

Course Title: Rural Development Policy

Instructor: Andrew Cartwright

ECTS: X

Term: Winter

Module: Elective

Relation to other courses: Part of the Development stream

Background and Overall Aim of the Course:

According to the UN, in 2008 the world's population moved from majority rural to majority urban. In some parts of the world, this transition has been going on for hundreds of years; in other places though, the pace of change has been rapid and sometimes overwhelming. In Asia, Latin America and Africa, mega cities have grown faster than states could keep up. Many new agglomerations don't have enough jobs, proper housing, infrastructure or functioning public services. Mega cities produce mega slums with all the attendant problems of poverty, crime and early death. The aim of this course is to consider the flip side to urbanization. Based on the premise that the condition of rural areas is intimately connected with the city, where income opportunities are low, where the natural environment is degraded, or where the quality of life appears lower, out-migration is the only response. Demographic decline can fatally weaken the viability of rural settlements, leading to ghost villages in only a matter of years.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, students will be familiar with a range of key public policy issues in contemporary rural development. They will have developed an understanding of the underlying processes driving rural development, and through a series of interconnected case studies, will be able to appreciate the potential and the limitations of public policy to mitigate some of the negative trends. Students will be expected to draw on a range of social science research to develop their analysis of key policy issues such as land grabbing and land abandoning, managing demographic decline and promoting good governance over emerging sectors such as energy production and tourism. Taking into account arguments concerning urban bias, they will be expected to critically assess the viability and accessibility of accurate information concerning key rural trends. Students will be expected to be able to integrate disparate policy fields and sectors in order to develop new versions of territorial policy, and connect them to regional, national and supranational policy frameworks, such as the Common Agricultural Policy, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Voluntary Guidelines on Responsible Governance of the Tenure of the Land, Fisheries and Forests.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

All classes will be a combination of lectures and seminar discussions, drawing on case studies for elaboration and encouraging active participation.

Assessment:

Each class has three assigned readings although you will be only expected to read one of them. There will be one essay of 3500 words that will be worth three quarters of the grade, the other is made up by contribution to class discussion.

Participation: 25%

Final paper: 75%

Course Content and Readings:

1. Week Introduction

This class will set out the main questions that will be addressed in the course. What are the characteristic features that define the rural areas and what are the important differences within the countryside? Which short and longer term forces are shaping their futures? Given the near universal reduction in the agricultural workforce, what alternative income opportunities can be cultivated and from this perspective, which assets and resources divide viable areas from declining rural settlements? How does public policy support rural development and what are the underlying assumptions and ideologies that inform public policy, for example, is the objective to save rural areas, to restore them or to convert them?

Issues: Comparing rural areas; Practices, processes and policies; Actors and movements; Ideologies and objectives

Readings:

Van der Ploeg, J.D., Jingzhong, Y. & Schneider, S., (2012), 'Rural development through the construction of new, nested, markets: comparative perspectives from China, Brazil and the European Union', *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 39:1, 133-173

Other materials

International Peasant's Movement - <http://viacampesina.org/en/>

The European Network for Rural Development - <https://enrd.ec.europa.eu/en/home-page>

FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia - <http://www.fao.org/europe/en/>

OECD <http://www.oecd.org/regional/regional-policy/oecdworkonruraldevelopment.htm>

Week 2 Property regimes, rural development and large scale land acquisitions

What is the relationship between property and rural development? How do land tenure regimes influence social structures and income distribution in rural areas? Do formal regimes offer a stronger defense to external attempts to acquire rural land than traditional informal systems? As a case study of changing pressures on land use, we will look large scale land acquisitions. What is behind their proliferation and what do they mean for local rural populations? Is it always win/lose or are there circumstances under which it can be a net benefit for rural areas?

Issues: Varieties of rural ownership; Land tenure regimes and local development; The internationalization of food production; Green grabs: conservation and development

Readings

Land Policies for Growth and Poverty Reduction, World Bank Policy Research Report, Oxford University Press and the World Bank, Oxford, 2003 (Executive summary)

Ribot, J. C. and Peluso, N. L. (2003), A Theory of Access. *Rural Sociology*, 68: 153–181

Fairhead, J. Leach, M. & Scoones, I., (2012) Green Grabbing: a new appropriation of nature?, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 39:2, 237-261,

Other materials

International Land Coalition - <http://www.landcoalition.org/>

Land Matrix: The online public database of land deals - <http://www.landmatrix.org/en/>

Pearce F., *The Land Grabbers: the new fight over who owns the earth*, Eden Project Books, 2012

Visser, O., Mamonova N., and Spoor, M., 'Oligarchs, megafarms and land reserves: understanding land grabbing in Russia,' *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, Vol. 39:3-4, 2012

Films

The Field (1990)

Land Grabbing (2015) - <http://www.land-grabbing.com/Home/>

Week 3 Land use, ownership and abandonment

In other parts of the world, the problem is not so much the pressure of demand, but its absence. The abandonment of farmland receives much less attention than land grabs, but it still has profound implications for the lives of those living in affected areas. Often associated with mass migration, it has proved difficult to manage, especially in countries reluctant to rely upon compulsory state interventions.

Issues: Causes and Costs; Areas affected; Policy alternatives: Taxation, land banks and land consolidation; Re-wilding

Readings

Terres, J.T. et al, 'Farmland abandonment in Europe: Identification of drivers and indicators, and development of a composite indicator of risk,' *Land Use Policy* 49 (2015) 20–34

T. Sikor, D. Muller and J. Stahl, 'Land Fragmentation and cropland abandonment in Albania: Implications for the Roles of the State and Community in Post-socialist Land Consolidation,' *World Development* Vol. 37. No 8, pp 1411-1423, 2009

Navarro, L.M. and Pereira, H.M., 2015, Rewilding abandoned landscapes in Europe, in *Rewilding European Landscapes* (pp. 3-23). Springer International Publishing.

Other materials

How to prevent the next Global Dust Bowl - <http://www.kulunda.eu/?q=en>

Verdery K., *The Vanishing Hectare, Property and Value in Postsocialist Transylvania*, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, 2004

Week 4 Water, forests and the management of natural resources

How to create institutions that can ensure the sound management of natural resources in rural areas, such as forests and water, is an enduring problem, exacerbated by overlapping legal claims, fuzzy ownership and conflicting economic interests. Not only can weak law enforcement lead to social conflict, it can also lead to profound environmental harm, through contaminated water tables, poisoned soils and polluted atmospheres. This class examines how institutional initiatives try to balance the differing interests of farmers, local populations and neighbouring areas in the context of water and forest management.

Issues: Contemporary pressures and consequences of misuse; Managing natural resources amongst mixed income populations; Agricultural and non-agricultural uses
Law enforcement and other incentives to comply; Conservation and finance in transnational water management

Readings

Leila Zakhirova (2013) The International Politics of Water Security in Central Asia, *Europe-Asia Studies*, 65:10, 1994-2013, DOI: 10.1080/09668136.2013.848647

Nichiforel L. and Schanz H., 'Property rights distribution and entrepreneurial rent-seeking in Romanian forestry: a perspective of private forest owners,' *European Journal of Forest Research* (2011) 130:369–381

Penov I., Theesfeld I., and Gatzweiler, F., 'Irrigation and Water Regulation Systems in Transition: The Case of Bulgaria in comparison with Latvia, East Germany and Romania', from F. Gatzweiler and K. Hagedorn (eds.) *Institutional Change in Central and Eastern Europe: Agriculture and Environment*, FAO, Rome, 2003

Other materials

Winiwarter V. & Haidvogel G. (2015): *Danube Future: White Paper on Integrated Sustainable Development of the Danube River Basin. A research community-based White Paper on research and capacity building needs, challenges and opportunities for the development of the sustainability-oriented knowledge society of the Danube River Basin.* Alpen-Adria-Universität Klagenfurt Wien Graz & University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna. Printed edition, Vienna.

O'Hara S. (ed.) *Drop by Drop: Water Management in the Southern Caucasus and Central Asia*, LGI Studies, Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, 2003

Film

The shrinking of the Aral Sea https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dp_mkJiwXg

Week 5 Migration and mobility: trends, impacts and policies

That rural areas are shrinking seems to be the case worldwide. However, there are important differences in both the pace and the consequences of out-migration. Some places are relatively untouched by migration whereas others are profoundly affected. What are the specific contributions that migration makes for rural development and how have governments tried to manage the process and with what effects?

Issues: Differentiating migration by cause, duration and destination; Remittances, investment and rural income distribution; Impacts on fertility and family formation; Intergenerational relations

Readings

"Migration and Albania's Dynamic Transformation", in Vullenetari J., *Albania on the Move: Links Between Internal and International Migration*, 195–232. Amsterdam University Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt6wp6gk.12>.

Farrell, M., Kairytė, E., Nienaber, B., McDonagh, J., & Mahon, M., (2014) 'Rural Return Migration: Comparative Analysis between Ireland and Lithuania', *Central and Eastern European Migration Review* 3(2), 127-149.

Bell, M. M., Lloyd, S. E. and Vatovec, C. (2010), 'Activating the Countryside: Rural Power, the Power of the Rural and the Making of Rural Politics,' *Sociologia Ruralis*, 50: 205–224 DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9523.2010.00512.x

Other materials

SEMIGRA, Selective Migration and Unbalanced Sex Ratio in Rural Regions, http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_TargetedAnalyses/semigra.html

DEMIFER, Demographic and Migratory Flows affecting European Regions and Cities, http://www.espon.eu/main/Menu_Projects/Menu_AppliedResearch/demifer.html

Films

Last Train Home (2009)

Mandrie si Beton <http://mandriesibeton.ro/film.php>

Week 6 Graying Countryside: Intergenerational relations, social welfare and rural assets

In many areas, the shrinking of the rural population is combined with the graying of the same population. Although increasing longevity is a feature of many parts of the world, arguably, it influences rural development differently from in urban areas. In this class we will look at two dimensions of this equation. First the implications that rural aging has for the development of farming and second, how the combination of out-migration of family members combined with the absence of rural based residential services leads to alternative ways of providing social welfare services for the elderly.

Issues: Paying for retirement; Land rich but pension poor; Non-kin based care in remote areas; Community co-production of public services

Readings

World Bank (2007), *From red to gray: the 'third transition' of aging populations in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*, Washington DC: World Bank.

Fischer, H. and Burton, R. J. F. (2014), 'Understanding Farm Succession as Socially Constructed Endogenous Cycles', *Sociologia Ruralis*, 54: 417–438
DOI: 10.1111/soru.12055

King R., and Vullnetari, J., 'Does your granny eat grass?' On mass migration, care drain and the fate of older people in rural Albania,' *Global Networks* 8, 2 (2008) 139–171

Other materials

Help Age International <http://www.helpage.org/>

The Oxford Institute of Population Aging - <http://www.ageing.ox.ac.uk/>

Halloran, J., Calderón, K.V., 'Hungary 2005: Basic social services in rural settlements – Village and remote homestead community care-giving', European Social Network, DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, 2005

Bourdieu, P., *The Bachelors' Ball: The Crisis of Peasant Society in Béarn*, University of Chicago Press, 2008

Farmer J., Hill C., Munoz S-A., *Community Co-production: Social enterprise in remote and rural communities*, Edward Elgar, 2011

Week 7 Maintaining good rural schools: One way to keep people from leaving?

Formal institutions have long played an important role in the improvement of conditions in rural areas. Whether it is co-operatives that mediate access to markets, social organisations that foster belonging or public services whether they are provided by church, state or civic groups; all of them can have profound influence over the sustainability of rural settlements. In this class, we will focus on the organization and provision of rural education. Does the lack of educational opportunity lie behind many migration decisions? How is it possible to maintain quality in remote areas? Are small

schools basically unaffordable? Are there alternative measures to secure high quality educational institutions in rural areas? What might these schools look like?

Issues: In what ways do rural schools have to be run differently from their urban counterparts? How to attract and retain teachers; Parental participation in schooling; Non-state education provision

Readings

Kovács K., 'Rescuing a small village school in the context of rural change in Hungary,' *Journal of Rural Studies*, Volume 28, Issue 2, April 2012, Pages 108-117

Smit R., Hyry-Belhammer E.K., and Raggl, A., 'Teaching and learning in small, rural schools in four European countries: Introduction and synthesis of mixed-/multi-age approaches,' *International Journal of Educational Research*, (2015) 74 103-110

Radu, R.G., *Educational Services Delivery at a Crossroads: A Paradigm Shift in State-CSO Relationships in Central and Eastern Europe, 2013 TOL chalkboard*

Other materials

Open Society Foundation Education Support Program
Transitions online <http://www.tol.cz>

Film

To Be and To Have (2002)

Week 8 What kind of farming for rural development I?

Farming is often divided into binary and largely oppositional categories commercial versus family, intensive versus extensive, organic versus industrial, high tech and low tech, small scale against large and part-time versus full time. In some regions, it has been necessary to add in other distinctions, such as subsistence versus semi-subsistence, hobby or slipper farms against corporate ones. As in many cases, rural reality cannot be so easily divided. Public policies, whilst ostensibly promoting one or other form of production, often seek a range of farm types, suited to local, regional and national circumstances.

Issues: Which farms deserve subsidies? Alternatively, which foods, fodders, fuels (or places) deserve subsidy? Public goods and private benefits; How to increase yields; Distant markets and short supply chains

Readings

Graeb, B.E. et al, 'The State of Family Farms in the World,' *World Development*, 2015, DOI - <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2015.05.012>

Collier, P., 'The Politics of Hunger - How Illusion and Greed Fan the Food Crisis', *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, Issue 6 (November/December 2008), pp. 67-79

Rentinga, H., Schermerb, M., and Rossic, A., 'Building Food Democracy: Exploring Civic

Food Networks and Newly Emerging Forms of Food Citizenship,' *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* Volume 19, issue 3 (2012), pages 289-307

Other Materials

Van der Ploeg, J.D., *The new peasantries: struggles for autonomy and sustainability in an era of empire and globalization*, London, Earthscan, 2008

OECD, *The role of agriculture and farm household diversification in the rural economy*, 2009

Week 9 Pro-rural agrarian policy

One of the questions that has long obsessed policy makers and practitioners is whether farming remains the basis for the development of other parts of the rural economy, variously expressed in such terms as diversification, pluriactivity, and multi-functionality. As van de Ploeg argued, looking from the farm for new markets can choose from broadening, deepening or re-grounding farming activities, the externalities of which can be positive for other at the local, regional and national level. Converting assets to new uses such as a leisure or service can benefit more than just the rural household. In this class we will look at areas in which farm based development can be beneficial for both rural and regional development.

Issues: Agencies and networks; Costs and risks; Making the most of spillovers; Trust, entrepreneurs and outsiders

Readings

Kay, C., (2009) 'Development strategies and rural development: exploring synergies, eradicating poverty,' *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, 36:1, 103-137, DOI: 10.1080/03066150902820339

Marquardt, D., Mollers, J., and Buchenrieder, G., 'Social Networks and Rural Development: LEADER in Romania,' *Sociologia Ruralis*, Vol.52 No 4, October 2012

Simmons, A. (2014). *Opium cultivation in Afghanistan: A policy proposal based on lessons from Turkey and China* (Doctoral dissertation, Central European University).

Other Materials

FAO, European Commission on Agriculture, 39th Session, *Innovation in Family Farming in Europe and Central Asia*, 2015

SEGIRA – Study on Employment, Growth and Innovation in Rural Areas, DG AGRI, 2010

Spoor, M., (ed.), *The political economy of rural livelihoods in transition economies : land, peasants and rural poverty in transition*, London, New York. Routledge, 2009

Film

Afghan Overdose: Inside opium trade, 2012

Week 10 Developing rural areas without farms

In the context of shrinking agricultural sectors, alternative sources for rural development become more important. One approach is to consider the range of physical and cultural assets that an area has and the ways in which these might be reorganized to attract resources and enter into new markets. Such features might be based on the attractions of a landscape, the reputation of a local food, the amenities that are present, even if they are temporarily in a state of disrepair. Developing new sources of income that will not only last but have the potential to grow is one of the critical questions for rural areas and different actors, movements, associations and authorities have differing conceptions of what that future might involve and what is necessary to get there. In this penultimate class, we will consider the situation and arguments put forward for tourism and leisure based, new kinds of services based, as well as both traditional and modern forms of production.

Issues: Assets, deficits and transformations; Saving, conserving and restoring villages through tourism; Democratic management of tourism; Attracting external resources; Rural images, logos and narratives

Readings

McAreevey, R. and McDonagh, J., 'Sustainable rural tourism: Lessons for rural development', *Sociologia Ruralis* Vol 53, No.2, 2011

Naldi, L. et al, 'What is smart rural development?' *Journal of Rural Studies*, 40 (2015) 90-101

Steiner, A., and Atterton, J., 'Exploring the contribution of rural enterprises to local resilience', *Journal of Rural Studies* 40 (2015) 30-45

Other materials

Scholten, J. F. (2013), 'Comrade Baron—A Journey through the Vanishing World of the Transylvanian Aristocracy', *Hungarian Review*, (04), 48-65.

Roberts, L., and Hall, D., *Rural tourism and recreation: principles to practice*, CABI Publishing, 2001

Light, D., 'Dracula tourism in Romania, Cultural Identity and the State', *Annals of Tourism Research*, Vol. 34, No. 3, pp. 746–765, 2007

Week 11 Guest speaker:

In this class, we invite an outside expert to present on some aspect of rural development. Appropriate readings are set depending on exact topic.

Week 12 Review Class

In this class students are expected to develop their own versions of territorial development policy that will connect critical issues to credible policy interventions.

Reading

OECD, Rural Policy 3.0, 2018

<http://www.oecd.org/regional/understanding-rural-economies.htm>