

An empirical foundation for new rural development pathways

(Opportunities and threats from the agri-food sector)

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While the current context of polymorphous crises (pandemic, war, energy crisis, climate changes...) puts in evidence the vulnerabilities of rural areas, it also offers them opportunities to promote new ways of living, economically, socially and environmentally. Although rural economies have been diversified, they remain the heart of food production where tensions arise due to conflicting environmental, social, and economic perspectives. Exacerbated by climate changes, in- and out-migration, economic stressors, social/economic/environmental precariousness, these tensions are potential pitfalls for viable futures while place-based responses may trigger new developmental paths.

The set of tensions that surround rural areas has triggered innovative ways of responding to current challenges endogenously. The pro-activeness and creativity of rural inhabitants has led to ground-breaking methods of farming, mobility, education, marketing, housing aimed at sustaining rural well-being despite the numerous constraints that affect rural communities. In this session, we focus on the agricultural sector where both social precarity and environmental degradation have led to a loss of value-understood as both economic, environmental and social-due to extractive economic development pathways. The goal is to provide an overview of rural dynamics based on empirical research to figure out ways to support the rural rejuvenation during these challenging times.

Several recent articles have highlighted the need to revisit conceptual approaches of development. In their review of the literature, Akimowicz et al. (2022) highlighted the critical role of rural governance and the genuine articulation of actors' agency, strategic planning, and geographical embeddedness. In her critical analysis of Bernard Maris' thought, Bracarensse (2022) highlighted the need to promote locally embedded and grounded policies that enable the de-commodification of money, labor and, land to reach more easily specific social, economic, and environmental goals. Finally, Petric and Gibson's (2022) assessment of program impacts and qualities show that their positive impacts on rural economic and community development necessitates provincial resources to foster community involvement and trigger new development pathways.

The goal of this session is to illustrate with empirical research these attempts to design new rural governances. The focus on the agricultural sector seems appropriate as it includes issues relevant to natural resources access and utilization as well as social relations and population

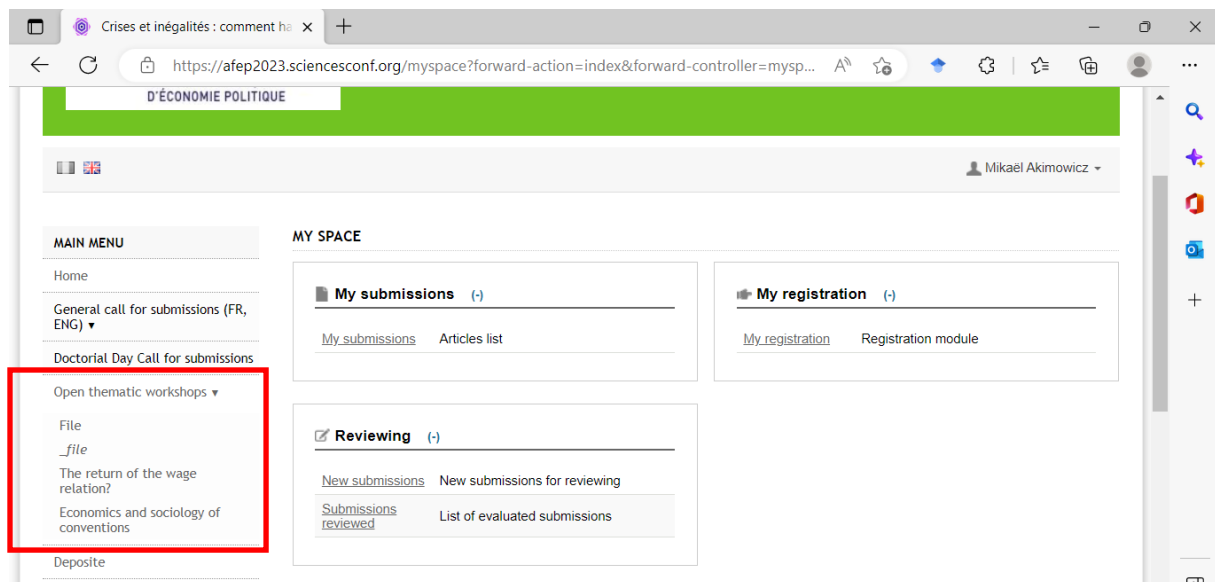
well-being. We are particularly interested in papers that explore transformation in food systems governance to address the following questions. Whose knowledge counts? What are the environmental, social and economic values of different modes of practice and governance? How are peasant and autochthonous knowledge valued? How are collective rights to seeds, knowledge, and land protected? How do social constructions such as gender, ethnicity, social class, education, and family contribute to food production and consumption? How to (re)design socially sustainable food systems?

Conference presentation submission:

The deadline for submitting communication proposals is February 27th.

Authors will need to submit their proposals to both:

- The organizers of the session via email
- On the online platform <https://afep2023.sciencesconf.org>. Please make sure to submit communication proposals under the appropriate “Open Thematic Workshops” option



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <https://afep2023.sciencesconf.org/myspace?forward-action=index&forward-controller=mysp...>. The page title is "D'ÉCONOMIE POLITIQUE" and the user is logged in as "Mikael Akimowicz". The page is divided into a "MAIN MENU" on the left and a "MY SPACE" area on the right. The "MAIN MENU" includes links for "Home", "General call for submissions (FR, ENG)", "Doctorial Day Call for submissions", "Open thematic workshops", "File", "The return of the wage relation?", "Economics and sociology of conventions", and "Deposite". The "MY SPACE" area contains three main sections: "My submissions" with links for "My submissions" and "Articles list"; "My registration" with links for "My registration" and "Registration module"; and "Reviewing" with links for "New submissions" and "List of evaluated submissions". A red box highlights the "Open thematic workshops" option in the "MAIN MENU", with a red arrow pointing to it from the left.

- Results of the evaluation will be communicated on March, 31st.