Rethinking rural & Shrinking localities through a multidisciplinary perspective

Hopefully some inspirations for your fieldwork...

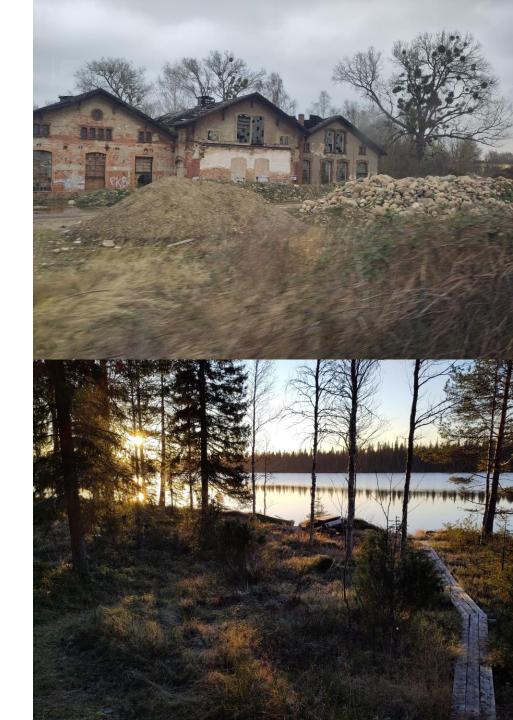
Moritz Albrecht



Rethinking the rural...

What is the rural? How do we approach it? How could we approach it?

- Commonly addressed through an urban rural dualism
- Strongly framed through spatial imaginaries (individual & shared)
 - Romanticized, stigmatized, aspired, blamed,...
 - home, holidays, nature, pollution, decay,
- Place & Space as heterogenous multiplicities of becoming (Massey 2005)
- Matters of social cohesion & spatial justice



Rural in policy

Policies for rural areas

- Representation of rural in policy (needs, potentials, challenges,...)
- Solutions (from within and beyond)

Rural politics

- Networks, peculiarities, limits
- Rural lobbyism (for whom/what?)

Politicizing the rural

- Driver for populist party success, barrier to development
- Resource



Rural and planning

Spatial planning in rural areas

- Planning aims, ideas and origins
- Planning capacities and dependencies
- Actors in planning
- Considering depopulation/ageing
- Policy aligenment

Planning & investment nexus

- Who builts the planned infra
- Participatory planning
 - Potentials and pitfalls



Rural economies...

Spatial properties

- bioresource, geology, landscape,...
- Human resources, skills, history, culture

Policy alignment

- (trans)national trends
- Subsidy & support schemes

Commercial services

- Service provision/availability
- Profitability

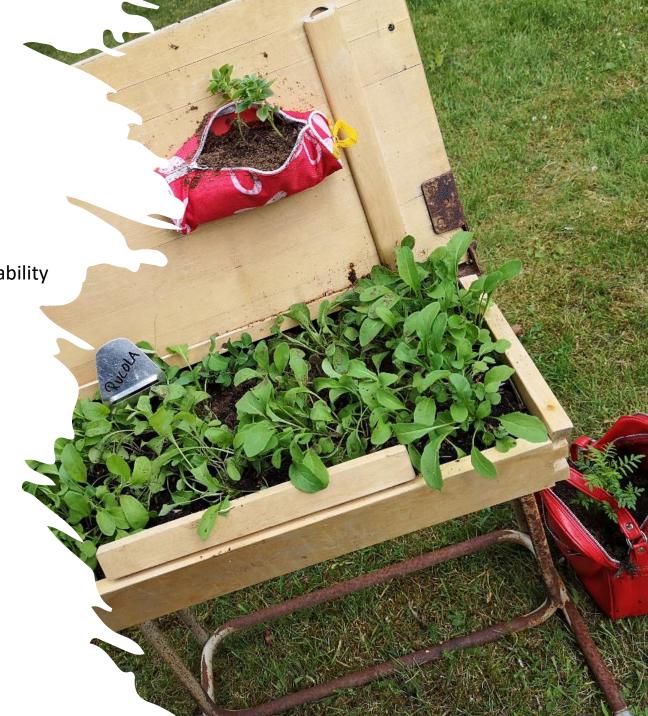
Branding

- Tourism, remote work, bioeconomy,...
- Representations of localities/slogans!



Rural and health

- Health provision in rural areas
 - Accessibility & reach
 - affordability, availability, accommodation, and acceptability
- E-Health
 - Policy, digital infrastructure
 - Digital literacy of residential groups
- Attracting health personal
 - Political campaigns
 - Bottom-up initiatives
 - Legal frameworks
- Lifestyles
 - Consumption habits/cultures
 - Access to goods



Rural and crime...

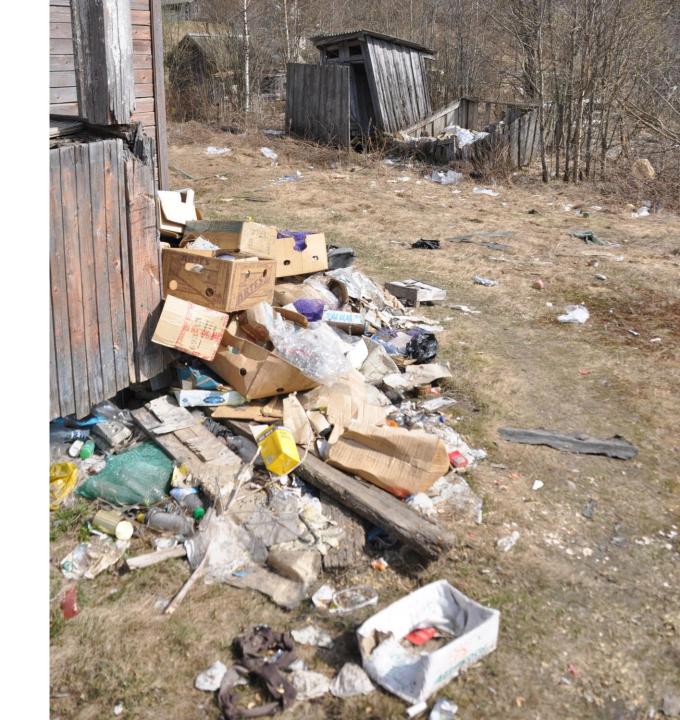
Rural crime

- Environmental, violent, planning,...
- Governing crime
- Victimization & prioritization

Security

- Policing & access
- Responsibilisation
- Feelings & quality of life

• Farm crime



Rural and religion...

Cultural & demographic changes

- Access to church services
- Role of the church as service provider
- New religions

Church infrastructure

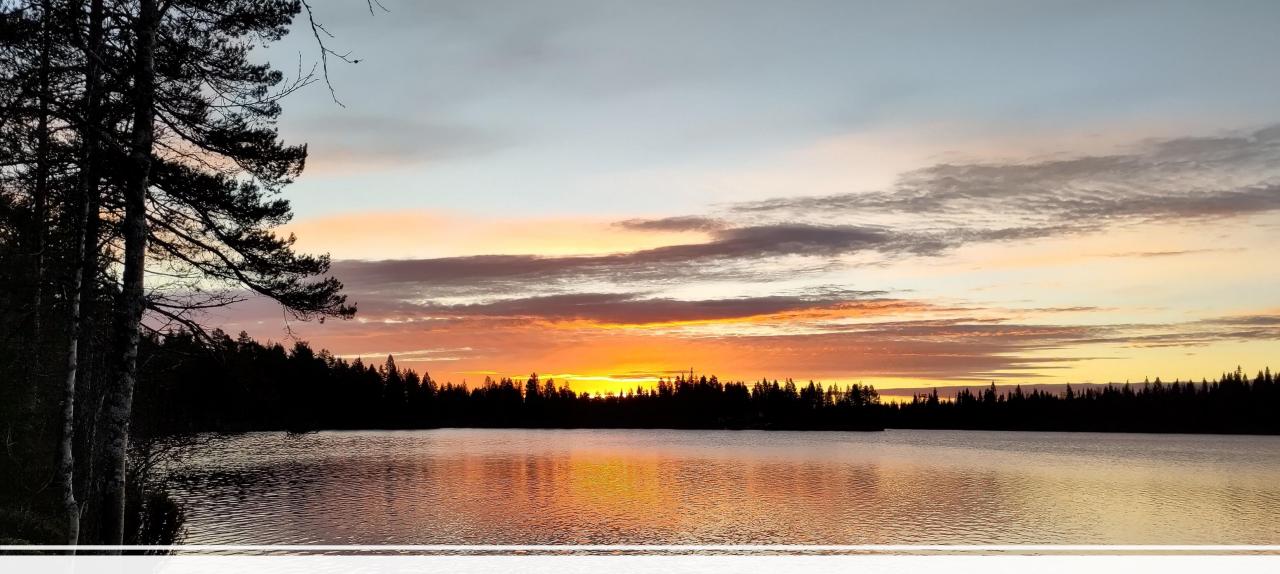
- Challenges & potentials of alternative use
- Maintenance of cultural heritage
- Budgetary challenges



Rural and sports & events

- Rural as a place for (sport) events
 - Locality as curse & blessing
 - Finances
 - community
- Rural population and sport
 - Service access
 - Maintenance costs





Rural development to what end?