both in terms of its share of national wealth and its contribution to the labour force. All this, as we learned from the British reference, gives way to a sustained industrialization over time that gives way to a progressive tertiarization of society (Mokyr, Allen). However, this pattern is not at all satisfactory for creating an interpretative framework on the role of the primary sector not only in today's world but in all processes of social change. Often, such situations are sometimes accompanied by democratizing processes and sometimes by authoritarian paths. In this framework, agrarian reform as an institutional process in a broad sense (Ostrom), can be an analytical meeting point, singular and at the same time differential, to explain the peculiarities of the aforementioned processes of social change. If the concept of liberal agrarian reform has triumphed as a modeler of the processes of change associated with the nineteenth century, why does agrarian reform not relate to the twentieth century in the same way? The existence of pending structural problems in world agricultures in the century of conflicts has endowed the concept with an extraordinary semantic charge. During the interwar period, it served to define new nationalities in Eastern and Central Europe and to exclude others from access to land ownership, especially visible in modern Greece. If the "Spanish War" is often referred to as a prologue to World War II, land issues played a central role in the difficulties of establishing democracy in Spain (Simpson and Carmona, 2020; Robledo, 2022). It seems more or less clear that the victorious powers in 1945 embarked on the path of a more or less stable primary sector, consolidating a capitalist agriculture on the basis of viable medium-sized farms in the midst of a Green Revolution that was first latent and then visible throughout the world. In this process preceding the great globalization, it was possible to observe how unequal access to land was a major problem in Latin America, Africa and Southeast Asia, thus limiting any democratization process. During the 1960s and 1970s, the issue of agrarian reform took on an enormous protagonism, especially in Latin America, either in the form of revolutions, as had occurred in Mexico and later in Bolivia, or in those cases in which major alterations took place in Chile, Peru and several Central American countries. (Robles, 2020). Somehow these processes, together with the role of China, rekindled the irredentism present in some parts of Europe, as happened in Portugal during the 1970s. Thus, the aim of this panel is to serve as a meeting point for researchers from southern Europe and Latin America so that, from different perspectives, they can discuss the role of the European Union in the development of the region.

## The Greek land reform of 1923 and its impact on the Greek rural space during the interwar period

**Dimitris Angelis Dimakis**  
University of Crete, Greece

In this paper we will examine how the settlement of refugees after 1922 and the land reform, which was carried out, were linked to the formation of a strong co-operative movement in the region of Macedonia during the inter-war period. After the presentation of quantitative data on the development of co-operatives and the distribution of native and refugee organizations, we will explore the activities they developed and their impact on local communities. We will also study if and to what extent some type of common front was formed over time between natives and refugees on the basis of the similar problems faced by these population groups. Finally, we will examine how the land reform of 1923 affected the overall social, economic and political evolution of the countryside during the succeeding decades.

## Rural space and transformations: from Ottoman Sancak-i Tirhala to Greek Thessaly 1881-1940

**George Gassias** University of Crete, Greece

Thessaly in 1881, at the moment of its annexation into Greece, was dominated by the property rights and social hierarchies that characterized the Ottoman ciftliks system.

At this moment peasants demanded a share of the former Ottoman ciftliks, arguing that the Ottoman titles held by landowners did not guarantee absolute ownership rights. Meanwhile, landowners contended that these titles secured their rights.

The conflict between landowners and peasants over who would control the lands annexed to the Greek state escalated the agrarian question in the region and culminated in the 1910 uprising of Thessalian peasants.

The resolution of the agrarian question in the former Ottoman region of Thessaly by the Greek state is the issue addressed in this presentation. Specifically, will focus on the policies of the Greek administration during the period 1881–1940, which totally transformed the region.

The policy choices and implementations of the Greek administration metamorphosed Thessaly from an Ottoman region with large estates (chiftliks) in 1881 into a Greek region by 1940, where small-scale agricultural ownership and capitalist conditions predominated.

## The shadow of land reforms and their failures: the land question in 1930s East-Central Europe

**Lucian George** University of Oxford, United Kingdom

The revolutionary atmosphere unleashed by the fall of the Habsburg and Romanov empires in 1917-1918 made redistributive land reform a political imperative in the predominantly rural successor states of East-Central Europe. The planning and execution of land reform, however, was a contested process and, in practice, land reforms varied in scale, speed and effectiveness. As a result, the land question frequently retained its political salience in various successor states. This paper will compare how land reform – and its absence – continued to inform political debate in Poland and Czechoslovakia during the economic crisis of the 1930s. Whilst both countries witnessed growing demands for more radical land reform, the

## The troubled path of Portuguese agriculture at the end of the 20th century, under the sign of two reforms (1975 and 1992)

**António Themudo Barata**

University of Lisbon, Portugal

targets and objectives of these calls differed: where in Poland land reform was envisaged as a remedy to enduring land hunger, in Czechoslovakia it was increasingly meant to address the problems of urban unemployment and rural inequalities generated after 1919.

In 2025, Portugal celebrates two events: the 50th anniversary of the 1975 Agrarian Reform and the 40th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Accession to the then EEC, the gateway to the CAP (Common Agricultural Policy) in Portugal, whose first reform was in 1992. It therefore seems to us to be an opportune time to share a historical reflection on the winding, even troubled path that Portuguese agriculture has travelled in the wake of those two landmarks of agrarian reform.

Although the two reforms were very different, whether in terms of their historical context, their political and social motivations or the way in which the respective processes of change were conducted, the fact remains that they both determined a course and left deep marks on agriculture, rurality and, in general, Portuguese society.

The object of this work is not the historical study per se of each of the aforementioned reforms. Rather, it is a dispassionate reading of a remarkable path, drawn between two milestones so close and so far apart, from the point of view of a contemporary Portuguese ruralist, agronomist and historian.

## Talkin' bout a revolution within a revolution: transnational ideas and local approaches to the Portuguese agrarian reform (1975-1977)

**Leonardo Aboim Pires** University of Lisbon, Portugal

The Portuguese revolutionary process (1974-75) paved the way for the realization of a long-delayed issue: the reform of agrarian structures, which was one of the agricultural sector's main problems. With this paper, we seek to place this phenomenon in a broader framework of analysis, by understanding the influence of other agrarian reforms, namely those that took place in Latin America, North Africa and Eastern Europe, in what was considered by some historians to be "the golden age of land reforms". In addition, we seek to ascertain the importance of the topic of food sovereignty and a certain nostalgia for autarky, in an insistence on guaranteeing national independence in the construction of the "Portuguese path to socialism". This was exemplified in the Battle of Production (May 1975), which was considered a decisive stage of the revolution, and which admitted the increase in agricultural production. By consulting documentary archives and reading the periodical press, we attempt to answer these questions to understand how, on a practical and discursive level, this event was seen as a stimulus to change agriculture and alter a model of economic dependence.

## From agrarian reform to land reform: Spain in a European perspective

**James Simpson & Juan Carmona**

Charles III University of Madrid, Spain

This paper looks at Spain's attempts at land reform in the context of interwar Europe. After comparing the different experiences in agrarian-based and transforming economies, it considers the problems, and limits, of Spain's 1932 reform. As the East European experience suggests, the economic benefits from land reform risked being short-term at best and threatened to delay the modernization of agriculture and economic development. The political obstacles were significant, as Spain's Second Republic inherited not only limited state capacity for implementing a land reform, but its democracy was handicapped from the outset because family farmers had weak channels to present their demands.

[Room **Sala 4.1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 10.2. Landscape and legend: oral traditions as sources for rural history

ORGANISERS **David Hopkin**

University of Oxford, United Kingdom,

**William Pooley**

University of Bristol, United Kingdom &

**Timothy Tangherlini**

University of California, United States of America

Historians are apt to lament that we lack sources for the voices of the rural labouring classes, yet folklorists collected hundreds of thousands of narratives from precisely this social group in the nineteenth century. One of the most common of such oral traditional genres is the legend. The legend differs from the folktale in that it was usually told as true, and attached to a specific person, place or epoch, even if the content was fantastical (miracles, witches, werewolves, ghosts...), and even though the same or similar stories were widely distributed. This session focuses on legends as potent sources for historical research. Legends help us understand what past populations believed to be – or were at least willing to claim as – true: as shared belief shaped actions, legends created archivally documented consequences. The possibilities opened by such sources are clarified when combined with other analytical techniques, such as mapping. We can use them to explore social relationships in the countryside, and to address major questions in rural history, such as the impact of feudal relations, the distribution of power and authority within the household, the significance of the commons to peasant communities, and reactions to the rapid economic changes of the nineteenth century. The three speakers in this session have published extensively both on oral traditions and on rural history in nineteenth-century Europe. They will use this session to highlight the possibilities, and some of the limitations, of using such sources, as well as discussing how new digital sources are expanding the field.

## Scottish peasants in the magical landscape

**Julian Goodare** University of

Edinburgh, Scotland

How did early modern common folk experience the Scottish landscape? They looked at the landscape as peasant farmers, seeing their own productive fields, plus pastures, hills and waters. This landscape was benevolent, but it contained dangers, and even benevolent fertility was uncertain. Peasants thus carried out rituals to propitiate not only Christian beings but also nature spirits – particularly fairies – who symbolised the landscape as an active force. Rituals could involve 'sunwise' movement, or traversing boundaries, or using south-running water.

Some places were magical portals. At a green knoll or a lochside, one might be transported into a fairy otherworld, entering a different state of consciousness.

## Asaraat-Dargah-Dham: genres of healing in the rural landscapes of Deccan and Vindhyanchal

**Bina Sengar** Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University India

For some people, this otherworld was direct visionary experience.

Much of my evidence comes from sixteenth- and seventeenth-century witchcraft trials. However, I am not concerned with witchcraft as such, but with the original meaning of rituals and visions before the prosecutors reinterpreted them.

Peasants also told stories about unusual landscape features. Landscape legends, recorded mainly in the nineteenth century, look very different from the earlier witchcraft trial evidence – but, I will argue, the two types of evidence can be brought into mutually profitable conversation. Landscape legends add a temporal dimension to the magical landscape.

The research work presented problematizes the aspects of magic, faith and witchcraft endured due to implications of fairies, Djinnns and feminine energies locally known as pariyan, jinn and Adhya Shakti Maa Vindhyavasini Devi in the landscapes of Deccan-Ajanta and Vindhyanchal hills. The landscapes of Ajanta hills and Suli Bhanjan in Deccan and Vindhyachal Dham of Vindhyanchal region remain abode of these magical charms of faith healing since the historic times. In the beginning of 14th century Sufi saint Shah Jalaluddin Ganji-i-Rawan came to the sacred spaces of Suli Bhanjan at Lord Shiva temple besides the a holy water tank constructed in the 9th century during the Rashtrakuta and Yadav kingdoms. Similarly, Vindhyavasini Dham of Vindhyanchal region believed to be sacred landscape since the era of Mahabharata retains magical powers of healing. Through this research paper I seek to understand genres of therapeutics for mental healing through contemporary psychiatry as well as through traditional means of cure. Paper draws attention to the co-existence of genres of treatment for people suffering from various kinds of distress that can be delineated through patterns of dargah (Sufi shrines) and dham (feminine energy abodes) and biomedical institutions around the regions.

## The demise of the Danish witch: small holders and the rise of the dairy cooperatives, 1870-1910

**Timothy R Tangherlini** University of California -Berkeley, United States of America

In Danish legend tradition, witches are presented as a constant threat to the success of the small holder. Although a great deal of work has been done on the age of witchcraft trials in Denmark (1576-1693), the particular threats that witches posed to small holders and farmers in late nineteenth century legends place far more emphasis on livestock. In these legends, witches kill cows while stealing their milk and cream. A rapid transformation of Danish farming practice from grains-based to animal products (milk, butter, pork) meant that far more people were exposed to potentially catastrophic economic outcomes. The health and productivity of cows became an issue of paramount importance. We explore the role that access to dairy cooperatives played in mitigating risk and concomitantly reducing the need for stories about witches, as indicated by folklore surveys from the early twentieth century. Once the benefits of (quite literally) pooling one's resources becomes clear, neighboring areas build their own coops, thereby obviating the threat of the milk stealing witch. Collaborative work with Robert Braun and Xiaqiuzi Han.

## Remembering feudalism in nineteenth-century France: shepherdess saints and sinister seigneurs

**David Hopkin** University of Oxford,  
United Kingdom

Every July, pilgrims gather at the chapel of Saint Elidie in the Auvergne, a shepherdess martyred by a lustful lord. When her head was cut off, she carried it to a spring where her blood is still visible and miracles are performed. Locals consider Elidie a saint, her tomb and spring are religious sites. While Saint Elidie is otherwise unknown in the Catholic Church, hers is not only a local cult, because every region of France has its own shepherdess saint: Saint Espérie, Saint Néomaye, Saint Saturnine, Saint Solange, Saint Verge, Saint Reine... The details of her tribulations and death vary, but the main thread of the legend remains the same. My aim in this talk is to explore what martyred shepherdess saints meant to the people who told her story, honoured her relics, and celebrated her feast. Feudal/seigneurial relationships shaped life in the European countryside until the French Revolution, and in practice long after: saints' legends were one way in which the history and memory of feudalism was transmitted in oral culture. They embodied claims on the landscape, and in particular access to water, which were long disputed between peasants and their lords.

## Giants, huns, and kings: geofolklore and erratic boulders in the Baltic Southern Lowlands

**Robert Piotrowski** Polish  
Academy of Sciences, Poland

The 19th century marked the first scientific attempts to describe erratic boulders, highlighting both their geological and cultural significance. In changing cultural contexts, these stones evolved from utilitarian or symbolic elements of local culture into carriers of meanings that we now recognize as part of geocultural heritage. Particularly valuable in this re-interpretation are 19th-century folkloristic sources from Pommern and Mecklenburg, which reflect local perceptions and narrative responses to the landscape. These accounts capture transitional moments when older beliefs gave way to rational interpretations, yet continued to coexist within local culture. The analysis of belief narratives allows us to reconstruct environmental values and identify motifs of long-term continuity. From geofolklore perspective, erratic boulders are not merely remnants of glacial processes, but dynamic actors in shaping both the cultural landscape and memory of the past.

This paper was conducted as part of research project funded by the National Science Centre Poland (grant No. 023/49/N/HS3/02181).

[Room **Sala 2.3**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

### 10.3. Engineers and the rural environment in 20th century Europe 3 (Forested landscapes: transformation-conservation)

**ORGANISERS** **Iñaki Iriarte Goñi**

University of Zaragoza, Spain,

**Francesco D'Amaro** Autonomous

University of Madrid, Spain,

**Judit Gil-Farrero** University of

Zaragoza, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Francesco D'Amaro**

Autonomous University of Madrid,

Spain

Since the late 19th century, different corps of engineers have intervened in European rural environment and, consequently, on European rural societies. Agronomists sought to modernize production by analysing the best farming systems or livestock management practices and recommending or, in some cases, imposing the techniques that should be adopted by farmers. Civil engineers, on the other hand, planned and developed transport networks or irrigation systems, which could include the construction of large reservoirs, significantly impacting the affected societies. Meanwhile, forestry engineers implemented reforestation projects or the economic exploitation of forests according to the criteria established by forest science. These technical corps, either implicitly or explicitly, held a particular conception of nature that underpinned their operations and largely determined the environmental impacts of their actions. This conception of nature was not fixed but evolved in response to a variety of factors. Scientific and technical discoveries, changes in the demand for goods and services driven by income growth and technological change, economic and agricultural policies implemented by different governments, and, ultimately, the varying degrees of resistance from civil society to engineering projects, all shaped approaches to resource management and exploitation and their effects on the environment. Based on this framework, this session aims to bring together specialists working on different engineer's corps who historically acted upon the rural environment. The goal is to discuss the views these engineers held regarding nature and the environment, trying to discover at what extent it was convergent or divergent in the different corps and how these views evolve throughout the 20th century. This discussion can be relevant for a better understanding of the outcomes of the engineer's actions in terms of better or worse nature conservation, or even the destruction of natural spaces and resources, and consequently, to approach the degree of sustainability achieved in rural societies through history.

### Science against fire: the rise of agronomic sciences and the opposition to fire use in Portugal during the 19th century

**Miguel Carmo, Frederico Ágoas, Inês Gomes & José Miguel**

**Ferreira** NOVA University Lisbon, Portugal

During the 19th century, following the intertwined development of the liberal state and agricultural and forestry sciences, the Portuguese countryside came to be harshly portrayed in discourses centred on the 'progressive improvement' of land use, which included growing opposition to the use of fire. Mountainous territories were conceived as fire-free forested landscapes as part of narratives of age-old environmental destruction and an emerging scientific discourse that condemned slash-and-burn agriculture as 'primitive' or 'barbaric'. Intermittent farming on the cereal plains, based on fallowing and fire practices, were portrayed as "backward" Ancien Régime landscapes opposed to a "continuous" and "educated" agriculture. Fire use was increasingly seen as opposed to scientific forestry and agriculture. This paper covers key works on Portuguese agriculture and forestry – by authors such as Fragoso de Sequeira, Andrade e Silva, Bernardino de Barros Gomes, and Cincinato da Costa – in an attempt to outline the main features of 19th-century fire ecology (in terms of its relationship with vegetation, soil, hydrology and climate). Furthermore, we seek to understand the relationship between this science against fire and the

## Foresters and land ownership in protected areas: the case of the Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park

**Judit Gil-Farrero** University of Zaragoza, Spain

far-reaching modernization of rural territories drawn up at the turn of the 20th century, paying special attention to forestry and grain policies.

The paper analyses the 1976 proposal for the reclassification of the Aigüestortes and Estany de Sant Maurici National Park (Catalan Pyrenees, Spain). The ICONA (Institute for the Conservation of Nature), the body responsible for the management of the national parks, was in charge of preparing the project for the reclassification and extension of the national park. This park had been created in 1955 with an initial surface area of 9,851 hectares, almost half of which was privately owned. The ICONA project envisaged the extension of the boundaries of the national park to an area of almost 19,000 hectares. However, the project excluded almost half of the area of the original park, which was privately owned or affected by urban development projects, and expanded into state, public utility and communal forests. The paper explores the vision that foresters had of the different types of forest ownership and their management within a protected area, as embodied in the reclassification proposal.

## Spanish Foresters and changes in forests understanding and management, 1960 1995

**Iñaki Iriarte Goñi** University of Zaragoza, Spain

After more than 30 years of forest policy guided by authoritarianism, in 1971, the dictatorship of General Franco changed its strategy, dismantled the organizations that had managed the country's public forests until then, and created the Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICONA), which survived until its dissolution in 1995 after trespassing practically all forests policies to the Autonomus Regions Governments. The existence of ICONA also coincides with the progress and consolidation of the "forest transition" process in Spain with all its pros and cons. In this context this communication analyses the role that Spanish foresters played in all these changes, trying to discover how their understanding of forests and of its its social, economic and environmental functions evolved. To do that, this work explores some professional journals and books edited in the period (mainly the papers of the journal "Montes" and the books included in their annual bibliographic reviews) trying to discover the main guidliness of transformation in forest understanding and management.

From genetic improvement to biodiversity conservation: seed orchards and environmental challenges in Spain in the dismantling of the Forest Engineering Regime (1966-1999)

Max Bautista-Perpinyà Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium

This paper examines the evolution of forest seed management at the Spanish Public Forestry Administration's Seed Unit. In the 1960s, forest engineers focused on genetic improvement programmes designed to increase pine size and growth rates. By the 1990s, the focus shifted towards conserving genetic diversity. This change was due to shifting scientific concerns, public perception of environmental issues, and the decentralization of the Spanish state during its transition from the Francoist authoritarian regime towards contemporary democracy. This study highlights several projects aimed at establishing a national network of seed orchards that combined experimentation with seed production. A significant environmental challenge was the Dutch Elm disease, which decimated elms across Europe in the 1970s and 1980s. Engineers and geneticists revisited the genetic improvement methods of the 1960s to develop a disease-resistant Spanish elm variety. Decades later, these methods helped shape a modern conservationist ethos within the engineering corps, whose role in nature conservation and rural policies was increasingly scrutinized.

[Room Sala 2.1, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

10.4. Framing the countryside: the role of moving images in shaping rural perceptions and identities 1

ORGANISERS **Sven Lefèvre** University of Leuven, Belgium, **Brigitte Semanek** Institute of Rural History, Austria **Edouard Lynch** Lumière University Lyon 2, France

MODERATOR **Chantal Bisschop** Centre for Agrarian History, Belgium

Debates across various research fields have extensively explored the evolving characteristics and perceptions of rural areas and the countryside since the Second World War. This double panel builds on those discussions by examining the historical representation of rural spaces through moving images, focusing primarily on non-fiction films and television from the post-WWII period. The central aim is to investigate how these media have framed, shaped, reinforced, and sometimes contested perceptions of rural areas and their identities. The panel begins by exploring visual and narrative representations of the countryside, analyzing how cultural narratives, political claims, and the portrayal of rural landscapes have (tried to) influence(d) ideas about the countryside in the past. These evolving perceptions, shaped by media representations, have played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing policymakers. The first part of the panel will address how rural areas have been portrayed in terms of tradition, modernity, and sustainability, considering the cultural and political debates surrounding rural identity. These portrayals provide insight not only into the historical evolution of rural spaces but also into the ways they continue to shape contemporary perceptions and policies. Building on this foundation, the panel also incorporates methodological approaches about how historic rural spaces are represented today on different levels such as contemporary video-graphic methods such as the video essay, museum exhibitions, and artistic collaborations. These innovative forms of representation provide new lenses through which to view rural areas, revealing the complexities of the rural past and present. By investigating these methods, the panel seeks to highlight how contemporary media not only depict rurality but also actively participate in clarifying the multifaceted identities and relationships that define rural spaces today. The inclusion of these methodological perspectives will offer a deeper understanding of the importance of archiving, cataloguing

## Revisiting “Speed the Plough”: narrative turns in farming and film

**Oliver Douglas** Museum of English Rural Life and University of Reading, United Kingdom

and working with moving images as archivists, museum workers or historians and their contemporary role in the representation of rural history in contemporary society and in the future. By linking these representations to broader social, economic, and environmental transformations, the panel hopes to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of rurality. It will emphasize the role of moving images as educational tools and ideological platforms, shaping the collective imagination about rural life and fostering a better understanding of the interplay between past and present rural identities.

This paper reveals the story of ‘Speed the Plough’ (1958), an informational film about agricultural improvement. It was produced by Halas & Batchelor and commissioned by BP at a time of global intensification in farming. Until a decade ago, the unedited cartoon was used to serve a didactic purpose at the Museum of English Rural Life. When viewed like this, it delivered an uncontested chronology of medieval to modern ploughing, and an implicit lens on ‘Green Revolution’ ideas dominant at the time of its production. Such unabridged use of a cartoon like this in a museum space raises important questions about the nature of film as both historical source and interpretive device. Creative methodologies of videographic essay-making offer opportunities to reframe ‘Speed the Plough’ in critical ways. The paper will conclude with experiments in reframing that are cognisant of decolonial thinking, environmentalism, more-than-human agency, and current perspectives on ploughing practices.

## From economic struggles to organic solutions: analyzing the representation of rural spaces in 1970s ORF documentaries

**Walpurga Friedl** Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria

My paper examines the representation of challenges and proposed solutions for rural areas in the TV documentaries Planquadrat: Ländlicher Raum (“Grid Square: Rural Areas”) and Bodenkultur (“Soil Cultivation”). The focus will be on narratives surrounding organic agriculture as a promising solution to the agricultural difficulties of the late 1970s.

In 1976 and 1977, the Austrian Broadcasting Corporation (ORF) broadcasted a documentary series addressing the economic and social challenges faced by a rural area in Austria. The series explored issues such as economic difficulties, unemployment, shifts in agriculture, the lack of industry, and migration. Its objective was to support the local population in implementing necessary improvements.

The documentaries and subsequent productions by the same filmmakers present organic agriculture as a potential solution to the problems caused by industrialised farming in the second half of the 20th century. In contrast to other solutions, organic agriculture seems to be introduced and promoted by the filmmakers rather than being an idea of the rural community, which is sceptical of these “new ideas”.

## Moving images, unmoved nation: capturing rural Irish life on film but not capturing rural Irish people's imagination

**Mícheál Ó Fathartaigh** University  
of Galway, Ireland and Archives of  
Rural History, Switzerland

At the turn of the twentieth century, paintings of rural Ireland abounded. These depictions, typically of landscapes, communities and people in the west of Ireland, were popular in their own right. However, they also framed the way that nationalist Ireland saw the country. After the Irish state was founded in 1922 the depictions took on an official status as the valorisation of rural Ireland and its way of life became institutionalised. Concurrently, the new Irish state pursued agricultural development vigorously, as both the route to economic prosperity and to preserve and to propagate rural Irish life. Subsequently, as the twentieth century progressed, moving images, films, began to document agricultural development and rural Irish life. Unlike the earlier pictorial images, though, these moving images did not stimulate the interest of the public to the same extent and did not succeed in representing the Irish state to itself. This paper questions why and, furthermore, it seeks to establish what forces were at work, 'behind the scenes'.

## The television series Les Cousins, a distorted mirror of rural France during the 1960's agricultural revolution

**Edouard Lynch** Lumière University  
Lyon 2, France

French television, booming from 1960 onward, while the agricultural revolution was profoundly transforming rural society, accompanied and reported on the ongoing changes through numerous programs and shows. Beyond the "classic" programs enthusiastically showcasing the progress and benefits of modernization, such as the proliferation of tractors or land consolidation, other shows explored, in more original ways, the evolving relationships between cities and the countryside.

This was the case with the series "Les Cousins," co-produced by the ORTF and the Ministry of Agriculture's Cinematheque between 1964 and 1968, which offered intersecting portraits of city dwellers and rural inhabitants born into the same family, but whose lives and circumstances had deeply diverged. Directed and narrated by Pierre Desgraupes, one of the leading figures in French television journalism, the series enjoyed significant viewer-ship success, with the initial 13 episodes followed by 13 more. The diversity of characters, locations, and situations highlighted both the persistence and the renewal of stereotypes associated with rural and urban worlds.

[Room **Sala 2.2**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## 10.5. Access to land, social practices, and institutional hybridizations in two hemispheres 3

**ORGANISERS** **José-Miguel Lana Berasain** Public University of Navarre, Spain, **Marta Martín Gabaldón** National Autonomous University of Mexico, Mexico  
**Manoela Pedroza** Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

In recent decades, the social history of property has become a fruitful meeting point for discussing and understanding the social dynamics surrounding the management of natural resources and the distribution of their fruits. Understanding property as a social relationship, the analysis of the alignments of this relationship and the tensions that arise around them allows us to delve into the basic structures of the social order and its dynamics of transformation. The concept of “institutional bricolage” fits well with an approach that emphasizes the centrality of social interactions and popular agency in understanding the historical transformation of land rights. Beyond the literalness of legal codes, we are interested here in analyzing how the everyday practices of social groups contributed to erecting property systems with both exogenous and endogenous components. A relational approach allows for a better understanding of actors’ responses to processes of change and their ability to adapt to new circumstances through practices of institutional hybridization in specific contexts with particular balances of power. In this session, we hope to attract research regarding this issue through theoretical and methodological approaches or case studies in different latitudes or times.

## Not the poor man’s country: the unexplored intersection of women and the heritable long-lease farm in 19th Century Grampian

**Iain Riddell** Freelance, Scotland

During economic crunches, nineteenth century male farmer voices were raised across the northeast of Scotland to complain and dispute the organisation of land which was limiting the capacity of men to step up onto the tenancy ladder (Examiner, 1875). Yet at no point were the rights of sisters, daughters, mothers, aunts, nieces in farming discussed; and Carter in pursuit of his European Peasant studies identified from the Scottish census results that at any point in the nineteenth century 10% of farmers in north-east Scotland were women (Carter 1976, 151–191; Carter 1979). He then immediately declared that there was nothing else of significance to pursue.

Digitised enumeration returns, press clippings, and tax rolls, reveal women who farmed 5 to 500 acres for a plethora of reasons, independence, kinship loyalties, stabilising tenancy dynasties, surviving illegitimacy. It is important to note that the tools exist to build complex webs of relatedness, that link people, records, and acres, which can be centred on these land-working women. The webs reveal the consistent presence of Scottish women in northeastern societies across the decades as individuals, kin-groups and as female-economic actors who can be subjected to themes of social capital, Dunbar’s number, matrifocality and historical-psychology.

## Bylaws from two shores: contexts, players and rules in the 'ordenanzas' of Los Llanos (Venezuela) and La Montaña (Spain)

**José-Miguel Lana Berasain**

Public University of Navarre, Spain

In January 1794, the collective of landowners and livestock breeders of the region of Los Llanos (Venezuela) presented a long and detailed document, organized in 147 articles, grouped in 17 titles and 4 treaties, and asked the Crown for its approval. Through this project, known as 'Ordinances of Llanos' they assumed jurisdiction over the territory by themselves (through a governing board, judges and mounted forces) and defined the rules of management and use, as well as fines and judicial procedures. The document has a very repressive flavor, stipulating fines (monetary and corporal) for those who break the rules, particularly those related to wild resources ('ganado orejano') and the labor market. Published by Miquel Izard (1934-2024) in 1983, these ordinances drawn up by the Oligarchy of Los Llanos contrast sharply with the bylaws that governed the valleys of northern Spain, where most of these landowners came from. This gives us the opportunity to analyse the complex meaning of concepts such as social capital and institutions of collective action.

## The construction of a memory for the property in the Commonwealth of Aralar-Enirio (Gizpuzkoa, Spain)

**Camilla de Freitas Macedo**

Leibniz University Hannover,  
Switzerland

The bylaws currently in force for the Mancomunidad de Aralar-Enirio (1945), located in the territory of Gipuzkoa (northern Spain), highlights the existence of a 1409 "agreement and consent" document, by which "the councils of Amezketta and Ordizia definitively acquired the mountains of Enirio and Aralar." It emphasizes a historical context in which these two councils were involved in a dispute with a private individual who claimed ownership rights over the land, "despite the claims of the aforementioned councils regarding existing ownership rights over those mountains". Additionally, it states that the other 13 villages that are now part of the Mancomunidad were voluntarily unionized with them at the time of the acquisition. By comparing these statements with documents from the 17th and 18th centuries, this paper seeks to explore the development of collective memory within this commonwealth, particularly focusing on the legal implications of the bylaws within the historical context in which they were enacted.

## Grassland rules: transformation of pastoral practices in the Aragonese Pyrenees (19th-20th centuries)

**Íñigo Ena Sanjuán**

Pyrenean Ecology Institute, Spain

Until the late-nineteenth century, common pastures in the Pyrenees were exploited according to medieval and early modern agreements between valley councils. Those pacts were the result of negotiations and centuries-old practices adapted to grassland ecosystems. In the first decades of the twentieth century, the few agreements that were still in force disappeared because of conflicts between valleys. Shepherds and livestock breeders had to change their practices, and new regimes of land tenure started to emerge. As in the past, these new regimes were shaped by local actors, but also by state officers, entrepreneurs, and other non-local actors that decisively influenced the transformation of the ancient pastoral practices and, by extension, of grassland ecosystems. This paper presents two case studies of the Aragonese Pyrenees, tracing the evolution of grassland tenure and

## Confronting tradition with authority: social reaction to the early land enclosures in 17th century Catalonia

**Marc August Muntanya Masana**  
University of Girona, Spain

exploitation, pastoral practices, and ecological dynamics in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

In the late 16th and 17th centuries, landowners in the Principality of Catalonia (most of them from Barcelona) appealed to the “Batllia General de Catalunya” authority to publish “ban” (a public call) in order to close their properties. That was not the enclosure of common property but the restriction of common practices such as grazing or gleaning, wood or fruit gathering or even passing by. Similar “bans” were to be widely used all around Catalonia in the 18th century. Land enclosures of the 18 and 19th centuries have been well-studied by CONGOST, BOSCH, GIFRE, PELLICER, SERRANO et al.

The particularity of the early “bans” is its co-existence and collision with an open field grazing system. This paper aims to explore the social responses of the affected populations, their understanding of land ownership, common practices, and justice through the study of over 100 criminal records and inquiries from the Batllia General from 1579 to 1710.

By putting these developments in the broader context of early modern Europe, this paper aims to contribute to the understanding of land uses and property: custom and law. And how enclosures shaped the socio-economic landscape of Catalonia.

[Room **Sala 4.4**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 10.6. Peasant women in socialist Europe: diverse realities and experiences 1

**ORGANISERS Zsuzsana Varga**  
Eötvös Lorand University,  
Hungary, **Zarko Lazarevic & Janja Sedlacek** Institute of  
Contemporary History, Slovenia

**MODERATOR Zarko Lazarevic**  
Institute of Contemporary History,  
Slovenia

**DISCUSSANT Peter Moser** Archives  
of Rural History, Switzerland

In post-World War II European socialist countries, the accumulation of resources for accelerated industrialization came to a considerable extent from insufficient investments in agriculture and underpaid peasant labor. This was accompanied by a process of de-agrarianisation, in which the industrial sector initially employed predominantly male labor. Peasant women, therefore, assumed a larger role in agriculture. This increased their workload but also contributed to their gradual emancipation, altering their roles in the family, agriculture, and society. However, the experiences of peasant women were not uniform across socialist Europe; they depended on the unique socio-political and economic context of each country. While the majority of states adopted the Soviet collective agriculture model and modified it according to their needs and social specifics, others, like Yugoslavia and Poland, developed entirely distinct approaches. These variations resulted in significant differences in the status and experiences of peasant women. For instance, in the GDR, peasant women were largely employed on state farms and thus became workers with associated (albeit limited) rights, while peasant women in Slovenia maintained work on private farms to a larger extent.

The socio-economic position of peasant women was already discussed at the Rural History 2023 conference (double panel by Zsuzsanna Varga, Eötvös Loránd University) and in a special issue of the Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe (2022) titled Expectations, Opportunities, Realities: Women in Socialist and Post-Socialist Rural Transformations. This panel, therefore, aims to deepen and broaden the already addressed questions and study them comparatively. We welcome contributions on the realities and experiences of peasant women in individual socialist states, as well as comparative studies.

We focus on the role of peasant women within the family, society, agriculture, and the state in post- World War II socialist Europe. These issues will be explored from three main perspectives: the attitudes of authorities and ideology, the actual situation of peasant women, and their self-perception. Some of the key questions include how authorities viewed changing gender roles in agriculture, what policies were implemented (e.g., social security, education, childcare), and how these reflected socialist ideology. The panel also aims to address the roles of peasant women in reality: the work they performed on farms or cooperatives, their family roles, education levels, access to cultural goods, and their participation in agricultural management. It aims to raise questions about social stratification and peasant women's involvement in shaping their rights. Finally, we would like to explore how peasant women perceived their position, whether they demanded recognition and rights, and if they received support from organizations like cooperatives and women's groups.

We welcome contributions on: Peasant women in ideology and policies; Their self-perception; Their roles in family, agriculture, and society; The influence of cooperatives and collectives on their status in socialism; In this panel, "peasant women" includes all women who worked formally or informally in agriculture (whether in the state or private sector) or simply lived on farms (elderly peasant women, disabled peasant women, etc.).

## Healthcare and rural modernization: a comparative study of rural women in Poland and Hungary during the socialism

**Ewelina Szpak** Polish Academy of Sciences, Poland **Zsuzsanna Varga** Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary

The healthcare system in the countries of the Soviet zone of influence was reshaped from the late 1940s copying the Soviet model, which provided universal, free healthcare to all citizens. The main beneficiaries were the employees of state-owned enterprises. The peasant society was excluded. Health care, just like pension-system, was later extended to this stratum as part of collectivisation. In Hungary, by 1961, the vast majority of the peasantry had been forced into large socialist farms, but in Poland, small peasant farms remained in agriculture throughout the socialist period.

In the present paper, we are going to investigate how these discrepancies have influenced the state-provided healthcare for rural women in Poland and Hungary. We pay special attention on the one hand to the health

## Peasant women, co-operative activists and reproductive labour: the case of socialist Yugoslavia in the 1950s

**Jelena Tešija** Central European University, Austria

services they could use for free or for a fee, on the other hand to the development of new hygiene practices and lifestyles in both countries.

In 1951, women activists began establishing *Sekcije žena zadrugarki* (Co-operative Women's Sections) within the Yugoslav co-operative system. These sections were understood as the most appropriate organizational forms for working with and among peasant women. While collaborating closely with women from other organizations, co-operative women's activists primarily carried out educational and advocacy activities about agricultural production and peasant women's reproductive labour. The Section active on a federal level was a member of the International Co-operative Women's Guild (ICWG) – an international organization of co-operative women that dealt with various topics from the sphere of reproductive labour.

Following and building on inclusive perspectives on labour activism in and out of the state, I claim that the co-operatives were important venues of women's labour activism in socialist Yugoslavia. This paper sheds light on this activism by exploring women's ideas and activities concerning reproductive labour in the Yugoslav countryside in the 1950s and internationally. I aim to show how moving Yugoslav co-operative women's activism to the front could help rethink the concept of labour activism in terms of actors, topics and places in which this activism took place, and therefore result in conceptual and analytical benefits for gender, labour and rural history.

## Stratification and inequalities among peasant women in socialist Slovenia

**Janja Sedlaček** Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia

In socialist Slovenia, peasant women did not form a unified category. Amid rapid industrialization, the employment of predominantly male labor outside the agricultural sector became a key family strategy on the prevalent small private farms. This approach provided an additional source of income and the right to at least one pension. As a consequence, the majority of peasant women, in addition to caring for their families and households, also took on a significant part of the farm work that had previously been done by men.

However, alongside this largest group of peasant women, there were also women who were employed outside the farm (typically still working on the farm in the afternoons), peasant women from fully farming households where no family member was employed outside the farm, disabled peasant women, and elderly peasant women, among others.

Based on these features and other factors (such as property rights to the farm), peasant women differed in terms of family income, the type and amount of their workload, their employment status, and, finally, when and to what extent they acquired social rights.

This paper will, therefore, address and present the stratification within the group of peasant women and the mentioned differences between them.

## The representation of women in the journal Magyar Mezőgazdaság 1959 to 1989

**Nigel Swain** University of Liverpool, United Kingdom

Very little has been written on the role of women on collective farms in socialist Hungary (or any other country of Central Europe). It would hardly be an exaggeration to say that women did most of the hard work on collective farms, but their contribution is invisible. This paper will assess how women were represented in the pages of the weekly journal for those working in agriculture, Magyar Mezőgazdaság (Hungarian Agriculture) during the three key collectivised decades 1959, when the final mass collectivisation began, until 1989, when socialism ended. The role of women might be little discussed, but at the very least they figure in pictures. nearly always in stereotypical roles. At the time of writing, this project is a work in progress, but even the pictures viewed so far begin to tell a story, and just occasionally there is an article specifically on women, and, equally rarely, the regular columns reporting the activities of brigade leaders include women brigade leaders commenting on their problems and activities.

[Room **Anfiteatro 4.1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 10.7. Revisiting labour on large rural properties in 19th and 20th centuries Brazil and Latin America: sociability, rights, and democracy

**ORGANISERS** **Gillian McGillivray** York University, Canada, **Marcus Dezemone** Rio de Janeiro State University and Fluminense Federal University, Brazil **Leonardo Soares dos Santos** Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

**MODERATOR** **Leonardo Soares dos Santos** Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

Reflections on labour relations in the rural world offer a crucial key to understanding the fight for democracy in Latin America, especially in Brazil. The rural world in general—and large properties in particular—have undergone numerous and intense changes at the same time that researchers studying the countryside have developed new methodologies through fruitful and rich international debates. The relationships between these changes - in the rural world and in academic spaces – continue to deserve researchers' attention.

The concept of a “great transformation” in agriculture has played a central role in shaping our reflections on Latin American rural areas. In this vein, researchers have begun to more accurately understand how the State and its institutions mediate and regulate rural conflicts; how companies developed and changed systems of organization of production and labour, and how capital and land have been (re)distributed and (re)concentrated. More recently, researchers have begun to add nuance to the interpretative perspectives linked to modernization theory by adding cultural, social and environmental variables to economic and political debates. These variables, which include geographic origin, generational differences, professional qualifications, gender diversity, race, and ethnic distinctions, help to explain inequalities regarding access to—and management of—natural resources.

As a result, much progress has been made toward answering questions that deepen our understanding of the relationships between economic development and democracy in the rural world. Processes that have attracted thick historiographies have been made more complex, as researchers introduce new questions and approaches to identify diverse networks of sociability and notions of rights in the rural world. This movement has contributed to a challenging and questioning of traditional historiography.

	<p>Our panel speaks to this challenge, and we propose the following questions: what were the impacts of the “great transformation” in relation to everyday life and social mobilization; conflicts; sociability networks; multiple inequalities; diversity; regulatory entities; forms of organization, and leisure spaces? What collective actions, expressed through conflicts (some with greater and others with lesser public visibility) could be developed in such contexts in Latin America and Brazil?</p> <p>Overall, the panel aims to bring together studies of large estates in Latin America and Brazil characterized by these new approaches, both in terms of economic and political processes on the one hand, and their locally specific cultural, social and environmental aspects, on the other. Our goal is to build notions of rights, citizenship and democracy into our work.</p> <p>We welcome studies at different geographic scales, especially those that recognize transnational relations or are linked to recent ongoing international debates.</p>
<p><b>This land has an owner! Disputes and property rights in the sesmarias of Santo Antônio de Guarulhos (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 19th century)</b></p> <p><b>Marina Monteiro Machado</b> Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil</p>	<p>This work focuses on the north of the captaincy of Rio de Janeiro, from on the 19th century, to examine the occupation and disputes involving land ownership and the expansion of the frontiers. To this end, we focused on the lands of the extinct Aldeamento de Santo Antônio de Guarulhos, located in Campos dos Goytacazes, between the years, proposal has as its guiding thread three requests for sesmarias in the lands formerly occupied by the old settlement, which receive different routes, and reveal different interests in the areas in which groups of landowners were established.</p>
<p><b>From rural to a tourist destination: land grants and the territorial transformation process in Florianópolis, Brazil (1900-1980)</b></p> <p><b>Kassia Rossi</b> Fluminense Federal University, Brazil</p>	<p>This paper presents the results of a research study that addressed issues of land property in the transformation of a rural locality into a tourist sea-side destination. The subject of the study was the district of Canasvieiras, located in Florianópolis, a state capital in the south of Brazil. Until the mid-20th century, this region was composed mostly of small peasant and fishermen communities. However, starting in the 1960s, the area underwent a process of urbanization and tourism development, which was endorsed by municipal and state public sectors.</p> <p>Concurrently, the state of Santa Catarina titled more than forty plots of land, considered unclaimed lands, in the district of Canasvieiras. The main objective of the research was to understand the role of land grants by the state in the territorial transformation process, marked by the influence of an economic elite in public policies, which led to the creation of the region’s main beachfront subdivisions.</p>

## Forms of sociability and leisure practices in Rio de Janeiro's sugar zone: football teams in Campos dos Goytacazes (1917-1990)

**Leonardo Soares dos Santos**

Fluminense Federal University, Brazil

To this end, the research made use of forty-six land concession processes as its primary source, as well as notarial documents, legal proceedings, legislation, newspapers, interviews, etc. This documentation was organized for the construction of maps using theoretical and methodological tools from Spatial History and Historical GIS.

This research explores the social and political importance of football teams in the sugar factories of Campos dos Goytacazes in the Northern region of the state of Rio de Janeiro. Most so-called "factory (usina) teams," were formed by—or with—professional employees and workers from companies' factories and fields. A majority of teams emerged between the years of 1910 and 1950, the era that more or less coincided with the Golden Age of Rio de Janeiro's modern sugar economy. The paper will demonstrate that even though sugar factory owners were the ones that sponsored factory teams, the teams offered important opportunities for solidarity-building as they included both professional labourers from inside the factories as well as rural workers from the sugar-cane fields. The teams played a very important role that contributed to solidarity among workers and they represented a significant presence, at different times in the twentieth century, in the city of Campos dos Goytacazes's football championships. This research is difficult to carry out, since no team or factory produced and preserved documentation relating to its teams, but fortunately former players have agreed to being interviewed. In this sense, Oral History methodology played a crucial for collecting information for this paper.

## From slavery to land access: sociability in the construction of rights in the province and state of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (1871-1987)

**Marcus Dezemone**

Fluminense Federal University and Rio de Janeiro State University, Brazil

This paper looks at sociability networks and everyday practices to understand how rural workers constructed notions of rights to demand access to land over multiple generations. The paper's geographical focus is on the mountainous region of the province, then state, of Rio de Janeiro, in an area dedicated to coffee exports, characterized by large rural properties. The temporal focus begins with the end of the nineteenth century, when abolition drew near and the planters that exploited enslaved workers had to adjust their labour regimes. It extends through to the re-democratization of Brazil in the late 1980s. The research questions classic theses and established interpretations about the Brazilian rural world, indicating new possibilities for understanding: 1) the permanence of social practices and rights that originated during slavery among legally free rural workers, including European immigrants; 2) the formation of notions of rights in the Vargas Era (1930-1945), a period considered by historiography as one of abandonment of the countryside and the rural world; and 3) the use of these notions of rights during the Military Dictatorship (1964-1985) to remain on the land in the face of attempts to expel workers and their families.

## From paternalism to precarity: land and labour policies under a French enterprise in Brazil, 1907-1969

**Gillian McGillivray** York  
University, Canada

This paper spotlights the unusual case of a French sugar company operating outside France's empire during a dramatic 60-year period in Brazilian history. Case studies of 5 large sugar factories owned by the "Société de Sucreries Brésiliennes" will help chart the shift from paternalism to precarity for the 1000s of industrial and agrarian workers employed by the company. The made-in-France, assembled-in-Brazil factories that the Société purchased in 1907 were established just before Brazilians transitioned from Empire to Republic in 1889. My presentation will offer hypotheses for the questions I aim to answer through my 2025/26 research in Brazil and France: (i) how did a foreign-owned company take root and manage workers, cane-fields, and factories through WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and Brazil's mid-20th century nationalist regimes, when food scarcity, inflation, and strikes prompted nationalization for other foreign-owned enterprises including railroads, shipping, and petroleum companies? When the company changed its management policies, opting for machines and contract workers over sharecropping and company towns, how did workers employed by the French company respond? Finally, why did Brazil's most notorious dictator, Emílio Médici(1969-1974) nationalize the Société's fields and factories in 1969, less than a decade after Fidel Castro nationalized Cuba's US-owned sugar companies?

[Room **Sala 4.3**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 10.8. Wetlands as colonized and decolonized spaces 2

ORGANISERS **Harro Maat**  
Wageningen University,  
Netherlands **Joana Sousa**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal

MODERATOR **Joana Sousa**  
University of Coimbra, Portugal

DISCUSSANT **Fernando Mouta**  
University of Lisbon, Portugal

Wetlands are currently portrayed as valuable and vulnerable ecosystems that require protection and restoration. Restoration opens up a task for historians, to address questions about how people lived with and in wetlands, across different times and places. This session addresses wetlands as contested spaces, attracting rulers that aimed for colonization and turning wetlands into productive agricultural zones, as well as attracting runaway migrant communities turning wetlands into productive decolonized muddy zones of refuge and self-sufficiency. Although dismissed as insalubrious and sources of disease by certain scientific discourses in the past, powerful actors have tried to control wetlands, not rarely in long-lasting and haphazard trajectories of technological success and failure. Marginalized actors, or those escaping the control of states, have also had mixed experiences, often facing intense, brutal or long-lasting permanence in the swampy soils of wetlands. They often used wetlands as a refuge, finding benefit from the inhospitable combination of shallow waters, muddy fields and impenetrable vegetation as an effective defense against conquerors and raiders. Again other groups were driven into wetlands as part of an enslaved or otherwise coerced labour force, making flooded zones suitable for agricultural purposes. What these groups have in common is a livelihood rooted in wetlands. Productive practices rely on techno-nature arrangements capable of controlling the movements of water and sediment for the purposes of agricultural production. Papers in this session are rooted in new global histories that put agricultural practices at the centre, perceiving these practices as assemblies of vegetation and crops, technology

	<p>and other non-human actors next to a variety of human individuals and peoples that lay claims over wetlands in different ways. Contestations over wetlands ultimately reflect processes of colonization and decolonization, having roots in European conquest, the Transatlantic trade of enslaved people and plantation agriculture. Wetlands also inhibit contested ideas of food production and therewith provide prominent examples for debates over food security versus food sovereignty. Histories of contested wetlands speak to current restoration policies that emphasize non-human ecologies by prioritizing wetlands for biodiversity conservation and carbon-sink environments. Papers in this session emphasize historical trajectories of contested access and rights, with implications to the commoditization of land, extractivism and dismantling of wetland-based livelihoods.</p>
<p><b>Designing ideal wetlands for rice: Rokupr rice research station and the West Africa Rice Development Association</b></p> <p><b>Lin Yi-Tang</b> University of Zurich, Switzerland</p>	<p>Rokupr, a small town at the estuaries of the Great and Little Scarcies, with its tidal swamp rice culture, has long been the heart of rice production in Sierra Leone. It became a key node of West African wetland rice research from the 1930s with the establishment of a rice research station by the British Colonial Government to address rice shortages. In 1953, the station was promoted to the West African regional level under the UK Colonial Development and Welfare Act (1940) and several territories in the region. As Sierra Leone gained independence, the station was confined to the national level and became a research station of Njala University before becoming the West Africa Rice Development Association's mangrove rice research center. By focusing on Rokupr and the rice research station, this paper studies the relationship between rice science research in West Africa and how it shaped the categorization and disciplines of wetlands. It draws on archival and oral histories collected in Sierra Leone to reconstruct the development of rice research in wetland topography after decolonization.</p>
<p><b>Navigating the end of slavery in Yorùbá wetlands</b></p> <p><b>Aaron Wilford</b> Northwestern University, United States of America</p>	<p>This presentation looks at West Africa's transition to abolition as an ecological project, one in which British colonialists sought to mitigate and harness wetlands and in which Yorùbá living in southwestern Nigeria revised their relationships with littoral landscapes to capitalize on new demand for cash-crop exports. It places Yorùbá uses and understandings of swamps, rivers, and lagoons at the forefront of histories of agriculture, settlement, and industry. When liberated Africans and foreign missionaries arrived in the Bight of Benin as part of Britain's effort to end the slave trade and introduce cash-crop industries in the mid-century, they brought ideas that these wetlands were not only harmful, but potentially evil, fearing especially rivers as pirate dens and swamps as health hazards. In their effort to control inland waters, diasporic returnees and British travelers relied on Yorùbá canoemen who navigated tides and sandbars, on agriculturalists who intimately knew rainy and dry seasons, and on local philosophies of water.</p>

## The ongoing end of rice in Biombo: colonial forced labour, sea-level rise and rural exodus

**Joana Sousa** University Coimbra, Portugal, **Benício C6 & Djone Camala** University Institute of Lisbon, Portugal

Rice production was described as central to the livelihoods of coastal peoples in Guinea-Bissau. However, the combination of volatile political and economic conditions together with the effects of climate change have been undermining the socioecological conditions needed to ensure the stability of water management infrastructure on which rice production depends. Several villages have seen their rice production interrupted or only rudimentarily maintained. In 2022-2023, we carried out interviews and narrated walks with farmers in abandoned and active rice fields in Ch6o de Biombo, homeland to the Pepel people. Contrary to other cases in Guinea-Bissau, in Ch6o de Biombo the reproduction of rice-based livelihoods has been immersed in hardship throughout the 20th century. Forced labour was used by the colonial administration to increase rice production for the benefit of colonial exports to Europe. After independence (1974), the effects of dry spells together with seawater incursions, as well as the lack of support by governments ever since, all led to a decrease in rice production. Although colonialism and the effects of climate change are important drivers, responsibility for the ongoing loss of rice production in Biombo was distributed locally, which is an added layer of injustice that reproduces itself into the future.

## Farming on a gradient from wet to dry; Maroon rice cultivation in Suriname

**Nicholaas Pinas** Naturalis Leiden and Wageningen University, Netherlands

European colonizers who settled in the coastal zone of the Guianas used extensive drainage techniques to create plantations. The heavy work this involved is considered a major reason why revolt and escape among the enslaved workforce was so prominent in these areas. Interestingly, the Maroon communities that settled further upstream along the rivers developed a very different and more labour-efficient way of managing excess of water. This paper presents some of the rice farming techniques of Maroon farmers, focusing on varietal selection. Maroon rice varieties are categorized by varieties that grow well under dry conditions and varieties that grow well under wet conditions, indicated as sun lovers and water lovers. Naming patterns reflect this distinction, for example, the variety named fisi (fish) was for water-logged parts of a field. Sowing this variety on a dry patch would lead to stunted growth and lower yields. The Maroon way of dealing with wet and dry and the colonial practices to control the water in coastal wetlands show how productive uses of wetlands contain particular understandings and ways of dealing with a wet-to-dry gradient.

**Freedom among the mangroves: liberated African villages in Colonial Gambia and the environmental limits of abolitionist settler colonialism 1816-1869**

**Lamin Manneh** University of London, United Kingdom

The paper examines British colonial expansion in the Gambia River Basin in the mid-19th century through territorial expansion and land reclamation in the thick mangrove estuaries that line large parts of the River. I argue that much of the colonial expansion of this period was enacted by the colonial government to satisfy the land needs of newly settled Liberated African communities. Each method of expansion, whether through territorial conquest or land reclamation attempted to solve the problem of establishing a settler colonial agricultural community in a difficult and flood prone mangrove ecosystem. The colonial state’s attempt to establish such communities was part of the British abolitionist belief that the most moral and effective way to “civilize” Liberated Africans was to turn them into peasants engaged in agriculture for the colony. The colony as it was composed in the mid-19th century however, contained many mud flats, meandering creeks, flood plains, salty soil and mangroves not suitable for the colonial cash crops desired by the British. As such, the paper shows this period of expansion to be one of social and political crises in the colony and explores what new models and dynamics of Liberated African freedom emerge as a result.

[Room **Sala 2.4**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

**10.9. The history of environmental resource management in Europe: sustainable practices through time**

ORGANISERS & MODERATORS **Matteo Di Tullio** University of Pavia, Italy, **Anna Maria Stagno** University of Genoa, Italy

The investigations on how and with which results the environmental resources were managed in the past is one of the main topics in rural and environmental history and archaeology. However, an articulated dialogue on this subject is far to be consolidated. The goal of the session is to favor new studies and comparisons between ‘grammars’, concepts and research practices from these different fields, in order to promote an interdisciplinary approach to the study of the environment, going beyond the simple collection of different experiences. It is also the occasion to present a book devoted to this topics withthe aim to develop a dialogue between the ‘sister disciplines’ rural history and rural archology, confronting perspectives and methodologies for the analysis of an important issue, which had pivotal consequences in the past as well as today. Moreover, the purpose of the book is to provide a comparison of the different practices of environmental resources management in Europe and Turkey, exploring in particular the actions promoted to cope with the sustainability problems.

**From law to landscape: environmental resource management and sustainability in 19th-century Southern Europe**

**Pedro Mota Tavares** NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

The management of environmental resources is a key theme in rural and environmental history, yet interdisciplinary dialogue remains limited. This paper examines how political transformations in 19th-century Southern Europe influenced environmental policymaking in Portugal and Spain. By integrating rural history, political discourse analysis, and 19th-century scientific and engineering texts, it enhances understanding of environmental governance and sustainable practices.

Expanding political participation in the 19th century reshaped environmental policies. As legislative bodies became more inclusive, they incorporated

	<p>individuals with engineering and scientific expertise, fostering new approaches to environmental management. This shift shaped inland water and forestry regulations, as seen in Portugal's late 19th-century environmental laws and Spain's forestry and water policies. By linking rural history with engineers' and scientists' contributions, this study highlights how technical knowledge informed legislative debates and decisions.</p> <p>This research contributes to broader efforts to integrate scientific and technical expertise into historical analysis. Examining engineering and scientific writings alongside legislative records reveals how expertise shaped governance, balancing private property rights with public conservation interests. These insights inform discussions on governance, sustainability, and the historical role of technical knowledge in policymaking.</p>
<p><b>Social networks and transoceanic emigration: the role of 19th century emigration in the changes in property and environmental resources management</b></p> <p><b>Adele Repetto, Laura Gago-Chorén &amp; Anna Maria Stagno</b> University of Genoa, Italy</p>	<p>The aim of this paper is to provide a preliminary reflection on the role of transoceanic emigration (thus of the new links and exchanges between the two continents) in the social and productive organization of local communities in Ligurian mountains between the 19th and the first decades of the 20th century. The investigation began with oral history interviews in two hamlets in eastern Ligurian Apennines (Velva and Sopralacroce). Interviews offered a first overview of how emigrants continued to maintain close relationships with their native communities through investments, purchase of lands plots, buildings, in many cases replacing previous share-cropping with small estates. The paper will discuss how the research, through comparison with archival (property lists, notarial acts) and field (rural and landscape archaeology) sources, is verifying how and to which extent these relationships contributed to redefine the management of environmental resources and social networks of the communities involved. The research is conducted by the Laboratory of Archaeology and Environmental History of the University of Genova, in the framework of two research projects (ANTIGONE and CLOE), aimed to reconstruct the historical relationships between transformations in the environmental resources management practices (and therefore, their materialisation in the landscape) and population dynamics.</p>
<p><b>The memory of the landscape: reconstructing the past through fieldwork and documents in Sierra Nevada</b></p> <p><b>Ylenia Paciotti</b> University of Genoa, Italy</p>	<p>The study of resource management over time provides critical insights into the sustainability of historical practices and their role in shaping social and environmental systems. In Sierra Nevada, the shared management of resources - particularly water - has historically sustained the region's ecosystem and biodiversity, contributing for centuries to their reproduction and diversification. This research investigates how these practices changed through time, the decisions driving their transformation, and their reciprocal relationship with the landscape. Changes in environmental resource management over centuries are reconstructed by integrating and comparing archaeological evidence with documentary sources (cadasters, historical cartography, demographic data). The paper illustrates how the landscape</p>

	<p>transformed, reflecting demographic shifts and social organization, through changes in the irrigation system and spatial management.</p> <p>This research is part of the ANTIGONE research project carried out by the Laboratory of Archaeology and Environmental History at the University of Genoa. The project aims to verify the unexpected social effects of changes in managing environmental resources related to the rationalisations of the 19th century and the modernisation of the 20th century and to understand the local contexts where these changes did not take place.</p>
<p><b>Agrarian metabolism: a flow-fund model to analyse agroecosystem services in historical perspective: a case study from Spanish agriculture</b></p> <p><b>Manuel González de Molina &amp; Gloria Guzmán Casado</b> Pablo de Olavide University, Spain</p> <p><b>David Soto Fernández</b> University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain</p>	<p>In this presentation, we will examine the utility of agrarian metabolism approach to explore the specific relationship between the agricultural population and the provision of agroecosystem services (AE-S). Traditionally, family farming has sustained the quality of the biophysical fund elements of agroecosystems through the work that family members have invested both in productive and reproductive tasks. Therefore, changes in the size and composition of the agricultural population and farm types are bound to have consequences on the quality of such fund elements and, consequently, on the AE-S provision. To verify this hypothesis, we adopted the Agrarian Metabolism approach. The case study to verify the methodology is Spanish agriculture during XX and XXI centuries. We will focus on the changes during the period of industrialization of agriculture, since 1960 and the more recent trends since Spain has been part of European Union and participate in Common Agrarian Policy measures, especially since MacSharry reform in 1992.</p>
<p><b>Indigenous resources management in Northern Europe: transition to large scale reindeer herding in northern Fennoscandia</b></p> <p><b>Jesper Larsson</b> Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden</p>	<p>The paper explores how early modern Sami inhabitants in interior north-west Fennoscandia build institutions for the governance of natural resources. It will investigate how they made decision regarding natural resource management, mainly regarding wild game, fish and grazing land for reindeer and how the users altered the long-term rules for use of land and water when the economy changed. The early modern period was a transforming phase of property rights due to fundamental changes in Sami economy: from an economy based on fishing and hunting to an economy where reindeer pastoralism became the main occupation for many Sami.</p> <p>The paper uses an interdisciplinary approach, building on the SES-framework (Social-Ecological Systems). The focus is set on the “rules on the ground”: how users went about to establish and change property rights on a local level, and how they solved social dilemmas associated with natural resource use. Hence, the paper investigates the importance of self-governance to understand early modern natural resource use and how users coped with sustainability problems.</p>

## Heritage, history, and ecology of rural churchyard cemeteries on the polish-czech border: their role in maintaining ecological corridors, sustainable spatial planning, and documenting historical landscape transformations

**Alicja Krzemińska & Anna Zaręba** University of Wrocław, Poland; **Kamil Pawłowski** Voivodeship Office for the Protection of Monuments in Wrocław, Poland **Mariusz Adynkiewicz-Piragas** Institute of Meteorology and Water Management, National Research Institute, Poland

The article presents an analysis of rural churchyard cemeteries located along the Polish-Czech border, which are distinguished by their unique ecological, historical, and spatial value. These cemeteries serve as a foundation for maintaining ecological corridors historically and in the present day, thereby supporting biodiversity. They also provide a basis for documenting historical transformations in the rural landscape. Additionally, they contribute to sustainable spatial planning in rural areas. The first part of the article discusses the function of churchyard cemeteries as biocenters and ecological corridors, facilitating genetic drift and supporting biodiversity in rural and transboundary areas. The subsequent section analyzes the historical transformations of these spaces, focusing on their impact on rural communities, the memory of ancestors, and religious and political influences. The article also highlights the potential to integrate these cemeteries into strategies for sustainable spatial planning in rural areas. It emphasizes that protecting these cemeteries and integrating them into systems of sustainable spatial management can significantly support biodiversity, while also facilitating the documentation and preservation of historical landscape transformations in the Polish-Czech border region.

[Room **Sala 4.2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 10.10. Historical perspectives on accounting as a social practice in organisational management: pathways to accountability and sustainability 2

ORGANISERS **Liliana Pimentel** University of Coimbra, Portugal, **Leonor Fernandes Ferreira** NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal, **Andreia Fernandes** University of Coimbra, Portugal  
MODERATOR **Liliana Pimentel** University of Coimbra, Portugal

This session will explore the historical transformation of accounting as a technical practice focused on financial record keeping, and as a socially integrated mechanism in organisational governance and the promotion of corporate responsibility. Focusing on a timeline from the early modern period to the present, we aim to discuss how accounting has evolved to serve as an essential practice in promoting sustainability and building accountability frameworks within organisations. This analysis will allow us to explore how accounting systems have been shaped to respond to social and regulatory pressures, promoting practices that not only meet stakeholder interests, but also contribute to broader goals of sustainable development and organisational ethics.

The main purpose of this session is to discuss new evidence on the historical links, dialogues and knowledge exchanges between organisational members and accounting agents that have influenced these practices over time, in both corporate and institutional contexts (monasteries, universities, landlords, associations, court and state departments, companies, etc.). This exchange will be examined in the light of the dynamic role of accounting, not only as a top-down control practice, but also as a bidirectional channel that promotes collaboration and the creation of shared value between organisations and their stakeholders. This session aims to provide insights into how accounting, as a multidimensional social practice, contributes to building more responsible organisations in line with the expectations of a more conscious and ethical society.

**Accounting history in Portugal: a bibliometric look at accountability and sustainability**

**Andreia Fernandes & Liliana Pimentel** University of Coimbra, Portugal  
**Leonor Fernandes Ferreira** NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal

The application of a bibliometric analysis on the Portuguese accounting history to explore an area little covered internationally, where studies such as those by Gonçalves et al. (2017) indicate a significant evolution in Portuguese public accounting, especially with the implementation of the SNC-AP in 2018. This study can contextualize local developments within the international scenario and highlight specific contributions from Portugal. Studies such as those by Bigoni et al. (2024) and Ferri et al. (2021) demonstrate the increasing use of critical theories, such as those of Foucault, in the analysis of accounting as a social practice and mechanism of power. A study focused on Portugal could investigate how these dynamics of power and accountability manifest themselves in the Portuguese historical and cultural context, enriching the literature with local perspectives.

Recent literature indicates a growing interest in accountability and sustainability in accounting (Álvarez-García et al., 2023; Rappazzo et al., 2023). By focusing on Portuguese accounting, this study can investigate how accountability has evolved in accordance with accounting reforms and trends towards transparency and social responsibility.

**Agricultural accounting in Portugal: historical trends and social impact**

**Inês Milheiras, Dulce Freire & Liliana Pimentel** University of Coimbra, Portugal

Milheiras, Freire and Pimentel (2024) analyze the historical development of agricultural accounting in Portugal, emphasizing its role in the socio-economic landscape prior to the 20th century. Through bibliometric analysis and archival records, this study maps the influence of accounting practices in the management of agricultural estates, offering insights into how these practices facilitated social organization and economic governance within Portugal's agricultural sector. Their research contributes to the broader understanding of accounting as a social practice, revealing how agricultural accounting provided mechanisms for managing resources and labor in historically significant ways. This paper underscores the value of historical analysis in understanding the socio-economic functions of accounting across different sectors.

**Imperial accounting: a historical tool of power and governance**

**Ángel Ballarín Garnica** Open University of Catalonia, Spain

**Purpose**—The purpose of this paper is to analyse the accounting practices of ancient empires based on agrarian economies and their current impact on modern accounting and planning economic systems.

**Design/methodology/approach**—This is a retrospective essay focusing on research on historical accounting empires. The Inca Empire used the case method analysis, including Benford's law.

**Findings**—Ancient empires have demonstrated how their accounting systems developed and legitimised sovereign power, enabling its incorporation into the territory and allowing mechanisms of social and economic control benefiting governing elites. Despite being agrarian economies, their influence on current accounting and management systems is relevant, emphasising the foundation of advanced systems of administration, resource management and the budgetary framework, consolidating standards of accountability and transparency.

**Public accounting and social responsibility: auditing of municipal finances in the rural communities of the Kingdom of Valencia (15th-16th centuries)**

**Pau Viciano** University of Valencia, Spain

Originality/value—No articles relate imperial accounting to governance and current accounting and management systems. In addition, a thorough analysis of the Inca khipus (an accounting system based on knots) is included to verify its reliability by Benford's law.

Among the issues related to corporate responsibility and ethical practices in accounting management, the auditing mechanisms of public accounts acquired a growing definition during the early modern period. This paper addresses the relationship between social demands for transparency in the management of municipal finances and the forms of accounting verification that were built in rural communities and small cities of the kingdom of Valencia in the 15th-16th centuries. In this sense, the Valencian municipalities, as in the rest of the Crown of Aragon, adapted the institutions that were created in the royal administration and in the large cities to their own social and administrative reality, as a result of social pressure from taxpayers and the internal dynamics of local power, defined above all by the legal frameworks that regulated access to municipal offices.



*Sardine Fishermen, Ilhávo, 1835, Jorge Bekkerster Joubert, National Library of Portugal*

[Room **Gonçalves da Silva**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 10.11. Meet the author: *The political economy of food: the moral and market economies of bread*

**Jonas Albrecht**

## *Milk in Spain and the history of diet change*

**Fernando Collantes**

ORGANISER **Fernando Collantes**  
University of Oviedo, Spain

MODERATOR **Noelia Parajuá**  
University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

DISCUSSANTS **Jonas Albrecht**  
Institute of Rural History, Austria,  
**Amélia Branco** University of Lisbon, Portugal, **Fernando Collantes** University of Oviedo, Spain, **Laurent Herment** School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, France & **Noelia Parajuá** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

This is a meet-the-author session in which two books will be presented and discussed: "The moral and market economies of bread: regulation and reform in Vienna, 1775-1885", by Jonas Albrecht (Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria), and "Milk in Spain and the history of diet change: the political economy of dairy consumption since 1950", by Fernando Collantes (University of Oviedo, Spain). Both books have been published recently by Bloomsbury in its "Food in modern history: traditions and innovations", and they will give us the chance to discuss the political economy of food from a historical perspective. In this sense, the session can be seen as a follow-up to the roundtable "New directions in the history of food systems" that was successfully held at the 2023 Rural History conference at Cluj. The session will feature a short presentation of both books by the authors, followed by discussion. At this stage, two discussants have been fully confirmed: Amélia Branco (ISEG, Lisbon, Portugal), who will also act as chair, and Noelia Parajuá (University of Barcelona, Spain). Both the books' presentations and the discussion will use the case studies to engage in a general conversation on the political economy of food that will be of interest to a wide audience.



Woman from Valongo selling cornbread, João Macphail, 1841, National Library of Portugal

13h00 – 14h30

**LUNCH BREAK**

## Friday, 12th September 2025

Faculty of Economics | 14h30 – 16h30 | **PARALLEL SESSIONS 11**

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>11.1. Imagining space: across community and visual representations of land (1500-1900)</b> Martina Motta, Manuel Bastias Saavedra	11.1.1. Nature management, conflicts, and tax collection: the Alpine territories representation in the Ancient Regime Martina Motta	11.1.2. (Re)building community across ruinscapes: inhabited versus extracted temporality and the epistemic conflict over the nineteenth-century delphic landscape Sean Silvia	11.1.3. Parts in the common: nineteenth-century land property reforms and practical juridical knowledge in the Habsburg monarchy Svit Komel			Anfiteatro 3.2, 3rd floor
<b>11.2. The countryside at war: peasant revolts and struggles in Medieval and Early Modern Europe 2</b> Antoni Furió	11.2.1. Peasant identity and rural revolts in medieval and early modern Majorca Antoni Mas-Forners	11.2.2. The free peasants of the Rheingau and the Peasants' War 1525 Regina Schäfer	11.2.3. Peasants vs. lords: freedom & feudalism (the Catalan Remença Wars, 1462-1486) Rosa Lluch-Bramon			Sala 3.1, 3rd floor
<b>11.3. Class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies 2</b> Alba Díaz Geada, Alberto José Franco Barrera	11.3.1. Towards a crisis of reproduction? Exploring family farming and food expenditure in Spain (1980-2021) Noelia Parajuá, David Soto Fernández, Enric Tello	11.3.2. Negotiating heritage: olive cultivation in a transforming rural landscape Şehriban Dağlı, Ozan Uştuk	11.3.3. Popular construction of the wolf's figure in rural Galicia in the 19th and 20th centuries: community, conflict and class differentiation María Anjhara Gómez Rodríguez			Sala 4.2, 4th floor
<b>11.4. Agrarian dynamics and state initiatives in Napoleonic Europe 2</b> Gérard Béaur, Laurent Brassart, Rosa Congost	11.4.1. The impact of the French presence in French-speaking Switzerland on the rural economy and agrarian policy between 1797 and 1813 Guillaume Favrod	11.4.2. The acclimatization of American cotton in the Napoleonic Empire's Mediterranean Territories: the reasons for the failure of a major agricultural state project? Laurent Brassart	11.4.3. Spaces of rural economy: saltpetre, the soil and its fertility in early nineteenth-century Napoleonic Milan Lavinia Maddaluno	11.4.4. Engineers and agriculturists in the Napoleonic era: some cases from the Po Valley Martino Lorenzo Fagnani		Sala 4.3, 4th floor
<b>11.5. Framing the countryside: the role of moving images in shaping rural perceptions and identities 2</b> Sven Lefèvre, Brigitte Semanek, Edouard Lynch, Chantal Bisschop	11.5.1. Rural mobility experiences in home movies from the 1960s to the 1980s Brigitte Semanek	11.5.2. Farmers' land in farmers' hands: the Belgian Farmers' League's role in defining agriculture and the rural landscape in the contested post-productivist countryside in Flanders (1960-1990) Sven Lefevre	11.5.3. The Eilandspolder quests in two films Peter Veer	11.5.4. On ""The Compass: a research film"" and its contrasts: the recomposition of rurality in contemporary Portugal through documentary films Virgílio Borges Pereira, João Queirós, José Madureira Pinto, Sílvia Correia		Sala 2.1, 2nd floor

SESSION	PAPER 1	PAPER 2	PAPER 3	PAPER 4	PAPER 5	ROOM
<b>11.6. The rural built environment. Histories between architecture and agriculture 2</b> Pedro Namorado Borges, Samuel T. Brandt, Attila Gábor Hunyadi	11.6.1. Seventeenth century noble residences built on a compact ground plan in rural Transylvania Klara Pako	11.6.2. Adapting the rural built environment: repurposing corncribs as cultural heritage in Croatia Leona Matotek, Jasenka Kranjčević, Luka Valožić	11.6.3. A nation's improver: Alberto Gallinal and the creation of Uruguay's Movement for the eradication of unhealthy rural housing Samuel T. Brandt	11.6.4. What farm buildings can teach us about agricultural history: reconstruction of farms in western Flanders (Belgium) after World War I Pol Vanneste	11.6.5. Modernizing the rural habitat: the view and action of the service for rural well-being in Portugal (1958-1977) Pedro Namorado Borges	Sala 4.1, 4th floor
<b>11.7. Meet the author: Interpreting science at museums and historic site</b> Debra A. Reid, Karen-Beth G. Scholthof, David D. Vail						Gonçalves da Silva, 4th floor
<b>11.8. Peasant women in socialist Europe: diverse realities and experiences 2</b> Zsuzsana Varga, Zarko Lazarevic, Janja Sedlacek	11.8.1. The role and representation of Soviet Kolkhoz women: a comparison of propaganda and reality Alexandra Bodnar	11.8.2. The new socialist peasant woman: emancipation, gender division of labour, and agricultural mechanization Polona Sitar	11.8.3. Agricultural and household extension service in the Slovenian part of socialist Yugoslavia Marta Rendla			Sala 4.4, 4th floor
<b>11.9. The archaeology of sharing practices: changes in practices, tools and the social dimension</b> Anna Maria Stagno, Vittorio Tigrino, Margarita Fernández Mier	11.9.1. Historical land-use dynamics in the eastern Ligurian Apennines, north-western Italy: a multidisciplinary approach Chiara Molinari, Bruna Ilde Menozzi	11.9.2. The use of jurisdictional sources for the study of commons: perspectives and limitations of research between the Ligurian Apennines and the French Pyrenees (XVIII-XX c.) Matteo Tacca, Nathan Brenu	11.9.3. From the archaeology of sharing practices to the archaeology of continuities in Commons Anna Maria Stagno	11.9.4. Cueiru ye Cueiru! A contested meeting place Pablo López Gómez		Sala 2.3, 2nd floor
<b>11.10. Celebrating the end of the harvest</b> Richard W. Hoyle, Clare Griffiths	11.10.1. Harvests for the nation: imagery and celebrations of the harvest in Britain in war and peace, 1939-1950 Clare Griffiths	11.10.2. Celebrating the end of harvest in mid-nineteenth century southern England Richard W. Hoyle	11.10.3. Collective harvest in stalinist Hungary: from planning to food shortage, 1948-1953 Dániel Luka			Sala 2.2, 2nd floor
<b>11.11. Water management in the Alps (Late Antiquity-Early Modern)</b> Roberto Leggero, Eugenio Tamburrino, Mirella Montanari	11.11.1. Water management between lordship and collective rule: the case of Valsesia between the 13th and 14th centuries Mirella Montanari	11.11.2. Reflections and comparisons on medieval irrigation systems in Ticino and Valais (Switzerland) Roberto Leggero	11.11.3. Water management in the Alpine and Foothill regions of Veneto: historical perspectives and interdisciplinary insights Eugenio Tamburrino			Sala 2.4, 2nd floor

## Friday, 12th September 2025

### Faculty of Economics

14h30 – 16h30

### PARALLEL SESSIONS 11

[Room **Anfiteatro 3.2**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

#### 11.1. Imagining space: across community and visual representations of land (1500-1900)

**ORGANISERS** **Martina Motta**  
University of Pavia, Italy **Manuel**  
**Bastias Saavedra** Leibniz  
University of Hannover, Germany

**MODERATOR** **Manuel Bastias**  
**Saavedra** Leibniz University of  
Hannover, Germany

Before land began to be imagined as a productive space, requiring cultivation and exploitation of resources, local communities described their territory in a multitude of different ways. The space representation followed collective conventions, it was usually expressed in toponyms, and the community had a practical knowledge of its different places. Inhabitants knew who a pasture on a river bank belonged to, they knew its hay yield, and they did not need to know its exact measurements. From the 17th century onwards, this “internal” observation of space by the community is confronted by an “external” observation by the new central states. The collective environmental image has been replaced by a space constructed through new conventions, whose purpose was to evaluate, control and exploit the territory. In this epochal transition, the new visual representations and cartography became unrecognizable to village communities. This panel explores the tension that exists between the internal observation of the community and the external observation that views the space under a different lens, through questions such as: What kind of media did communities and owners use to describe their space?; How were these spaces described?; What functions did drawings serve in defining space?; What kinds of agents and forums were involved in visual representations of space?; How did drawings relate to other representations of space? Whose interests and interests did drawings represent?

#### Nature management, conflicts, and tax collection: the Alpine territories representation in the Ancient Regime

**Martina Motta** University of Pavia,  
Italy

The following contribution aims to investigate the different ways of territory representation in the context of the Western Alps of Piedmont communities between the 16th and 18th centuries. On the one hand, it is possible to find visual representations of specific areas and related drawings; these were carried out in relation to disputes on borders, or management of water, pastures and woods between different communities. On the other hand, complex and voluminous textual representations began to be drawn up, based on properties and aimed at collecting taxes; this will be the basis from which to draw up the large cartographic surveys by the central state. This kind of documentary resources are useful for multiple purposes. The representations could help to reconstruct the physical image of an alpine community in the Ancient Regime. Furthermore, they testify to the gradual introduction of a new gaze, that of the central state, which no longer perceives the mountain as a remote space but as a propitious land for extractive practices.

**(Re)building community across ruinscapes: inhabited versus extracted temporality and the epistemic conflict over the nineteenth-century delphic landscape**

**Sean Silvia** Princeton University, United States of America

In the ruins of Delphi was a small village, Kastri, built from reused remnants of the ancient city. This paper argues that the villagers held a vibrant local antiquities episteme, including technical knowledge of ruins and construction with them, ruins’ place in local geography, and ruins as a source of spiritual lessons. Nineteenth-century Archaeologists conceived of the Delphic landscape completely differently and illustrated it as layers of time to categorize and physically separate. With pressure from French archaeologists and the Greek state, the villagers were displaced and the village destroyed; the “external” episteme of archaeology replaced the “internal” conception of continually inhabitation ruins. Local residents resisted the demolition till the end, and this paper centers both their resistance and analyzes their distinct episteme. Though there is no record of local drawings in Kastri, the physical buildings that they produced from reused ruins, image-rich local legends, and naming practices are artifacts of visual thinking and shed light on the visual spatial imaginary of the Kastriotes. Reinhabiting ruinscapes was common throughout the Mediterranean, and use of ruins intersected with conceptions of the land, so this case study can inform broader conversations of imagining rural space across history and confrontation with “external” observation.

**Parts in the common: nineteenth-century land property reforms and practical juridical knowledge in the Habsburg monarchy**

**Svit Komel** University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

The paper addresses peasant perceptions of property and land by examining disputes related to nineteenth-century land reforms in the Habsburg monarchy. Existing historiography mostly claims that peasants confused notions of possession, property, and easement, which had to be ordered according to categories of modern property law. Following these reforms the object of real property was to be conceived as a surface abstracted from all its natural contents. The owner of this twodimensional representation of land was to be the exclusive proprietor of everything below and above the ground, whereas all other potential users of natural resources could only hold easements or other secondary rights. Resistances against this new form of real property indicate how ill-fitted and counterintuitive it was from the perspective of peasant practice and established forms of rural land holding. Peasants exhibited a spatial perception of land and property, evidenced in the view that timber, fodder, litter, and other resources may constitute objects of property, as well as in the use of placenames to refer to their lands and non-surface units to measure them. They saw land as a place, rather than as a geometrical surface, and property as the use of resources found in that space.

[Room **Sala 3.1**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]

## 11.2. The countryside at war: peasant revolts and struggles in Medieval and Early Modern Europe 2

**ORGANISER & MODERATOR** **Antoni Furió** University of Valencia, Spain

**DISCUSSANT** **Pau Viciano** University of Valencia, Spain

The year 2025 will mark the 500th anniversary of the Peasants' Wars in Germany, a historical phenomenon that has been widely highlighted and studied by historiography since the time of Karl Marx and, above all, Friedrich Engels, who devoted particular attention to it. On the other hand, the Peasants' Wars of 1525 not only close the Middle Ages and inaugurate Early Modern Times, but also allow us to delve into their nature as either revolt or revolution. Moreover, the Peasants' Wars in Germany do not constitute a single, isolated episode, but are part of a cycle of popular insurrections throughout Europe, from the French jacqueries in the second half of the 14th century and the English uprising of 1381 to the *remensa* wars in Catalonia, the peasant struggles in Majorca, the *Irmandinhas* revolts in Galicia, all in the 15th century, and the Germanies of Valencia and Majorca in the first quarter of the 16th century, coeval with the Peasants' Wars in Germany.

This session aims to explore the nature and motivations of peasant revolts and struggles in late medieval and early modern Europe, their protagonists (serfs, free peasants) and demands, based on the cases of Catalonia, Mallorca, Valencia, and the German region of Rheingau. The choice of these four observatories will make it possible to compare both the social composition of the insurgents and the different nature of their demands and ideology, as well as the balance of forces between the contenders, the scope of the revolt, its successes and, in most cases, its final crushing and subsequent repression.

## Peasant identity and rural revolts in medieval and early modern Majorca

**Antoni Mas-Forners** University of Balearic Islands, Spain

The aim of this paper is to study to what extent the relationship between the different peasant revolts (or those in which the peasants took part), the consolidation of a mechanism of collective representation of the rural inhabitants and the emergence of a rural identity sentiment, opposed to the oligarchy of the only town on the island, was significant.

The military organisation of the peasants was based on the defensive structure of the island, which aimed to mobilise the rural population, and the ability to present structured and written demands must be related to the existence of a mechanism for the permanent representation of the peasants, the 'Sindicat de Fora', created by the king in 1315.

In Mallorca there were two uprisings led by the peasantry (1391, 1450) and a third, the Germania (1521-1523), promoted by artisans, which was joined by the peasantry. In all three, peasants demonstrated their organisational skills and their ability to present very detailed demands and proposals for reform absolutely far from improvised.

All three uprisings were defeated and the rebels were severely repressed. This led to a significant decline in the population. After a few decades the monarchy approved some of the demands of the peasantry.

## The free peasants of the Rheingau and the Peasants' War 1525

**Regina Schäfer** Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz, Germany

The free election of pastors and the abolition of serfdom were central demands of the rebellious peasants in 1524 and 1525. However, regions that did not suffer from these oppressions also took part in the Peasants' War. In the Rheingau serfdom and property transfer taxes were unusual, the population could hear preachers. The rebellious peasants rejected to act together with other uprising groups. Using the free peasants of the Rheingau as an example, the participation of such a privileged region in the Peasants' War will be examined and the picture of the motives of the rebelling peasants might be expanded by a nuance.

## Peasants vs. lords: freedom & feudalism (the Catalan Remença Wars, 1462-1486)

**Rosa Lluch-Bramon** University of Barcelona, Spain

In 1462, Catalan serfs raised in arms against their feudal lords. The remença wars represent a rare example of a sustained and ultimately successful peasant insurrection. These revolted serfs, mostly peasants, were known as remences, because they were tied to the land they occupied and to their lords. In fact, there were two uprisings: one from 1462 until 1472, and again from 1484 to 1486. The first one was caught up with a civil war in which the Generalitat was pitted against the Catalan king.

At the end of XIV century, the remences began to demand freedom, better conditions and the abolition of all arbitrary and abusive exigencies. Certainly, the economic inequalities among the servile peasants played a role in creating the conflict, participating in the war and, especially, in the resolution of the first uprising. Initially, the remences tried to negotiate with feudal lordships, but in 1462, they got the arms. All remences pretend the same? Which are the motivations of the wars? Who won the wars? It was a fight between freedom and feudalism? The aim of this proposal is to respond to these questions.

[Room **Sala 4.2**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 11.3. Class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies 2

**ORGANISERS** **Alba Díaz Geada** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain **Alberto José Franco Barrera** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Alberto José Franco Barrera** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

At present, the dismantling of existing peasant communities and the creation of new forms of exploitation of the labour force in agrarian production continue to advance. At the same time, capitalism expands and renews its growth by dispossession, advancing in the plundering of nature. In this context, while the possibility of understanding historical processes is questioned, successive crises of capitalism once again invite the study of inequality. With this session proposal, we aim to continue to delve deeper into the research of the processes of class differentiation in contemporary rural societies. In order to do it, we propose to start from the field of Marxist discussion around the "agrarian question". In this regard, it is necessary to keep in mind that, from the Marxist tradition, the efforts to understand the role of agriculture and the peasantry in the development of capitalism cannot be understood separately from the efforts to transform this mode of social relations. How have the advances of the capitalist mode of production, in its different historical phases, affected peasant social differentiation, within the framework of different concrete social formations? How has the articulation of this

mode of production with pre-capitalist forms of exploitation affected the internal differentiation of rural societies? How can we explain the instrumental role of the State, in its accompaniment of the construction of a new hegemonic mode of social relations, in relation to peasant societies? How can we explain processes of privatization of the communal, access to land ownership, forced proletarianization, migration or return, in relation to the reproduction of peasant families? How can we explain the relationship between productive and reproductive processes, in their impact on social differentiation? How did class differences change, how did processes of social ascent or declassification occur, how were forms of distinction renewed, at different moments in capitalist society?

We welcome a) theoretical studies or conceptual reflection on the study of class differentiation in contemporary rural societies; b) systematic bibliographic reviews on the study of class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies, in the field of human sciences; c) studies on class differentiation processes in contemporary rural societies. Research on any people or territory and comparative studies are welcome.

## **Towards a crisis of reproduction? Exploring family farming and food expenditure in Spain (1980-2021)**

**Noelia Parajuá & David Soto Fernández** University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain **Enric Tello** University of Barcelona, Spain

This article addresses the evolution of food systems within capitalism and focuses particularly on its reproduction side, exploring two main phenomena: first, the evolution of agricultural holdings and agricultural labour; and second, the evolution of food expenditure in household budgets. While the first issue is critical for the generational reproduction of agricultural labour, which is intrinsically tied to the reproduction of agroecosystems on which food production depends, the latter shows a critical cost—food—for the daily social reproduction on which the production of labour power depends. We explore both issues for the case of Spain between 1980 and 2021. We draw on an agrarian political economy framework, engaging with the agrarian question(s)—particularly, the ‘agrarian question of labour’. We also make use of Social Reproduction Theory, and more broadly, we draw on food regimes and world-ecology conceptualizations. Our results show that the failure of Spanish family farms to reproduce threatens the continuity of biocultural heritage, thereby endangering the sustainability of agroecosystems and, by extension, food production itself. Furthermore, results show that the weight of food expenditure in Spanish household budgets has stopped decreasing, suggesting a change in the trend regarding the cost of food for social reproduction.

## Negotiating heritage: olive cultivation in a transforming rural landscape

**Şehriban Dağlı & Ozan Uştuk**

Izmir Institute of Technology, Turkey

The methods of agricultural production are a fundamental aspect of rural life, shaping its social, economic, and cultural dynamics. In 2023, traditional knowledge, practices, and methods related to olive cultivation in Turkey were included on UNESCO's list of intangible cultural heritage in need of urgent preservation. On the Karaburun Peninsula, olive production has long been a vital source of livelihood and a defining aspect of daily life. However, this heritage has been significantly reshaped by shifting rural demographics, driven by migration from urban to rural areas. These demographic changes have altered the modes and means of production, profoundly transforming rural social structures and relations.

This study seeks to contribute to the understanding of heritage as a dynamic social process by exploring how the olive oil production heritage on the Karaburun Peninsula is constructed and reinterpreted by different social groups. Through in-depth interviews, it aims to show the interplay between productive and reproductive processes, and sheds light on the evolving role of olive oil mills and the contested meanings of heritage within the context of rural transformation.

## Popular construction of the wolf's figure in rural Galicia in the 19th and 20th centuries: community, conflict and class differentiation

**María Anjhara Gómez Rodríguez**

University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain

In all societies there is an historical constant, class differentiation. This process is presided over by conflict in shared spaces, reaffirming differentiated communities. This circumstance extends to the different survival strategies of both classes. The study of the wolf's figure in peasant communities offers us the possibility of studying the mechanisms of construction of cultural identity through orality.

Starting from the condition of subalternity of popular culture formulated by Gramsci, Raymond Williams developed a social definition of culture understood as a dynamic and historical manifestation, which makes it possible to observe the effects of popular culture: its active and potentially transformative role in society.

This analysis proposes to carry out a systematic review of the literature on the study of popular culture as an expression of class conflict for the Galician case, taking as a common thread the construction of the wolf's figure in the rural collective imagination, which allow and demand an exhaustive review of oral literature and its possible written expression.

[Room **Sala 4.3**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 11.4. Agrarian dynamics and state initiatives in Napoleonic Europe 2

**ORGANISERS** **G rard B aur** French National Centre for Scientific Research, France, **Laurent Brassart** University of Lille and French National Centre for Scientific Research, France **Rosa Congost** University of Girona, Spain

**MODERATOR** **Rosa Congost** University of Girona, Spain

**DISCUSSANT** **Luciano Maffi** University of Parma, Italy

Curiously, historians were not very prolific on agrarian issues during the Napoleonic period, after the avalanche of works focused on the Revolution. Although they have not been totally ignored, and there are a number of high-quality works that have focused on them, historiography has not made them a priority. The aim of this session is precisely to try and partially fill this regrettable gap for two reasons. The first is that, far from being static, agrarian systems underwent major transformations, if only because of the effects of the conquest and the disproportionate extension of imperial influence. Secondly, it would be wrong to think that the Empire paid only discreet attention to these issues. On the contrary, they were at the heart of the State's action within the framework of the 130 departments, in the satellite states and beyond in the states invaded or attracted by the reforms undertaken in France. The aim of this session is precisely to help fill this gap, which is regrettable for two reasons. The first is that, far from being static, agrarian systems underwent major transformations, if only because of the effects of the conquest and the disproportionate extension of imperial influence. Two priorities guided the Napoleonic State's action in agrarian issues.

A financial priority: The redefinition of property rights, the redistribution of land, agrarian reforms and the reorganisation of the tax system, which was largely based on the taxation of land, were all aimed at finding the resources needed to implement a policy of expansion for France and recovery for other countries.

An economic priority: The aim of encouraging innovation and putting a lot of pressure on farming and technical experimentation was to create the conditions for growth and agricultural progress to satisfy the demands of the population and businesses.

It is therefore the different aspects of this intervention from the State (or the states that are aggregated with it), and the ways in which they are managed in the agrarian field, that this session sets out to examine. We welcome proposals that will highlight these perspectives on the scale of the Napoleonic Empire or of all the territories that made it up.

## The impact of the French presence in French-speaking Switzerland on the rural economy and agrarian policy between 1797 and 1813

**Guillaume Favrod** University of Lausanne, Switzerland

Between 1797 and 1813, the predominantly rural areas of French-speaking Switzerland were successively liberated, annexed and integrated into the territorial divisions of the Helvetic Republic - canton du L man (Vaud) - and the French Republic - departments of L man (Geneva) and Simplon (Valais).

While the urban political and business elites embraced the regime, the rural population remained skeptical about promises to abolish the feudal regime and burdens. The looming threat of conflicts made the political and economic situation unstable, leading to several uprisings among the peasantry. However, in the canton du L man, the departure of the Bernese, settled there in 1536, offered new economic prospects, but also meant that their old physiocratic agrarian policy had to be adapted, particularly about one of their economic spearheads: winegrowing, which was expanding at the time.

## The acclimatization of American cotton in the Napoleonic Empire's Mediterranean Territories: the reasons for the failure of a major agricultural state project

**Laurent Brassart** University of Lille and French National Centre for Scientific Research, France

The aim of this contribution is therefore to study two elements: the impact of the French presence on the economy and wine trade in French-speaking Switzerland, and the redefinition of the production and commercial prospects of viticulture in the canton of Geneva, as well as in the departments of Léman and Simplon, between the Great Empire and the Helvetic Republic.

The loss of control of the seas in 1805 and the establishment of the continental blockade in 1806 encouraged Napoleon's government to define an ambitious agronomic policy for the acclimatization of cotton to support the dynamic cotton manufacturing industry. This plan presented a number of challenges : building up agronomic knowledge, developing cultivation techniques, making land resources available, organising of seed supplies and distribution circuits. Although the introduction of cotton growing in Mediterranean Europe was an economic failure, it cannot be attributed to agronomic nonsense or a lack of state investment.

## Spaces of rural economy: saltpetre, the soil and its fertility in early nineteenth-century Napoleonic Milan

**Lavinia Maddaluno** Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Italy

This paper will take into account a series of practice-based texts on saltpetre published in Napoleonic Milan in the early 1800s. But why was saltpetre so significant during the upheaval of the Old Regime at the end of the nineteenth century? Its association with gunpowder is of course the most obvious feature, since saltpetre was crucial for state defence. However, saltpetre was also used to improve soil fertility. These two uses—producing gunpowder for warfare and enhancing agriculture—reflected different views of the soil: as a tool of state protection and as a resource for agricultural growth. This paper will use debates on saltpetre production to highlight how soil narratives were entangled with Napoleonic discourses on civic participation, as well as with an acknowledgement of the role of human agency in harnessing natural resources and shaping economic and political goals. Finally, the paper will also inquire into how these visions of earthly versatility conflicted with the growing awareness of the limitations of the soil. This aspect signalled a more general scepticism against the Enlightened idea of the universality of political economic models and forms of agricultural wealth.

## Engineers and agriculturists in the Napoleonic era: some cases from the Po Valley

**Martino Lorenzo Fagnani**

University of Pavia, Italy

Engineers played an essential role in the rural world of the Po Valley throughout the early modern period, embracing with their expertise the management of the hydraulic network, advice in conflicts related to environmental resources, and the maintenance of rural buildings. Later, under Napoleonic rule, the Po Valley experienced a gradual territorial unification, but also a reorganization of institutes dedicated to experimentation in the agricultural sector and the training of professional figures. Engineers and other professionals dedicated to the management of the rural environment were fully involved in this set of innovations.

Referring to some case studies in the Po Valley during the Napoleonic era, this paper analyzes: a) The planned course of study for engineers, considering teaching methods, structures and materials. b) The potential that teaching institutes also have in research and experimentation in agricultural science.

[Room **Sala 2.1**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## 11.5. Framing the countryside: the role of moving images in shaping rural perceptions and identities 2

**ORGANISERS** **Sven Lefèvre** University of Leuven, Belgium, **Brigitte Semanek** Institute of Rural History, Austria **Edouard Lynch** Lumière University Lyon 2, France

**MODERATOR** **Chantal Bisschop**  
Centre for Agrarian History Belgium

Debates across various research fields have extensively explored the evolving characteristics and perceptions of rural areas and the countryside since the Second World War. This double panel builds on those discussions by examining the historical representation of rural spaces through moving images, focusing primarily on non-fiction films and television from the post-WWII period. The central aim is to investigate how these media have framed, shaped, reinforced, and sometimes contested perceptions of rural areas and their identities. The panel begins by exploring visual and narrative representations of the countryside, analyzing how cultural narratives, political claims, and the portrayal of rural landscapes have (tried to) influence(d) ideas about the countryside in the past. These evolving perceptions, shaped by media representations, have played a crucial role in shaping public opinion and influencing policymakers. The first part of the panel will address how rural areas have been portrayed in terms of tradition, modernity, and sustainability, considering the cultural and political debates surrounding rural identity. These portrayals provide insight not only into the historical evolution of rural spaces but also into the ways they continue to shape contemporary perceptions and policies. Building on this foundation, the panel also incorporates methodological approaches about how historic rural spaces are represented today on different levels such as contemporary videographic methods such as the video essay, museum exhibitions, and artistic collaborations. These innovative forms of representation provide new lenses through which to view rural areas, revealing the complexities of the rural past and present. By investigating these methods, the panel seeks to highlight how contemporary media not only depict rurality but also actively participate in clarifying the multifaceted identities and relationships that define rural spaces today. The inclusion of these methodological perspectives will offer a deeper understanding of the importance of archiving, cataloguing and working with moving images as archivists, museum workers or historians and their contemporary role in the

	<p>representation of rural history in contemporary society and in the future. By linking these representations to broader social, economic, and environmental transformations, the panel hopes to contribute to a more nuanced understanding of rurality. It will emphasize the role of moving images as educational tools and ideological platforms, shaping the collective imagination about rural life and fostering a better understanding of the interplay between past and present rural identities.</p>
<p><b>Rural mobility experiences in home movies from the 1960s to the 1980s</b></p> <p><b>Brigitte Semanek</b> Institute of Rural History, Austria</p>	<p>Hilly landscapes filmed through the windshield, picnics on the side of the road, looking for a parking space at the Grossglockner, families washing their car in the garden – many scenes from the large film collection “Niederösterreich privat” illustrate the ‘automobile age’ from the 1960s to the 1980s. With over 70,000 digitized small gauge films, this collection offers the potential to examine images of the rural while focusing on contemporary technological ensembles, serial image productions and individual narrative forms. The films are testaments to the expansion of private transport and tourist infrastructure, and they provide insights into rural and urban social worlds and their intertwining. Which representations of being on the move in rural regions are part of these films, and what significance did the filmmakers and protagonists assign to their cars? Using a methodical mix of film studies and historical discourse analysis, the films will be examined for their “aesthetics of economy” (Mark Neumann) to make understandable how closely the film camera and different varieties of mobility could be linked.</p>
<p><b>Farmers’ land in farmers’ hands: the Belgian Farmers’ League’s role in defining agriculture and the rural landscape in the contested post-productivist countryside in Flanders (1960-1990)</b></p> <p><b>Sven Lefevre</b> Centre for Agrarian History, Belgium</p>	<p>From the 1960s onwards, the agricultural sector in Flanders, with Boerenbond (Belgian Farmers’ League) as its largest representative, lost its exclusive position in the countryside. New functions such as housing, recreation, industry and nature management transformed the countryside into a multifunctional space, leading to a fundamental redistribution of cultural, economic and political power and influence. This transformation to a post-productivist countryside created a political arena in which various actors - agricultural organisations, nature and environmental organisations, policy makers, and industry - laid political, cultural and economic claims on the use and management of the countryside.</p> <p>This paper examines how Boerenbond developed targeted media strategies in this context to position itself and defend and strengthen its rights and influence in the countryside. It focuses on the frames and discourses that were deployed to influence public opinion, mobilise its own members and employees, and guide political decision-making.</p> <p>The paper analyses how these media strategies developed and examines how tensions manifested themselves in debates on issues such as land</p>

### The Eilandspolder quests in two films

**Peter Veer** Netherlands Institute  
for Soun and Vision Hilversum  
and University of Amsterdam,  
Netherlands

consolidation, nature conservation and environmental legislation. Thus, the paper aims to offer insight into the role of (visual) media as a political and cultural instrument of power in a period of intense social transition.

Around 1975, at least two films were produced that addressed societal and environmental challenges in a wetland peat polder north of Amsterdam. The polder is valued as living and nesting environments of protected meadow birds. The first film, commissioned by the Dutch State Forestry Office (Staatsbosbeheer) in 1974, highlights the tensions among farmers, horticulturists, environmentalists, and allotment gardeners over the ownership, use, and stewardship of this rural space.

The second film, created in 1979 by the Amsterdams Stadsjournaal film collective, focuses on young farmers and their families as they struggle with the question of whether to continue farming in the challenging peatland environment or to move to areas more suited for dairy farming.

In their own way, both films include sequences depicting the farmers’ work practices. This paper examines the differing and overlapping audio-visual approaches and how these two films represent the social, cultural, and economic roles of farmers in this rural area as perceived by the farmers themselves and others. Furthermore, the essay investigates how the films shape the representations and convey meanings about this rural landscape.

### On “The Compass: a research film” and its contrasts: the recomposition of rurality in contemporary Portugal through documentary films

**Virgílio Borges Pereira, João  
Queirós, José Madureira Pinto  
& Sílvia Correia** University of  
Porto, Portugal

“O Compasso: filme de uma pesquisa” [The Compass: a research film] is a documentary about a process of sociological research in a rural community in northwestern Portugal, revisited three decades after the original studies by a team of researchers, including those responsible for the studies at the end of the 1970s (Pinto & Queirós, 2010; Almeida & Pereira, 2021). Combining a reflection on the impact of the film camera on the production of sociological research, the film also documents the deep practical and symbolic tensions inscribed in the recompositions undergone by the rural social space of the context analyzed. Produced by some of the researchers involved in the film, this communication systematizes the main representations inscribed in the film, establishing continuities and contrasts with the results of an inventory of the same content carried out from the study of the most striking documentary films on contemporary Portuguese rurality, an area particularly invested by ideological priorities in the history of Portugal.

[Room **Sala 4.1**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

**11.6. The rural built environment: histories between architecture and agriculture 2**

ORGANISERS **Pedro Namorado Borges** University Institute of Lisbon and University of Coimbra, Portugal, **Samuel T. Brandt** University of Cambridge, United Kingdom, **Attila Gábor Hunyadi** Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

MODERATOR **Attila Gábor Hunyadi** Babeş-Bolyai University of Cluj-Napoca, Romania

The rural built environment is testimony to reforms that have sought to modernize the agricultural sector. Some well-documented examples from the developing world include architect Hassan Fathy's experiments in rural Egypt in the 1940s and 1950s (Fathy, 1973), and the ujamaa villages built in 1970s Tanzania during the regime of Julius Nyerere (see: Scott, 1998). A well-studied example in a developed country is Samuel Mockbee's Rural Studio in Alabama, United States of America (see: Oppenheimer Dean and Hursley, 2002). In these cases and others, states and civil society have supported the development of food production, storage, and distribution to consumers through the building and updating of housing and non-housing infrastructure in rural areas. This symposium at EURHO 2025 aims to showcase current research into the architectural traces of rural modernization. It does so through a broad transdisciplinary and international overview, with contributions from various fields (including but not limited to geography, history, and architecture) and on various world regions (including but not limited to Europe and Latin America). As a research topic, the built environment connects not only different disciplines and methods (not least a strong emphasis on the visual), but also brings together the urban and the rural, wealth with poverty, and even the future with the past and present. Architectural history as a component part of global intellectual history also unites strands of thought across political boundaries. Especially in rural areas, it bears elements both of universalism and localism. The prospect of worsening climate change, intensifying migratory movements, increasing food insecurity and diminishing natural resources, makes it pertinent to recover narratives from rural architecture, which have sought to answer questions that remain current. This symposium seeks to contribute to the development of initiatives in line with goals 1, 2, 3, 10 and 11 proposed by the UN in 2024: no poverty, zero hunger, good health and well-being, reduced inequalities and sustainable cities and communities. We welcome papers discussing vernacular architecture as well as architecture designed by professional architects. We are also interested in studies of architecture and infrastructure projects connected to different types of rural land use, including, but not limited to agriculture, ranching, and mining. Studies of any historical time period are also welcome, as are papers addressing rural architecture at a variety of scales (from the individual dwelling to transnational).

**Seventeenth century noble residences built on a compact ground plan in rural Transylvania**

**Klara Pako** Babeş-Bolyai University, Romania

This paper investigates a distinct category of Renaissance noble residences that emerged in Transylvania in the 17th-century: rural manor houses featuring a compact floor plan (without inner courtyard) and corner towers.

The paper aims to explore the hypothesis that these residences were more than an economical alternative to grand country houses or castles of the time. Instead, they represent a conscious architectural choice by their commissioners — some of the wealthiest landowners of the Principality, many

	<p>of whom held high state offices — seeking a more comfortable, less fortified residence that embraced the surrounding rural landscape.</p> <p>Adopting an architectural historical perspective, my analysis situates this castle type within the broader development of fortified villas, that have spread across Europe from Northern Italy since Peruzzi's era, while also considering the influence of Northern architectural theory. Drawing on newly uncovered archival evidence, particularly historical estate inventories, the paper focuses on the best-preserved examples of this type: the residences of Cetatea de Baltă and Sânmiclăuș. It examines their ground plans, spatial organization, fortified elements, outbuildings, and garden design to provide a comprehensive understanding of their architectural and functional characteristics.</p>
<p><b>Adapting the rural built environment: repurposing corncribs as cultural heritage in Croatia</b></p> <p><b>Leona Matotek, Luka Valožić &amp; Jasenka Kranjčević</b> Institute for Tourism, Croatia</p>	<p>This paper explores the possibilities of adapting contemporary rural wooden agricultural architecture – corncribs - to modern ways of life, highlighting their potential for rural tourism, education, and sustainable community development, along with the challenges of transformation.</p> <p>During field research along the Drava River, it was found that corncribs vary in size, construction, and design, and that no registry of these structures exists. In establishing an adaptation model, the village of Kotoriba was selected as a case study.</p> <p>Given their multifaceted significance (agricultural, ethnological, architectural, etc.), the research was conducted through semi-structured interviews with local stakeholders, heritage experts, architects, and the mayor of Kotoriba.</p> <p>Despite the fact that corncribs are often overlooked in everyday life and face the risk of deterioration due to the modernization of agriculture, experts increasingly recognize them as valuable elements of cultural heritage.</p> <p>The research findings offer insights into the potential for their adapting in the context of tourism and education, as well as practical applications such as alternative storage methods through various interventions. However, the study also identifies potential challenges and obstacles in the adaptation process, providing a comprehensive overview of the opportunities and limitations in rural built environment.</p>

## A nation's improver: Alberto Gallinal and the creation of Uruguay's Movement for the eradication of unhealthy rural housing

**Samuel T. Brandt** Gonville and  
Caius College and University of  
Cambridge, United Kingdom

How do you house the rural poor at a national scale? This question drove one of the most audacious social policies in late-twentieth century Latin America. Guided by the slogan “to see it rain from inside without getting wet”, Uruguay's Movement for the Eradication of Unhealthy Housing (MEVIR) was founded in 1967 to provide dignified living for rural laborers residing in precarious dwellings. A parastatal institution premised on mutual aid construction, MEVIR has since built over 33,000 homes and exists in nearly every small town across Uruguay. Drawing on archival analysis, interviews, and site visits, this paper recounts the efforts of Alberto Gallinal (1909-1994), a rancher, statesman, and polymath, to found MEVIR. In the context of my larger book manuscript on MEVIR's history through the present, this paper argues that a key to the institution's effectiveness is Gallinal's clearly defined and executed objective, rooted in a Catholic conscience, to improve the quality and quantity of the housing stock for the poor in a specific geographical context: towns smaller than Uruguay's departmental capitals, and dispersed rural areas. Engaging with concepts in the field of humanistic geography, my empirical findings also lead me to consider Gallinal as a quintessential “author of place”.

## What farm buildings can teach us about agricultural history: reconstruction of farms in western Flanders (Belgium) after World War I

**Pol Vanneste**  
Flanders Heritage Agency, Belgium

Soil quality, mechanization of agricultural production and developments in construction have all been influential in the development and outlook for farmstead architecture. In the west of Flanders this process of change was accelerated by WW I. After 1918, a once thriving agricultural region had to be re-cultivated. However, war-destruction created the opportunity to build new farms according to the latest insights in agricultural science, with emphasis on cattle breeding.

The countryside of the former Western Front is still marked by the many farms built here in the 1920s. Today, this regional heritage is threatened by spatial developments. Therefore the Flanders Heritage Agency initiated a research into the rebuilt farmsteads.

The farms are characterized by brick architecture which refers to traditional pre-WW I farming buildings, albeit with use of steel and concrete for load-bearing parts inside. The spatial organization of the stables is according to modern insights from agricultural science, with better hygiene for livestock, more efficient circulation and mechanization.

The focus lies on the evolution of two farms in the countryside of the former front. The farmstead Madelstede is situated in the sandy loam region around Ypres. On the other hand the abbey farm Oosthof is located in the Polders.

## Modernizing the rural habitat: the view and action of the service for rural well-being in Portugal (1958-1977)

**Pedro Namorado Borges**

University Institute of Lisbon and  
University of Coimbra, Portugal

In the years following the WWII, Western European states sought to implement significant changes in agriculture and rural society. The Service for Rural Well-Being, Serviço de Bem-Estar Rural (SBER) was created in 1960 as one of a series of agricultural improvements promoted by the Portuguese State. The aim was to improve the living conditions of the rural population, in the hope of preserving a certain ancestral rurality while managing the rural and agricultural exodus. In order to meet these challenges, the service designed an action program, which included work on around half of the 180 villages considered. The interventions are spread out from the north to the south of the country, in varying degrees of depth, covering housing and public infrastructures. Among the technicians involved was a group of architects, who went to observe and act directly on the rural built environment, under the specific circumstances of the problems encountered in each house and village. In their search, they combined ideas and solutions from classical and popular architecture, adapting them to the local workforce, materials and construction techniques. This paper presents an analysis of ongoing PhD research (SFRH/BD/147213/2019), concerning the dialogue between vernacular and erudite cultures focused on this program.

[Room **Gonçalves da Silva**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 11.7. Meet the author: *Interpreting science at museums and historic site*

**Debra A. Reid, Karen-Beth G. Scholthof & David D. Vail**

ORGANISERS **Debra A. Reid**

The Henry Ford Museum, United States of America,

**Karen-Beth Scholdthof** Texas A&M University, United States of America.

MODERATOR **Karen Sayer**, Leeds Trinity University, United Kingdom,

DISCUSSANTS **Dolly Jørgensen**, University of Stavanger, Norway,  
**Inger Olausson** Swedish National Maritime and Transport Museums, Sweden, **Brian Q. Cannon** Brigham Young University, United States of America

The editors and contributors to *Interpreting Science*—historians, scientists and museum curators—designed the book to counter historians' oft-spoken dismissal of science as not within the purview of humanities. True, humanists may not be trained in science methodology, but *Interpreting Science* sought to bridge rather than widen the gap of the two cultures of science and the humanities. The editors also called attention to the enormous untapped potential of historical artifacts to inform our understanding of scientific topics and how they can be interpreted within a framework of science practice and its applications. The intent was to show how practitioners in museums of all types (science, history, art, and others including zoos and botanical gardens) can use historical resources to contribute to public understanding of science.

Incorporating science into history interpretation will inform both disciplines and expand the potential for audience engagement and informed opinions about science. Engaging audiences in mediated conversations about hot topics such as epidemics, gardening, or climate change and responses to it, can feature scientific rigor and the real time lag that occurs between discovery and confirmation of societal benefit. This can reinforce the veracity of science as well as deepen appreciation for historical research.

*Interpreting Science* emphasizes the urgency of bringing science to history, provides the framework and ideas to start and sustain the work, shares case studies that model best practice, and brings attention to historical resources that can drive a science-infused public history. These connections meld science to public history rather than confining science to laboratory research and classroom learning that STEM-related education affords.

No other book addresses these subjects in this way. Agricultural historians and a scientist engaged in plant virus research set the tone for Interpreting Science. During this presentation at Rural History 2025, editors will address the ways that linking disciplines particularly benefits studies of rural history. Discussants will assess the book and will share their perspectives on the potential of a nexus of science and rural history. Dolly Jørgensen will focus on environmental issues in relation to interpreting science and how that is (or isn't) addressed drawing on the context of her EU-funded PITCH project: Petroculture's Intersections with the Cultural Heritage sector in the context of green transitions (<https://pitch-horizon.eu/>). Ingrid Olausson will address the potential of museum collections to expand science topics in the history of bio- and mechanical technology and transportation in rural areas. Brian Cannon will address the ways that science can inform regional histories, and how regional histories can increase context for science.

[Room **Sala 4.4**, 4<sup>th</sup> floor]

## 11.8. Peasant women in socialist Europe: diverse realities and experiences 2

**ORGANISERS** **Zsuzsana Varga**  
Eötvös Loránd University,  
Hungary, **Zarko Lazarevic &  
Janja Sedlacek** Institute of  
Contemporary History, Slovenia

**MODERATOR** **Zarko Lazarevic**  
Institute of Contemporary  
History, Slovenia

**DISCUSSANT** **Nigel Swain** University  
of Liverpool, United Kingdom

In post-World War II European socialist countries, the accumulation of resources for accelerated industrialization came to a considerable extent from insufficient investments in agriculture and underpaid peasant labor. This was accompanied by a process of de-agrarianisation, in which the industrial sector initially employed predominantly male labor. Peasant women, therefore, assumed a larger role in agriculture. This increased their workload but also contributed to their gradual emancipation, altering their roles in the family, agriculture, and society. However, the experiences of peasant women were not uniform across socialist Europe; they depended on the unique socio-political and economic context of each country. While the majority of states adopted the Soviet collective agriculture model and modified it according to their needs and social specifics, others, like Yugoslavia and Poland, developed entirely distinct approaches. These variations resulted in significant differences in the status and experiences of peasant women. For instance, in the GDR, peasant women were largely employed on state farms and thus became workers with associated (albeit limited) rights, while peasant women in Slovenia maintained work on private farms to a larger extent.

The socio-economic position of peasant women was already discussed at the Rural History 2023 conference (double panel by Zsuzsanna Varga, Eötvös Loránd University) and in a special issue of the Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe (2022) titled Expectations, Opportunities, Realities: Women in Socialist and Post-Socialist Rural Transformations. This panel, therefore, aims to deepen and broaden the already addressed questions and study them comparatively. We welcome contributions on the realities and experiences of peasant women in individual socialist states, as well as comparative studies.

We focus on the role of peasant women within the family, society, agriculture, and the state in post- World War II socialist Europe. These issues will be explored from three main perspectives: the attitudes of authorities and ideology,

the actual situation of peasant women, and their self-perception. Some of the key questions include how authorities viewed changing gender roles in agriculture, what policies were implemented (e.g., social security, education, child-care), and how these reflected socialist ideology. The panel also aims to address the roles of peasant women in reality: the work they performed on farms or cooperatives, their family roles, education levels, access to cultural goods, and their participation in agricultural management. It aims to raise questions about social stratification and peasant women's involvement in shaping their rights. Finally, we would like to explore how peasant women perceived their position, whether they demanded recognition and rights, and if they received support from organizations like cooperatives and women's groups.

We welcome contributions on: Peasant women in ideology and policies; Their self-perception; Their roles in family, agriculture, and society; The influence of cooperatives and collectives on their status in socialism; In this panel, "peasant women" includes all women who worked formally or informally in agriculture (whether in the state or private sector) or simply lived on farms (elderly peasant women, disabled peasant women, etc.).

## The role and representation of Soviet Kolkhoz women: a comparison of propaganda and reality

**Alexandra Bodnar** Eötvös Loránd University, Ukraine

This study aims to explore the contradictions between the propaganda and the reality of Soviet kolkhoz women in the western part of Ukraine, in Transcarpathia. From 1945 onwards, propaganda permeated various aspects of life, with local newspapers in the native languages of the region serving as the primary medium for disseminating these messages. One of the main narratives promoted was that of the kolkhoz woman as the ideal worker of socialist development, actively contributing to agricultural productivity and community welfare. However, the reality was far more complex: women in kolkhozes often worked under compulsion, performing hard physical labor for low wages while simultaneously managing household and family responsibilities.

Using various sources, including contemporary press materials, archival documents, and oral histories, the study illustrates how propaganda shaped the image of kolkhoz women and how this image differed from their actual experiences. The research also highlights the significant contribution of women's labor to the productivity of kolkhozes, demonstrating how their efforts were essential to both agricultural output and the sustenance of local communities.

## The new socialist peasant woman: emancipation, gender division of labour, and agricultural mechanization

**Polona Sitar** University of Primorska, Slovenia

In our paper we will examine the changes brought about the process of farm mechanization in peasant families in socialist Slovenia from the mid-1960s onwards engaged in non-agricultural activities outside of the farm in which at least one family member was employed. The role of the “master” was usually assumed by the unemployed family member, most often peasant women, who, in addition to the roles of mother and housewife now also took on the role of the head of the farm. By trying to understand the emancipation of women in the context of acquiring the knowledge to operate agricultural machinery we will try to understand how “new” peasant women, who reshaped the Slovenian rural collective imagination and social identity, perceived their role and if it disrupted the traditional position of peasant women. While problematizing the strict gender division of labor we will follow the feminist scholarship which reveals that it was not the nature of women’s work that led to the lack of recognition of their labor, but their position within the patriarchal household. The paper derives from intersectional perspective and is methodologically based on archival and statistical sources and on the oral history method.

## Agricultural and household extension service in the Slovenian part of socialist Yugoslavia

**Marta Rendla** Institute of Contemporary History, Slovenia

In this paper, the author focuses on the agricultural and household extension service in the Slovenian part of socialist Yugoslavia during the last two decades of socialism. In the context of the increasing feminization of agriculture after the adoption of the new concept of agricultural development in the early 1970s, the agricultural-household extension service began to operate under the auspices of agricultural organizations at local, regional, and republic level. The Agricultural Household Extension Service was part of an effort to make the most of the economic potential of private agriculture. Priority investment in the social agricultural sector alone has proved insufficient in ensuring food security. As women were increasingly performing farm tasks in addition to household chores as agrarian society transformed into an industrial one, agricultural policy decided to ensure the transfer of knowledge on agriculture, housekeeping, and socio-political and economic issues to women. The aim of this paper is, on the one hand, to shed light on the content of the agricultural and household extension service and, on the other hand, to find out whether its activities contributed to the emancipation of rural women, e.g. in terms of socio-economic rights, decision-making in farm management etc.

[Room **Sala 2.3**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## 11.9. The archaeology of sharing practices: changes in practices, tools and the social dimension

**ORGANISERS** **Anna Maria Stagno** University of Genoa, Italy, **Vittorio Tigrino** University of Piemonte Orientale, Italy **Margarita Fernández Mier** University of Oviedo, Spain

Starting from the idea that “exchange is what creates value” (A. Appadurai), this session aims at providing an opportunity to discuss issues related to archaeological and historical interpretation, comparing research from different chronological and disciplinary perspectives. The session will move from current research in the framework of two research projects (ANTIGONE and KORE), which address the relationship between changes in practices to manage and activate environmental resources and population dynamics, considering the timespan between 17th and 21st centuries.

This session aims at reflecting on the relationship between resources and conflict, the intention is to analyse practices over environmental resources as catalysts for social relations. A particular focus is on common lands as contested landscapes: seeing social relationships through conflicts.

The adopted perspective is that of conflict understood as an expression of social relations underlying the practices to manage and activate environmental resources. Particular attention will be given to the conflict that arises around common lands and resources, understood as a moment of negotiation through which it is possible to observe the network of social relations concerning a specific territory or locality.

The idea is that common lands are contested landscapes and that social relationships emerge through conflicts. In this way, critical questions can be raised about some of the key concepts revolving around conflicts over common goods, particularly the definition of the spaces of action of social groups and their boundaries. The analysis of conflict thus allows for a deeper scientific discussion around common resources, seeing them not only as mere economic resources but as changing objects around which the identity of specific local institutions (communities, communal entities, kinship groups, associations of lay religious) is constructed. The cessation of conflicts, in many cases, coincides with the progressive dissolution of these local institutions.

In this context the dialogue between archaeology and history (or field and archival documents) is particularly interesting, from one side archaeologists detect what was done, from the other historian how it was described, which helps to understand outright and underlying purposes. These sources do not always coincide, and this is a further element of interest, as it is central to the understanding of how spaces and borders were historically defined and qualified. The final aim of this session is to promote a critical reflection on the use and understanding(s) of ownership and possession, on how archaeology and history analyse and conceptualize them.

## Historical land-use dynamics in the eastern Ligurian Apennines, north-western Italy: a multidisciplinary approach

**Chiara Molinari & Bruna Ilde Menozzi** University of Genoa, Italy

Exploring main changes in multiple management systems of environmental resources that shaped past and present landscapes is critical for better understanding main historical processes of ecosystem dynamics, species distributions and biodiversification. Often these variations can be related to changes in access rights to collective resources, suggesting tension about ownership and possession. By using a micro-analytical approach, we combined biostratigraphical proxies (pollen, charcoal and NPPs), with data from archival and cartographic sources and archaeological investigations in order to characterise past changes in local agro-silvo-pastoral practices and define the socio-economic strategies connected to them. Our analyses identified the past presence of cultivated fields, meadows, grazing areas, heathlands and wetlands, and provided new tools to decipher the dialectic of conflicts on common lands, as well as their underpinned reasons. The results also underlined the disappearance - during the last two centuries - of complex landscapes, not only for the abandonment of historical management practices but also for their reorganisation.

By clarifying main agro-silvo-pastoral practices and their consequences both in environmental and social terms, these results have relevance for improving the ability of decision makers to anticipate future variations in ecosystems dynamics for better evaluate the consequences of different conservation and valorisation strategies.

## The use of jurisdictional sources for the study of commons: perspectives and limitations of research between the Ligurian Apennines and the French Pyrenees (XVIII-XX c.)

**Matteo Tacca & Nathan Brenu** University of Genoa, Italy

The study of commons and the various forms of collective appropriation of environmental resources has occupied a significant part of historiographical production, not only in relation to the modern era but also to the medieval and contemporary periods. However, the historical literature on commons has also highlighted the evident limitations of archival historical research in studying the phenomenon, ranging from the inability to capture a culture of ownership often based on oral agreements to the indirect observation of material practices that enabled the very act of appropriation and, overall, to shed light on the relational aspect of the sharing practices. This paper aims to reflect on these limitations through a critical analysis of the study of jurisdictional sources for reconstructing the history of commons, based on research conducted on case studies situated in the mountains of southern Europe and within different institutional contexts. Focusing on two case studies located in the western French Pyrenees (Cerdagne) and the eastern Ligurian Apennines (Val d'Aveto), the presentation will explore the potential and limitations of jurisdictional sources in reconstructing the dynamics of commons appropriation, with a particular focus on the crucial importance of the context in which these sources were produced and preserved.

## From the archaeology of sharing practices to the archaeology of continuities in Commons

**Anna Maria Stagno** University of Genoa, Italy

Common-lands represent one of the most surprising continuities in Europe. In fact, despite the strong and systematic attempt to delete them, common-lands still exist, are used, and in many mountain areas of Europe their extension is not significantly different from the early 17th c.

Commons were constantly built, negotiated by local social configurations through practices to manage environmental resources. As such, the construction of commons shows a constant redefinition: their existence, as their continuity is not a datum. Continuity in commons could be defined as a relationship between different generations which takes place through time and in relation to the land. Continuity is the result of stratified practices, that, in different times, allow to activate and maintain environmental resources and their possession (the title under which the rights are exercised). Through those practices commons are constantly built, shared and owned.

Starting from research case studies in Southern Europe, the paper aims to reflect on reasons and processes which allowed continuities in commons, focusing on environmental resources management practices, their persistence and changes, and the social and legal effects of changes in practices.

## *Cueiru ye Cueiru!* A contested meeting place

**Pablo López Gómez** University of Leon, Spain

Cueiru ye/is Cueiru! is a common phrase among the inhabitants of a mountainous region in Asturias to refer to the identity-related meaning – difficult to explain in words – that this small enclave holds within the worldviews and territorialities of various local communities.

Cueiru is a mountainous grazing area of communal use, located at a crossroads of paths and marked by several archaeological sites of various chronologies. It is also a place where multiple territorialities converge, serving as a meeting point and a transit hub.

In this presentation, we aim to explore one very specific aspect of its significance: the continuous dispute and reinterpretation it has undergone from the late Middle Ages to the present day through conflicts –both horizontal and vertical– and the various forms of representation these have left on the landscape.

To do so, we will employ a methodology that combines and critically examines documentary, oral, and archaeological sources.

[Room **Sala 2.2**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## 11.10. Celebrating the end of the harvest

ORGANISERS **Richard W. Hoyle**

University of Reading, United Kingdom

**Clare Griffiths**

University of Cardiff, United Kingdom

MODERATOR & DISCUSSANT

**Paul Warde** University of

Cambridge, United Kingdom

The conclusion of the harvest can be taken as a full stop at the end of the agricultural year. The harvest itself was surely hard when undertaken with manual labour. It might be short, it might be protracted. It might be abundant: it might be disappointing. Anyone who has known a farmer will appreciate that it was – and is – was stressful, with anxieties about rain, having sufficient manpower at the right moment and in our own times not having machine breakdowns.

So the end of harvest, particularly a successful harvest, was a moment of celebration, release and relaxation. How was it celebrated? It is clear from work in progress on the forms of English harvest celebration that there was not a single form that celebrations took. Moreover, the predominant form of celebrations changed over time. And insofar as the celebration often took the form of alcohol-fuelled release, the harvest home could be strongly disapproved of. And perhaps because it involved the consumption of beer and cider, it might also be strongly gendered with the exclusion of female members of the harvest workforce. Hence attempts might be made to tame the harvest home and make it into a disciplined occasion, supervised by landowners and the church.

The harvest might not simply be a rural celebration. Given the importance of a successful harvest for urban society, it might well be celebrated in civic churches, by public rituals, popular songs and rituals. In twentieth-century societies successful harvests might be publicised by the state as evidence of the benefits the regime brought its people.

The panel will consider the forms that celebrations of the harvest took, the way in which harvest customs changed over time and especially under the impact of mechanisation; and the social and political contexts revealed by changing harvest customs.

Contributions considering popular harvest songs and other cultural aspects of the harvest are welcome. We might add that harvest might be taken broadly to include similar celebrations at the end of the hay harvest, or in some districts, the potato harvest.

## Harvests for the nation: imagery and celebrations of the harvest in Britain in war and peace, 1939-1950

**Clare Griffiths** University of Cardiff, United Kingdom

As Britain placed food production on a war footing during the Second World War, harvests came to be imbued with renewed national significance, celebrated through the images of fields rich with grain that cropped up so frequently in propaganda and records of the war effort. Government initiatives aimed to involve the whole population, urban and rural, much more closely in the matter of how the country was to be fed and how valuable shipping space might be saved for other uses as increased home agricultural production replaced pre-war foreign imports. This paper examines how celebrations of the harvest mobilised sentiments about national unity and wartime patriotism, and explores some of the initiatives to revive and reinvent harvest festivals, adopting these as a focus for encouraging interest in,

## Celebrating the end of harvest in mid-nineteenth century southern England

**Richard W. Hoyle** University of Reading, United Kingdom

and commitment to farming's war effort. Harvest presented a resonant point in the calendar for emphasising the importance of agriculture, engaging the public at large with the sector and its contribution to winning the war and supporting the post-war reconstruction. The paper argues for the importance of these celebrations of harvest in promoting a particular image of British farming and its relationship to the national interest, in both war and peace.

This paper examines the forms that the Harvest Home took in southern England and East Anglia in the mid-nineteenth century. It shows how the traditional harvest home, where farmers entertained their workers, dined them and fed them in a harvest home supper, had in some quarters disappeared. In its place there emerged the public house harvest home where the farmer put money behind the bar for his workers to drink. At the same time the practice of 'largess' appeared where workers went from door-to-door demanding money for their drinking. From the mid-1850s there was a campaign against the debauchery of the public house harvest home and largess. In its place other forms of entertainment were introduced – including what we would recognise as holidays in the forms of day trips to the sea-side – and estate or parish harvest homes emerged, where the gentry and clergy would supervise a harvest lunch preceded by a church service and followed by carefully managed games. As will be shown by a detailed look at the Swallowfield Harvest Home of 1863, these occasions were designed to show the essential harmony of worker, farmer, clergy and gentry. They were therefore enormously 'political' events.

## Collective harvest in stalinist Hungary: from planning to food shortage, 1948-1953

**Dániel Luka** PTE Grastyán Endre Szakkollégium, Hungary

After 1945, the Hungarian Communist Party started to introduce new rural traditions in the countryside. Controlling harvest was a key to the success of collectivism. The communist leadership tried to create collective celebration; individual farmers, state farms, agricultural cooperatives, land tiller cooperatives and machine stations were involved in the process. In reality, there were workforce problems in collective farms, mechanization's level was still low, and individual farmers were forced to give significant part of their crops to the state.

In 1949, a Soviet movie, the Festive Fair has been released in the cinemas; its premier was on May 1, 1950 in Hungary. Thereafter, festive fairs were organized on August 20 in rural cities every year. However, in the early 1950s, especially in 1952, there was not so much to celebrate. Contradictory traditions introduced from above, for example the fairs and the harvest races to fulfill crop deliveries contrasted with archival documents highlight the anomalies of planned economy. Agricultural reports, peasants' complaints and letters, press sources are essential to reveal the effects of harvest policy during Stalinism in Hungary.

[Room **Sala 2.4**, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor]

## 11.11. Water management in the Alps (Late Antiquity-Early Modern)

**ORGANISERS** **Roberto Leggero & Eugenio Tamburrino** University of Lugano, Switzerland **Mirella Montanari** Freelance, Italy

The aim of this session is to discuss the topic of water management between Late Antiquity and Early Modern times in the context of the Alpine region.

Indeed, while there are regions of the Alps that are well studied and highly valued from this point of view, such as Valais (Switzerland) and Valle d'Aosta (Italy), others are less studied.

The particular hydraulic conditions of the Alpine valleys and the exposure of the different slopes to the sun, which determine the conditions of even very strong hypsometric variations, have encouraged the creation of hydraulic canalisation infrastructures dedicated to irrigation since the early Middle Ages. Water also played an important role in the operation of mills, forges and other machinery.

However, at the foot of the Alpine valleys, where they open out onto the plains and where populous settlements and cities were located, the main concern was both to supply drinking water to the population and to protect the urban areas from flooding caused by the torrential and impetuous flow of the watercourses coming down the mountain slopes in spring.

The regulation of water for different uses and the need to protect the forests that provided the raw material for the canals, machines and bridges forced local communities to manage both water and forests collectively, while in the towns of the Alpine foothills it was necessary to set up both economic and political projects to control supply chains and manage the flow of water in an urban context where, in addition to its practical use, water had a multitude of symbolic meanings.

## Water management between lordship and collective rule: the case of Valsesia between the 13th and 14th centuries.

**Mirella Montanari** Freelance, Italy

The paper analyses water management in the territory of late medieval Valsesia in two phases. In the first, the water management by the territorial lordship of the Counts of Biandrate is evaluated. The dominion of this important aristocratic group over the valley meant that all the waters were the exclusive property of the counts. There was no possibility for the local communities to use the water unless they complied with the management rules imposed by the Biandrate. In the middle of the 13th century, however, there was a bloody transition between the counts and the local communities organized into a single body called the 'Universitas' of Valsesia. The consolidation of the Universitas in the last quarter of the 13th century was achieved thanks to the support and supervision of the Commune of Novara, which included Valsesia in its territory. As a result, the Statute of Novara stipulated that all the natural resources of Valsesia, including water, were the exclusive property of the Universitas. In the second part of the paper, through the statutes of the University and other documents, it will be possible to analyze the differences and similarities between seigniorial and collective water management and their consequences.

Reflections and comparisons on medieval irrigation systems in Ticino and Valais (Switzerland)

Roberto Leggero University of Lugano, Italy

The aim of this paper is to reflect on the characteristics of alpine irrigation systems in Ticino and Valais in the Middle Ages. The purpose of these systems was to bring water to the sunny slopes of the valleys and, secondarily, to provide energy for mills and other machines. The orographical and political characteristics of these two areas in the Middle Ages are very different, although both experienced significant external interference (the Savoy in Valais and the Milanese clergy and then the Dukes of Milan in Ticino) and different political forms of territorial organization. In particular, the role of the Bishop of Sion was very important in the spread of irrigation canals. However, while the situation in Valais is well known - as has been written, the “bisses” of Valais have been studied for 100 years - the “rogge” of Ticino are, so to speak, much less well known. However, the available written sources and recent archaeological research make it possible to propose a few ideas and to attempt some comparisons and correlations between the Valais and Ticino systems.

Water management in the Alpine and Foothill regions of Veneto: historical perspectives and interdisciplinary insights

Eugenio Tamburrino University of Lugano, Italy

The management of water has always been a particularly sensitive topic within the framework of urban planning, both in cities and in the surrounding territory. It plays a crucial role as a unifying element between urban and rural communities. This specific relationship is especially pronounced in mountainous and foothill contexts of the Alpine area, where, despite rarely facing issues of water scarcity, there is often a need to manage the proper regulation of water resources. This is essential for ensuring the functionality of urban units and for maintaining adequate cultivability of the lands surrounding urban centers.

This intervention will address, through an interdisciplinary lens and a diachronic perspective, incorporating historical insights and archaeological data, the theme of water supply and management for both irrigation and potable use in the Alpine and foothill areas of the current Veneto region.

By examining the water management strategies in these delicate contexts from a diachronic perspective, the intervention will explore the relationship between water, territorial management, and productive factors.

16h30 – 17h00  
COFFEE BREAK

17h00 – 18h00

[Room **Auditório**,  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor]**KEYNOTE 2****Arthur Young, Sir  
George Sinclair and  
the agricultural ori-  
gins of quantitaive  
social science****Richard W. Hoyle** University of  
Reading, United Kingdom**MODERATOR Lisbeth Rodrigues**  
University of Porto, Portugal

This plenary is about information and description. It explains the way in which the gathering of information about British agriculture became increasingly sophisticated and quantitative in character in the thirty or so years after 1780. At the end of the eighteenth century, English society was largely without statistics. There were no national population figures nor a clear sense of whether population was growing. Most parishes did not know how large they were. No agricultural data was collected. What was available was customs data, and contemporaries watched the balance of trade in agricultural products with anxiety but without really understanding what the figures meant.

Our account starts with Arthur Young (1741-1820) – the best known of the late eighteenth-century British agronomists and a natural quantifier, but his methods, especially as seen in his published agricultural Tours – appear slapdash. And yet Young has been claimed as the pioneer of sampling and we have largely overlooked how he used his data. He was certainly an early adopter of the circulated questionnaire, designed to gather structured and consistent evidence of conditions.

Sir John Sinclair (1754-1835) launched a very different approach to data gathering by sending Scottish clergy a questionnaire about their parishes. Their returns formed the basis of the Statistical Survey of Scotland. Sinclair intended to extend this approach to England, but had to be satisfied with the largely qualitative General Views sponsored by the Board of Agriculture. But these also espoused the idea of structured data in a consistent framework.

We shall show how, in the hands of the younger generation of contributors – individuals who are now little known – the General Views increasingly drew on fieldwork and became data rich and highly quantitative, employing a recognizable social science methodology.

18h00 – 19h00

[Room **Auditório**, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor]**CONFERENCE  
CLOSE SESSION**Representative of the Magnificent  
Rector of the University of Coimbra**José Manuel Mendes** Dean of the  
Faculty of Economics, University of  
Coimbra**Albano Figueiredo Rodrigues**  
Dean of the Faculty of Arts and  
Humanities, University of Coimbra**Dulce Freire** EURHO 2025  
Organising Committee

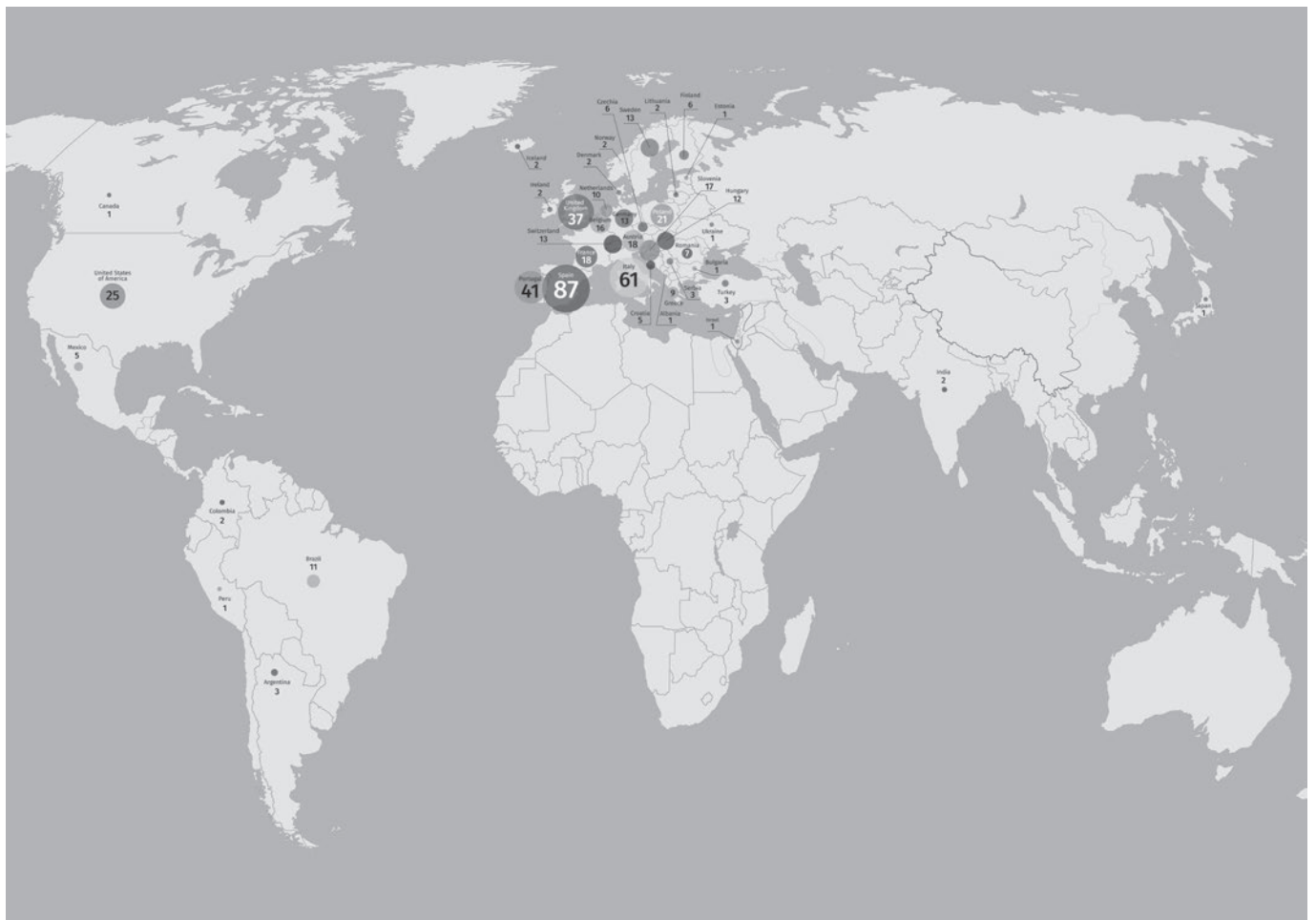
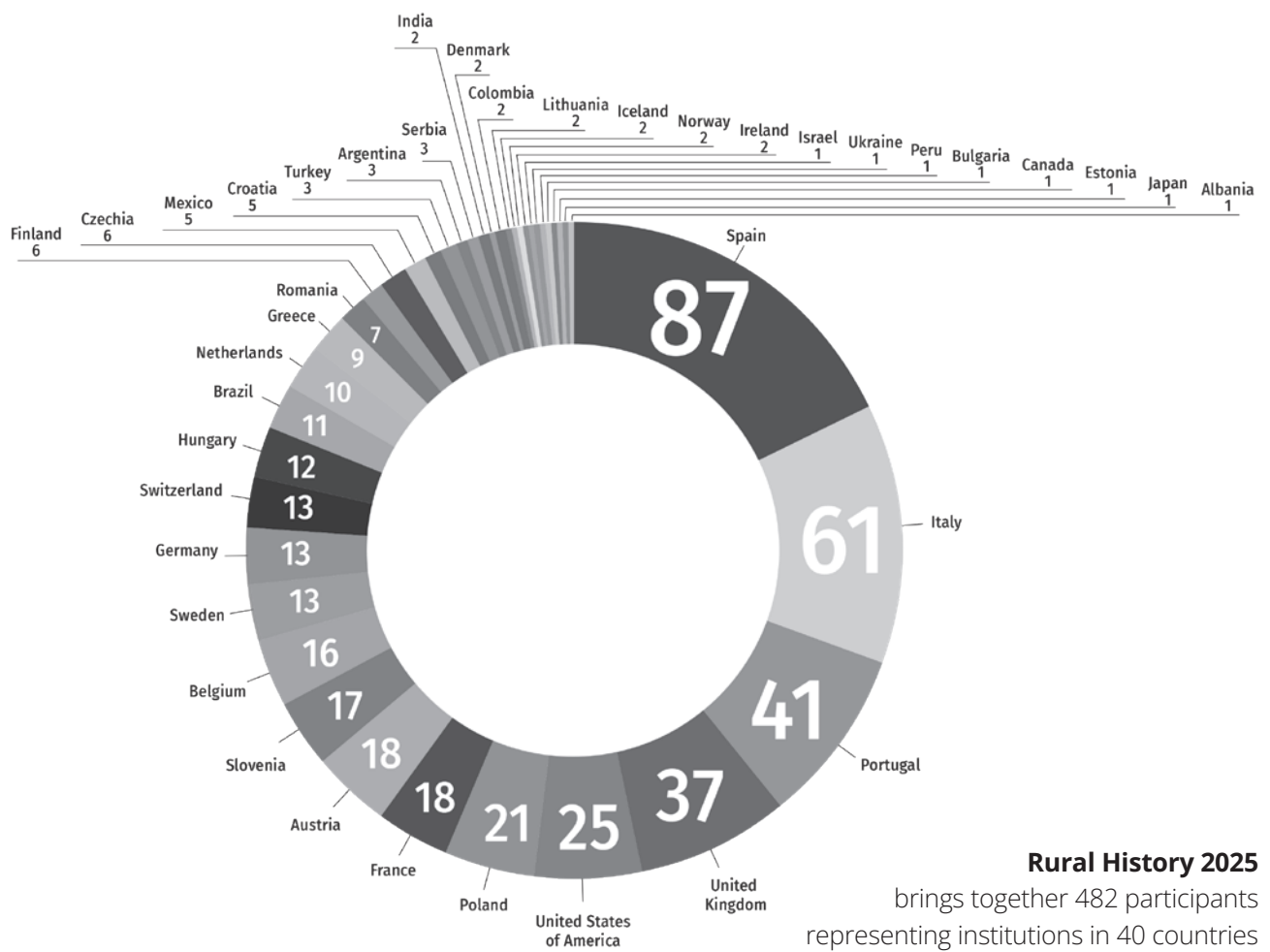
19h00 – 20h30

[Gardens of the  
Faculty of Economics]

**CONFERENCE  
CLOSING  
COCKTAIL & FADO  
AND GUITAR SONG  
OF COIMBRA**



*Chestnut seller in Vila Real, 1920, Miguel Monteiro, Lisbon Digital Newspaper Library*



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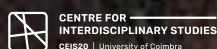
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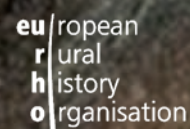
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