LAND RESTRUCTURATION AND ITS IMPACTS ON
SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY AND
THE FARMER-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIP

Bernd Müller
JUSTUS-LIEBIG-
UNIVERSITÄT
GIESSEN

Picture: https://www.thinglink.com/scene/467198718802657281#
• farming and ranching is treated as a way of life rather than a business (Wallace 1997)
• Farmers want to pass their farmstead on to their children, in better shape than when they first got it (Gibson, 1993; Kolodge, 1993)
• many agricultural producers have maintained an stewardship toward the land: "the individual's responsibility to manage his life and property with proper regard to the rights of others“ (Resler, 1983)
“subsistence is simply the way people create their own lives and reproduce them daily, and how they hold this process physical, substantial, and socially in their own hands” (Bennholdt-Tomsen 2003)

even in the globalized economy not all goods and services can be transformed into commodities

subsistence economy is based on “self-sufficiency” it means that I give the other what they need for their self-sufficiency

The understanding of self-sufficiency involves reciprocity, that is the attitude to work with each other and not against each other

An attitude which by no means vanished with modernity, but which, together with the subsistence parts of our economy, has been pushed back and discursively made invisible (Bennholdt-Tomsen 2006)
• But just as little as the production of subsistence can disappear, **this mind completely disappears**

• as long as we are subsistent, so long we will have a concept of reciprocity and business with each other

• subsistence is therefore not only what is needed **for a good life**, but also an **attitude of mind**

• It is precisely this spirit which neo-liberalism is about to **eradicate** (Bennholdt-Tomsen 2006)
time spend every month for volunteer work in the municipality
(e.g. fire fighter, local council, associations…)

• 4 of 20 farms invest per month more than 100 hours

• **average time for volunteer work per farm 747,7 hours/year**
  (43,2 hours/month; 1,4 hours/day )

• Total volunteer hours Velburg in one year: 14954,8 hours

• 14954,8 hours * 25 Euro/hour = 373 870 Euro

welfare-oriented benefits of agriculture
Bachelorthesis — TU München — Vera Schweizer
Interview with all 20 farmers
of the municipality Velburg/Bavaria

REASONS FOR THE FARMERS TO DO VOLUNTEER WORK

• Interested in the work (80%)
• actively participating in the municipality (75%)
• gathering of information (75%)
• friendship (75%)
• landcare and environment (75%)
• tradition (66%)
QUESTIONS

How do outsider land users care about the farming nature and trade-offs in comparison to local ones?

How do outsider land users care about the social system in which their land is embedded in comparison to local ones?

How can village subsistence economies be maintained in this context?

How can a more spiritual approach of landuse help to respect and restore then Man-Land love relationship?
LITERATUR


• Bennholdt-Thomsen, Veronika (2006) Subsistenzwirtschaft, Globalwirtschaft, Regionalwirtschaft; In: Jochimsen, Maren A./ Knobloch, Ulrike (Hg.): Lebensweltökonomie in Zeiten wirtschaftlicher Globalisierung, Bielefeld: Kleine Verlag

• Gibson, Eric. “Community Supported Agriculture.” University of California Small Farm Center, November/December 1993


• Wallace, B., and F. Clearfield. 1997. “Stewardship, Spirituality, and Natural Resources Conservation: A Short History.” Id#T 015. USDANRCS, Social Sciences Institute