



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BERGAMO

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

New Challenges in a Changing World: Rural finance, Food, Environment

October 12th, 2015

Globalization is changing the way we think about space, closely connecting the local and global dimensions, as well as the way we live them. Three visiting scholars from different international universities and research disciplines will meet in an international workshop at the University of Bergamo, to discuss some of the new challenges of the globalized world. The methodological approaches used, as well as the contexts of application, will vary through local/global case studies of micro rural finance, food and the environment. A discussion with faculty from the Departments of Management, Economics and Quantitative Methods; Languages, Foreign Literatures and Communication; and Human and Social Sciences will follow the presentations.

Programme

Lecture hall 6, S. Agostino

9.00 am *Welcome address*

9.30-11 am Claudio Gonzalez-Vega, The Ohio State University, USA, and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of BBVA Microfinance Foundation, Spain.
(presented by Laura Viganò)

Critical Barriers and Recent Innovations in Smallholder Agricultural Finance

Abstract: Small farmers are missing opportunities for market participation and poverty alleviation when facing barriers to investment and technological innovation. Access to financial services (credit, deposits, insurance) may allow them to overcome these barriers and avoid poverty traps, but financial market barriers are even harder to overcome. Recent innovations in risk-management technologies are improving, however, access to finance for small farmers.

11am-12.30 pm Colin Sage, University College Cork
(presented by Giovanni Orlando)

How should we feed the world?

Abstract: The food system is responsible for environmental degradation and a growing burden on human health. But how we are to feed the world is a contested arena of competing visions, notably productivism versus food sovereignty. Irrespective, unsustainable production and consumption must be addressed together.

12.30-1 pm Discussion

Lecture Hall 7, S. Agostino

3-4.30 pm Manfred Buchroithner, *Institut für Kartographie* (Technische Universität Dresden)
(presented by Alessandra Ghisalberti)

Environment and cartographic challenges in a globalised world

Abstract: In an attempt to embed the recent trends in cartography into the general developments in other domains of life in a globalized world, it is questioned how mapping systems can support environmental studies and conservation plans through examples referred to different territories and protected areas.

4.30-5 pm Discussion and conclusions



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Organizers: Laura Viganò and Silvana Signori, Dept. Management, Economics and Quantitative Methods, Francesca Forno and Giovanni Orlando Dept. Human and Social Sciences, Alessandra Ghisalberti, Dept. Languages, Foreign Literatures and Communication.

Invited participants:

Lucia Bertell, Federica Burini, Davide Castellani, Anna Carola Freschi, Domenico Perrotta, Simon Maurano, Andrea Potestio, Giuseppe Psaila, Veronica Vergani

Invited students:

The workshop is open to all the students, but mainly addressed to: PhD *Formazione della persona e mercato del lavoro*; Master *Diritti dell'uomo ed Etica della Cooperazione Internazionale*; LM Project and Management of Tourism System (course of *Intercultural Geography*)

VISITING PROFESSORS



Prof. Manfred Buchroithner

Director of the Institut für Kartographie
Technische Universität Dresden
Dresda (D)

Email: Manfred.Buchroithner@tu-dresden.de

Professor of cartography, he studies epistemological and philosophical paradigms of mapping, as well as the most advances techniques for 3D mapping, image processing, photo-interpretation and remote sensing for spatial analysis, risk management and ecology of landscape.



Prof. Claudio Gonzalez-Vega

Professor Emeritus, The Ohio State University, USA

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, BBVA Microfinance Foundation
Email : gonzalez.4@osu.edu

Professor of Agricultural, Environmental and Development Economics at The Ohio State University (1982 to 2010), where he was Director of the Rural Finance Program, a center of excellence in finance and development. He works on finance and development, rural financial markets, microenterprises, poverty, and macroeconomic and trade policies in developing countries.



Dr. Colin Sage

Senior Lecturer in Geography
University College Cork
Cork, Ireland

Email: c.sage@ucc.ie

Senior lecturer in geography, he has worked on the interconnections of food systems, agriculture, environment and wellbeing throughout his academic career. He is the author of *Environment and Food* (Routledge, 2012) and co-editor of *Food Transgressions: Making sense of contemporary food politics* (Ashgate, 2014).

