

XXIII ESRS
CONGRESS



VAASA 2009

The European Society for Rural Sociology

Welcome to Vaasa, Finland

August 17 - 21, 2009

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Congress Theme:

RE-INVENTING THE RURAL: Between the Social and the Natural

Rural areas and people in Europe stand at a crossroads, caught between global and local flows and processes. The Congress will address this critical moment through the following five key themes:

1. Mobilities and Stabilities in Rural Space

Rural areas across Europe are experiencing extensive migration flows. Young people move to the cities for more opportunities, while the older middle classes retreat to the countryside in search of the "good life", and much of agriculture and rural services depend upon migrant labour. What are the effects on social cohesion and how do communities and welfare services cope?

2. The Rural Bites Back

Rural areas are often presented as passive but issues such as commodity prices, flooding, animal diseases and food scares are continually in the news, providing opportunities to re-assert or redefine rural power. What have academics to say about or contribute to this rural resurgence?

3. Animal Farm

Changing material and moral relationships between society and nature are played out on farms, markets, laboratories, abattoirs and on television and in the cinema. There is a need to understand the innovative possibilities of such heterogeneous flows and connections.

4. The Sciences of the Rural

The challenges of land management in the current era of climate change mitigation and adaptation require that an interdisciplinary rural studies extends further into working with the natural and physical sciences. This will require innovative methods for working together, for framing problems and for integrating outputs.

5. Sustainable Ruralities

Global issues such as climate change raise important questions for the future of rural areas and settlements, which provide vital environmental, social and economic functions. How should rural land and rural communities be engaged in securing a sustainable future for the next generation?

The themes are divided into 39 different Working Groups. If you are interested in presenting a paper at the Congress, please visit our website for more details of each Working Group.

Decide which Working Group you would like to be in, and send a title and short abstract (circa 200 -250 words) to the convenor of that Working Group **by March 14, 2009**.

For more information please visit our website www.esrs2009.fi

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