

Nature Views and Sustainability in Rural Research: A Review

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Content

- ❖ Why the paper has been written.
- ❖ Main messages of the paper
- ❖ Open Question

PoNa Hypotheses

- ❖ Unsustainability is produced through existing policy regimes / governance structures / regulatory systems
- ❖ Governance structures are based on views on nature

PoNa Research Design: Polish-German comparative research

- ❖ Specifics of Poland: late and partial industrialisation, late nation-state building, post-war resettlement, socialism, accession to European Union
- ❖ Specifics of rural research (sociology)

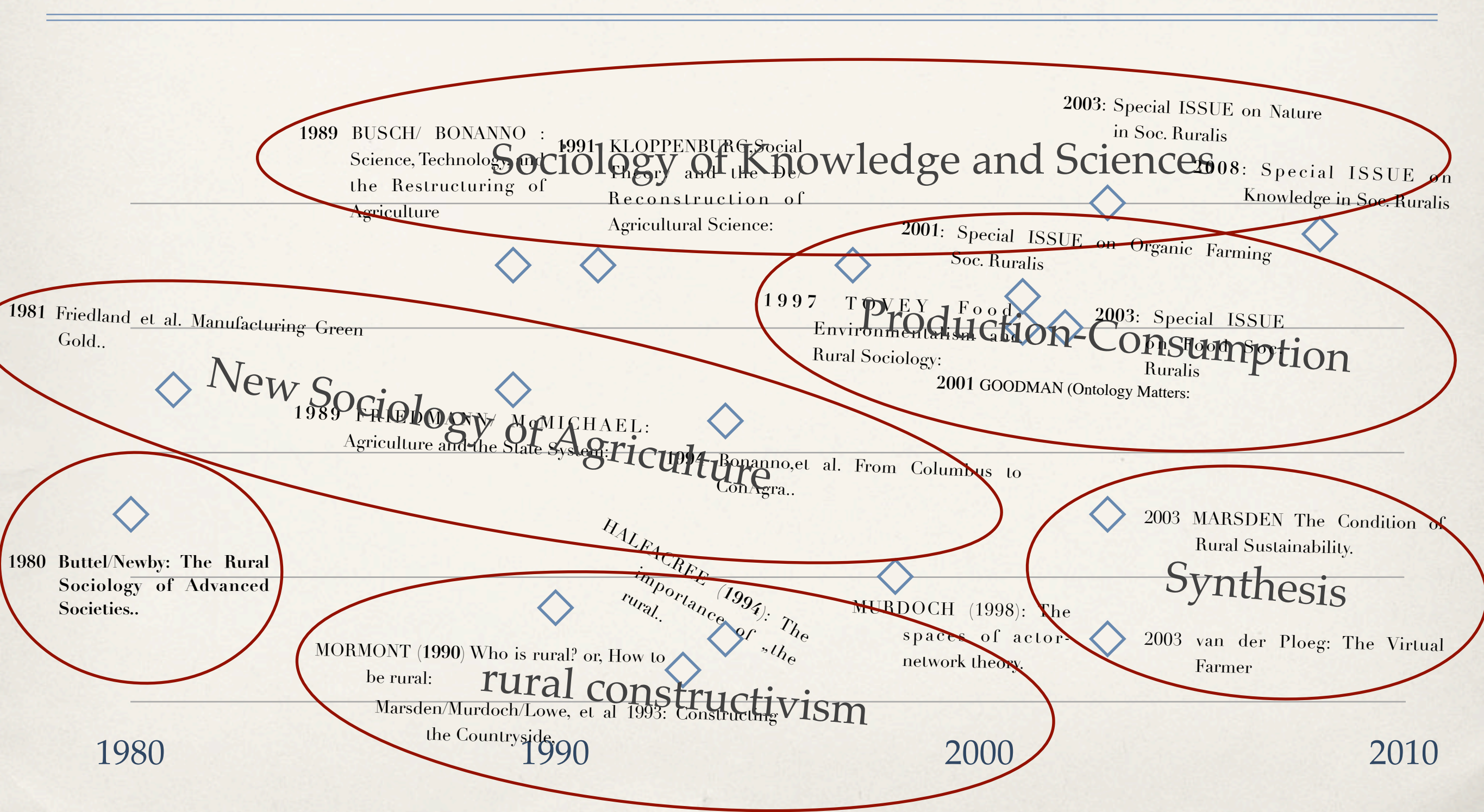
National German Context

- ❖ Invention of Socio-Ecological Research
- ❖ Vanishing German Rural Sociology
- ❖ Intellectual Vacuum for Critical Perspectives on rural issues during the 1990s and 2000s/ dominance of political practice and economic rhetoric
- ❖ Little/ no perception of international progresses made
- ❖ Re-inventing the wheel?

Major Revisions in Rural Sociological Thinking

- ❖ Framing of themes:
 - ❖ Nature: from neglect to core theme of rural research
 - ❖ Rural Space: from urban-rural dichotomy to diversified ruralities
 - ❖ Food: from agricultural production to production-consumption linkages
 - ❖ From national to global regimes
- ❖ Theory
 - ❖ review of classical writings in particular Marx, Kautsky, Weber
 - ❖ references to new theoretical developments (e.g. Constructivism, Regulation Theory, Sociology of Science, ANT)

Rural Sociology Timeline



1989 BUSCH/ BONANNO :
Science, Technology, and
the Restructuring of
Agriculture

1991 KLOPPENBURG: Social
Theory and the De/
Reconstruction of
Agricultural Science:

2003: Special ISSUE on Nature
in Soc. Ruralis

2008: Special ISSUE on
Knowledge in Soc. Ruralis

2001: Special ISSUE on Organic Farming
Soc. Ruralis

1997 TOVEY Food,
Environmentalism, and
Rural Sociology:

2003: Special ISSUE
on Food Systems
Ruralis

2001 GOODMAN (Ontology Matters:

1981 Friedland et al. Manufacturing Green
Gold..

New Sociology of Agriculture

1989 FRIEDMANN/ McMICHAEL:
Agriculture and the State System:

1994 Bonanno, et al. From Columbus to
ConAgra..

1980 Buttel/Newby: The Rural
Sociology of Advanced
Societies..

HALEACREE (1994): The
importance of the
rural..

MURDOCH (1998): The
spaces of actor-
network theory.

2003 MARS DEN The Condition of
Rural Sustainability.

Synthesis

2003 van der Ploeg: The Virtual
Farmer

MORMONT (1990) Who is rural? or, How to
be rural:

rural constructivism

Marsden/Murdoch/Lowe, et al 1993: Constructing
the Countryside.

1980

1990

2000

2010

What can PoNa learn?

- ❖ Confirmation of PoNa Hypotheses
- ❖ but....
- ❖ complexities and interdependences of social and human-nature relations have to be acknowledged
 - ❖ producers / knowledge systems / food practices / local-global etc.
- ❖ Exploit existing Synthesis -> Marsden / Van der Ploeg

Open Question

- ❖ How can the reading of this paper inform PoNa research?
 - ❖ Research Questions
 - ❖ Analytical Frameworks
 - ❖ Comparison of Polish and German context