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- to foster closer relations between rural sociologists, other social scientists, and practitioners with an interest in agricultural development, rural society and the environment
- to promote international co-operation and the exchange of information and experience in the field of rural sociological research
- to provide a forum in Europe for the discussion of issues related to rural change
- to encourage the training of young social scientists within an international framework.

The Society tries to realise these objectives through the publication of a scientific journal, *Sociologia Ruralis*, and an electronic newsletter *ERS*-news, through the organization of a European congress every two years, and through the organization of international training and research seminars (summer school). The *ESRS* is chaired by an elected President who, together with the Executive Committee, is responsible for its management.

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Special Issue: Values-Based Territorial Food Networks'— Benefits, Challenges and Controversies Guest Editors: Gusztáv Nemes, Rachel Reckinger and Veronika Lajos

Editorial

Gusztáv Nemes, Rachel Reckinger, Veronika Lajos and Simona Zollet: 'Values-based Territorial Food Networks'—Benefits, challenges and	
controversies	3
Special Issue Articles	
Carolin Holtkamp: Contested diffusion of transformative innovations. Micro- and macrolevel social capital in South Tyrol	20
Rebecka Milestad, Susanne von Münchhausen, Gunn-Turid Kvam and Markus Schermer: Managing growth in medium-sized organic busi- nesses: Implications for local orientation and resilience building	45
Sofia Nikolaidou, Stelios Kouzeleas and Dimitris Goussios: A territorial approach to social learning: Facilitating consumer knowledge of local food through participation in the guarantee process	66
Paolo Prosperi, Francesca Galli, Olga M. Moreno-Pérez, Yuna Chiffoleau, Stefano Grando, Pavlos Karanikolas, Maria Rivera, Giannis Goussios, Teresa Pinto-Correia and Gianluca Brunori: Disentangling the diver- sity of small farm business models in Euro-Mediterranean contexts: A resilience perspective	89
<i>Simona Zollet:</i> Hybrid food networks and sustainability transitions: Shared and contested values and practices in food relocalisation and resocialisation	117
<i>Kiah Smith:</i> Scaling up civic food utopias in Australia: The challenges of justice and representation	140
André Torre and Brenno Fonseca: Conflict and oppositions in the devel- opment of peri-urban agriculture: The case of the Greater São Paulo region	160
1021011	100

Shyon Baumann, Josée Johnston and Merin Oleschuk: How do producers imagine consumers? Connecting farm and fork through a cultural repertoire of consumer sovereignty	178
<i>Kyra Tomay and Emese Tuboly:</i> The role of social capital and trust in the success of local wine tourism and rural development	200
Sara A. L. Smaal: Exploring farm-to-restaurant relations and the potential of a local food hub: A case study in the city-region of Groningen, the Netherlands .	223