

The Chancellor of Ghent University has the honour of inviting you to attend the public defense of the doctoral dissertation of

Jonas Adriaensens

Title of the doctoral dissertation:

Peasant Agroecology: Contested Territories and Rural Transformation in Argentina

The public defence will take place on Thursday, 30 April 2026 at 17:00 in Auditorium E4 (Building E) at Campus Coupure, Coupure Links, 653, 9000 Ghent.

There will be a contiguous reception in Biosfeer (Building A, first floor) to which you are heartily invited.

Please confirm your attendance before 24 April 2026 to: jonas.adriaensens@ugent.be

Dissertation supervisors

Prof. dr. ir. Joost DESSEIN
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Prof. dr. Jeroen ADAM
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Board of examiners

Prof. dr. ir. Pascal BOECKX
Chairman
Faculty of Bioscience Engineering,
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Prof. dr. ir. Marijke D'HAESE
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Faculty of Bioscience Engineering,
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Prof. dr. Eduardo DE LA PEÑA
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em. Prof. dr. Eric VANHAUTE
Faculty of Arts and Philosophy,
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**Ms. Maria Lua Ribeiro CURTY
BELGRANO**
Peasant Movement of Santiago del
Estero (MOCASE)

Prof. dr. Pablo LAPEGNA
Department of Sociology,
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Abstract of the doctoral research

This dissertation analyses agroecology as a contested socio-political project emerging within processes of agrarian frontier expansion in Santiago del Estero, Argentina. Moving beyond technical interpretations, it conceptualizes agroecology as a relational, territorial, and historical process shaped by struggles over land, knowledge, and social reproduction.

Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork with the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero (MOCASE), the study examines how agroecology is constructed through collective organization, territorial conflict, and everyday practices of resistance. It situates these dynamics within broader transformations linked to the expansion of industrial agriculture and recurring cycles of capital accumulation.

The findings show that agroecology functions not merely as an alternative production model, but as a form of territorial praxis through which communities reconfigure socio-ecological relations under conditions of dispossession. By integrating relationality, territoriality, and historicity, the dissertation advances a framework for understanding agroecology as a dynamic and contested spatio-political project.

Brief Curriculum Vitae

Jonas Adriaensens is a Belgian PhD student and joined the Department of Agricultural Economics in 2020 through an FWO scholarship. He received his bachelor's degree at Ghent University and also holds a master's degree in political sciences and a master's degree in complementary studies in economics from Ghent University, a master's degree in food and resource economics from Korea University, and a joint international master's degree in rural development from the IMRD consortium. Before embarking on his PhD, he worked for the Ghent-based NGO "Catapa" in Colombia to accompany local farmers and social movements in the development of an agroecological project in Tolima.

During his PhD, he developed an internationally oriented research profile combining academic and grassroots engagement. He completed a research internship at INTA and collaborated closely with the Peasant Movement of Santiago del Estero. He was a member of SOCLA and has published in international peer-reviewed journals, the results of which were presented at conferences across Latin America and Europe. He was also a visiting scholar at Cornell University (United States) and ECOSUR (Mexico).