



**COST A35 – Program for the Study of European Rural Societies  
WG 4 – State and Peasants**

**with the support of : Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft, Mission Historique Française en  
Allemagne, Universität Münster**

***Social networks and institutional change:  
pathways and limits of state intervention in rural societies***

**Münster, March 30th – 31st, 2007  
Univ. Münster, Historisches Seminar  
Domplatz 20-22 (Fürstenberghaus), Übungsraum 4**

**Commentators:**

Michael **Schnegg** (Institut für Völkerkunde, Universität zu Köln / Social Network Analysis)  
Rui **Santos** (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Departamento de Sociologia e Instituto de Sociologia  
Histórica / Economic Sociology)  
David **Sabean** (University of California at Los Angeles, Department of History / History of Kinship)  
Nadine **Vivier** (Département d'Histoire, Université du Maine, Le Mans / Agrarian History)

**Discussants:**

Gérard **Béaur** (Paris, Centre de Recherches Historiques, EHESS / Progressore)  
Isabel **Fischer** (Hohenheim, Agrarwissenschaft)  
Carola **Lipp** (Göttingen, Europäische Ethnologie)  
Peter **Moser** (Bern, Archiv für Agrargeschichte / Progressore)  
Socrates D. **Petmezias** (University of Crete Rethymnon, History / Progressore)  
Ulrich **Pfister** (Münster, Social and Economic History)  
Jürgen **Schlumbohm** (Göttingen, Max-Planck-Institut für Geschichte / Progressore)

**Organizer:**

Georg **Fertig** (Münster, Social and Economic History / Progressore)

***Programme du colloque / Program of the conference***

**Friday, March 30**

9:30 Introductory remarks

10:00 First session: *Access to resources through networks*

Cristina **Munno** (Institut national d'études démographiques, Paris / Venezia): Unsure land.  
Rural strategy in a workers community.

Christine **Fertig** (Institut für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte, Univ. Münster): Relationships  
and resource flows in rural societies: Social networks in Westphalia in the nineteenth century.

Milada **Kasarjyan** (Leibniz-Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Mittel- und Osteuropa IAMO, Halle)  
Rüdiger **Korff** (Südostasienkunde, Univ. Passau), Gertrud Buchenrieder (IAMO Halle): Do social networks increase access to resources? The case of Armenia.

11:00 Short Break

11:15 First session, second part  
Comments: Michael **Schnegg**  
Open Discussion

14:00 Second Session: *Networks, knowledge, and entrepreneurial strategies*

Marney E. **Isaac**, (Toronto, Faculty of Forestry), Bonnie Erickson (Toronto, Faculty of Sociology), J. Quashie-Sam (Kumasi, Ghana) , V.R. Timmer (Toronto, Faculty of Forestry): The structure of informal farmer networks: Advice seeking on agroforestry practices.

Jana **Fritzs**, Axel **Wolz** (IAMO Halle): The role of social capital in promoting agricultural incomes. First evidence from farm surveys in central and eastern Europe.

András **Vári** (Miskolc University, Dept. of History): Finding a match: Market access, cooperatives and local societies in Hungary around 1900.

Alexander Nikulin, Konstantin **Poleshchuk** (Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences): Kinship networks and mutual assistance in a central Russian village: Their implications for social security and the development of commercial agriculture.

15:30 Short Break

15:45 Second session, second part  
Comments: Rui **Santos**  
Open Discussion

17:30 End of first day

### Saturday, March 31st

9:30 Third session: *Social support through networks and formal institutions*

Sandro **Guzzi-Heeb** (Univ. Berne, Institut d'histoire): Affaires de famille? Parenté, réseaux sociaux et mobilisation politique dans une vallée alpine 1840-1900.

Patrick **Heady** (London / EU project KASS 'Kinship and Social Security'): Kinship networks and mutual assistance in 8 rural localities.

Hilde **Bras** and Theo van Tilburg (Free University Amsterdam): Kinship and Social Networks: A Regional Analysis of Sibling Relations in Twentieth-Century Netherlands.

Gertraud **Seiser** (Univ. Vienna, Dept. of Social and Cultural Anthropology): Are Austrian farmers pre-modern subjects in a late-modern setting? The case of the *Mühlviertler Alm*.

10:45 Third session, second part

Comments: David **Sabe**

11:05 Open Discussion

13:45 Fourth session: *Political organisation and clientelism*

Manuel Carlos **Silva** (Department of Sociology, Univ. Minho): Peasants, brokers, and the state: competition and dividends in familist local politics in northern rural Portugal.

Ernst **Langthaler** (St. Pölten, Institut für Geschichte des ländlichen Raums): Credit relations between rural life-worlds and the Nazi political-economic system: three Austrian regions in comparison, 1938-1945.

Guido **Alfani** (Economic History, Università Bocconi, Milano): Closing a network. A tale of not-so-common lands (Nonantola XVIth-XVIIIth Centuries).

14:45 Short Break

15:00 Fourth session, second part  
Comments: Nadine **Vivier**

15:20 Open Discussion

16:15 Short Break

16:30 Final Discussion: Networks and State in Rural Society

17:30 End of second day