ELHN Working Group on Labour Movements and Migration

Rural migrations: labour, environment and society, and the ordinary mobility of modern and contemporary Europeans

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Call for Papers

Even if it is being regularly overshadowed by the urbanization and international migration' studies, rural-to-rural mobility is the most common spatial movement in European history, given the priority of "mundane" and "ordinary" deplacements as it emerges from more recent studies.

We'd like to propose a discussion on intensity and geography of rural migrations, between 16th and 20th century, mainly related to labour transformations (land property, work agreements, farm services, agrarian capitalism and proletarianization, rural proto-industry and artisanship, specific agricultural innovations and so on), but also paying attention to broader issues (e.g. drainage and/or displacement of material and immaterial resources from communities to another, household and family transformations, demographical changes, gender, food and environment crisis).

The focus of this panel will be on rural inner circulation, but papers on rural out-migrations and rural return migrations, or even better papers connecting several kinds of mobility (internal, international, temporary-seasonal, marriage-bound) across different documental tipologies are equally welcome.

In any case, particular care should be given to stress the nature of data and information obtained from specific sources and to advance new ways to process them.

We suggest very short interventions (15 minutes: main research-problem, sources, results and perspectives), in English or French, to let attendees widen debate, in order to build a network of scholars interested in rural migrations.

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