

4th International Seminar on Migrations, Agriculture and Food Sustainability: Dynamics, Challenges and Perspectives in the Global Context

Madrid, 26-27 January 2017
Organized at the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC)

Conference Venue:
Centre of Human and Social Sciences (CCHS),
Albasanz 26-28, Madrid. Metro Station: Suanzes (Green line).

Abstract:

After the seminars organized in Bergamo (2013), Murcia (2014) and Athens (2015), this fourth seminar will be held in Madrid, organized by Yoan Molinero Gerbeau (CSIC) and Gennaro Avallone (Università degli Studi di Salerno).

During the last three decades, a large number of agricultural enclaves, mainly but not exclusively in developed countries, have experienced multiple changes in their production model, which seem to have redefined relevant social, political, economical and environmental dynamics and contributed to turn the countryside into a strongly globalized sector.

The increasing presence of migrant workers in the fields is one of the most visible consequences of these transformations. Every year large population flows connect the periphery and the centre, involving states, companies and social actors that interact in an increasing dynamic and competitive context. Some enclaves have articulated around guest workers programmes and favour intense seasonal movements, whereas others obtain their workforce through a network of formal and informal intermediaries. A third type of enclaves are the ones with production during the entire year and, accordingly, migrant workers enjoy a more permanent status but are affected by similar problems in terms of intermediation and work conditions.

In all these three scenarios, macro-factors linked to the dynamics of globalization and policies carried by international actors like the EU, become central to understand recent developments and conflicts that are as well part of global chains where international issues like development or food sustainability are at the core of the debate

Objectives:

The first goal of the International Seminar consists of bringing together academics, researchers and social actors working in rural areas to have the opportunity to discuss and exchange their ideas and knowledge over a number of contemporary issues including - but not limited to:

- The demographics of immigration and emigration in rural areas; the role of wage labour in agriculture and food production; migrants and indigenous people's quality of life in rural areas; the precarious status and/or labour rights of workers; the contribution of migrants in marginal rural areas; housing and health conditions of migrants in destination countries.
- The role of formal and informal intermediaries in recruitment and work organization processes; existing formal and informal transnational networks driving migration processes; reconfiguration and potential competition between migrant farmworkers and new arrivals (refugees but not only); circular migration processes from an origin and destination perspective; new ways of recruitment (posted workers); current situation of guest workers programmes.

- Delocalization of agricultural enclaves from the North to the South; social reconfigurations in origin countries; global structure of the agriculture sector; roles and positions of actors in global agricultural chains; new technologies and food sustainability

“Alternative”/“ethical” forms of food production involving migrant work, as an alternative to exploitation and their relation with temporary mobility; social innovation in rural areas; agency of migrants in global chain’s links; migrants’ contribution to the regeneration of rural areas and case studies showing the resilience of rural societies in the context of the economic downturn.

Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and its impact in rural zones; new policies carried by states to stop/impulse migrations to agriculture and to stop/impulse other relevant aspects of the sector.

- Proposals about temporary/circulatory mobility in other sectors (e.g. construction sector, or manufacturing industries in Central-Eastern Europe) and the way these flows are managed can also be accepted.

The second goal of the Seminar will be to take advantage of the presence of researchers from different countries to discuss the EU directives on Seasonal Work and Posted Workers, currently under revision. We will identify and discuss the most problematic aspects in both Directives, at the light of past and current fieldwork experiences and summarize the content and conclusions drawn from this debate to make recommendations to the EU Commission, in accordance with the objectives of the EU TEMPER Project (<http://www.temperproject.eu>)

Contributions from **different destination regions** (Mediterranean, Central and Eastern Europe, Argentina, Canada, United States, New Zealand etc.) and contributions that take **an origin perspective** (Morocco, Romania, Mexico, Bolivia etc.) are particularly welcome.

Important dates and deadlines:

Abstracts of no more than 500 words should be sent to Yoan Molinero Gerbeau (yoan.molinero@cchs.csic.es) by 2nd December 2016.

Notification of acceptance will be sent by December 16th 2016.

Once proposals will be accepted an email with accommodation recommendations and practical information on how to get to the meeting venue will be sent. As well a template sheet regarding our recommendations for reforming the EU directive will be sent to all participants.

A certificate of attendance will be given to all participants at the end of the seminar.

Organizers:

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