

Infinite Rural Systems in a Finite Planet: Bridging Gaps towards Sustainability



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Presentation

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1. Rationale for the Colloquium and for This Book

Since its inception in the late 1980s and early 1990s (Blewitt, 2008; Potter et al., 2008), Rural Geography has internalised the issue of sustainability as a core concern of the discipline. However, the yearly discussions of the International Geographical Union Commission on the Sustainability of Rural Systems (IGU CSRS) held in the successive colloquia over the last 25 years underscore inherent tensions and contradictions regarding sustainability that emerge in the challenging and complex transition of rural systems. In this context, the 26th CSRS Colloquium to be held in Santiago de Compostela and different rural areas of Galicia in 2018 has been specifically designed to focus on bridging some of the gaps raised in the ongoing academic debates. The wide thematic range of short papers included in this volume resulting from the received submissions acknowledge the pertinence of this approach. As an overall impression, the debates regarding sustainability acknowledge that the Earth is finite, but the existing gaps can be addressed, and examined, through infinite rural systems.

Despite “system” being a contested term in the social sciences (Cawley, 2013), it frames a body of research that takes into account internal and external interrelationships, embracing social, cultural, political (including planning), environmental and economic issues (Bowler, 1995, 2001). Reconciling these broad, but often contradictory themes, is part of the aim of bridging the gaps for the purposes of the 26th CSRS Colloquium. Thus, it is the basic objective of this book.

Furthermore, identified gaps that are considered in this volume are related to geographical scales; for instance, between the global arena (globalisation, world trade arrangements, global and climate change, etc.) and regional and local spaces of adaptation, or contestation. The regulatory spaces of nation-states (with or without devolved institutions) and supra-national structures such as the European Union (EU) interact

at multiple scales, resulting in a complex web of inter-relationships. Local engagement appears to be a basic feature in rural societies (Halfacree, 1993; Woods, 2005; Bessière, 2012); consequently, most of the book chapters interrogate the local scale. But this has not detracted attention from the other interrelated geographical scales also present, in order to comply with the overall endeavour of bridging the gaps towards sustainability.

The call for papers for the 26th CSRS Colloquium was announced at the 25th CSRS Colloquium held in Ho Chi Minh (Vietnam) in April 2017 and later widely disseminated. That document included a consistent set of questions around six broad themes inviting scholars to interrogate bridging the gaps towards sustainability of rural systems. Accordingly, these broad themes have been used for structuring this book's sections. They are as follows:

- I. Bridging gaps between agri-food networks.
- II. Bridging gaps between rural (multifunctional?) activities.
- III. Bridging the gap between conflicting land-uses.
- IV. Bridging gaps between rural imageries, and the “grim reality”.
- V. Bridging gaps with rural remote, low-density and mountain areas.
- VI. Bridging gaps between urban expansion, and agriculture and open spaces preservation.

The rationale and specific questions designed for each of the themes are shown as introductory texts of the six sections of this book. In line with the commitment to the official languages of the 26th CSRS Colloquium, these texts are published in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.

2. The Six Sections of This Book

Through a process that will be explained in the fifth section of this Presentation, 61 short papers have been selected for publication in this book. The distribution between themes has been balanced between Sections II to VI, each with around ten chapters. Sections II and IV are those that have attracted greatest attention, each with 13 chapters. This focus is to be predicted given that rural multifunctionality is a key, and contested, theoretical construct in the CSRS scientific activities and, indeed, it was the central topic of the 25th CSRS Colloquium (under the theme “Rural Spaces in a Multifunctional Transition: Experience and Adaptation”). Thus, there is an ongoing discussion in this direction, underpinned by significant contributions such as Wilson's (2007) essay, which this book uses as a key source. The strong interest for Section IV was not expected, given that the central issue under discussion — the need to bridge gaps between rural imageries and the “grim reality” of rural areas — is controversial and comes from the literature on landscape studies (Paül, Tort and Sancho, 2011). This therefore allows us to infer that research focussed on this tangible/intangible rural landscape gap offers a fruitful path that might continue in the forthcoming years.

Sections V and VI have attracted, respectively, 11 and 10 contributions. Ironically, it can be argued that they represent opposing geographical poles: on the one hand, Section V deals with rural remote, low-density and mountain areas, which experience significant and persistent issues; on the other hand, Section VI is devoted to peri-urban agriculture and city's countryside as a whole, typically showing considerable dynamism but pressured between the needs of urban expansion and, in parallel, of farmland and open spaces preservation. In

the previous CSRS colloquia there have been concerns that the type of discussions held in Section VI of this book might be overwhelming and become the predominant focus of the CSRS, while the “deep rural” in Section V of this book might be undervalued. Prof Frans Thissen expressed this opinion at the 12th CSRS Colloquium held in Aberdeen (Scotland) in 2004. This book is proof that rural remote, low-density and mountain areas remain an undeniable focus of academic attention by the CSRS community.

Section III, devoted to bridging the gap between conflicting rural land-uses, has attracted the interest of nine contributors. Most show GIS to be, increasingly, a central tool in our discipline. Surprisingly, Section I, which was planned to showcase one of the fundamental issues with regard to the sustainability of rural systems in the age of globalisation and resistance to globalisation — agri-food networks —, has only received five papers. This could be due to the adoption of these topics by a specific IGU commission on Agricultural Geography (officially, Commission on Agricultural Geography and Land Engineering), which was formally established in 2016. However, this scenario is not new, given that, as shown in the epilogue of this book, in parallel to the CSRS (or its predecessors in Rural Geography), there have been, intermittently, IGU commissions on Agricultural Geography in the past. In addition, a long-established IGU Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change exists and there is an evident partial overlapping with the CSRS *raison d'être*. In any case, the need for strengthening cooperation between IGU commissions is evident. Indeed, in the past, some CSRS colloquia were concurrently held with other commissions — e.g. the 12th CSRS in Aberdeen in 2004, with the Commission on Land Use and Land Cover Change; (the proceedings edited by Mather, 2005).

This book also includes an epilogue devoted to a significant person in the history of Rural Geography in Spain: Prof Roser Majoral, a Catalan geographer who held a Chair of Regional Geography at the University of Barcelona from 1989 to 2005, when she passed away at the age of 63. Her contribution was not only fundamental for this discipline, but for the internationalisation of Spanish Geography. In addition, she played an important role in the evolution of the IGU internal structure, with regard to the Rural Geography Commission (in its various names) during the 1980s and early 1990s. The first CSRS Colloquium was held in Montréal (Canada) in 1993, one year after the IGU Study Group on the Sustainability of Rural Systems was created in Washington (in 1996, it attained the IGU Commission status). The decision taken in 1992 is directly because of Roser Majoral's involvement in splitting the previous IGU Commission on Rural Geography (then called “Changing Rural Systems”) into two Study Groups: one, the precedent of the CSRS; the other, the current IGU Commission on Marginalisation, Globalisation, and Regional and Local Responses. Again, the cooperation between neighbouring IGU commissions is as a relevant issue.

3. *The Book Chapters*

Section I contains five chapters devoted to bridging the gaps between agri-food networks: “conventional” and “alternative”, globalised and non-globalised, etc. In Chapter 1, Pierre Guillemin, Michaël Bermond and Philippe Madeline discuss the global participation of the vegetable production networks originated in Normandie (France). Chapter 2 by María Hernández Hernández, Enrique Moltó Mantero and Álvaro Morote Seguido

address the alternative agri-food networks that exist in the mountainous inland area of the province of Alicante/Alacant (Spain). The impact of the crisis in the Iberian Pork industry in the Mountain Range of Huelva (Spain) is the theme for Chapter 3 by Cristina Pérez-Mora and three co-authors. Celina Solís-Becerra documents in Chapter 4 the existing tension between alternativeness, resistance to globalisation and tradition in food production in Teopisca (Mexico). Chapter 5 by Ana Zazo Moratalla and Isidora Troncoso González closes Section I, with a case-study discussion on alternativeness of agri-food networks in the Concepción Metropolitan Area (Chile).

Section II includes 13 chapters around the notion of multifunctionality, particularly concerned with the compatible and/or contradictory connections between different activities in rural systems across the world. Under this umbrella, Chapter 6 by Douglas K. Bardsley and Elisa Palazzo questions the potential of UNESCO World Heritage designation of a particular peri-urban area of Adelaide (Australia) in the context of climate change adaptation. Laurent Bruckmann in Chapter 7 discusses multifunctionality as a factor for resilience in the case of four rural towns located in the central valley of the SÉNÉGAL river (all of them in Senegal and neighbouring Mauritania). Julien Frayssignes and four co-authors consider, in Chapter 8, the contribution of sustainable gastronomy to rural development in several European Mediterranean areas (located in Catalonia, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal and Slovenia). Chapter 9 by Felipe da Silva Machado deals with farming resilience in the rural hinterland of Rio de Janeiro (Brazil). In Chapter 10, Laura Pauchard, Maxime Marie and Philippe Madeline deliver tools for extending plot exchange practices across Western France, departing from current experiences in the Bretagne region. María de los Ángeles Piñero-Antelo, Jesús Felicidades-García and Brendan O’Keeffe compare the multifunctionality of policies and practices developed in Galician and Irish fishing areas in Chapter 11. Chapter 12 by Aida Pinos Navarrete and Juan Carlos Maroto Martos identifies the contribution to multifunctionality of EU rural development policies in several municipalities containing spas in Andalucía (Spain). Chapter 13 presents a conceptualisation of rural sustainability by Anthony Sorensen. Paulina Tobiasz-Lis and Pamela Jeziorska-Biel analyse two thematic villages in Poland to examine their multifunctionality in Chapter 14. In Chapter 15, Shuangshuang Tu and four co-authors discuss a case of rural restructuring in the suburbs of Beijing (China). Néstor Vercher, Javier Esparcia and Juan R. Gallego-Bono propose a methodological framework for studying social innovation in rural areas in Chapter 16, focussing on two case-study areas in Spain: Serranía Suroeste Sevillana and Eivissa-Formentera. Mitsuru Yamamoto and three co-authors document, in Chapter 17, the mobility of a German population to rural Tirol (Austria). Chapter 18, authored by Yingnan Zhang and five co-authors, close Section II highlighting the importance of e-commerce in driving rural restructuring in Xiaying (China).

Nine chapters in Section III document conflicting rural land-uses, with a particular focus on environmental protection devices affecting previous, ongoing and/or new human activities. Diego Cidrás shows, in Chapter 19, how Eucalyptus has expanded since the Fragas do Eume Natural Park (Galicia) was designated, despite its official ban in the name of conservation of native forests. Chapter 20 by Sonia Graham deals with the role of social capital in controlling weeds in New South Wales (Australia). Ioan Ianoş and Cristian Ionică

analyse in Chapter 21 the conflicts caused by Danube floods in a Romanian rural town. The driving factors of land-use change in An Giang province (Vietnam) are researched by Thuy Ngan Le and Gerardo E. van Halsema in Chapter 22. Chapter 23, by Thibaut Preux, outlines a specific dataset for measuring the transformation of hedgerows landscapes (*bo-cage*) in a catchment area in Calvados (France). In Chapter 24, Serge Schmitz and Vincent Vanderheyden discuss the consequences for tourism and agriculture since the designation of two *Grands Sites Paysagers* in Wallonie (Belgium). Rocío Silva Pérez and Víctor Fernández Salinas illustrate in Chapter 25 the contradictory policies delivered in the protected cultural landscape of Punta Nati (Menorca, Balearic Islands). Chapter 26, by Alejandro Vallina Rodríguez, documents the quantification of landscape visual quality in an area located in Asturias (Spain). In the last contribution of Section III, Chapter 27, Marcin Wójcik and Karolina Dmochowska-Dudek use land-use/land-cover change in Łódź Agglomeration (Poland) to model the rural locations most vulnerable to conflicted land uses.

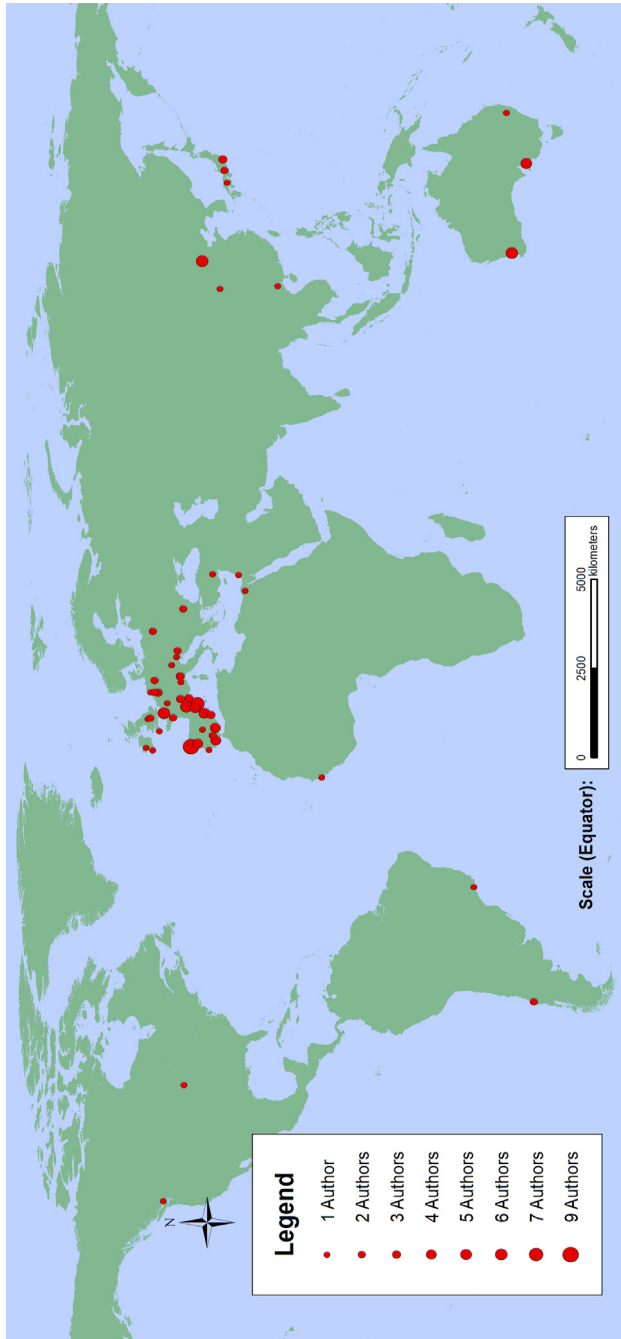
Section IV includes papers which discuss the gap between representations, imageries, imaginations and perceptions attached to rural areas commonly based on the so-called “rural idyll”, on the one hand, and the frequent material and tangible “grim reality”, on the other. It begins with Luis Martín Agrelo Janza’s Chapter 28 which documents a civil society campaign to designate a Natural Park in Galicia under the rural idyll lens. Chapter 29 by Irit Amit-Cohen discusses how cultural landscapes conceptualisation has evolved and the consequential impacts in rural management, internationally, and particularly in Israel. Again, Chapter 30 by Mary Cawley uses the rural idyll notion to explore rural Irish migrants’ perceptions. Isabelle Duvernoy and three co-authors analyse, in Chapter 31, the experience of nature correlated to several spatial categories in Occitanie (France). Salah Eisa, in Chapter 32, focusses on the modernisation of rural houses in Egypt. Kang Suk kyeong examines the effects of the influx of Syrian refugees into the town of Çukurkuyu (Turkey) in Chapter 33. Chapter 34 by Lucrezia Lopez and Petros Petsimeris reflects on the literary imagination of the rural areas located around the Way of Saint James. Aleksandar Lukić and Petra Radeljak Kaufmann in Chapter 35 discuss the rural idyll concept when analysing the academic visions of the countryside in Croatia. Valerià Paül, Juan Manuel Trillo Santamaría and Roberto Vila analyse in Chapter 36 how the Ribeira Sacra area (Galicia) has been bordered, thus conceived in terms of social construction of landscapes and regions. Chapter 37 by Martin Phillips, Darren Smith and Hannah Brooking focus, too, on the idyllic constructions of rurality correlated to rural gentrification in particular locations of south-eastern England. In Chapter 38, Cornelia Steinhäuser and Tillmann K. Buttschardt attempt to understand how indigenous worldview fosters tangible and intangible values in the landscape of a particular community in the Argentinean Andes. Katsuyuki Takenaka and Karin Kamikawa also study the perception of rural sections of the Way of Saint James in Chapter 39. Chapter 40, Joan Tort Donada and Albert Santasusagna Riu concludes Section IV by positioning Ildefonso Cerdà’s thoughts in relation to rural idyll conceptions.

The chapters included in Section V are intended to bridge the gap between the rural areas lagging behind — remote, mountainous, low-density, etc. — and other rural and urban areas. Ricardo Bento and three co-authors begin Section V by discussing the geographical extension of low-density rural areas in Portugal in Chapter 41. Ana Maria de Souza Mello

Bicalho studies, in Chapter 42, the latex industry in one of the remotest and most sparsely populated regions in the world: the Brazilian Amazonas. In Chapter 43, Jaime Escribano Pizarro and Néstor Vercher Savall show how young people in a low-density rural area of Aragón (Spain) suffer from vulnerability. Chapter 44 by Ana Firmino provocatively suggests that rural Portugal can become a desert in 2080 by extrapolating the huge forest fires effects experienced in places such as Pampilhosa da Serra in 2017. Fiona Haslam McKenzie discusses in Chapter 45 the “Royalties for Regions” policy developed for the non-metropolitan regions of Western Australia. In Chapter 46, Cristina Herraiz and Javier Esparcia analyse the social networks in the context of the implementation of EU policies in Serranía de Cuenca and north-east of the province of Castelló (Spain). Roy Jones and five co-authors review in Chapter 47 mining in Western Australia through the lens of sustainability theorisation. Chapter 48 by Doo-Chul Kim examines the depopulation experienced in the Chinese borderlands with North Korea, an area where ethnic Koreans have outmigrated while Han Chinese are immigrating. Francisco Navarro Valverde and Eugenio Cejudo García assess the effects of the EU rural development policies in the so-called “deep rural” areas of Andalucía (Spain) in Chapter 49. In Chapter 50, Alejandro Otero Varela and Valerià Paül discuss the inception of the EU rural development paradigm in Galicia through a unique policy development in the 1990s. The last contribution of Section V, Chapter 51 by Antoni F. Tulla and Ana Vera, proposes measuring comparative advantage in the Catalan Pyrenees.

The last section, VI, attempts to bridge the gaps between urban expansion, on the one hand, and agriculture and open spaces preservation, on the other. It begins with a comparative analysis of post-productivist agricultural experiences in two Biosphere Reserves, one in the metropolitan area of A Coruña (Galicia) and another in the metropolitan area of Barcelona (Catalonia), developed in Chapter 52 by Xosé A. Armesto López, Rubén C. Lois González and M. Belén Gómez Martín. In Chapter 53, Holly R. Barcus considers the ethnic minority Kazakh rural population who recently migrated to Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia). Chapter 54 by Valerio Bini and three co-authors describes rural-urban linkages in terms of food production in the metropolitan area of Milano (Italy). Marie Houdart, Salma Loudiyi and Mathilde Caritey outline two experiences preserving peri-urban agriculture in Auvergne (France) in Chapter 55. Chapter 56 by Lucette Laurens, Pascale Scheromn and Thomas Prud'hon investigate organic farming in Hérault et Gard (France). Christine Margetic, Oumar Sy and Sécou Omar Diédhiou focus on peri-urban agriculture around the city of Ziguinchor (Senegal) in Chapter 57. In Chapter 58, the spatial dynamics of a peri-urban delta plain located near Barcelona (Catalonia) are monitored by Josep M. Panareda and Maravillas Boccio. Guy M. Robinson and three co-authors consider in Chapter 59 the interaction between urban encroachment and fire risk in the environs of Adelaide and Port Lincoln (Australia). Chapter 60 by Bingjie Song and Guy M. Robinson provides an analysis of the agricultural transformations experienced by the impact of the urban land market in Shaanxi province (China). The last chapter of Section VI and the book, by Frans Thissen, provides an overall reflection on the evolution of Rural Geography as a discipline in the Netherlands.

Figure 1. Authors' institution location in the world. Source: Map developed by Luis Martín Agrelo and Valerià Pàuil, with <http://thematicmapping.org/> (accessed on 19/5/2018) as base map.



4. Geographical Coverage

In total, 128 authors have contributed the 61 papers published as book chapters in this volume. The geographical distribution of their work places is shown in Figure 1. Table 1 summarises the pattern by making use of the conventional geographical division amongst six continents, adapted to the division between Global North and Global South which is useful here for discussion purposes. Of course, we do not think that the “six continents” are the best way to regionalise the world as they are a Eurocentric construction (see Lewis and Wigen, 1997 and Grataloup, 2009), but they are globally understood and, to some extent, assumed.

Table 1. Geographical coverage of the 61 book chapters.

North-South divide	Continent (and some countries)		Authors' institution location		Case-study rural area/location/system	
			Figure	%	Figure	%
Global North	Europe	Spain	39	30.47	23	31.08
		France	21	16.41	7	9.46
		Other	33	25.78	21	28.38
	Australia	12	9.38	6	8.11	
	Japan	6	4.69	0	0.00	
	North America	2	1.56	0	0.00	
Global South	Asia (without Japan)		10	7.81	9	12.16
	Latin America		3	2.34	5	6.76
	Africa		2	1.56	3	4.05
Total			128		74	

More than 70% of the contributors come from Europe, particularly from Spain (30,5%) and France (16,4%). The high participation from Spain is evidently linked to the location of the 26th Colloquium, to be held in the Iberian Peninsula. However, it is relevant in the sense that the overall Spanish contribution to world geographical discussions remains weak (see the epilogue of this book). For instance, in some of the previous volumes of the CSRS, Spain has had a modest contribution — e.g. at the 10th Colloquium held in South Africa in 2002, three of 19 (Makhanya and Bryant, 2004); at the 12th Colloquium held in Scotland in 2004, two of 29 (Mather, 2005); at the 15th Colloquium held in Morocco in 2007, five of 32 (Kerzazi, Ait Hamza and El Assad, 2011); at the 19th Colloquium held in Ireland in 2011, one of 26 (Cawley, Bicalho and Laurens, 2013); and at the 21st Colloquium held in Japan in 2013, two of 14 (Kim, Firmino and Ichikawa, 2013).

The contribution by 21 French colleagues is also meaningful as France has not been very active in previous colloquia, either — using the same examples: one of 19 (Makhanya and Bryant, 2004), one of 29 (Mather, 2005), five of 32 (Kerzazi, Ait Hamza and El Assad, 2011), two of 26 (Cawley, Bicalho and Laurens, 2013) and none in the volume by Kim, Firmino and Ichikawa (2013) from the 21st Colloquium held in Japan in 2013. In this sense, the event in 2018 has been able to attract the attention of two countries which are usually relatively absent in the CSRS activities. It is therefore important to highlight

the choice of a Spanish location for the 26th Colloquia as an important motivation for a major involvement from this country and its neighbour France.

Except in one case (Chapter 34, with a French co-author, Petros Petsimeris), all the contributions by French scholars are in French. However, a significant proportion of the papers authored or co-authored by Spanish scholars are in English (Chapters 11, 19, 20, 26, 28, 50, 51, 52 and 58). This might indicate a motivation by Spanish geographers to increasingly participate in international academic discussions.

As evidenced in Table 1, the participation of other European colleagues is significant. Eleven different countries are represented beyond the two already mentioned: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and United Kingdom. The overall contribution from European colleagues (72.66%) reflects the importance CSRS activities have for this continent. Given the opportunity to use Portuguese language in this Colloquium and the proximity of Galicia and Portugal, more Portuguese contributions were expected. There are only two texts from Portugal, and only one is in Portuguese (Chapter 41). In addition, there is one contribution in Galician (Chapter 36), which is generally understood to be part of the Portuguese language domain.

Significantly, Australia shows an ongoing strong presence in the CSRS colloquia; in this book, almost 10% of all the authors are Australian, totalling five papers. This presence is consistent with previous CSRS events and publications and it is possibly related to the fact that Australian Rural Geography is highly attuned to international shifts of paradigm, rapidly adapting its scientific approaches to changing circumstances (Tonts, Argent and Plummer, 2012). Similarly, there is a similar Japanese participation, with 5% of the total authors and three papers, but the Australian contribution is more surprising given the small population of that nation compared to that of Europe or Japan.

North America is only represented by two authors who did not contribute chapters about this geographical region: Solís-Becerra's Chapter 4 is about Teopisca (Chiapas, Mexico) and Barcus' Chapter 53 deals with the Kazakh minority in Mongolia. This is relevant as in the past North American colleagues were more active in some of the previous colloquia. Analysing the five books that document past Colloquia North American contributions include three of 19 (Makhanya and Bryant, 2004), four of 29 (Mather, 2005), one of 32 (Kerzazi, Ait Hamza and El Assad, 2011), two of 26 (Cawley, Bicalho and Laurens, 2013) and one of 14 (Kim, Firmino and Ichikawa, 2013). Although the trend could seem inconclusive, with these five precedents and this book as well, it seems that North America is participating less and less. Given the importance the discipline of Geography enjoys in the United States, evidenced in the massive annual events organised by the Association of American Geographers, the North American low participation in the Colloquia is surprising.

Globally, the Global North contributors represent almost 90% of the authorships of this book. This is a frustrating situation that underscores the persistent scientific divide between the Global North and the Global South that exists in our discipline. While ten of the authors are from Global South Asia, mostly from China, the number of Asian participants remains low for the importance of the geographical community in Asia. Additionally, the Organising Committee of this 26th CSRS Colloquium made a strong

pitch to admit Spanish and Portuguese as official languages to encourage Latin American geographers to be involved. There was also a concerted effort to spread information about the event in Latin America. However, and unfortunately, only three authors have contributed from Latin America.

The scant Latin American involvement in the IGU is a situation about which the IGU is aware; its leaders have publicly acknowledged that the language barrier prevents more participation (Ronald F. Abler's, president of the IGU, highlighted this in a panel session in 2011, whose notes are available at: http://www.aag.org/galleries/project-programs-files/Geography_in_the_Americas_Panel_Notes.pdf, accessed on 19/5/2018). Our experience for this book shows that, by accepting papers in Spanish and Portuguese, Latin American colleagues will not automatically attend. The global geographical community has to think carefully to ensure that scholars from the Global South can effectively contribute.

In general terms, the chapters are linked to the local scale, which is relevant when considering rural spaces (Bessière, 2012) and which has been the object of the so-called "rural locality" studies (Halfacree, 1993; Woods, 2005). There are two papers that cannot be located geographically: Anthony Sorensen's Chapter 13 provides a conceptualisation of rural sustainability and Joan Tort Donada and Albert Santasusagna Riu's Chapter 40 write on Ildefonso Cerdà. Otherwise, we have identified 74 case-study rural areas/locations/systems studied in the remaining 59 chapters.

It can be inferred from Table 1 that there is a sort of transference occurring: the Global South represents 12% of the authorships but contributes 23% of the total case-study rural areas/locations/systems in this book. This is particularly evident in Latin America and Africa. It is apparent that several authors from the Global North are studying the Global South. This may be because Global South PhD candidates are writing their theses in the Global North, where their Global North PhD supervisors co-author their respective book chapters or, more directly, because Global North researchers are studying the Global South dynamics. To name a few, Felipe da Silva Machado studies Rio de Janeiro's hinterland (Brazil) from Plymouth in the United Kingdom (Chapter 9); Thuy Ngan Le and Gerardo E. van Halsema report on an area of the Mekong Delta (Vietnam) from Wageningen in the Netherlands (Chapter 22); Cornelia Steinhäuser and Tillmann K. Buttschardt document Nazareno (Salta, Argentina) from Münster in Germany (Chapter 38); Doo-Chul Kim examines peri-urban Yanji (Yanbian Korean Autonomous Prefecture, China) from Okoyama in Japan (Chapter 48); and Christine Margetic and Sécou Omar Diédhiou write about peri-urban Ziguinchor (Casamance, Senegal) from Nantes in France (Chapter 57).

5. The Practical Reasons for This Book and Its Process

The common output of geographical research is in the form of papers published in indexed academic journals; this has been the option for at least three of the last CSRS colloquia. For the 22nd, held in Romania in 2014, several presented papers were published in the *Carpathian Journal of Earth and Environmental Sciences* (volume 10(3), published in 2015); for the 24th, held in Belgium in 2016, in *Belgeo* (volume 4, published in 2016) and *Bulletin de la Société Géographique de Liège* (volume 69, published in 2017); for the 25th, held in Vietnam in 2017, in *Science & Technology Development Journal* (publication

pending). However, the problem with managing the publication through journals is that they appear after the event and they depend on the *ex post* submission of papers and the review process of the respective journal. For this reason, it was decided there should be a publication in the form of a book available before the 26th CSRS Colloquium. This option ensures there is a publication, given that the IGU expects that its commissions, including the CSRS, continually prove the continuity and consistency of its scientific activities and outputs.

However, the option of a book also has its own risks, particularly its scientific quality if it was a mere volume of proceedings. For this reason, it was decided that there should be a systematic peer-review process that will be outlined later in this section. In addition, when the CSRS Steering Committee met in the magnificent Núi Sam mountain (Vietnam) in April 2017, several colleagues argued that, if the book was going to publish all the papers, this would render the papers ineligible for submission to peer-reviewed indexed journals. In most of the represented countries the scholarly assessment of scientific activity depends on publishing in indexed journals. In some countries, like Spain for example, a book is not considered a legitimate scientific publication. Accordingly, it was decided that the book should consist of a collection of peer-reviewed extended abstracts that could later be converted into journal papers, if the authors wished to do so. If a journal paper in *Rural Geography* is normally around 9,000 words (the maximum length accepted by *Sociologia Ruralis* is 8,000 words; for *Journal of Rural Studies*, 10,000 words), it was decided that the maximum length for an extended abstract for the 26th CSRS Colloquium should be 3,000 words. Although the majority of the received submissions were less than 3,000 words, some of the book chapters here included are longer post the refereeing process.

Each extended abstract, according to the template for submissions, available in the four official languages of the 26th CSRS Colloquium, had to contain adequate scientific contents following a basic structure consisting of: an introduction where the problem/objective of the paper is clearly stated; a theoretical section containing the relevant literature describing the theoretical and conceptual underpinnings of the subject covered; a methodological section to explain how the research was conducted; results including the findings; and, finally, some concluding remarks with a discussion where results are discussed demonstrating how the results are relevant, useful and/or limited. As they are not official IGU languages, texts written in either Spanish or Portuguese, were required to include a short abstract in English of a maximum length of 200 words.

For the purposes of this book, the submitted extended abstracts that met the required academic standards are published as chapters. In January 2017, 71 extended abstracts were received and ten were either rejected or voluntarily withdrawn by the authors during the double-blind peer-reviewing process conducted from January to March 2017. In the first round, if one of the referees decided to reject the paper but the other disagreed, the document could be modified and re-sent for the second round. In the second round the papers with major changes required in the first round, or rejected by one referee, were re-reviewed. In the second round the approval for acceptance by both referees was necessary. The referees were selected depending on their linguistic capacities, their scientific expertise on the topic and the location covered by the paper. A questionnaire, available in

the four official languages of the 26th CSRS Colloquium, with 15 questions was provided to guide referee's assessment. The completed assessment was then sent to authors by the editors, guaranteeing the anonymity of the review process. The invaluable cooperation of the referees is acknowledged, especially those whose mother tongue is English, given that they had to not only review but also in some cases, edit the texts to ensure the correct English expression conventions were followed in the documents which are now published in this book. The referees are listed in the next section. The work of the referees has significantly improved the early drafts of many of the papers.

6. *The Referees*

- Irit Amit-Cohen (רבי תטיסרבינא) = Bar-Ilan University, Israel).
- Holly Barcus (Macalester College, United States).
- Ana Maria Bicalho (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).
- Mary Cawley (National University of Ireland, Ireland).
- Ana Firmino (Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Portugal).
- Fiona Haslam McKenzie (University of Western Australia, Australia).
- María Hernández (Universitat d'Alacant/Universidad de Alicante, Spain).
- Scott Hoeffle (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil).
- Ioan Ianoş (Universitatea din Bucureşti, Romania).
- Roy Jones (Curtin University, Australia).
- Doo-Chul Kim (岡山大学 = Okayama University, Japan).
- Lucette Laurens (Université Paul Valéry, France).
- Rubén C. Lois González (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia).
- Aleksandar Lukić (Sveučilište u Zagrebu, Croatia).
- Christine Margetic (Université de Nantes, France).
- Maxime Marie (Université de Caen Normandie, France).
- Fernando Molinero (Universidad de Valladolid, Spain).
- Josep Maria Panareda (Institut d'Estudis Catalans, Catalonia).
- Valerià Paül (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia).
- Guy Robinson (University of Adelaide, Australia).
- Eugenio Ruiz Urrestarazu (Euskal Herriko Unibertsitatea, The Basque Country).
- Serge Schmitz (Université de Liège, Belgium).
- Katsuyuki Takenaka (愛知県立大学 = Aichi Prefectural University, Japan).
- Frans Thissen (Universiteit van Amsterdam, The Netherlands).
- Joan Tort (Universitat de Barcelona, Catalonia).
- Juan M. Trillo-Santamaría (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, Galicia).
- Antoni Tulla (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Catalonia).
- Ana Zazo (Universidad del Bío-Bío, Chile).

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