



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

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# THE FARMER-ENVIRONMENT RELATIONSHIP

THE LANDSCAPE OF ANY FARM IS THE OWNER'S PORTRAIT OF HIMSELF  
(LEOPOLD 1939)



- 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 ECONOMY

- “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)





# SUBSISTENCE ECONOMY

- 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)



# **Bachelorthesis – TU München – Vera Schweizer**

## **Interview with all 20 farmers of the municipality Velburg/Bavaria**

**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

**A farm has  
4,2 persons in  
average**

**welfare-oriented benefits of agriculture**



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# **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 land use help to respect and restore then Man-Land love relationship?

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