

Rural History 2021, 5<sup>th</sup> biennial conference of the European Rural History Organization (EURHO), Uppsala, Sweden, 20 to 22 June 2022

Panel: Re-inventing Rurality? Contemporary Debates and Historical Perspectives

Organized by Dietlind Hüchtker, University of Vienna

The pressing issues of the present, such as climate protection, populism, animal breeding/animal law or the inadequate equipment with new technologies (lack of digital or transport infrastructures) are to a large extent linked to rural areas. At the same time, rural areas still appear as an ideal alternative to urban (post)modernity. At the beginning of the 21st century, rural areas are often at the center of debates - both as spaces of stagnation that are to be left and as spaces in which new social concepts are being developed. Though the debates on “the rural” pick up contemporary problems they are not new at all. Rural exodus, deserted villages, the notion of traditionalism and backwardness on the one hand and idealization, utopia, and space of a better world on the other are not new at all.

The panel should bring together papers on the meanings of rurality in different places and times. This could mean negotiations of the borders between urban and rural, rurality and nature. It integrates topics on rural migration, questions of rurality and society, backwardness, or utopian ideas. It covers early modern times up to the present in a transregional and transdisciplinary perspective. Discussing different aspects together the panel contributes to the historicisation of “the crisis of rurality.”

The panel covers examples from Ukrainian peasantry of the 18<sup>th</sup> century up to debates on rurality in historiography of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Contributions:

Ranjana Kunwar, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu, Nepal: Alternative Approaches of Living

Werner Nell, Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg: Negotiating Rurality under the Perspectives of Thomas Luckmann’s Invisible Religion

Iurii Zazuliak Ukrainian Catholic University, Lviv, Ukraine: Peasant Community and Peasant Rebellion in the Ukrainian Lands of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Poland-Lithuania

Dietlind Hüchtker, University of Vienna: The Village Between City and Nature? Conceptualizing Rurality in Historiography

Corinne Geering, Leibniz Institute for the History and Culture of Eastern Europe (GWZO), Leipzig, Germany: Writing the History of Regional Development in Rural Europe

Dietlind Hüchtker, University of Vienna: Chair