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Master: International Master of Science in Rural Development

IMRD

International Master of Science in
Rural Development

Responsables : Catherine Darrot

Coordinateur : Hussein Al Mohammad

L'Institut Agro Rennes-Angers

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Professional skills:

The young graduates that this Rennes semester of the IMRD contributes to train will tackle the major environmental transitions in natural resource management, agro-ecological production and food systems reconnected to their territory.

The global environmental challenges and the resulting socio-political upheavals are marking the first decades of the 21st century and are giving rise to innovative solutions, combining local dimensions and multi-actor and multi-scalar networks. This leads to new professional situations marked by a weakened and changing agricultural sector, by local authorities investing in new vocations and in charge of animating more and more interfaces between public and private issues.

Main goals of the semester

While ensuring a completely English-speaking teaching, this IMRD semester has a high degree of mutualisation with the "Environmental Management" engineering specialization of AGROCAMPUS OUEST.

The courses cover the following general elements: in-depth technical knowledge, learning to characterise complex situations in the field, ability to lead multi-actor processes, strong project skills. The semester is characterized by a strong emphasis on project-based teaching in connection with professional partners. The aim is also to learn to work in a team, to acquire skills in managing projects in a limited timeframe and in relation to constrained issues, while developing creativity and autonomy.

Presentation of the courses

English title	Social transitions and sustainability issues					
French code & title	UC.1.1. Enjeux contemporains des transitions (société, transitions et durabilité)					
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT11	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Philippe Boudes			21		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

To appropriate the terms and issues of contemporary transitions as they are reflected in the social world

To know the theoretical frameworks of reference

To deepen the theoretical frameworks of transitions studies and social sciences around targeted case studies

Understand and know how to apply social science analyses to identified cases

Benchmark contemporary socio-technical transitions, including energy transitions, ecological transitions, food transitions (new food practices), agricultural, territorial transitions (governance)

Understand how this perspective of socio-technical transitions is particularly useful to the engineer, discuss examples, and prepare to apply.

Description :

The context of the transitions and their references

- The meaning of the words: change, development, adaptation, modernisation, transition

The frame of reference, the referential of the transition: "mainstream" currents (Green economy, ecological modernization) and critical currents (Grassroot, political economy)

- Organisations - grass-roots or supranational - supporting transitions

- The management of these transitions (change in public action, governance)

Detail the main transitions (energy, ecological, food, agricultural, territorial, collective...) by showing their political, technical and social dimensions, the main actors, the scales, the dynamics specific to each field

Examination :

Individual student presentations

English title		New social and economic models in the north and south				
French code & title		UC.1.2. Transitions des modèles économiques et démocratiques				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT12	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Philippe Boudes & Mélanie Congretel			21		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

To complete the analysis of transitions with a contribution integrating the economy, the renewal of forms of democracy, non-Western models and associated themes: social and solidarity economy, political models on a global scale, food sovereignty, food resources, agricultural land, environmental public goods...

Description :

Developments in the field of social and solidarity economy

Presentation of the challenges of transitions in economic and democratic models, in terms of social and solidarity economy, political models on a global scale, food sovereignty, food resources, management of agricultural land

Social and democratic transitions in the countries of the South, political perspectives on environmental movements: action of major organisations (UNESCO, FAO, international NGOs) and articulation with the role of States; intervention of professionals specialised in a field, in a position to stimulate or diagnose a transition on these themes and in these areas.

Examination :

Panorama of case studies carried out by students on SSE initiatives in the North or South, and their contribution to territorial transition processes

English title		Supporting technical and social change				
French code & title		UC.1.3. Accompagner le changement technique et social				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT13	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
A	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Philippe Boudes			32		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

To be able to participate in the design and improvement of change management systems. To have operational references in training, consulting, action research, etc.

Description :

Framing, concepts and basic models: definition of terms, position and contributions of the Human and Social Sciences, models and main currents relating to change and innovation

Agricultural consultancy, agricultural collectives and the promotion of innovation: methods and tools for farm consultancy; support processes for organisations in a perspective of promoting innovation; technical changes and agricultural worlds in Brittany

- From advice to research-action-development
- The actors (in France): the role of the chambers of agriculture, technical institutes, networks such as RAD...
- Training and support for change in the South. Support for change processes

English title		Multi-criteria analysis applied at farm scale				
French code & title		<i>UC.2.1. Analyse multicritères de la durabilité des pratiques agroécologiques dans les exploitations agricoles</i>				
Course choices	Mandatory	Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT21	Master IMRD M2		
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
A	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Catherine Darrot & Safya Menasseri		31		3	

Objectives and skills targeted :

- Systemic approach of a farm
- Situate it in its territorial context
- Understand what is an indicator of sustainability in agriculture
- To know the main methods for evaluating sustainability in agriculture
- To know how to build and justify a set of indicators in this field based on farm visits.

Description :

- Understanding what a farming system is - Global approach to farms
- Approaching multi-criteria evaluations - Notion of indicators, what is an evaluation, notion of ranking? Overview of the most common methods, comparison of their logic
- Preparation of the survey method for the farm visit: Identify the farmer's overall logic, detailed systemic description of the farm, produce a set of indicators" (3 to 5 indicators) reflecting the logic of the farm
- Visit of 2 farms as a whole class + debriefing, sharing of results
- Farm visits in small groups: application of the method in autonomy.

Examination :

- Analysis and restitution of the farm visits in the form of a poster session by small groups of visitors, commented and discussed

English title		Local food systems				
<i>French code & title</i>		UC.2.2. Systèmes alimentaires territorialisés				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT22	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Catherine Darrot			28		3

Objectives and skills targeted :

- To understand what a sustainable food system is
- Identify the contours and particularities of territorialized food systems
- To understand the dynamics of co-evolution and the recent issues between short and long food chains and the evolution towards the reterritorialisation of food
- To identify the public and private actors of the dynamics of reterritorialisation of food chains, to understand their roles and their interactions to " build a system"
- To know (during the visits and the workshop) and analyse (during the examination) examples.

Description :

- Introduction to the concept of food systems
- Understanding food transitions Food regimes theory (Michael, Friedman); multi-level perspective
- Understanding the contours and issues of the local food system in Rennes: series of visits to various actors; interviews with professionals
- Understanding Territorial Food Projects, a French specificity of transition policies towards sustainable food systems.

Examination :

- Interview + debate: "Are we in food transition? A prospective approach".

English title		Public and Political Action - Agricultural and Food Issues				
French code & title		UC.3.1. Action publique et politique - Enjeux agricoles et alimentaires				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT31	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Catherine Darrot			21		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

- To understand the methods of elaboration of agricultural and food policies and the logic of implementation of public decision
- Understand the current developments in European policies and their application in the fields of agricultural development and life management
- Understand the sectoral dynamics in agriculture; know the main sectoral institutions; understand their role in the public management of issues linking agriculture and the rural world.

Description :

Genesis, evolution and contemporary functioning of agricultural and food policies, from local to European level;

1st pillar of the CAP and markets

Rural development in Europe (2nd pillar of the CAP): developments, issues, actors, power relations, assessment of the programming, issues of the current reform

European rural sociology: policies in the light of social and political movements: from the Thirty Glorious Years to the present days, understanding the genesis of the contemporary situation and deciphering it; understanding the history of French agricultural unions, their history, their actors, their institutional impact, their limits and their current dynamics

Panorama of the (mainly French) public and private actors of the contemporary agricultural sector: missions, structuring, role in agricultural and rural development.

Examination :

workshop devoted to analyses of articles and book chapters detailing these developments since the 1960s; debates

English title		Public and political action - Development of rural territories				
French code & title		UC.3.2. Action publique et politique - Développement des territoires ruraux				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT32	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	To be precised			25		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

To know the evolution of rural worlds (rural and peri-urban) in order to take charge of their components (demographic, economic, social, and cultural), their activities (agriculture, forestry, industry, trade, crafts, services and tourism...) and their concerns (environment, space management, economic development, residence, displacement...).

Identify the actors of the territories and the issues of local governance

Understand and analyse territorial dynamics

Identify and accompany institutional and organizational changes in territorial public action.

Description :

Dynamics of territories: useful concepts, dynamics of rural areas

Reconfiguration of territorial public action: processes underway in the territories.

Referentials of public action mobilized on the territories

Overview of public actors in the territories, their competences and their action logics

Policies related to rural amenities: what is rural amenity? Why is it a factor of rural development that is sometimes insufficiently valued? What are the instruments for preserving and enhancing this resource: regulations, incentives, external quality, collective action?

Public policies and territories in the European Union: What are the territorial approaches promoted by the European Union? What are the results and effects on the territories?

Examination :

To be specified

English title		Methods and tools for processing qualitative data				
French code & title		UC.4.1. Méthodes et outils de traitement de données qualitatives				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT41	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
A	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Catherine Darrot, Philippe Boudes & Marie Toussaint			19		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

This course aims at knowing and practicing the methods of qualitative and quantitative surveys in sociology. It is considered as a necessary step to prepare both the projects of the semester and the Master Thesis.

Description :

- Presentation of data collection tools by observation in situ, (quick reminder of surveys by questionnaires and semi-directive interviews treated in the core course), life stories, focus group. Theoretical reference frameworks, scope and limits of each, selection criteria, data collection methods

- Methods of processing the qualitative data collected

To explore and learn about other data collection tools: review of the regional daily press, use of audio-visual aids, word carriers, mind maps, etc.

Practical application: students will design and conduct a short sociological survey on a topic chosen by the group, mobilising and comparing several methods (example of topic 2020: how undergraduates experienced distance learning during the quarantine periods linked to covid?)

Examination :

Presentation and discussion of the results of the survey, in groups.

English title		Building collective action and agreement processes				
French code & title		UC.4.2. Construction de l'action collective et de l'accord				
Course choices	Mandatory	Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT42	Master IMRD M2		
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Jean-Eudes Beuret			24		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

To analyse consultation situations aimed at the collective construction of analyses, actions and/or agreements. To acquire methods for designing consultations and/or conducting these processes and facilitating dialogue.

Description :

Saying what we do, doing what we say, articulating different operations in a consultation process.

(a) Definitions: concertation, negotiation, consultation, mediation, etc. (b) Understand what a consultation mechanism is and how to design it.

Understand what constitutes disagreement and the possible compositions of agreement. (a) Figures of disagreement and analysis of fracture lines. Mobilization of the theory of justification; (b). Analysis of the possible ways of composing the agreement based on cases related to the shared use of irrigation water.

From disagreement to agreement, the conduct of consultation processes and mediation time. : (a). Benchmarks for the conduct of the process, based on a case, theoretical insights from the sociology of translation. (b). The intervention of a third party facilitator: the mediation cycle and the mediator's posture.

Speakers: examples of concertation situations - Exchanges and debate with the students
Analysis of concrete cases: critical analysis of concrete cases.

Examination :

Work in pairs: creation of a poster presenting a consultation or mediation mechanism and approach. Presentation of the poster and participation in the debates related to all the situations presented.

English title		Complex projects management				
French code & title		UC.4.3. Ingénierie des projets complexes				
Course choices	Optional		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMADT43	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
A	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Jean-Eudes Beuret			25		2

Objectives and skills targeted :

To contribute to the formulation of multi-partner territorial projects, in the North as well as in the South, to the design of partnership mechanisms, to the choice and use of tools aiming at participation and the construction of collective action, to the elaboration of tools relating to the monitoring of the project, to the design and the realization of socio-economic diagnoses useful to the project Acquire a critical perspective on the project cycle and the tools used, in order to contribute to the evolution of the methods implemented.

Description :

Testimonies from NGOs

- Focus on the notion of complex project (CM 4h)

- Analysis of projects and interviews with people who design projects, Recurrences observed

The diagnosis of the territory at the service of the project: (a). Principles and general methodological references relating to socio-economic diagnosis approaches applied to an agrarian system, a territory, one or more environmental assets; (b). Presentation of several diagnostic methods (basket of goods, conflict diagnosis, etc.)

Application and learning exercise.

Examination :

Group work on the design of a project concept note and a response to a call for tenders for the design of a diagnostic approach.

English title		Literature review for the thesis				
French code & title		Analyse bibliographique				
Course choices	Mandatory	Code Poggi AO	RM2C-IMADT43	Master IMRD M2		
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
A	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Catherine Darrot & Philippe Boudes		6	50	2	

Objectives and skills :

This course is compulsory. The aim of this course is to lay the foundations for the dissertation project by carrying out a review of the academic literature on the chosen subject. It aims to develop the following skills:

- Knowing how to conduct a literature review and a state of the art
- Know how to write an organized synthesis
- Know how to identify a personal research problem and justify it in the light of the state of the art

Content:

Students are expected to practice in several steps:

- Definition of the main lines of their subject: general problem, object, place or field of investigation, main disciplinary approach(es) - A meeting with the referent teachers will be devoted to this
- Literature review based on these elements - A 2 hour lesson will be devoted to providing advice and methods
- Classification of the elements of the literature: issues addressed, state of the art ordered by themes, theoretical and analytical frameworks - This stage will be carried out by personal work, completed by a group meeting and an interview with the thesis promoter.

Evaluation:

- Drafting of a 15 to 25 page document presenting these elements and leading to the justification of a more precise problematic for the dissertation - Correction by the Rennes professors, referents for this course
- Oral presentation before a jury of Rennes teachers

English title		Environmental Field Project				
French code & title		UC.5.2. UC. École de terrain (Projet GE)				
Course choices	Mandatory		Code Peggi AO	RM2C-IMTC13	Master IMRD M2	
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Philippe Boudes			10	90	4

Objectives and skills targeted :

- participate in the management of a project by getting involved in group work (reflection, debates, synthesis of exchanges and controversy)
- implement professional methods and tools
- innovate, invent and propose answers to a real question proposed by a professional partner.

Description :

This project is organized around an environmental issue on the scale of a territory and in connection with agriculture,

- by nature complex and requiring a multidisciplinary approach;
- by implementing simple methods and tools from the various disciplines taught in the core curriculum, and further developed in the various options;
- over a limited period of time.

The project is divided into three stages:

- an initial joint diagnosis of data acquisition in the field,
- an in-depth study of the issues dealt with by implementing methods specific to the options
- a pooling of the results obtained and reasoned management proposals

English title		Territorial development field project				
French code & title		UC.5.1. Projet d'ingénieur ADT-IMRD				
Course choices	Mandatory	Code Peggi AO	RM2E-IMADT51	Master IMRD M2		
Ref	Semester	MT1	Dept.	Hourly volume & ECTS		
A	1	2	Milppat	contact	Study	ECTS
Instructor (s)	Catherine Darrot			52	23	3

Objectives and skills targeted :

To analyse collectively a territorial issue under the specific angle of social sciences, in particular sociology

To answer an order, a practical question related to territorial development issues, thanks to the collection of data and their analysis

Prepare and present results to local actors

Mobilise, around a fieldwork, a set of concepts and methods taught.

Description :

Presentation of the subject and its issues

Preparation, methodology, preliminary data collection, appointment of interviewers

Field data collection (4 days)

Processing of field data and drafting of a synthesis

Written and oral presentation in the presence of the clients.

Examination :

average of 2 collective marks

2 hours of written (1 mark) and oral (1 mark) feedback in the presence of professionals