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How to be Rural in Late Modernity – Process, Project and Discourse



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Fragile rural social structures and diverse household survival practices

Working Group 17, Convenors: Charalambos Kasimis and Apostolos G. Papadopoulos

The social situations which characterize the survival of rural households in different contexts range between subsistence and persistence. The capacity of rural areas (based upon the nature of land relations, pluriactivity, polyvalent practices etc.) to bear the costs of rural household survival is comparatively more important in those countries and regions which are not entirely responsive to modernization processes. The changes in CAP, along with the expansive domination of market mechanisms, increase the fragility of rural social structures in countries like the southern European. Furthermore, the inconsistencies of state agricultural policy in eastern European countries lead to fragile ruralities in place of formerly rigid social structures. On the other hand, capital movements and the growth of agro-food companies create a new environment for revisiting modern rural households and situating their constraints or potential for survival. The main aim of this Working Group is to explore the different rural household strategies (including farm and non-farm practices), in a context of diverse external conditions. Two main processes are particularly interesting in this respect: a) the attempted reconstruction of rurality connected with the 'de-agriculturalization' of rural areas (in southern European or other non-European countries and 'marginal ' areas in developed countries) and b) the reconstitution of 'new' ruralities also linked to the 're-peasantization' of rural society (in eastern Europe). Some of the issues to be discussed in this Working Group are:

- the fragmentation of old ruralities and reconstitution of new ones triggered off within diverse agricultural policy conditions
- the combination of farm and non-farm activities at the level of the rural household in a frame of policy or market pressures
- the theorization of individual and/or household strategies aiming at subsistence or persistence
- the delineation of multiple layers of rural household responsiveness to external calls (i.e. adaptability and/or alienation of rural households towards CAP, state measures and market conditions).

Programme

Venue: Eden room E 227 D

Tuesday, 24 August 1999, 16.15

Session 1: Rural restructuring and family farm practices

Introduction of the Working Group.

Charalambos Kasimis and Apostolos G. Papadopoulos

Georg Wiesinger, Austrian Agriculture between Tradition and Modernity

Jose Ramón Mauleon, Towards a Typology of Family Farming: The Case of Dairy Farming in theBasque Country

Apostolos G. Papadopoulos and Constantina Safilios-Rothchild, 'New Wine in Old Bottles': Discussing the Effects of Professionalization,Feminization of Agricultural Labour and Rural Restructuring upon GreekFamily Farm Strategies

Nadide Karginer, Evaluation of Ideological, Political, Economic and Social Actions of RuralWomen both at the Household and Village Level in the Production ofLabour-Intensive and Capital-Intensive Products

Discussion on the presented papers

Wednesday, 25 August 1999, 9.00 - 10.15

Session 2: Survival strategies, rural development and pluriactivity

Benjamin Garcia Sanz and Simon Pedro Izcara Palacios, Pluriactivity: The Strategy of Spanish Rural Households Survival

Sveinung Eikeland, New Rural Pluriactivity? Households Strategies and rural renewal in Norway

Kebede Kassa, Prospects and Constraints for Rural Non-farm Employment under DecliningFarm Size in Ethiopia

Wednesday, 25 August 1999, 10.45 - 12.00

Henk Meert, Rural Poverty and Survival Strategies in Belgium

Ana Barbic, The Economic Product of Regional Park Kocjanske Caves, Slovenia: TheDevelopment Potentials of a Naturally and Socially Fragile Locality

Đurdica Zutinic, Anita Ilak-Peršuric and Š. Jusuf, Migration of Population and its Implications on Rural Areas - The CaseStudy of Istria County (Croatia)

Discussion on the presented papers

Wednesday, 25 August 1999, 15.00 - 17.00

Session 3: Survival strategies, practices and issues relating to the Eastern European Experience.

Pawel Starosta, Old and New Dimensions of Rurality in Eastern Europe

Zemfira Kalugina, Survival Practices in Rural Russia

Olga Artemova, Duration and Structure of Household Work of Rural Population in Russia inthe Period of Economic Liberalisation

Dan Maria, Family Farms and other types of Agricultural Exploitation in PostsocialistRomania

Agnes Nemenyi, Rural Social Structures and Different Survival Household Practices in Romania

Discussion on the presented papers

Discussion of the W.G. issues drawing from all sessions

Author(s): Karginer, Nadide

Title: Evaluation of Ideological, Political, Economic and Social Actions of Rural Women both at the Household and Village Level in the Production of Labour-Intensive and Capital-Intensive Products

Abstract

In this paper, my main argument is about the attitude of rural women to "wage labour", "unpaid family labour", "cash money" and their organization in the production and reproduction process at the household level in the village. According to subject above, I conducted two sociological village studies in 1998. The first village is tobacco and cotton producer, the second village is green-house producer. Economies of those villages depended on petty-commodity production and subsistence economy. Cotton and tobacco are labour-intensive products and green-house is both capital-intensive and labour-intensive in vegetable production. In the field study, it is determined the will of women for changing the sources of unequalities, their self-organization at work, their control on end product, on the means of production, skills and technology. Women's will to change those factors that feed the hierarchy of sexual roles in family and their will of transformation in the rural household and in the village. In village studies, methodologically two parts occured. One is interview with women , the other is giving questionnaire form to them. In tobacco and cotton village, it was interviewed with 50 women and questionnaires forms were given to 150 women. This village consists of 300 households. In green-house village, 20 interviews and 50 questionnaires were conducted. This village consists of 150 households. I determined four levels of analyses both at household and village level: social, economic, ideological and political actions of rural women. In this paper, Iwill present the social,economic, ideological and political actions of rural women and their affects on the attitude of rural women to "wage labour", "unpaid family labour", "cash money" and their organization in the production and reproduction process at the household level in the village.

Author(s): Mauleón, Jose Ramón

Title: Towards a typology of family farming: the case of dairy farming in the Basque Country

Abstract

Agrarian practices implemented by family farms can be analyzed from a macro or a micro perspective. The macro perspective requires considering the political economy of agriculture and census data on agrarian structures. The micro perspective, on the other hand, consists in understanding the functioning of the farm itself. In this paper a micro perspective will be used. One of the main topics to discuss when using the micro perspective is that of the appropriate unit of analysis. We may try to understand the farm or the family behind it. In the last case, we need to determine the family aspects which most influence the running of the farm (whether a successor exists, the women's role, the life cycle, etc.). The objective of this paper is to make a contribution to this debate. Our hypothesis is that agrarian practices depends on the 'family's reproductive project', that is, the household's decision to use or not the farm as a mean for the children to earn a living. In order to prove the above hypothesis, a typology of 6 families was elaborated as an indicator of possible families projects. This typology has been designed taking into account three criteria: the age of the holding's 'central person', whether there is a successor, and whether agriculture is practiced on a 'part-time' basis. The information has been collected through a survey of 308 questionnaires