

ESRS 2022 Satellite Events: far apart but still close together
“Just Rural Transitions: Opportunities and Challenges”
20-24 June, 2022

Call for contribution for the *ESRS2022 Satellite event @ Switzerland*
“New insights from family farm research through a focus on the farm household-farm operation interface”

An event jointly organized by Bern University of Applied Sciences (BFH) and the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS).

Conveners @ Switzerland: Sandra Contzen, Bern University of Applied Science (Switzerland) - Florence Becot, National Farm Medicine Center (USA) - Shoshanah Inwood from The Ohio State University (USA) - Keiko Tanaka from the University of Kentucky (USA) - Hannah Budge, Newcastle University (England)

Rural social scientists continue to study why, how, and which farm families stay on the land in the face of unrelenting change and the inherent instability of the agricultural sector due to biophysical, social, political, and economic forces. The interconnections and exchange of resources between the farm household and farm operation interface help to absorb shocks to the farm enterprise and work to facilitate farm reproduction. Yet the interface between the household and operation has mostly been treated as a black box within the farm family literature preventing the development of an in-depth understanding of the bi-directional mechanisms at play. Studies that consider the strengths and challenges of farm households within the Western industrialized countries context are sparse and these studies tend to focus on the farm household seldom making explicit and in-depth connections to the consequences on farm operation structures and development trajectories.

To update and broaden the family farm scholarship, we invite theoretical, empirical, and discussion papers that shed a light on the farm household-farm operation interface. Papers can be based on new research or revisiting of data previously analyzed but with a new eye to the linkages between the farm household and the farm operation.

Through a mix of presentation and working sessions, the goal of this 2-day ESRS satellite event is two-fold: 1) to initiate the scientific debate on the farm household-farm operation interface and 2) to develop new networks of family farm scholars working across Western industrialized countries.

The 2-day ESRS satellite event will be followed by a 1-day writing workshop aiming at outlining a scholarly paper proposing a research agenda to expand the family farm scholarship through a focus on the farm household/farm operation linkages. To facilitate in-depth exchange and discussions as well as networking, we plan to limit this event to 25 attendees. It is possible to only attend the 2-days event.

Example of questions and topics papers may address include:

- In what ways do the social and economic needs and challenges of the farm household shape decisions connected to the farm operation’s production and marketing decisions?
- How do financial needs of the farm operation and household intersect along the life course?
- How are decisions among the farming couple taken with regard to the farm operation-farm household linkage?
- In which situations does either the farm operation or the farm household receive priority and with what consequences for the other sphere?

- In what ways do varying farm programs and policies account for the socio-economic needs of the farm household?
- How do agricultural advisors address the farm operation-farm household intersection in their programming?
- What role might social policies play in increasing and bolstering the resilience of the farm operation?
- How does gender, race, ethnicity, class, and intersectionality intersect with and influence farm household and farm enterprise experiences, decision making and trajectory?

Submission guidelines

Please email your abstracts of up to 350-words **by 15 March** to becot.florence@marshfieldresearch.org. Decisions will be made by **Friday April 1**. Invited presenters will then be asked to submit a 2-page extended abstract **by 20 May** (extended abstract templates will be sent with the notice of acceptance). This 2-page extended abstract will be shared with participants ahead of the event to give people a chance to get a general sense of the contributions and start thinking about threads/themes across the papers. For questions about the satellite event theme and for abstract submission, please contact: becot.florence@marshfieldresearch.org.

About the ESRS Satellite event @ Switzerland

This ESRS 2022 Satellite is hosted by Bern University of Applied Science ([HAFL: Homepage | BFH](#)) on 22 June and 23 June, the writing workshop on 24 June. We will provide more logistical information to help plan your visit when we send notices of acceptance but this is what we are planning at this time. Registration cost for the 2-days event is Euro 70 and covers group lunches at the University cafeteria and coffee breaks with snacks. The cost for the 1-day writing workshop is Euro 30 covering lunch and coffee breaks. Other meals will be on our own though we will make suggestions of the best places to eat and plans to meet there to continue the discussion. Bern is easily accessible by train and plane (via Zurich or Geneva) and there are several hotels nearby with nights ranging in cost between Euro 120 and Euro 180 up to much more. If you are from outside the EU, please make sure to check on visa requirements to enter into Switzerland.

This ESRS Satellite event @ Switzerland is one of the 11 “Satellite Events” co-organized with ESRS. These 11 “Satellite Events” will gather small groups of people in different places of the ESRS community. The overall ESRS 2022 programme will unfold with a series of common online events for all satellites; apart from our local event ESRS2022 Satellite event @ Switzerland.

Before you can register to the ESRS 2022 Satellite Events you will need to make sure that your ESRS membership is current. For renewal or new members, more information and instructions are available on the Wiley website [via this link](#). Benefits of the ESRS membership include connections to a network of rural social science scholars, access to activities organized by ESRS (e.g. ESRS study groups and PhD schools), and a discount to register to the next in-person ESRS conference.

For questions about practical details of ESRS Satellite event, please contact: Elizabeth.Bieri@bfh.ch