



**“ESRS 2022 satellite events: far apart but still close together”**

***“Just Rural Transitions: Opportunities & Challenges”***

**(chair) Dr. Maria Partalidou, GREECE**

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Her research focuses on social inequalities in the rural, hidden homelessness and poverty trajectories but also social-solidarity economy and the foodshed, multifunctionality, rural tourism and urban agriculture. She has worked in several EU and national research projects engaging in crosscutting disciplines and participatory action research. Currently she is part of the national research group for the new National Strategic Plan under the future CAP (thematic groups for Community-led Local Development and AKIS).

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His research has developed from an ethnography of family farmers and their adaptation to political and economic changes, in Switzerland and New Zealand, to a wider and comparative approach of the governance of agri-food systems, with a particular focus on environmental issues. Recently, he has engaged in research on the use and impact of digital technologies in the governance of agriculture. In this context, he coordinates the ESRS Research and Study group on Digital Agriculture and Smart Foodscapes.

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His research interests lie at the intersections of rural sociology, cultural sociology, urban sociology and sociological theory. He is particularly interested in the images of rurality and their role in contemporary societies. Pavel’s works have appeared in the Journal of Rural Studies, Space and Culture, European Journal of Social Theory, American Journal of Cultural Sociology and other outlets. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the journal Sociální studia / Social Studies.

**Dr. Mikelis Grivins, [mikelis.grivins@gmail.com](mailto:mikelis.grivins@gmail.com), LATVIA**

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His recent work addresses issues related to agri-food systems, small scale farming, foraging and wild products, synergies between agriculture and forestry, financialization and digitalisation of agriculture and food systems. He is the author and co-author of scientific articles published in Journal of Rural Studies, Sociologia Ruralis, and Agriculture and Human Values. He has also participated in several FP7, H2020, regional and national research projects. Mikelis is chairing Latvian Sociological Association. He is the elected member of *Committee of Experts* of the Latvian Council of Science and member of the national committee of experts of H2020.

**Dr. Majda Černič Istenič, SLOVENIA**

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Her recent research work encompasses the issues of gender, intergenerational relations and ageing in rural contexts, knowledge exchange in agriculture, urban agriculture and the well-being of farm populations. She has been the author and co-author of many scientific articles, book chapters and conferences' contributions in the fields indicated above. She participated in several research projects related to rural development, agriculture and gender issues. She was the member of many professional bodies; recently she was appointed as the member of the Council of Rural Women at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Forestry in Slovenia.

**Dr. Annette Aagaard Thuesen, DENMARK**

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Her current research lies in community initiated health initiatives, village plans, EU rural development programs/LEADER, sub-municipal local council organization, democracy, planning processes. She is currently working on externally financed projects related to local engagement and community around nature and outdoor life, as well as the relationship between local councils/local community associations and the municipality. Building on democratic network governance, partnership organising, interactive governance, meta-governance, participative democracy, social innovation and institutional capacity.

**Dr. Ruth McAreavey, UK**

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Her research focuses on migration, particularly to regional and rural areas, inequalities faced by migrants in the labour market and in other parts of everyday life. She has published extensively on rural development she is an active member of various international research networks including the Trans-Atlantic Rural Research Network and the European Society for Rural Sociology (ESRS). *She is currently co-editor of Sociologia Ruralis.*