

September 2015

BSc and MSc Thesis opportunity: *Shock Therapy, the Green Revolution and Social Movements*

Stichting Boerengroep (Farmers Foundation) is looking for students (BSc and MSc) that are interested in writing a thesis about Shock Therapy (see [Noami Klein](#)), the Green Revolution and Social Movements. The student will be supported by Stichting Boerengroep and supervised by a staff-member of the chair group Sociology of Development and Change (SDC).

Description of topic:

Since the end of the WWII, many democratically chosen governments have been overthrown in a very violent way (see e.g. documentary by [John Pilger](#)). Many people have been tortured and killed, a strategy called the Shock Treatment (see [Noami Klein](#)'s Shock Doctrine; you can google the documentary). The idea is to bring a country in 'shock', after which new regulations, laws, a new economy (the free market) and a new agriculture can be pushed through: the Green Revolution (introduction chemical fertilizers, chemical pesticides, new varieties, HYVs and GMOs, new technology, intensification of farming etc.).

During your thesis you will focus on one country (e.g. in Latin America or South East Asia), where this so called Shock Treatment has resulted in a drastic change in agricultural (and therefore also social) practices. Which foundations, organisations, governments etc. were involved in the preparation for this shock therapy? Which changes in agriculture took place afterwards? How did this affect food sovereignty? Was there resistance/ upcoming agro-ecological movements? How are the (agro-ecological) movements strengthening food sovereignty nowadays?

Stichting Boerengroep is especially looking for someone who can conduct this research on **Brazil**, and link this to the upcoming Agroecological movements, including the Landless Movement (MST) and the ***Estágio Interdisciplinar de Vivência (EIV)*** or [Farm Experience Internship \(FEI\)](#). However, research on other countries is very welcome as well!

BSc students can conduct a literature research on the topic

MSc students can combine literature research with qualitative field work, consisting out of interviews with farmers and/ or movements. Note that you are very free to shape your own research. You will be supervised by the SDC chair group (Pieter de Vries), and you will receive support from Boerengroep (providing articles, documentaries, books, an example of a thesis on this topic etc.)

For more information about the thesis topic, contact: st.boerengroep@wur.nl

For more general questions about a thesis with SDC, contact: miriam.vreman@wur.nl