

2.3 Sources and experiences

Room 107

Chair: Nicola Verdon

2.31 Natalie Joly – Shaping records on the farm? Farmers' diaries from the nineteenth-century to the present

Farm work, like other forms of professional activity, has become increasingly mediated over the past few decades by various kinds of instruments for measuring parameters, taking notes or maintaining records. But how do these new record-keeping practices in agriculture compare to earlier forms? This communication will describe and contrast the uses of agricultural diaries across different social groups and different time periods: on the one hand, the agronomes' 'books of reason' and landlords' estate journals from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries; on the other, peasant diaries and memorandum books from the early twentieth century to the present. The latter are more exclusively centred on work, and as such have typically held less attraction for researchers. While we are accustomed to thinking of peasant societies as steeped in oral tradition, this paper will examine the various ways in which educational institutions and professional unions through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries tried to shape work-related writing in order to rationalise management. Various examples from an extensive 'propagandist' literature will be offered (extracts from almanacs and agricultural manuals) to illustrate the prescriptive nature of this documentary effort and its stability over time. In fact, ordinary farmers' practices of writing borrow from institutional prescriptions while at the same time reformulating these narrative frameworks to fashion their own history of agrarian life.

Nathalie Joly is a senior lecturer in sociology at the French Institute for Advanced Studies in Agriculture at Dijon – ENESAD) and an associate researcher with the 'Laboratoire de recherche sur les Innovations Socio-Techniques et Organisationnelles', a division of France's National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA). She holds a PhD from the Université Paris X – Nanterre, for which she wrote a thesis on farmers' diaries and knowledge formation in nineteenth and twentieth century France ('Work writing and peasant knowledge: An historical perspective on the writing practices of farmers. The case of 'agenda)'). Her research deals with change and evolution in farm work. She is currently coordinating an Anglo-French project titled 'Farmers Facing Traceability'.

2.32 Ildikó Asztalos Morell – Experiencing collectivisation and decollectivisation in rural women's and men's life histories

The final vogue of collectivisation in 1961 interrupted the continuity of farming from one generation to the other in Hungary causing trauma for the generation that had just completed the take-over of the farm from their ancestors. While many left agriculture altogether as a result, others accepted the forced incorporation into state socialist collectives. Passing a hard period of adjustment, the expansion of the industrial work organisation polarised the membership into 'head versus hand' positions. Despite diverse life paths, life histories manifest ambiguity when telling the past. On the one hand life histories express the sorrow of losing the family farm. On the other hand, former farmers who experienced the destruction of collectives following the transition to capitalism suffered similar degrees of distress. Being part of the collectives created a sense of belonging in former farmers, who found that the dismantling of the assets of collectives deprived them of values that their work contributed to accumulate. This paper elucidates, through life-history analysis of former farmers (men and women) of diverse status, how these two historical traumas were experienced and understood.

Ildikó Asztalos Morell is currently associate professor in sociology at Mälardalen university as well as engaged with two research projects. One is in collaboration with scholars and Södertörn university on the 'Strong state and the Family' in the Baltic Sea region and Eastern Europe, where my part concerns the impact of the new family law of 1952 in Hungary. The other project is placed at the Department of Cultural Geography at Uppsala University on the

organisation of care in rural Sweden. Her key publications focus on Hungarian agrarian transition during state socialism: 'Emancipation's Dead-End Roads: Studies in the formation and development of the Hungarian model for Gender and Agriculture 1956–1989' and during the post-socialist period containing a series of articles on the recruitment of the post-socialist agrarian entrepreneur strata in Hungary. Most of the articles apply a gender perspective. Ildikó has also been co-editor of a number of comparative volumes, such as: *Gender Regimes, Citizen Participation and Rural Restructuring* 2008, Elsevier. She has recently been engaged with life-history analyses covering recollections of rural transitions in Hungary.

2.33 Yukari Shimizu – 'Drawing archives' as personal history describing early modern rural Japan

Since the high economic growth of the 1960s, Japanese agriculture and rural life has modernised rapidly. In the context of such social change, some people from rural communities began to make 'drawing archives' as personal history based on their experiences in modern rural life.

This paper aims to examine the social significance of these drawing archives, clarifying how these drawings represent modern rural communities and what painters insist by making such records. First, drawing archives from all over Japan were collected, and organised from the point of view of when and where these archives were made and how it changed its contents, connecting with Japanese post-war rural history. Next, a series of drawings by a farmer from rural central Japan was selected as an example to clarify the feature of the drawings' depiction. The series has been published since 1990s when Japanese rural society seemed to move into post-productivist phase. After analysis of depiction, it was examined that how the drawing archives are playing their role within the present local community. In conclusion, the drawings are positive re-evaluation of modern rural life, and play a role as historical records close to local people.

Yukari Shimizu gained a PhD at the Graduate School of Life and Environmental Sciences, University of Tsukuba, March 2010. Since then she has been a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Tsukuba.