

**BUILDING  
MOVEMENT**

**ACHIEVING  
TRANSFORMATION**

**11TH  
AESOP  
SUSTAINABLE  
FOOD  
PLANNING  
CONFERENCE**

**19-22.06.2024  
BRUSSELS  
& GHENT**



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with the support of FWO and AESOP4Food

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**Organization Team**

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**Hans Vandermaelen** ILVO-Flanders Research Institute for agriculture, fisheries and food, Ghent University, Belgium & co-curator expo 'Gentse Gronden' at STAM, Ghent

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**Graphic design by Emma Bierens**

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# 11TH CONFERENCE

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## AESOP SUSTAINABLE

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### FOOD PLANNING

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## Building Movement, Achieving Transformation

We live in a time of incumbent socio-ecological crises demanding short-term action, but also longer-term and structural transformations. The effects of disruptions such as climate change, environmental degradation, health emergencies, geopolitical conflicts and socio-economic inequities, cannot be ignored. These emergencies have profound effects on urban-regional food movements. On the one hand, they make key food system problems more visible: from emergency food networks escalating across urban areas and reviving food justice concerns, to groups that point to the climate breakdown and call for more ecologically and socially sustainable food production systems. On the other hand, crises are calling for socially innovative initiatives to emerge, envisioning new solutions and advocating for alternative courses of action. As a result, sustainable food planning today needs to actively engage with initiatives on the ground and create socially innovative alliances with the plurality of (food) movements.

Against this background, the 11<sup>th</sup> AESOP Sustainable Food Planning Conference asks how sustainable food planning can become more embedded in socially innovative and transformative movements, strategically supporting the multiple communities imagining alternatives and mobilizing around the sustainable transformation of food systems.

When considered through a socially innovative and transformative lens, food becomes a driver for changes in deep structures of societies and economies (Holt-Giménez, 2019). Which socially innovative food planning practices are capable of devising creative solutions to unmet needs? How to imagine cooperative and responsible action across diverse agents of the food system and at critical scales? How to build cohesiveness and cooperation without losing sight of the multivocality and diversity of food systems that are necessary to build more resilient societies and urbanities (IPES-Food, 2016)? How to effectively advocate for institutional and planning frameworks that respect the autonomy and creativity of socially innovative food initiatives and encourage alternative forms of food production to take root? How to courageously advance goals of socio-ecological justice as triggers and targets for food systems' transformations?

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# Wednesday June 19th, 2024

Time	Location	Session	Facilitators
13.30 - 14.30	Parckfarm	<b>Welcome</b> introduction, explanation Parckfarm and ice-breaking game	Roxana Triboi, Alessandra Manganelli
14.30 - 15.30	Herman Teirlinck, 01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen	<b>Group work</b> on research themes connected to the Conference	
15.30 - 16.00		Break	
16.00 - 17.00		<b>A dialogue</b> with urban food planning scholars and practitioners	
17.00 - 17.30		<b>Closing and next steps</b> in building this group	Roxana Triboi, Alessandra Manganelli

The AESOP-Sustainable Food Planning group aspires to improve the integration of PhD students and young professionals and to grow the “next generation” of experts in the field of sustainable food planning. This resulted in the formalised PhD and young academic professionals group (YAP) of AESOP-SFP. This group wants to improve the integration of PhD students and young professionals and to grow the “next generation” of experts in the field of sustainable food planning.

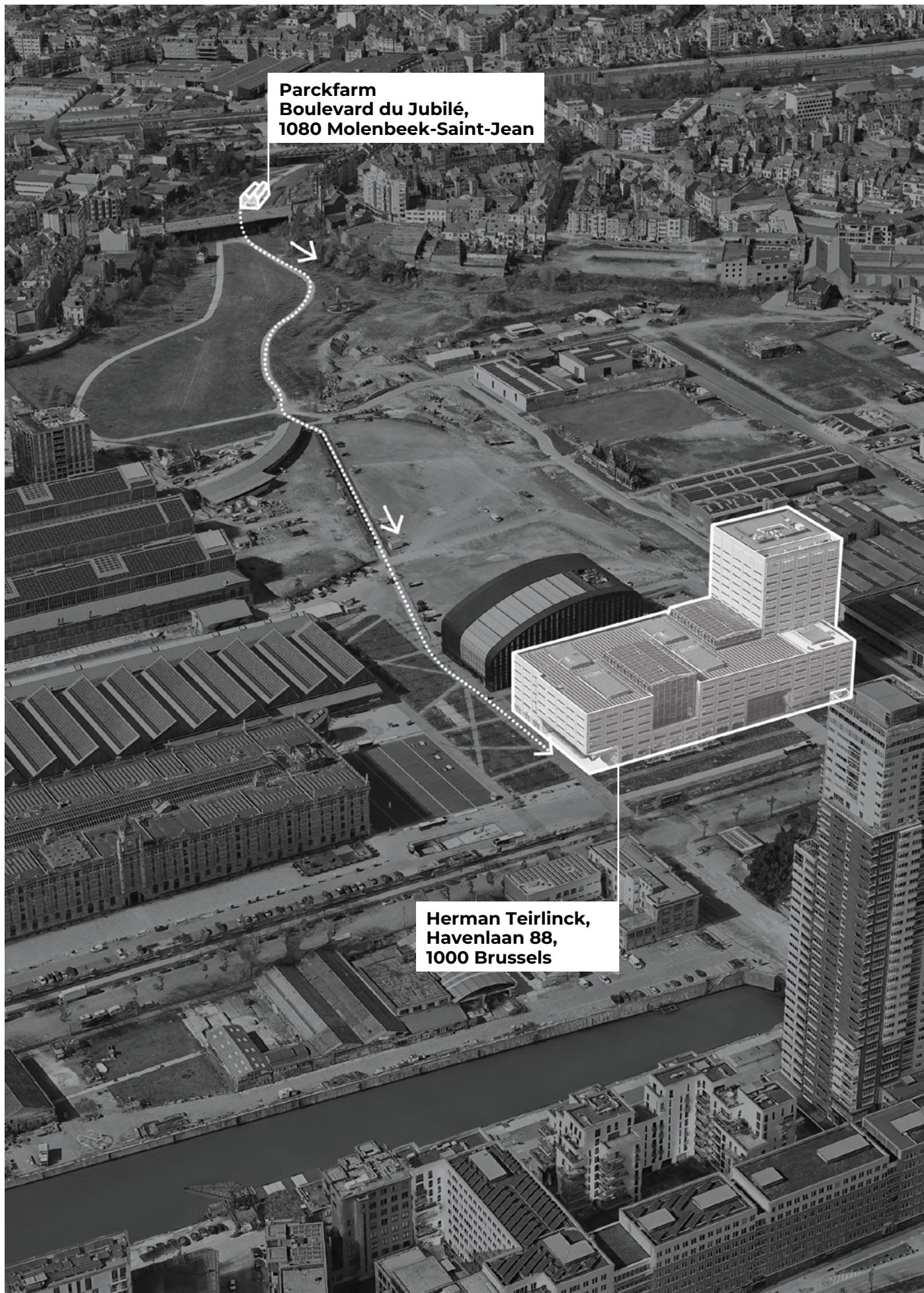
Throughout the year, the YAP group organises several exchange moments. This year, they are pleased to invite you to a side event they organise on Wednesday, June 19 in Brussels; prior to the AESOP SFP Conference of 2024. The event is open to young professionals, practitioners, PhD students, postdocs, and others interested.

With this workshop, the YAP group aims (similar to their program) to learn new skills, exchange experiences, network, get feedback on working relations, discuss research in progress, and reflect on the (next steps in their) career amongst peers in a relaxed atmosphere.

If you are interested to join this group in the future, please contact:

— Roxana Triboi: roxanatriboi@gmail.com

— Alessandra Manganelli: alessandra.manganelli@hcu-hamburg.de



**Parckfarm**  
Boulevard du Jubilé,  
1080 Molenbeek-Saint-Jean

**Herman Teirlinck,**  
Havenlaan 88,  
1000 Brussels

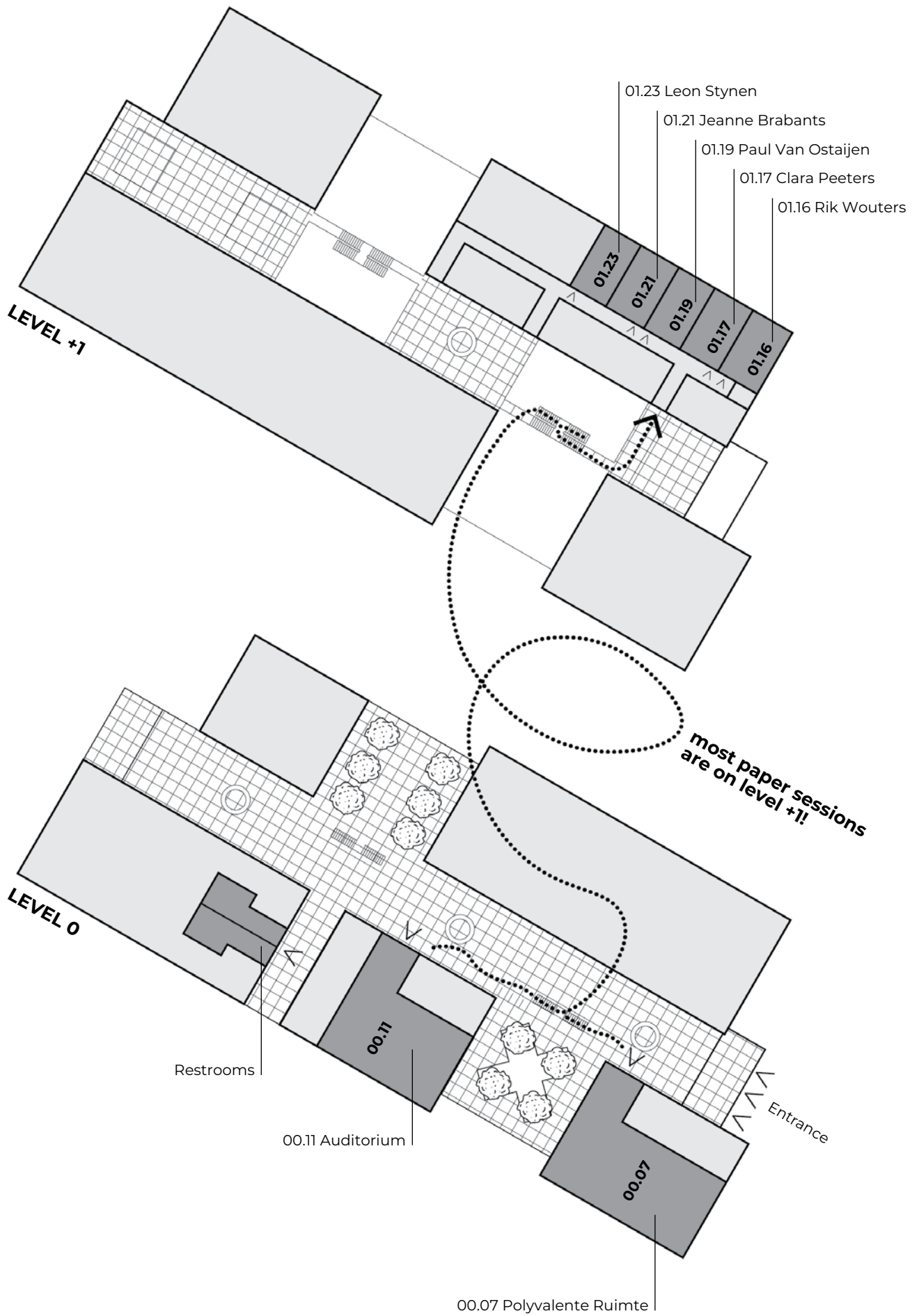
**Wi-Fi**  
Vlaamse Overheid Event Netwerk  
password: vl#@nderen

Herman Teirlinck,  
Tour & Taxis

Havenlaan 88,  
1000 Brussels

# Thursday June 20th, 2024

Time	Location	Session	Speaker/Chair
09:00 - 09:30	00.07 Polyvalente Ruimte	Registration	
09:30 - 10:00	00.11 Auditorium	<b>Welcome and intro</b> "20 Years of Sustainable Food Planning"	Chiara Tornaghi & Michiel Dehaene
10:00 - 10:45		<b>Keynote</b> "Local food systems in France : is food transforming local public policies?"	Florent Yann Lardic
10:45 - 11:45		<b>Debate</b> on challenges for agriculture policy and visioning in metropolitan regions in France and Belgium	Florent Yann Lardic, Jan Pille, Eva Kerselaers, Christian Jonet & Michiel Dehaene
11:45 - 12:00		<b>Book launch teasers</b>	
12:00 - 13:30	00.07 Polyvalente Ruimte	<b>Lunch</b> , with book presentations	
13:30 - 15:00		<b>Paper Sessions Round 1</b>	
	01.16 Rik Wouters	<b>1.A</b> Productive Landscapes	Elke Vanempten
	01.17 Clara Peeters	<b>1.B</b> Agroecological Urbanism	Marian Simón Rojo
	01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen	<b>1.C</b> Urban Agriculture Practices	Silvio Caputo
	01.21 Jeanne Brabants	<b>1.D</b> Food Mapping Initiatives	Riccardo Bruno
	01.23 Leon Stynen	<b>1.E</b> Intersectionality and Food Justice	Valentine Cadieux
	00.11 Auditorium	<b>1.F</b> Special Panel: Research-Policy-Practice Dialogue with invited speakers	Alessandra Manganelli, Roxana Triboi & Henk Renting
15:00 - 15:15	00.07 Polyvalente Ruimte	Coffee break	
15:15 - 16:45		<b>Paper Sessions Round 2</b>	
	01.16 Rik Wouters	<b>2.A</b> City Region Food Systems	Henk Renting
	01.17 Clara Peeters	<b>2.B</b> Movement Building Across the Food System	Chiara Tornaghi
	01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen	<b>2.C</b> Community Gardening	Ivonne Weichold
	01.21 Jeanne Brabants	<b>2.D</b> Design Strategies for Sustainable Foodscapes	André Viljoen
	01.23 Leon Stynen	<b>2.E</b> Urban Food in Times of Crisis	Amber Steyaert
	00.11 Auditorium	<b>2.F</b> Experimenting with Urban Food Governance	Alessandra Manganelli, Luca Battisti & Federico Cuomo
	00.07 Polyvalente Ruimte	AESOP4FOOD Seminar	Jeroen de Vries & Roxana Triboi
16:45 - 17:00		Coffee break	
17:00 - 18:00		<b>Keynote</b> "A critical reflection on urban food governance "transformations""	Ana Moragues Faus
18:00 - 19:00		Travel to BelMundo	
19:00	BelMundo Henegouwenkaai 41-43 Sint-Jans-Molenbeek	<b>Conference Dinner and guided tour</b>	

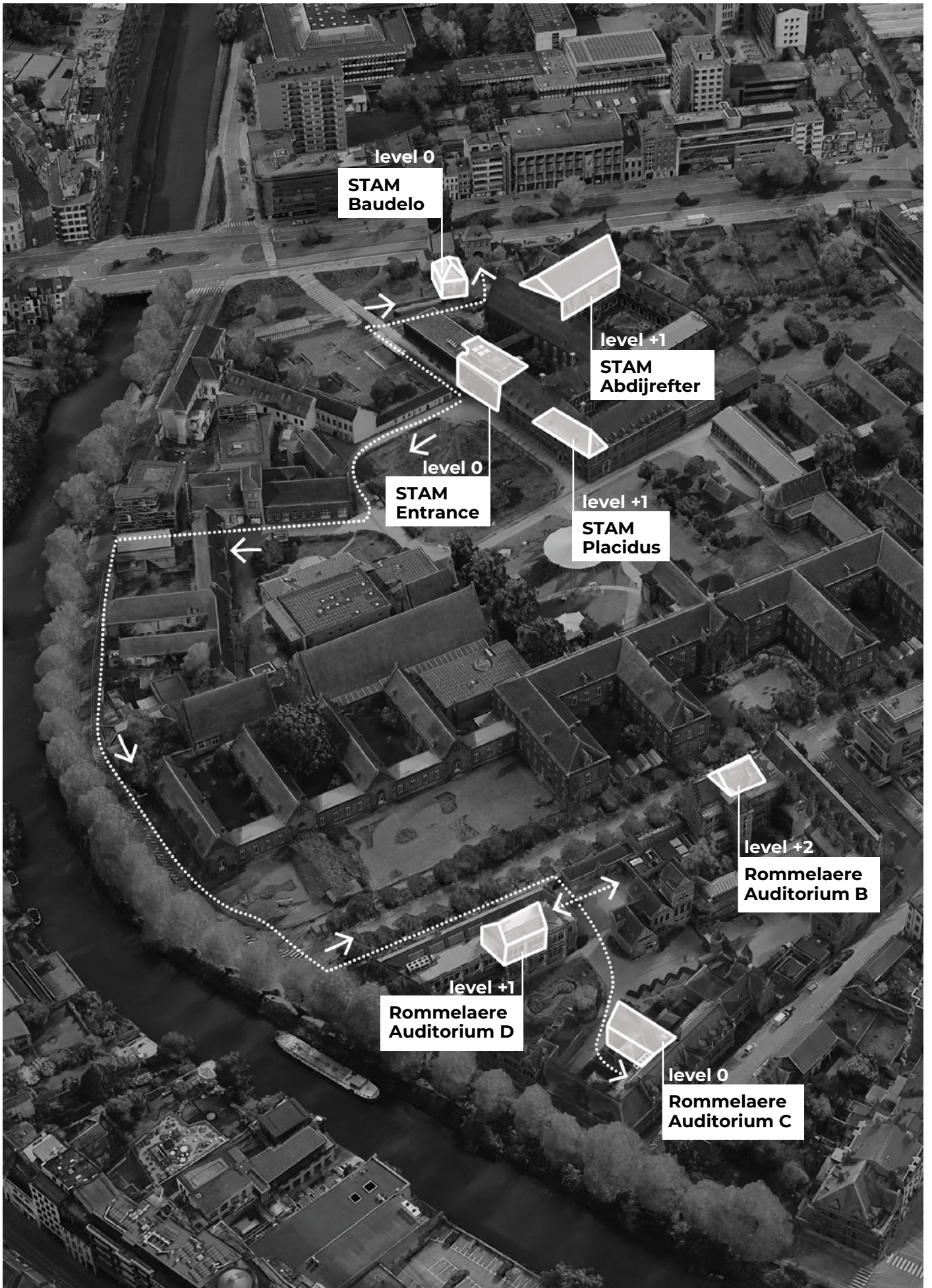


**Wi-Fi**  
 Vlaamse Overheid Event Netwerk  
 password: vl#@nderen

# Friday June 21st, 2024

Time	Location	Session	Speaker/Chair
09:30 - 10:00	Entrance, STAM	Registration	
10:00 - 10:30	Abdijrefter, STAM	<b>Welcome and intro</b> "Why are we in Ghent? A word on the expo 'Gentse Gronden'"	Hans Vandermaelen
10:30 - 12:00		<b>Paper Sessions Round 3</b>	
	Abdijrefter, STAM	<b>3.A</b> Public Farmland and Public Policy	Michiel Dehaene
	Baudelo, STAM	<b>3.B</b> Strategies of Movement Building	Tomaso Ferrando
	Placidus, STAM	<b>3.C</b> Urban Agriculture Frameworks	Jan Eelco Jansma
	Auditorium B, Rommelaere	<b>3.D</b> Urban Food Environments	Carla Mingolla
	Auditorium C, Rommelaere	<b>3.E</b> Food Procurement, Redistribution and Welfare	Florent Lardic
	Auditorium D, Rommelaere	<b>3.F</b> Role of Local Governments	Alessandra Manganeli
	Entrance, STAM	Guided tour exhibition	
12:00 - 13:30	Entrance, STAM	Lunch	
13:30 - 15:00		<b>Paper Sessions Round 4</b>	
	Abdijrefter, STAM	<b>4.A</b> Peri-urban Dynamics	Coline Perrin
	Baudelo, STAM	<b>4.B</b> Moving with the Farmers	Daniel López García
	Placidus, STAM	<b>4.C</b> From Informal to Formal Urban Agriculture	Silvio Caputo, Michael Hardman & Chris Blythe
	Auditorium B, Rommelaere	<b>4.D</b> Training and Policy Learning	Jeroen de Vries
	Auditorium C, Rommelaere	<b>4.E</b> Landed Community Kitchens with invited speakers	Chiara Tornaghi & Charlotte Prové
	Auditorium D, Rommelaere	<b>4.F</b> Experimenting for Food Equity	Marian Simón Rojo
	Entrance, STAM	Guided tour exhibition	
15:00 - 15:15	Entrance, STAM	Break	
15:15 - 16:15	Abdijrefter, STAM	<b>Keynote</b> "How is sustainable food planning contributing to agroecological repair?"	Valentine Cadieux
16:15 - 17:15	Entrance, STAM or outside in the garden	<b>Co-creative session</b> "Building an agenda for Sustainable Food Planning"	
17:15 - 17:30		<b>Closing of the Conference</b>	





**Wi-Fi**  
at STAM: free Wifi City of Ghent  
at Rommelaere: use eduroam or UGent Guest

Fieldtrip  
Start: Metro  
"Eddy Merckx"

# Saturday June 22nd, 2024

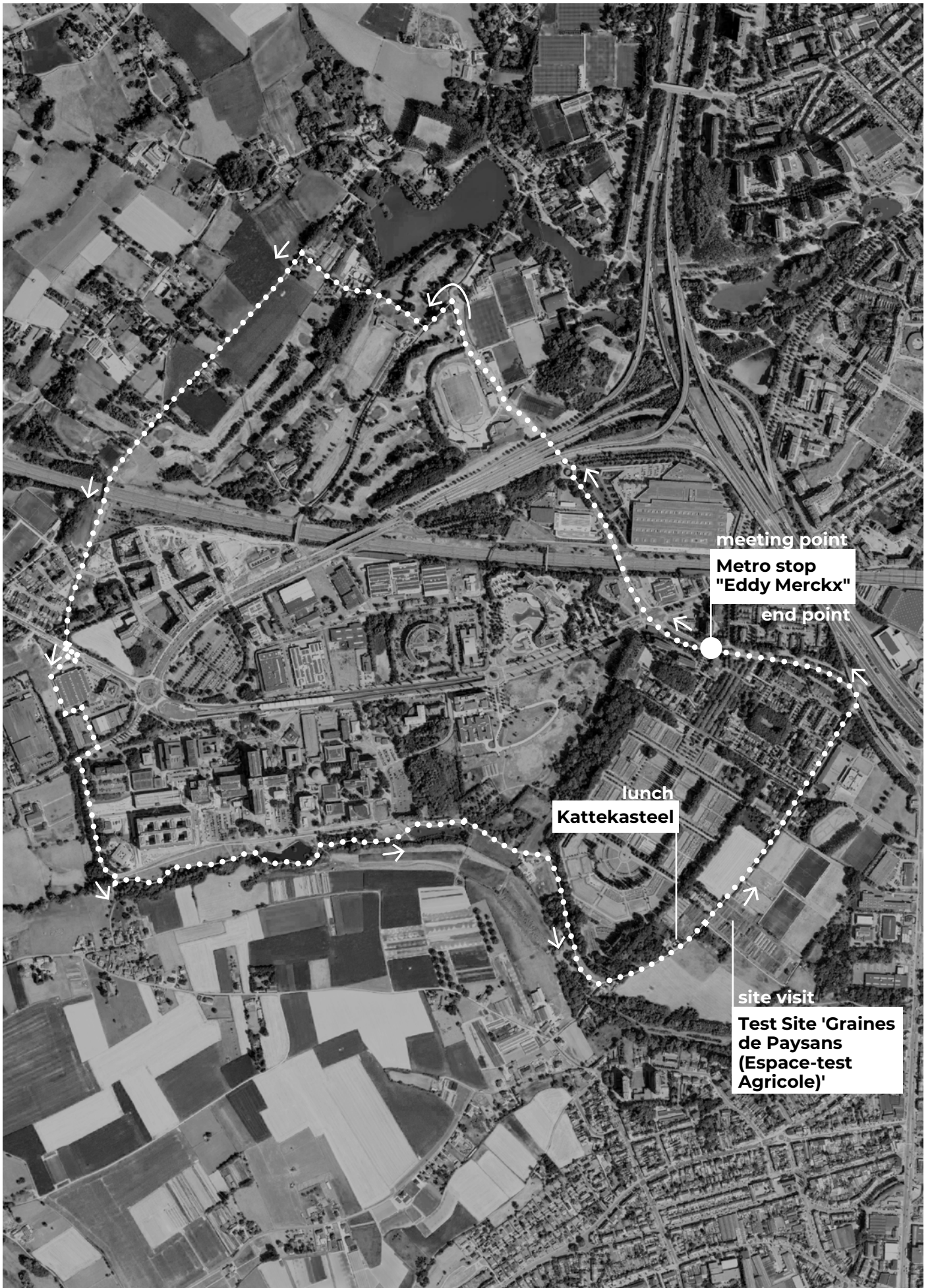
Time	Location	Session	Speaker
09.00 - 09.30	Metro stop "Eddy Merckx"	Meeting point	
09.30 - 12.30		<b>Guided Walk Neerpede (6,5km)</b>	Catherine Fierens
12.30 - 13.30	Kattekasteeel	Lunch	
13:30 - 15:00	Rue Chant d'Oiseaux 171, 1070 Anderlecht	<b>Visit Espace Test Site 'Graines de Paysans (Espace-test Agricole)'</b>	Gabriele Annicchiarico

In the Neerpede valley, the project of 'Boeren Brussel Paysans' aims to realise production, processing and distribution projects in a short supply chain for local, healthy and quality food accessible to all residents of the capital. The field visit will allow to explore efforts to protect land and develop agro-ecological agriculture, together with the triggers for a re-localised food system in the peri-urban area of Brussels. As part of the BoerenBrusselPaysans project Brussels Capital Region invested in the establishment of a 'test farm' for neo-farmers. We will visit this farm at the end of the fieldtrip.

More info about Boeren Brussel Paysans can be found on [here](https://environnement.brussels/pro/nos-actions/projets-et-resultats/boerenbrusselpaysans-vers-une-agriculture-peri-urbaine-durable): <https://environnement.brussels/pro/nos-actions/projets-et-resultats/boerenbrusselpaysans-vers-une-agriculture-peri-urbaine-durable> or in their publication "[Agropolis – From Pilot Project to Metropolitan Food Network](#)".

Our guide, **FIERENS Catherine**, trained as an architect and practised architecture, landscape architecture, public space and political consultancy before becoming involved with Brussels Environment. Since 2015, she has coordinated the ERDF project BoerenBrusselPaysans. She is interested in the shaping of the city and its ecological transition, in which food systems have a major impact.

An anthropologist by training, **ANNICCHIARICO Gabriele** has coordinated several urban, social and professional agriculture projects in Italy and Belgium. He is currently responsible for coordinating the agricultural test space "Graines de paysans" (Début des Haricots asbl / BoerenBrusselPaysans) in Brussels. As a journalist for the Italian print media (il Manifesto), he covers Belgian and European politics with particular focus on sustainable agriculture and food.



meeting point

Metro stop  
"Eddy Merckx"

end point

lunch

Kattekasteel

site visit

Test Site 'Graines  
de Paysans  
(Espace-test  
Agricole)'

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# Keynote abstracts and speakers information

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Thu 20.06 - 09:30-10:00 - Auditorium, Herman Teirlinck

## Introduction: 20 Years of Sustainable Food Planning

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**TORNAGHI Chiara** is Associate Professor in Urban food sovereignty and resilience at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, UK. A scholar activist, her work is focussed on advancing an agroecological urbanism by mobilising feminist political ecology and movement pedagogies for agroecology across the urban-rural and consumers-producers divide. Chiara Tornaghi is the current chairwoman of the Sustainable Food Planning group, and will thus open this edition of the Conference!

**DEHAENE Michiel** is full professor at the Department of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent University, where he teaches courses in urban analysis and design. After his Architecture studies at KU Leuven (1994), he obtained a Master's degree in Urban Design from Harvard University (1997). He completed his doctoral studies at KU Leuven (2002). His work focuses on the epistemology of urbanism, the (planning) history of dispersed urban development, (sub)urban renewal, sustainable cities and food planning. This work includes systematic research with Chiara Tornaghi on Agroecological Urbanism. Together they led the JPI SUGI project 'Urbanising in Place' ([agroecologicalurbanism.org](http://agroecologicalurbanism.org)). Michiel is a member of the Aesop Sustainable Food Planning steering group. He is chairman of the Flemish Jury for Urban Renewal Projects. With Thomas Block and Griet Roets, he has co-founded 'The Urban Academy' ('De Stadsacademie'), a transdisciplinary collaboration between Ghent University and the City of Ghent.

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Thu 20.06 - 10:00-11:00 - Auditorium, Herman Teirlinck

## Keynote: Local food systems in France : is food transforming local public policies?

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Territorial food systems are being structured in Europe for more than 15 years now. France is one of the leading countries of this movement, now counting 440 of them, representing 7 out of 10 French people. Behind the label lie diverse realities: what differentiates an urban and rural system? Initially launched by local governments, did they expand and enlarge the range of actors to take action?

The goal is not only to take a snapshot but to have a dynamic approach. In the last years, food policy has been crossed by contrary tendencies : climate change fight on one hand, the farmers claim for less rules in an other, and the world competition as a global framework. Is climate change the only gamechangers of territorial food systems? Is the great European agricultural crisis a hindrance or an acceleration?

Considered as a secondary policy, could food policy become a central concern of public policies?

**LARDIC Florent Yann** is the Director of Terres en villes, the French network for local agricultural and food policies. His work seeks to combine regional planning and ecological transition goals. Terres en villes brings together city regions that are interested in raising the bar concerning the transformation of their city region's food system. The organization is a remarkable action of trans-local action in food system change, systematizing the collective learning of cities across cases while remaining attached to the contextual specificity of local action.

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**Thu 20.06 - 11:00-11:45 - Auditorium, Herman Teirlinck**

## **Debate: on challenges for agriculture policy and visioning in metropolitan regions in France and Belgium, with panel**

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Following the keynote lecture of Florent Lardic, this plenary debate looks at the metropolitan area as an important arena for pioneering work in sustainable food planning. We take stock of pioneering work in Ghent, Brussels and Liège in the overlap between food planning and territorial governance. The panellist will discuss the respective strategies to make connections between food policy and territorial agricultural development. Against the background of this strategizing work, the panel is asked to address the central question of the plenary part of the conference: “What do we consider transformative and where do we place our hopes regarding the different social movements that can carry a social ecological transition”

### **PANEL**

**PILLE Jan** is one of the driving forces behind the strategy to make Brussels’ urban landscape more edible by introducing an agroecological perspective. Jan is actively contributing to these efforts at Bruxelles Environnement, the Administration for Environment and Energy of the Brussels Capital Region. Through his dedication to sustainable agriculture and innovative food projects, he plays a key role in promoting a more edible and more resilient Brussels.

**KERSELAERS Eva** is a bio-engineer. She is currently working as a policy officer on agriculture for the city of Ghent, Belgium, a.o. responsible for the development and implementation of Ghent’s agricultural vision. She has a background in research where she supervised and worked on projects about open space, rural development, agriculture and spatial planning. Ghent is an exemplary and pioneering case concerning the role of a city in fostering the connection between agriculture and the urban environment.

**JONET Christian** has been involved for many years in the social and ecological transition process in Liège. Since 2013, he has been working on the development of a sustainable food system and supply chains in the Liège region, as director of the non-profit organisation Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise, where he played an active role in setting up the Liège Métropole Food Policy Council and the Liège Short Circuit Food hub.

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**Thu 20.06 - 17:00-18:00 - Auditorium, Herman Teirlinck**

## **Keynote: A critical reflection on urban food governance “transformations”**

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As we continue opening our academic and policy papers by enumerating the endless socio-ecological crisis and the central role of food in shaping the planet and our lives on it, we cannot help but wonder if our work as academics and practitioners in the sustainable food planning field is having an impact, and if so how. In this presentation, I will provide a critical reflection on key shifts and permanencies in urban food governance dynamics. For that purpose, I will structure the analysis around five dimensions. First, a time-sensitive dimension that allows us to understand changes from a historical and future-focused perspective. Second, a place-based approach to interrogate the role of food systems in transforming places and vice-versa. Third, a conceptualization of scales, spaces and agencies as co-constituted and, therefore, the adoption of a relational perspective to understand transformations. Fourth, an exploration of how we are embracing a diversity of concepts and practices to deal with complexity and co-produce new political possibilities. And, fifth, a discussion on the importance of situating power dynamics as a central element in conducting analysis and designing interventions to transform inequities. As our societies spiral into compounded emergencies and our planet urbanizes, it is vital to continue expanding the critical capacity of the diverse sustainable food planning community, engaging more actors to fulfil the unquestionable potential of food, places, and governance in shaping our lives and futures.

Dr. **MORAGUES FAUS Ana** is an Associate Professor at the University of Barcelona. She is an interdisciplinary social scientist working at the interface of food, governance, and social justice. Her career is characterised by a strong commitment to developing research that addresses key societal challenges and co-producing knowledge with policymakers and practitioners to build sustainable food systems and tackle food insecurity. She has contributed to expanding the field of urban food studies through her research on urban food governance. Recent key contributions include editing the Routledge Handbook of Urban Food Governance and being selected to participate in the Food Partnership of the Urban Agenda of the European Union as well as the High-Level Panel of Experts of the United Nations Committee on World Food Security to develop the report on Strengthening Urban and Peri-urban Food Systems.

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Thu 20.06 - 19:00 - Belmundo, Brussels

## Conference Dinner at Belmundo, with guided tour to Groot Eiland

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BelMundo is the restaurant of the organization Groot Eiland, located in the renovated BelVue brewery. Groot Eiland is an organization that offers training and work experience to Brussels residents and those of surrounding areas who have difficulties in accessing the labor market. They are active in various sectors such as carpentry, sales, hospitality, and urban agriculture. Through job coaching, they guide people towards employment or provide work care, a tailored work and guidance program for individuals who, for various reasons, cannot find their way into the regular labor circuit. Social entrepreneurship and a realistic business model go hand in hand here with a focus on sustainability. Groot Eiland focuses on activities with ecological, economic, and social added value in the long term.

At BelMundo, future hospitality workers have the opportunity to develop skills as kitchen or dining room staff. Some of the organic vegetables they serve are harvested by people in work care in the Groot Eiland vegetable gardens. They work exclusively with local producers, including for the drink menu. They process food surpluses from the wholesale market MaBru or supermarket, and the menu is seasonal. Zero-waste is central. The entire interior of the restaurant was made by the carpentry workshop of Groot Eiland, called Boomerang, using recycled pallet wood. These furnishings are also available for purchase here.

Visit the [website of Groot Eiland to discover some city tours](https://www.grooteiland.brussels/nl/Bezoek): <https://www.grooteiland.brussels/nl/Bezoek>

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Fri 21.06 - 10:00-10:30 - Abdijrefter, STAM

## Introduction: a word on the expo 'Gentse Gronden' on public farmland

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On the expo "Gentse Gronden" (Ghent's Lands):

There was a time when Ghent owned 5,000 hectares of agricultural land. Today that figure is 1,800 hectares, mostly outside the city boundaries. The city in the countryside. What is the story behind that land? Where does its future lie? The 'Ghent's Lands' exhibition is a history of land ownership, of the relationship between city and countryside, of care for the poor and sick, and of food security. It also provides food for thought in the here and now.

The story of Ghent's vast swathes of farmland begins in the thirteenth century, when its charitable organizations came into possession of land outside the city walls. Those organizations were in desperate need of the land to sustain them financially and provide food for the city's poor and sick. In the twentieth century, the city expanded with the port and motorways, the food aid distributed by the new Public Centre for Social Welfare (OCMW) became the living wage system and radical changes took place in the agricultural sector. Some of Ghent's farmland was sold off and consigned to oblivion.

The 'Ghent's Lands' exhibition changes all that. With the help of maps, paintings, illustrations, photographs, film footage and extraordinary objects, it unearths an intriguing chapter in the history of Ghent and other cities.

Times change. Today the land in Ghent's ownership is fodder for debate. What will the future bring? Will more land be sold off to finance social policy? What will happen to today's almost two-hundred tenants and the young farmers looking for land? Could the land have a role to play in issues such as climate change, food security and urban policy? Differing views are aired in interviews in the 'Ghent's Lands' exhibition, ranging from those of OCMW policy-makers to investors, through young and established

**VANDERMAELEN Hans** is a scientific researcher at the Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (ILVO) in Flanders (Belgium) and a guest professor of urbanism and agriculture at Ghent University. His research is situated at the interface between urbanism and agroecology, access to land, soil care and landscape agroecology. In 2023, he completed a PhD in urban and regional planning with his research "Urbanising the agroecological reproduction of soil fertility". With Dr. Esther Beeckaert he co-curates the exhibition on the historical agricultural patrimony of the city of Ghent which takes place from March to September 2024 at the Ghent City Museum (STAM).

farmers to food aid organizations. Can their divergent ideas be consolidated into a shared vision for the future of Ghent's land?

The 'Ghent's Lands' exhibition will be accompanied by a programme of activities, such as guided tours (by experts), a series of debates, bicycle excursions and 'lend a hand' days on farms around Ghent.

**On Friday 21.06.2024 there are two times a guided tour to the expo:**

— 10:30-12:00

— 13:30-15:00

**You can register at the registration desk. Places are limited!**

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**Fri 21.06 - 15:15-16:14 - Abdijrefter, STAM**

## **Keynote: How is sustainable food planning contributing to agroecological repair?**

Sustainable food planning has contributed significant practical and conceptual tools to the reparative turn in agroecology. The comparative and integrative contributions of planning approaches have included, for example, additional understanding and integration of important participatory processes in decision making related to what food is good and how good food will be supported. At the same time, participatory metrics of good food have often contributed to a populist questioning of the role of expert knowledge -- so that just as many of the good food visions promoted by sustainable food planners seem tantalizingly within reach, movements may resist the roles of planners as such. This is evident in the U.S. around challenges to civil rights and affirmative action in agriculture, and has affected movement work around such topics as right-to-food, commoning, and food sovereignty, as well as efforts to internalize the externalized social and environmental costs of food provision. This dynamic challenges the integration of sustainable food infrastructure in state administration and policy.

This talk explores the United States Department of Agriculture's National Urban Agriculture Initiative (NUAg) through the lens of participation in the Twin Cities NUAg program in the Upper Midwest heartland state of Minnesota. The Twin Cities are home to a longstanding sustainable food and agriculture planning community, deeply engaged with both the heart of commodity agriculture (Minneapolis is called The Flour City for its role in the wheat bonanza years and remains the most volatile stock market in the world because of grains futures trading) and racial justice reckonings -- as the home not only of George Floyd, but also a dense ecosystem of agri-food civil society organizations, such as the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, which has both hosted important Food Justice gatherings and attempted to proactively reconsider relations between the U.S. Farm Bill and the E.U. Common Agricultural Policy. We consider this case as an example of grassroots infrastructure building, and use it to consider some questions important for the present and future of planning sustainable food systems.

Prof. **CADIEUX Valentine** is an artist and geographer who teaches community agri-food systems and environmental and climate justice at Hamline University and with the Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust and Commons Land initiatives. Valentine focuses on repair of land relationships, and is the current director of Hamline's Center for Justice and Law's Environmental Justice and the Law program, rebuilding infrastructure for environmental relationships when they have been displaced and disrupted. Valentine and the Center have been co-hosting a year-long community learning series on equitable farmland tenure (supported by USDA SARE, the Agrarian Trust, and Commons Land -- [please join us!](#)). She is also current president of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society.

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# Statements for the co-creative session

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## introduction

The final session of this edition's SFP conference will adopt a less traditional format. Instead of concluding with summaries from the organizers, we will have a co-creative session capturing collective conclusions. This exercise will draw on inputs and reflections from the two days of the conference and include eight statements or discussion starters. The aim is twofold: to highlight the diversity and varied understanding within the sustainable food planning group, and to create an agenda or outlook for the next 10 years of sustainable food planning.

As we organize the 11th edition of the sustainable food planning conference, the field has matured. Sustainable food planning is no longer "new" and is supported by a broad community of practice, with extensive and growing academic output. Beyond the generation of pioneers, a new generation of scholars is emerging, building successful academic careers in this field. Institutionally, significant progress has been made. Food planning is part of a global movement, reflected in the network of cities supporting the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP). Cities and regions are redefining city-region food systems, creating dedicated institutional and governance contexts. Food councils are now actively working in cities, establishing the necessary legitimacy for change.

While food planning is more integrated into the planning agenda, challenges remain. Sustainable Food Planning has primarily achieved academic success, but whether food systems have changed as proposed by food planners is debatable. Critical food scholarship has emphasized the role of "alternative" food networks and niche initiatives within the dominant food system, which can compromise the planet's future, increase inequity, and pit social goals against ecological ones. Although there is agreement on the urgency of changing unsustainable food systems, there is less consensus on how to achieve a transformative approach.

During the plenary sessions we focus on the question: "What do we consider transformative, and what kind of social movements can drive a social ecological transition?" In the final co-creative session, we want to discuss a potential renewed research agenda this could lead to.

To facilitate exchanges on the future agenda of food planning, we are organizing eight parallel round tables in a world café style. We have invited 8 participants to prepare short statements addressing the following questions:

- What research choices could make sustainable food planning more transformative?
- Where are the hopeful signs?
- Who will we collaborate with?
- Which questions are particularly urgent?
- What research styles and knowledge production could support this agenda?
- What support can planning offer, and what does planning need to implement this agenda?

**You can find the resulting 8 statements below. In preparation for the final session, we encourage you to review these statements and decide which discussion table you would like to join. You can amend, contradict, or add to these statements using the post-its in your bag or via an online padlet. All input will be collected and used during the final session.**



## Statement 1

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### **What can food planning do to support a transition to an affordable and sustainable food system? How can we overcome the tension between affordability and sustainability that now divides urban food movements?**

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**CAPUTO Silvio**, Senior Lecturer, Director of Research & Innovation\_Kent School of Architecture and Planning. Silvio Caputo has long-standing experience as a practitioner and researcher. His research area is highly interdisciplinary and multi-scalar (from buildings to cities), focusing on nature-based solutions for cities, especially in the areas of urban farming, building-integrated urban farming, care farming and sustainable food planning. His projects investigate the environmental, social and political implications of nature-based solutions for the built-environment, hence covering issues related also to environmental justice, access to land and food vulnerability. Public engagement and co-creation are at the core of such projects, in the recognition that stakeholder's participation is a fundamental component of academic research."

Recently, following the projection of a documentary on Agroecology and Farming in London, a debate ensued that greatly engaged the audience: the unaffordability of food grown agroecologically, particularly for low-income groups. All farmers attending the event agreed that their produce is more expensive than conventional produce, and likely to reach people with higher purchasing power. At the same time, they argued that the cost of conventional foodstuff is unrealistically cheap; the market is dominated by a production and supply system in which big food retailers impose cut-throat, low prices on farmers. They also argued that cheap food now will mean more expensive and unpredictable food supplies in the future.

Alternative models for a healthy and sustainable food to reach the market are place-based. Outdoor markets, market gardens and vegetable boxes are sustainable alternatives to the supermarkets that offer locally grown produce in urban and peri-urban areas, often using agroecological approaches. But the cost of food is still not affordable to many. Targeted policies that better support agroecological farming and effective information about the criticality of a sustainable food system are necessary. What can food planning do to support a transition to an affordable and sustainable food system? Can a movement be created that reclaims not only the right to food (which is often interpreted as food support and translated in food banks) but rather the right to affordable and sustainable food?

## Statement 2

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### **To make sustainable food planning (even) more transformative, we must address local communities' issues and change our research approach. How do we break out of disciplinary and sectorial silos?**

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Beyond the already comprehensive field of "sustainable food planning," let's go further to break down sectorial silos in spatial planning. To address the urgency of climate change and social justice, consider the nexus of agriculture, food, energy, water management, and the environment in spatial planning. What are the levers and the barriers? Which trade-offs are required? Which actors/sectors will be impacted by these transformations? How can they be included in the participatory process?

Among the hopeful signs, we observe rising grassroots initiatives, numerous local food policies, and coalitions and networks of farmers and NGOs working together to advocate for equitable land access, more sustainable and just agri-food systems. There is also growing institutional recognition of transformative sciences, as attested by the European mission-oriented research framework, with transversal topics such as Soils or the New European Bauhaus. Let's act now!

Build interdisciplinary teams with urban planners, landscape designers, geographers, agronomists, ecologists, and economists. Involve farmers, local communities, planners and policymakers in all stages to ensure relevant and applicable results, accessible and usable by local governments and practitioners. Embrace a role of co-actors in the transformation process through participatory action research: for understanding the situation, defining the changes to be undertaken, proposing solutions, initiating and accompanying these changes.

**PERRIN Coline** is a geographer and a research director at INRAE in Montpellier. Her work particularly analyzes the integration of issues related to farmland and food systems within urban planning. She published a book entitled *Toward Sustainable Relations Between Agriculture and the City* (Springer) and works in collaboration with local governments and civil society organizations such as Terre de Liens.

## Statement 3

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**Place-based sustainable food planning has the potential to bring together public policies inspired by global commitments and emergent models pioneered by grassroots movements. Which changes in narratives and relations of power can begin to realize that transformative potential?**

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**SIMÓN ROJO Marian**, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain  
Architect, Professor at UPM. Participated in different R&D projects dealing with spatial planning of ecosystem services and sustainable food systems. As urban planner responsible for the design of Madrid's Food Strategy 2018-2020 and works with the Regional Government of Madrid in the recovery of abandoned agrarian land in peri urban areas.

During the XX century, western urbanism was idealistically presented as the result of a stable alliance between the ruling classes, the workers and grass-root classes and the intellectual groups, leading to define cities as a collective (social democracy) project (Roch, 1998). After being strongly criticized for serving the interests of capital, it may be time to revisit spatial planning as a tool to regain control over means of survival and over our lives. This attempt could be made by seizing its ability to design spaces for actionable purposes.

We encourage the discussion of planning food systems as participatory and transparent processes unleashing their transformative potential IF and only if, they come with a real redistribution of power. Agroecological and food sovereignty movements are to be engaged in such processes, and at the same time, it is essential to transcend the symbolic significance of alternative food networks. Even if symbols are important, as long as these groups remain marginal, they can hardly be considered a real alternative to the global food system, which indeed does not feel uncomfortable or threatened by such approaches. It is urgent to explore place-based sustainable food planning that moves beyond palliative, reactive, niche performative or discursive positions.

## Statement 4

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**What kind of infrastructure helps sustainable food planning to be genuinely transformative, either in sustaining or in transforming?**

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When we talk about food systems infrastructure, it's more obvious to think about physical infrastructure like water, soil, and energy, or perhaps the socio-technologies providing food systems labor, capital, processing, and distribution. Focus on these dimensions has contributed to corporate concentration and cheap, plentiful commodity food regimes with significant externalities. Much sustainable food systems planning seeks to consider infrastructure needed to support food systems producing more nutritious food, with more equitable processes and regenerative agroecosystems.

What does this infrastructure look like, not only for small highly differentiated for producers, but also for mid-scale sustainable producers?

For example, how does provision of some of the less visible infrastructure such as childcare, mental health support, immigration process support, access to participation in planning and governance spaces, or culturally-specific technical assistance providers contribute to existing indicators of sustainability? And how does consideration of such social and institutional infrastructure, and the ways that farmers and food workers operate in relationship to this infrastructure suggest we need to further develop our metrics of sustainability in food systems?

How do genuinely transformative forms of infrastructure work both with existing food supply chains' flows of materials, information, and financial and political power, and also with the transitions that need to be supported to more sustainable food chains?

Prof. **CADIEUX Valentine** is an artist and geographer who teaches community agri-food systems and environmental and climate justice at Hamline University and with the Twin Cities Community Agricultural Land Trust and Commons Land initiatives. Valentine focuses on repair of land relationships, and is the current director of Hamline's Center for Justice and Law's Environmental Justice and the Law program, rebuilding infrastructure for environmental relationships when they have been displaced and disrupted. Valentine and the Center have been co-hosting a year-long community learning series on equitable farmland tenure (supported by USDA SARE, the Agrarian Trust, and Commons Land -- [please join us!](#)). She is also current president of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society.

## Statement 5

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### **To remain transformative, sustainable food planning research must enable all communities – from bottom to top – to jointly agree on truly desirable food futures. How do we make more space for normative discussions in food planning?**

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**BOHN Katrin** is an architect, author and urban practitioner. She held professorships at the University of Brighton, Great Britain, and the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. Together with André Viljoen, she forms Bohn&Viljoen Architects and has worked intensely on their food-focused urban design concept CPUL (Continuous Productive Urban Landscape).

A few weeks ago, I was invited by the urban planning department of Frankfurt Municipality in Germany to participate as urban food planning expert in a day-long, about 50-people-strong workshop discussing an ambitious urban development project. To the North-West of the city, a new housing quarter for 17.000 people is being planned, a proper small town with dense housing blocks, roads and facilities. Most of the 550 ha envisaged to be built on are farmland. The soil around Frankfurt is fertile, and livestock farming also has a tradition. Frankfurt Municipality has selected a competition entry to be pursued that treats the urban-rural situation in an innovative, contemporary way: agricultural landscape is co-produced, orchards for the famous Frankfurter apple wine play a major role and there is an agro-hub, all considered as part of a circular city design. The proposal is called “Co-productive Landscape”. It has many features that I would wish for from a sustainable food planning point of view.

Several components of the development process are forward-looking too: Urban agriculture now sits around the urban planning table, a municipal approach non-existing only 10 years ago. When Bohn&Viljoen designed such developments in the 2000s, they were entirely fictitious, now they are becoming reality. Well, maybe... Invited to the multi-disciplinary workshop were a number of local farmers, some of whom representing local businesses farming in this area since many generations, hundreds of years. This too was forward-looking: Frankfurt Municipality engaged the farmers as stakeholders in the planning process (though rather late as this apparently was their first at-eye-level opportunity).

The farmers came prepared. Most of them lease their land from the city. They knew all their facts from their perspective. A young farmer explained how she has all her retail routes locally organised so that there is no need for a food hub. An established fruit farmer explains why a meadow orchard – a favourite in urban agriculture planning – makes no sense for his business or for the number of apples consumed in his city. The farmers’ spokesperson concludes that ‘with these proposals, an existing productive landscape will be transformed into a non-productive landscape’.

This raises the question on how our research can support efforts to be normative in planning. We have in many instances approached this issue by aiming for more participation. But how do we give direction to that participation? With whom are we moving? How do we make sure the crucial questions are addressed? What are the crucial questions? And what are the big obstacles in trying to accommodate normative discussions?

## Statement 6

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### Food sustainability and food justice are not the same thing. How can sustainable food planning participate in the just food transition? How can we be actively involved in building just food systems?

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**FERRANDO Tomaso** holds a Phd in law from Sciences Po University (Paris) and has been visiting a fellow at Harvard University Law School, University of Sao Paulo and the University of Cape Town. Before joining the University of Antwerp, he worked as a Lecturer in Law at the Universities of Warwick School of Law and at the University of Bristol Law School. His main line of research focuses on the link between law and food, with particular attention to the international dimension (trade, investments and the human right to food) and the implementation of local practices. In his latest academic work, he has focussed on the EU regulation of food waste, on the role of competition law in obstructing improvements to the global food system and on the idea of the food system as a anti-capitalist, anti-patriarchal and anti-colonial commons.

My reflection stems from the recognition that ‘sustainable food planning’ may have goals that differ from those of movements that are organizing around the notion of justice: climate justice, environmental justice, racial and decolonial justice, etc. In all these movements, there is recognition of the structural problems of capitalism, that history matters, and that the ‘green’ or ‘sustainable’ transition may well (re)produce some of the systemic forms of oppression that characterize our society and that are reflected in the way in which foodscapes operate and are shaped.

With limited knowledge of ‘sustainable food planning’, I wonder to what extent the conversation around just transition has already permeated the space and believe that it would be interesting to interrogate the justice premises and justice implications of the way in which we engage with the past, present, and future of the spaces, territories, and realities with which we engage. This certainly concerns the substance and the aspirations, but also the practices and the procedures.

The idea of food justice and just food transition is not new and has been brought forward by activists and movements throughout the world, whose main attempt is to claim that there cannot be a sustainable food system without socio-environmental justice, and who challenge some of the false solutions that are proposed in response to the compounded fragilities of the food systems.

I’m interested in sharing our understanding of the multiple notions of justice, what their components are (e.g., distribution, participation, recognition, cosmopolitanism, human rights, others?), whether or not we transpose these principles in academic research and practice, how sustainable food planning can contribute to the just food transition, and what must be done so that planning can align itself with this ambitious agenda.

## Statement 7

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### What if “food” was not the one we grow commercially and buy in shops, but the one we forage in the urban commons?

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Born within ‘Planning’, a discipline historically ruling over people’s living spaces, siding with colonisers and urban capitalist speculators, and aligned to oppressive economic players, the field of Sustainable Food Planning (SFP) has gained extraordinary achievements. It has made space for concerns for food justice and alternative food networks, food miles and food waste, food poverty and food strategies, school meals and public procurement, public land and urban farms, and much more.

But what if SFP was also rejecting productivist, colonialist and techno-driven approaches that are still functional to reproducing land theft, invisibilising farmers livelihoods, discrediting people’s knowledge, normalising food commodification, social inequality and environmental exploitation, and reproducing capitalism’s subjects?

— What if all farmers mattered: the worms and mycorrhizal in the soil, the air and the wind, the bees and the hands that sow the seeds, care for the plants, and harvest the crops?

— What if “food” was not only that small range of commercially available crops and meats that flood the markets as commodities, but rather what

**TORNAGHI Chiara** is Associate Professor in Urban food sovereignty and resilience at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, UK. A scholar activist, her work is focussed on advancing an agroecological urbanism by mobilising feminist political ecology and movement pedagogies for agroecology across the urban-rural and consumers-producers divide.

the Earth grows in the urban, peri-urban and rural commons, as it was for millennia?

— What if SFP was to embrace agroecological and feminist values, to support the retention of knowledge on the medicinal powers of plants, that we (as most living species) have accumulated over generations of grazing prairies and woods?

— What if it was cherishing kinship with the air as a fundamental medium for immune systems regulation, through the exchange between human bodies receptors and plants chemistry?

— What if SFP was dropping its anthropocentric leaning, and putting itself at the service of all living species, their intuition, appetite, mutual interconnections and respect?

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## Statement 8

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### **In times of climate emergency, links and synergies between urban food and climate justice agendas should be better valorised. How can climate justice targets reinforce the role of food in the urban agenda and viceversa?**

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Dr **MANGANELLI Alessandra** works as a post-doctoral researcher in urban planning at the HafenCity University of Hamburg. Holding a PhD from the KU Leuven and VUB, she has been a consultant for the Committee of the Regions on the European Farm to Fork Strategy (Brussels, 2019–20) and she recently published a book by Springer on Urban Food Movements. Representing AESOP SFP, she is partner member of the European Urban Agenda for EU Food Partnership.

Climate change is certainly one of the biggest and most pressing challenges of our time. Scientists and experts highlight the urgent need to act in order to cut greenhouse gas emissions, given the already devastating effects caused by global warming on our planet (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report - IPCC, 2023). (City) networks and platforms have recently emerged which argue for a better integration of food into climate objectives and for the enablement of urban food policies that are more sensitive to the climate crisis. These networks range from the MUFPP, to the Barcelona Challenge for Good Food and Climate, to the Glasgow food and climate declaration. At the same time, local experimentations which purposely adopt re-localised food systems as a political vehicle to deal with climate targets are not missing (IPES Food, 2023).

Despite the existence of these and other experimentations across the food and climate domains, however, urban food debates have remained rather silent about the food-climate nexus as a governance arena where socially innovative and transformative agency is negotiated, and where struggles related to addressing socio-ecological justice are particularly poignant. Thus, how to enable a stronger connection between urban environmental policies and bottom-up food initiatives on farming and alternative food networks? How systemic approaches to food system change can better embrace the climate justice challenge? Ultimately, in times of climate emergency, which goals should social movements be pursuing and how can the food planning community rethink its agenda? What are the key features of a research-practice agenda for ecosocialist food policies targeting the food-climate nexus?...

# Practical information on transport

## **Train in Belgium NMBS/SNCB**

All trains in Belgium are operated by the NMBS/SNCB. You can go the [website](#) or download the app to plan your journey. Tickets can be bought in the stations at the counters or via the vending machines. You can also buy your ticket on the website or via the app. Beware to buy your ticket before you get on the train. You don't have to validate your ticket before getting on the train, a train officer will pass by on journey to control all tickets. The ticket fares depend on your age, the train class you travel in, and the distance between the departure and arrival station. There are three main stations in Brussels (Brussels Zone), All trains to Ghent pass by these three stations:

Bruxelles-Midi/Brussel-Zuid  
Bruxelles-Central/Brussel-Centraal  
Bruxelles-Nord/Brussel-Noord

A two-way ticket from Bruxelles-Midi to Gent-Sint-Pieters train station costs 21,60 euro. Beware, if you travel from Ghent to Brussels-Airport Zaventem, you have to pay an extra fee, since this train station is not part of the Brussels Zone.

## **Public Transport in Brussels MIVB-STIB**

The public transport - tram, bus, metro - in the Brussels Capital Region is organized by the MIVB-STIB. Paper tickets can be purchased at BOOTIK and KIOSK in most train and metro stations, or via the GO vending machines. You have to validate your ticket before when using the metro, bus or tram by the scanning it at the entrance of the metro station or at the red small machine in the bus or tram. You can also use your credit card directly on the public transport by scanning it at the blue small machines in the bus or tram. See [website](#) for more information.

- one journey ticket: 2,60 euro (valid for 60 minutes after validation)  
- one day ticket: 8 euro

## **Public Transport in Flanders De Lijn**

The public transport - tram and bus - in Ghent (Flanders Region) is organized by De Lijn. Tickets can be purchased at the Lijnwinkel at the train station Gent-Sint-Pieters, at the vending machines or via the app. See [website](#) for more information

- one journey ticket: 2,50 euro (valid for 60 minutes after validation)  
- one day ticket: 7,50 euro euro

## **Villo! in Brussels**

Villo! is a shared bike system in the Brussels Capital Region. Different bike stations are positioned in the city. You can rent a bike, after registration and paying for a subscription plan, for free for 30 minutes. After 30 minutes there are extra costs. You have to register online on [www.villo.be](http://www.villo.be) in order to use these bikes.

See [website](#) for more information and registration.

- day ticket: 1,5 euro subscription plan, free use for 30 minutes

## **Shared bike and step systems in Brussels**

Two shared bikes and steps systems are available in the Brussels Capital Region: Dott and Bolt. You can use these bikes and steps by downloading the app on your phone. After registration you can choose your subscription plan and activate your ride by scanning the QR-codes on the bike or step, following the instructions on your app. Please be aware that you have to drop off your bike or step in specific drop-zones, indicated in the app.

## HOW TO GET TO...

<b>Thursday 20.06.2024</b>	<b>Herman Teirlinck Building, Tour &amp; Taxis Havenlaan 88, 1000 Brussel</b>
<b>Bus</b>	Bus lines 14, 15, 57, 88, and 89 all go by the Tour & Taxis bus stop.
<b>Tram</b>	You can take tram line 51 or 93 to the tram stop Sainctelette and walk 13 minutes
<b>Metro</b>	You can take Metro line 2 or 6 to the stop Yser or Ribaucourt. From here, it's a 15 minute walk to the Tour & Taxis site.
<b>Train</b>	The Brussels-North railway station is just a 10 minute walk away from Tour & Taxis.
<b>Thursday 20.06.2024</b>	<b>Conference dinner Belmundo Henegouwenkaai 41-43, Sint-Jans-Molenbeek</b>
<b>Foot</b>	The total distance between Herman Teirlinck and Belmundo is 2 km. The route is easy: you leave the site of Tour & Taxis at the Havenlaan, which you follow south. You cross Boulevard Leopold II and follow the canal straight forward until you reach Belmundo at your right side.
<b>Bus</b>	Bus line 86 (to Machtens): take bus from bus stop Tour & Taxis to bus stop Savonnerie, then walk 10 minutes. Bus line 20 (to Hunderenveld): walk 5 minutes to bus stop Suzan Daniel, take bus 20 to bus stop Etangs Noirs, then walk 15 minutes.
<b>Tram</b>	Tram line 51 (to Gare du Midi): walk 13 minutes to tram stop Sainctelette, take tram 51 to tram stop Ninoofsepoort and walk 3 minutes.
<b>Friday 21.06.2024</b>	<b>STAM Godshuizenlaan 2, 9000 Ghent</b>
<b>Foot</b>	The total distance is 1,1 kilometres and takes about 15 minutes. For the fastest route, exit the Sint-Pieters station via the front and take the Koningin Elisabethlaan, East of the Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein. At the end, take a left onto the Kortrijksesteenweg. After passing 4 side streets, take another left into Holdaal. At the end, go left again, over the bridge, where you will find a crossing that takes you to the entrance of the STAM.
<b>Bus</b>	Exit the Sint-Pieters station via the front and take the Koningin Elisabethlaan, East of the Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein, to the Gent Van Monckhovenstraat bus stop (3 minutes walking). Here, you can take the bus line P4: Gent Fratersplein. After two stops, get off at the Gent Verdedigingstraat bus stop and walk to the STAM (4 minutes walking).
<b>Tram</b>	Tram option 1: Exit the Sint-Pieters station via the front and walk West of the Koningin Maria Hendrikaplein. Underneath the Virginie Loveling building, you can take tram line T1: Gentbrugge Tramloods/Stelplaats. After 3 stops, get off at the Gent Bijlokehof stop. From here, it's a 6 minute walk to the STAM entrance. Tram option 2: Exit the Sint-Pieters station via the front take the Prinses Clementinalaan (East) parallel to the railway. Here, you can take tram line T3: Gentbrugge Moscou. After 3 stops, get off at the Gent Bijlokehof stop. From here, it's a 6 minute walk to the STAM entrance.
<b>Saturday 22.06.2024</b>	<b>Fieldtrip starting point: metro station Eddy Merckx</b>
<b>Metro</b>	You can take Metro line 5 to Erasmus/Erasme, which stops at the metro stop Eddy Merckx, the starting point of the guided tour.
<b>Train</b>	You can take the train to the station of Anderlecht and walk 16 minutes to the metro station Eddy Merckx, the starting point of the guided tour.
<b>Bike</b>	The starting point is 8 km from the city center. You can bike along the canal.

# Scientific Committee

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<b>Silvio Caputo</b>	Senior Lecturer & Director of Research & Innovation, University of Kent, UK
<b>Michiel Dehaene</b>	Ghent University, Belgium
<b>Cecilia Delgado</b>	Main Researcher at Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Faculdade de Ciencias Sociais e Humanas, Portugal
<b>Tomaso Ferrando</b>	Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp, Belgium
<b>Riccardo Giovanni Bruno</b>	Lecturer Interuniversity Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning (DIST), Politecnico di Torino, Italy
<b>Daniel Lopez Garcia</b>	Tenured scientist at Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography, Spanish National Research Council (IEGD/CSIC), Spain
<b>Alessandra Manganelli</b>	HafenCity Universität Hamburg, Germany
<b>Dalia Mattioni</b>	Adjunct Professor, The American University of Rome, Italy
<b>Constanza Parra</b>	Professor in Environmental Sociology at Department of Geography, KULeuven, Belgium
<b>Coline Perrin</b>	Researcher at National Institute for Agriculture, Food, and Environment (INRAE), France
<b>Henk Renting</b>	Lecturer & Researcher at Aeres College, Almere, The Netherlands
<b>Marian Simon Rojo</b>	Associate Professor at Escuela Técnica Superior de Arquitectura de Madrid (ETSAM), Spain
<b>Chiara Tornaghi</b>	Associate Professor in Urban Food Sovereignty and Resilience, Coventry University, UK
<b>Roxana Triboi</b>	Postdoctoral Researcher at LE:NOTRE Institute, France
<b>Elke Vanempten</b>	ILVO-Flanders Research Institute for agriculture, fisheries and food & VUB-Cosmopolis Centre for Urban Research, Belgium
<b>Andre Viljoen</b>	Professor of Architecture, School of Architecture Technology and Engineering, University of Brighton, UK
<b>Marjolein Visser</b>	Professor in Agroecology at Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium





**BOOK**

**OF**

**ABSTRACTS**

# Overview of Paper Sessions

**Track A**  
**Spatial Planning,  
Soil and Land**

**Track B**  
**Agroecology and  
Movement Building**

**Track C**  
**Forms of Urban  
Agriculture**

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**Thursday 20.06.2024**  
**Brussels**

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**13.30 - 15.00**

**Paper session round 1**

**1.A**  
**PRODUCTIVE  
LANDSCAPES**  
Room:  
01.16 Rik Wouters  
Session chair:  
Elke Vanempten

**1.B**  
**AGROECOLOGICAL  
URBANISM**  
Room:  
01.17 Clara Peeters  
Session chair:  
Marian Simón Rojo

**1.C**  
**URBAN AGRICULTURE  
PRACTICES**  
Room:  
01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen  
Session chair:  
Riccardo Bruno

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**15.15 - 16.45**

**Paper session round 2**

**2.A**  
**CITY REGION FOOD  
SYSTEMS**  
Room:  
01.16 Rik Wouters  
Session chair:  
Henk Renting

**2.B**  
**MOVEMENT BUILDING  
ACROSS THE FOOD  
SYSTEM**  
Room:  
01.17 Clara Peeters  
Session chair:  
Chiara Tornaghi

**2.C**  
**COMMUNITY  
GARDENING**  
Room:  
01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen  
Session chair:  
Ivonne Weichold

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**Friday 21.06.2024**  
**Ghent**

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**10.30 - 12.00**

**Paper session round 3**

**3.A**  
**PUBLIC FARMLAND  
AND PUBLIC POLICY**  
Room:  
Abdijrefter, STAM  
Session chair:  
Michiel Dehaene

**3.B**  
**STRATEGIES OF  
MOVEMENT BUILDING**  
Room:  
Baudelo, STAM  
Session chair:  
Tomaso Ferrando

**3.C**  
**URBAN AGRICULTURE  
FRAMEWORKS**  
Room:  
Placidus, STAM  
Session chair:  
Jan Eelco Jansma

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**13.30 - 15.00**

**Paper session round 4**

**4.A**  
**PERI-URBAN  
DYNAMICS**  
Room:  
Abdijrefter, STAM  
Session chair:  
Coline Perrin

**4.B**  
**MOVING WITH THE  
FARMERS**  
Room:  
Baudelo, STAM  
Session chair:  
Daniel López García

**4.C**  
**FROM INFORMAL  
TO FORMAL URBAN  
AGRICULTURE**  
Room:  
Placidus, STAM  
Session chair:  
Silvio Caputo, Michael  
Hardman & Chris Blythe

**Track D**  
**Mapping, Strategizing**  
**and Design**

**Track E**  
**Perspectives on Food**  
**Justice**

**Track F**  
**Food Governance and**  
**Experimentation**

**Other sessions**

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**1.D**  
**FOOD MAPPING**  
**INITIATIVES**

Room:  
01.21 Jeanne Brabants  
Session chair:  
Silvio Caputo

**1.E**  
**INTERSECTIONALITY**  
**AND FOOD JUSTICE**

Room:  
01.23 Leon Stynen  
Session chair:  
Valentine Cadieux

**1.F**  
**SPECIAL PANEL**  
**RESEARCH-POLICY-**  
**PRACTICE DIALOGUE**

Room:  
00.11 Auditorium  
Session chair:  
Alessandra Manganelli,  
Roxana Triboi & Henk  
Renting

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**2.D**  
**DESIGN STRATEGIES**  
**FOR SUSTAINABLE**  
**FOODSCAPES**

Room:  
01.21 Jeanne Brabants  
Session chair:  
André Viljoen

**2.E**  
**URBAN FOOD IN**  
**TIMES OF CRISIS**

Room:  
01.23 Leon Stynen  
Session chair:  
Amber Steyaert

**2.F**  
**EXPERIMENTING**  
**WITH URBAN FOOD**  
**GOVERNANCE**

Room:  
00.11 Auditorium  
Session chair:  
Alessandra Manganelli, Luca  
Battisti & Federico Cuomo

**AESOP4FOOD**  
**SEMINAR**

Room:  
00.07 Polyvalente Ruimte  
Session chair:  
Jeroen de Vries & Roxana  
Triboi

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**3.D**  
**URBAN FOOD**  
**ENVIRONMENTS**

Room:  
Auditorium B, Rommelaere  
Session chair:  
Carla Mingolla

**3.E**  
**FOOD**  
**PROCUREMENT,**  
**REDISTRIBUTION AND**  
**WELFARE**

Room:  
Auditorium C, Rommelaere  
Session chair:  
Florent Lardic

**3.F**  
**ROLE OF LOCAL**  
**GOVERNMENTS**

Room:  
Auditorium D, Rommelaere  
Session chair:  
Alessandra Manganelli

**GUIDED TOUR**  
**EXHIBITION**

Room:  
Entrance, STAM

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**4.D**  
**TRAINING AND**  
**POLICY LEARNING**

Room:  
Auditorium B, Rommelaere  
Session chair:  
Jeroen de Vries

**4.E**  
**LANDED COMMUNITY**  
**KITCHENS**

Room:  
Auditorium C, Rommelaere  
Session chair:  
Chiara Tornaghi &  
Charlotte Prové

**4.F**  
**EXPERIMENTING FOR**  
**FOOD EQUITY**

Room:  
Auditorium D, Rommelaere  
Session chair:  
Marian Simón Rojo

**GUIDED TOUR**  
**EXHIBITION**

Room:  
Entrance, STAM

# Track A Spatial Planning, Soil and Land

<p><b>1.A PRODUCTIVE LANDSCAPES</b>  <b>p. 36 Thu 20.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - 01.16 Rik Wouters</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Elke Vanempten</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Milan's agricultural districts: food landscape laboratories?</li> <li>— Urbanising Food Landscapes: Planning Food Systems Transformation for Sustainability in Central Algarve, Portugal</li> <li>— New Agricultural Parks regenerating city-region landscapes</li> <li>— Top down and bottom-up circular food initiatives and continuous productive urban landscapes - A critical reflection on the potential to scale circular initiatives for systemic change in city regions</li> </ul>	<p>Paola Branduini            Sebastian Burgos Guerrero            Maciej Łepkowski            André Viljoen</p>
<p><b>2.A CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEMS</b>  <b>p. 52 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 01.16 Rik Wouters</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Henk Renting</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— The role of participative foresight in creating a sustainable food supply for the Brussels-Capital Region</li> <li>— Territories of urban-rural hybridisation in the agro-ecological transition. A spatial exploration of agro-ecology initiatives in Veneto plain</li> <li>— Strategizing regional food systems as pathways towards sustainability transitions: The case of Lisbon's Metropolitan Area</li> <li>— Global city goes local: State ambitions and societal undercurrents of food localization in Singapore</li> </ul>	<p>Hannelore De Schaepmeester            Alessandra Marcon            Rosário Oliveira            Emily Soh</p>
<p><b>3.A PUBLIC FARMLAND AND PUBLIC POLICY</b>  <b>p. 72 Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Abdijrefter, STAM</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Michiel Dehaene</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Perceptions of, and barriers to, urban food growing: Informal food growing and access to public land. Examples from the UK</li> <li>— Roles of Local Governments in the Governance of Agricultural Land in France</li> <li>— Public urban agriculture equipment for sustainable food systems: the necessary mobilization of multiple public policies</li> <li>— A cartography of change: Public farmland as a catalyst for sustainable food planning</li> </ul>	<p>Chris Blythe            Coline Perrin            Véronique Saint-Ges            Glenn Willems</p>
<p><b>4.A PERI-URBAN DYNAMICS</b>  <b>p. 90 Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Abdijrefter, STAM</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Coline Perrin</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— Proximity Agriculture in Underdeveloped Urban Areas: A Case Study in Matosinhos, Northern Portugal</li> <li>— Agri-food chains in marginal areas: an occasion for systemic policy experimentation</li> <li>— Progressive Loss of Agricultural Land in Agglomerations: A Case Study of Poznań, Poland</li> <li>— Socio-metabolic approach to urban and rural links - operationalization through alternative food initiatives</li> </ul>	<p>Heloisa Amaral Antunes            Anna Fera            Ewa Kacprzak &amp; Barbara Maćkiewicz            Mehmet Can Yilmaz</p>

# Track B Agroecology and Movement Building

<p><b>1.B AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM</b>  <b>p. 39 Thu 20.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - 01.17 Clara Peeters</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Marian Simón Rojo</p>
<p>— Unlocking the agroecological potential of Lucanian farming and food practices</p>	<p>Ilaria Boniburini</p>
<p>— Urban rooftop farming in Brussels: an analysis from an agroecological point of view</p>	<p>Francisco Davila</p>
<p>— Assessing the agroecological performance and sustainability of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in Flanders, Belgium</p>	<p>Ruben Savels</p>
<p>— Agroecologies: Reassess Urbanisation Through Agri-Urban Design</p>	<p>Ivonne Weichold</p>
<p><b>2.B MOVEMENT BUILDING ACROSS THE FOOD SYSTEM</b>  <b>p. 55 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 01.17 Clara Peeters</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Chiara Tornaghi</p>
<p>— Agroecological urbanism for an urban future. Bottom-up Transitions: evidence from Nilüfer, Turkey</p>	<p>Mehmet Can Yılmaz</p>
<p>— Addressing the role and policy needs of Agroecology-Oriented Farmers Groups in transforming food systems</p>	<p>Daniel López García</p>
<p>— Connecting movements by pluralizing the governance of city-region food system transformations in (former) centres of colonial Europe: A relational review of encounters between the visions, protagonists, and governance practices of decolonial, food justice, food sovereignty and sustainability transition movements</p>	<p>Tobia Jones</p>
<p>— Tackling food poverty! Towards healthy, sustainable and socially just food environments through inclusive participation</p>	<p>Evelyn Markoni</p>
<p><b>3.B STRATEGIES OF MOVEMENT BUILDING</b>  <b>p. 75 Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Baudelo, STAM</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Tomaso Ferrando</p>
<p>— Thinking through landscape frictions: unlocking the transformative power of permaculture projects</p>	<p>Leila Chakroun</p>
<p>— The challenges to build prefigurative food movements: critical reflections from the experience of SPGs in Italy</p>	<p>Cecilia Cornaggia</p>
<p>— Building Community Resilience through a Civic Hub: A Case Study of the “Civic Pole” Project in the 8th district of Rome</p>	<p>Francesca Felici</p>
<p>— Exploring the Dynamics of University-Led Communities of Practice in Shaping Food Democracy</p>	<p>Amber Steyaert</p>
<p><b>4.B MOVING WITH THE FARMERS</b>  <b>p. 93 Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Baudelo, STAM</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Daniel López García</p>
<p>— Centering Indigenous Knowledge and Values in the Development of Integrated Agroecological Renewable Energy Systems</p>	<p>Diana Denham</p>
<p>— Promoting Farmers’ Innovation for Food Security and Agrobiodiversity</p>	<p>Saurav Ghimire</p>
<p>— Resisting the agro-industrial model. Building food autonomy from a territory of conflict</p>	<p>Alessandra Miglio</p>
<p>— How Farmers Disentangle from Convention and Develop Social and Ecological Objectives in Lincolnshire</p>	<p>Yonatan Weinberg</p>

# Track C Forms of Urban Agriculture

<b>1.C URBAN AGRICULTURE PRACTICES</b> <b>p. 42 Thu 20.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - 01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Riccardo Bruno
— Towards a European Urban Agriculture Policy and Governance Framework. Learning from the Roman experience	Elisabetta Luzzi, Patricia Lelli
— Agricultural practices in French prisons : towards better agro-ecological environments	Daniela Sias
— The City's Low Hanging Fruits	Neta Vardi
<b>2.C COMMUNITY GARDENING</b> <b>p. 59 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 01.19 Paul Van Ostaijen</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Ivonne Weichold
— Learning from community gardens: designing an inclusive planning process in the periurban area of Bucharest	Ioana Enache
— Uneven Recognition: Community Gardens or Allotments?	Alban Hasson
— Community gardens as a response to the contradictions of sustainable urban policy: Insights from the Swiss cities of Zurich and Lausanne	Ingrid Jahrl
— A New Growing Season: Socially Innovative and Transformative Gardening Practices in London	Pieter Ooghe
<b>3.C URBAN AGRICULTURE FRAMEWORKS</b> <b>p. 78 Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Placidus, STAM</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Jan Eelco Jansma
— Urban agriculture and support from local authorities: the case study of Brussels	Léna De Brabandere
— Contributions of urban agriculture intensification to ensure a sustainable and equitable food security – a systematic literature review	Ann-Kristin Steines
— Mapping and exploring the role of Urban Agriculture in EU policy discourses and practices: From invisible practices to leverage point for food system integration?	Henk Renting
— LET'S GROW TOGETHER! – The European Forum on Urban Agriculture (EFUA) Manifesto	EFUA
<b>4.C FROM INFORMAL TO FORMAL URBAN AGRICULTURE</b> <b>p. 96 Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Placidus, STAM</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Silvio Caputo, Michael Hardman, Chris Blythe
— Reviving the educational garden – unfolding an ambiguous pathway for political recognition	Trine Carstensen
— Grey areas and green spaces: revealing the conflicts and gaps in the formalisation process of urban agriculture in Bogotá	Valentina Manente
— Educational and advisory services for urban and peri-urban agriculture: Informal and formal tools for enabling knowledge and innovation	Joe Nasr
— Edible Streets - Proposing semi-formal urban food growing	Mina Samangoeei

# Track D Mapping, Strategizing and Design

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<b>1.D FOOD MAPPING INITIATIVES</b> <b>p. 45 Thu 20.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - 01.21 Jeanne Brabants</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Silvio Caputo
— Mapping the urban food movement through its people	Katrin Bohn
— Bringing about change in urban planning: how action research put urban agriculture on the map in the planning of peri-urban Oosterwold (NL)	Jan Eelco Jansma
— The University as a Critical Player of the Urban Food Policies. Towards a Food Atlas for the City of Trieste	Valentina Rodani
— Productive images	Noël van Dooren

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<b>2.D DESIGN STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE FOODSCAPES</b> <b>p. 62 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 01.21 Jeanne Brabants</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> André Viljoen
— The Architecture of Sustainable University Foodscape. Design Strategies and Practices for re-shaping the Food-City Nexus	Sara Basso
— The wobbly bridge of design for food. Evaluating the potential of spatial design to bridge the realms of agriculture and planning	Jeroen De Waegemaeker
— Gaps in urban food systems in Portugal: Lessons learned from 91 projects funded by national authorities	João Pratas

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<b>3.D URBAN FOOD ENVIRONMENTS</b> <b>p. 81 Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Auditorium B, Rommelaere</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Carla Mingolla
— Exploring the Rural-Urban Continuum of Food Poverty in the Metropolitan city of Rome	Francesca Felici
— Examining the influence of built and food environments on the quality of children's diets. Insights from the city of Avignon	Camille Horvath
— Food desert of alternative consumption spaces in European cities	Laura Fernández Casal
— How people navigate the foodscape? Analyzing the diversity of households' food procurement practices	Simon Vonthron

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<b>4.D TRAINING AND POLICY LEARNING</b> <b>p. 99 Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Auditorium B, Rommelaere</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Jeroen de Vries
— New Actors in Metropolitan Food Governance. The Potential role of Museums and Ecomuseums	Nunzia Borrelli
— Raising urban planners' awareness for integration better food and agriculture-related measures into Climate Strategies and Plans – Lessons learned from the Portuguese campaign	Cecília Delgado
— Design possibilities for rooftop agriculture: reflections on two decades of pedagogy, policy and practice in Toronto	June Komisar

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# Track E Perspectives on Food Justice

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<b>1.E INTERSECTIONALITY AND FOOD JUSTICE</b> <b>p. 48 Thu 20.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - 01.23 Leon Stynen</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Valentine Cadieux
— Narratives of Change: more than individual intentions in the path to a sustainable and socially just food future	Patrícia Abrantes
— Urban food governance's potential for a gender-just food transition: preliminary results from fieldwork in Milan and Barcelona	Chiara Bergonzini
— Intersectional Exploration for Food Justice Initiatives in France	Manon Lalliot
— "Good Food" for all? (Re)centering immigrant food justice in urban food policy	Isabela Vera

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<b>2.E URBAN FOOD IN TIMES OF CRISIS</b> <b>p. 65 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 01.23 Leon Stynen</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Amber Steyaert
— Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement: A Framework for Food Equity and Empowerment	Andrew Adam-Bradford
— Transforming Food Systems in Lebanon: A Tale of Two Alternative Food Models in the Time of Crisis	Sherin Assaf

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<b>3.E FOOD PROCUREMENT, REDISTRIBUTION AND WELFARE</b> <b>p. 84 Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Auditorium C, Rommelaere</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Florent Lardic
— Greening school meals: towards a public food system? Case studies from Normandy (France)	Morgane Esnault
— What role for small retailers in urban cross-sectoral partnerships for food redistribution? Evidence from Italy	Stefano Quaglia
— Re-imagining foodspaces-welfare nexus across scales: building proximity networks	Camilla Venturini

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<b>4.E LANDED COMMUNITY KITCHENS</b> <b>p. 102 Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Auditorium C, Rommelaere</b>	<b>Session Chair</b> Chiara Tornaghi & Charlotte Prové
— Landed Community Kitchens: bringing together good food and food justice for all	Chiara Tornaghi
— with invited speakers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>— Prove Charlotte - Urban Academy</li><li>— Buxant Jennifer - University of Liege</li><li>— Rijckaert Alix - Kom à la Maison</li><li>— Vandemoortele Isolde - Urban Tractor</li><li>— Daems Amelie - Cuisine de Quartier</li><li>— Allemeersch Leontien - DeKoer</li></ul>	

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# Track F Food Governance and Experimentation

<p><b>1.F SPECIAL PANEL: RESEARCH-POLICY-PRACTICE DIALOGUE</b>  <b>p. 51 Thu 20.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - 00.11 Auditorium</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chairs</b>            Alessandra Manganelli,            Roxana Triboi &amp;            Henk Renting</p>
<p>— Bridging City-Region with Multilevel Governance for Food System Transformation: A Research-Policy-Practice Dialogue</p> <p>— with invited speakers:            — Calori Andrea, Està and Italian Network on urban food policies;            — Coste Madeleine, EUROCITIES;            — Heidelbach Olaf, DG AGRI            — Moyaert Wim, European Coordination Via Campesina            — Schauvliege Joke, BE/EPP, NAT rapporteur on Sustainable food systems framework law</p>	
<p><b>2.F EXPERIMENTING WITH URBAN FOOD GOVERNANCE</b>  <b>p. 67 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 00.11 Auditorium</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chairs</b>            Alessandra Manganelli,            Luca Battisti &amp;            Federico Cuomo</p>
<p>— The role of evaluation and learning in innovative food governance</p> <p>— The role of food movements in catalyzing Urban Food Policies. The Punto al Cibo network in Torino</p> <p>— Navigating Hybrid Governance Tensions in Alternative Food Networks: A Case Study of 'La Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise' in Liège, Belgium</p>	<p>Barbora Adlerova</p> <p>Riccardo Giovanni Bruno</p> <p>Louise Longton</p>
<p><b>3.F ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS</b>  <b>p. 87 Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Auditorium D, Rommelaere</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Alessandra Manganelli</p>
<p>— What planning capacities do municipalities have to promote resilient regional food systems?</p> <p>— Navigating Urban Food Governance: Insights from Food Policy Councils in the United States</p> <p>— Food system transformation pathways on hold. Why can local food policies get stuck?</p> <p>— Thematic Food Partnership from Urban Agenda for the EU: Catalyzing Local Food System Transformation in the EU</p>	<p>Malin Andersson</p> <p>Maureen Owen</p> <p>Maria Vasile</p> <p>Roxana Triboi</p>
<p><b>4.F EXPERIMENTING FOR FOOD EQUITY</b>  <b>p. 103 Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Auditorium D, Rommelaere</b></p>	<p><b>Session Chair</b>            Marian Simón Rojo</p>
<p>— Urban Gardening Valuation: Unraveling the Nexus with Food Justice in Dortmund, Germany</p> <p>— Post-Growth Metabolism: Rethinking Urban Planning and the role of Open Municipal Markets</p> <p>— Public food markets; inclusive community hubs for just food systems</p> <p>— Urban Agriculture, Land, and Environmental Justice in San Diego, California</p>	<p>Julija Bakunowitsch</p> <p>Marta Carrasco Bonet</p> <p>Sara Gonzalez</p> <p>Pascale Joassart-Marcelli</p>

# Other sessions

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## **AESOP4FOOD Seminar**

**p. 69 Thu 20.06.24 - 15.15-16.45 - 00.07 Polyvalente Ruimte**

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— Fostering Transformation through Blended Learning: The AESOP4Food programme

Jeroen de Vries &  
Roxana Triboi

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## **Guided Tour Exhibition “Gentse Gronden”**

**Fri 21.06.24 - 10.30-12.00 - Entrance, STAM**

**Fri 21.06.24 - 13.30-15.00 - Entrance, STAM**

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— Registration for the guided tours, with limited capacity, can be done at the registration desk on Friday.



**SESSIONS**

**ON**

**THURSDAY**

## Milan's agricultural districts: food landscape laboratories?

The standardization of metropolitan landscapes caused by mechanization and agricultural simplification over the past sixty years has severed the connection between landscape and food. Reconnecting with the diversity of landscapes, as demonstrated by the Milanese example, enables the reconciliation of product quality, the principle of proximity, and food safety. Twelve years after the establishment of the first agricultural districts promoted by the Lombardy region, this contribution highlights the results in terms of short supply chains, collective catering, environmental services, and, notably, initiatives for the recovery, enhancement, and communication of the landscape as heritage. We investigated five districts: Dam (Milan agricultural district), Dinamo (3-waters district), Davo (river Olona district), Rice and Frogs district, and Dama (Martesana channel district). How have they transformed the landscape? How has an intangible network of supply chain had visible effects? What are the visible effects? The districts, through the catalyzing action of individual farmer initiatives, have provided greater visibility and recognition to the educational and cultural role of agriculture vis-à-vis the city, promoting a model of healthy and sustainable development. The coordinated and aggregating action of the districts was and is fundamental in overcoming the often individualistic approach of farms. The districts have undertaken various actions to ensure the management and improvement of the landscape from an environmental perspective, such as planting hedges and trees, renaturalizing canal banks, and managing lamination basins, in collaboration with municipalities and park authorities. They have also promoted numerous cultural initiatives, committing themselves to cooperatively managing the built rural heritage, such as mills, and preserving the intangible heritage through the revival of 'agricultural' traditions, like the rice-harvesting festival, as well as promoting gastronomic events such as the Rice and Frogs festival. In this regard, branding the local identity linked to the landscape is a means to recognize the quality of the landscape itself, focusing not only on the uniqueness of the productions (DNA-certified rice) but also on the management of a landscape with high environmental quality and a significant social role. Although apparently much altered, the Milan agricultural landscape retains many historical landscape structures: some traditional agricultural practices have been revived as they provide high environmental quality, especially in terms of biodiversity and water management, and offer employment opportunities to social groups facing difficulties (re-employment, physical and mental disabilities, rehabilitation of former drug addicts, and prisoners).

**author** **BRANDUINI Paola**, architect, PhD in Rural Engineering, is assistant professor at the ABC Department, PaRID lab, Politecnico of Milan. Her research fields concern knowledge, conservation and management of rural landscape as heritage and enhancement of urban agriculture with cultural heritage. She leads the "Food and landscape" group in the Italian Research Group on Local Food Policies.

**keywords**

- agricultural district
- agricultural landscape
- food landscape

## Urbanising Food Landscapes: Planning Food Systems Transformation for Sustainability in Central Algarve, Portugal

**BURGOS GUERRERO Sebastian** **author** is a PhD candidate in Urban Studies at the University of Milan-Bicocca and a researcher in strategic food planning and climate change. His international and multidisciplinary background provides him with skills and relevant experience in project management and the links between regional development, climate change and agri-food landscapes.

Food is a fundamental component of the systems that govern the development of our cities and wider territories, both in terms of its transport (distribution), land use (agri-cultural production), energy, consumption, waste management and relationship with the environment. The inter-section of all these elements gives rise to spatial, political, social and institutional configurations that shape and are shaped by our everyday relationship with food in urban and rural contexts, which can be conceptualised as evolving 'food landscapes' (Vonthron et al., 2020; Kühne et al., 2023; Cevasco et al., 2023). The transformation of food systems has been increasingly recognised by the scientific community, pointing to both the 'scale or magnitude'

food landscapes —  
food transformations —  
regional planning —  
tourism developments —  
urban-rural relations —

keywords

of their fundamental changes, the conditions, power dynamics and politics at play, and the need for a 'Great Transformation' to improve food system sustainability, human and planetary health and resilience (Bené, 2022; Sonnino, 2023). Food systems planning has grown in importance and interest over the last 20 years, leading to a growing number of place-based food policies and strategies (Sonnino, 2013). These experiences have increasingly drawn attention to the strategic role of food in promoting sustainable urban development, climate action, and a closer relationship between rural and urban areas, building a rich base of experience and knowledge to guide the necessary transformation of these systems. However, there remains a need to better understand the role of planning and governance in these processes, in particular the mechanisms that have underpinned past, long-lasting and empirically demonstrable transformations, in order to inform future interventions, policies and strategies (Sonnino, 2023). The analysis of food landscapes, seen not only as systems but also as (social) spaces, can be a useful conceptual and planning tool to contribute to a better understanding of past transformations and their integration into the design of actionable (urban-rural) strategies, plans and policies. This article presents the theoretical foundations and possibilities offered by "spatial sociology" and a landscape approach to study the transformation of food systems in our contemporary urban society, especially in relation to the evolution of tourism development and climate change in the Mediterranean area. The issues discussed will emphasise systemic landscape thinking and the importance of local, regional and institutional planning and governance mechanisms through a case study in the Central Algarve region in Portugal. The paper will provide empirical evidence of transformation processes and their local and regional initiatives to build more sustainable food systems.

## Top down and bottom-up circular food initiatives and continuous productive urban landscapes - A critical reflection on the potential to scale circular initiatives for systemic change in city regions.

The circular economy has received traction and heightened concern as a solution to transform our unsustainable food production and consumption system into a sustainable system. Existing evidence has shown exemplar municipal and community oriented circular food initiatives such as community supported agriculture, urban forest gardens, surplus food redistribution, and innovative technology, such as OLIO and Too Good to Go to reduce food waste. While innovative community initiatives are effective in filling institutional voids, supporting communities, and contributing to overcoming social and environmental challenges, they do not always spread across larger geographical spaces. They remain at best within their place of origin, without many opportunities to scale up or influence the place. Equally one of the crucial factors that is often neglected in food systems thinking and policy is food's role in place-making and productive green infrastructure, here municipal planning policy can try to encourage connections between placemaking and circular food initiatives. Design concepts and prototypes provide a theoretical and practical framework for this rethinking of food's role in placemaking and urban landscape, while cities like Tokyo are developing policy and practice to support urban agriculture, but this practice is far from the norm. Hence, in this research we ask - how can circular food initiatives be scaled for transformative change in the context of place making and a productive green infrastructure?

We address this question in a front runner city, Brighton and Hove, located in the southeast of England. We have chosen this city as it is the first city in the UK to write a food strategy and to win UK's first gold sustainable food place award in 2020. Given these characteristics, the city makes an interesting case to explore the research question. We present a preliminary analysis of four exemplar case studies showcasing community-oriented food initiatives with different focuses on food systems but with a common goal to transition towards a sustainable and circular food system. - Compost Club, Brighton Food Factory, a Planning Advisory Note and the Moulsecoomb Forest Garden. Our preliminary analysis indicates that while individ-

authors

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**THAPA KARKI Shova** is a senior lecturer at the University of Sussex with expertise in the intersection of entrepreneurship and sustainability. She has a PhD in ecological economics of biodiversity conservation. Shova is a member of the Circular Economy oversight board at the Brighton and Hove city council.

ually they contributed to positive social, environmental and economic impacts, the lack of collaborative opportunities is halting the scaling of their impacts. Nonetheless the cases had some impact at system level impacts e.g. by integrating food production and distribution with spatial design, infrastructure and local consumption. Our findings have implications for scaling community-oriented circular food initiatives for transformative change.

**keywords**

- community-initiatives
- circular food
- food systems
- scaling impacts
- continuous productive urban landscapes
- place making
- green infrastructure

## New Agricultural Parks regenerating city-region landscapes

**DE VRIES Jeroen** is landscape architect, researcher and director at the LE:NOTRE Institute, Wageningen, the Netherlands. Researches the design of foodscapes in metropolitan areas, production typologies, and strategies to integrate these in the spatial design of peri-urban areas. Works as a professional practitioner, lecturer, and researcher. His mission is to foster the development of local food systems.

**ŁEPKOWSKI Maciej** is part of Cooptech Hub, Spółdzielnia, Poland Animator, gardener and researcher. PhD at the Department of Landscape Art at Warsaw University of Life Sciences, on cities' renaturalization and informal urban green spaces. Co-creator of community gardens, implementing projects on the border of art and social animation focused on the subject of garden and nature.

**FANFANI David**, University of Florence, Department of Architecture, Italy, Associate Professor Urban and Regional Planning at Florence University, lecturer at the Master degree Course in Regional Planning and Design of Florence's Architecture School. His research focuses on analysis and design at the regional scale, addressing matters related to peri-urban areas and integrated analysis and design aimed to urban/rural re-embedding

**NOWYSZ Aleksandra**, Warsaw University of Life Sciences, Architect and researcher of the Department of Revitalization and Architecture at Warsaw University of Life Sciences. PhD in Architecture and Urban Planning on urban agriculture architecture. The author of photographic projects devoted to vernacular architecture and landscapes. She combines research, teaching and design practice with visual art and social engagements.

**SIMÓN ROJO Marian**, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, Spain, Architect, Professor at UPM. Participated in different R&D projects dealing with spatial planning of ecosystem services and sustainable food systems. As urban planner responsible for the

**authors**

A new concept for Agricultural Parks (APs) can provide a powerful planning strategy to cut greenhouse emissions in addition to providing a wide range of social, health, economic, and environmental benefits. By now the need to transform food system in order to enhance food security, food justice, food democracy and fair income for producers while diminishing food waste, negative environmental impact and adapting to climate is evident in the public debate. However the transition seems to go too slowly. IPES Food started out to promote an (inter)national policy in the Common Food Policy, changed its focus by fostering a Long Food Movement where niche initiatives are empowered to contribute to transformation. Where (inter)national politics are still sectoral and influenced by corporate lobby and local initiatives are still too scattered, the key field of play for transformation can be the city-region. Cities are independent in their strategy, have often a say in the use of public land, can link up to local producers and consumers. Sectoral silos within city government can be more easily overcome, especially if food policies are connected to climate actions. In *From Plate to Planet* IPES Food states: Local governments are spearheading action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

APs are a city-region transition strategy focused on supporting agriculture and farmers by creating new ways of distribution, developing local food hubs, raising the profile of the farming profession and its connection to the city, as well as diversifying livelihoods by, transferring towards agroecology, raising the profile of the farming profession and its connection to the city. Aps achieve this by acting as incubators for new ways of food production and distribution. The approach allows integrating relatively large areas, often with diverse ownership and legal status, to be integrated into a single organizational entity. Although there is a longstanding interest in APs in some parts of Europe, it still remains a relatively little-known planning approach. By linking an analysis of existing APs with concepts for climate action, well-being and sustainable food systems, this paper drafts a model for the new agricultural park as an integral city-region strategy.

design of Madrid's Food Strategy 2018-2020 and works with the Regional Government of Madrid in the recovery of abandoned agrarian land in peri urban areas.

**STORIE Joanna**, Senior Lecturer and Research Coordinator, Chair of Landscape Architecture, Institute of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Estonian University of Life Sciences, Estonia  
Researcher and lecturer in the chair of Landscape Architecture. PhD thesis (2020) "When peace and quiet is not enough: examining the challenges communities face in Estonian and Latvian rural landscapes". Teaching Strategic Local Planning and Bioeconomy. Brings a strong interdisciplinary perspective to her work with topics such as ecosystem services, health and well-being, citizen science and policy, place attachment and sense of place of rural communities.

**TRIBOI Roxana**, Stichting LE:NOTRE Institute, Wageningen, the Netherlands  
PhD architect and urban planner with experience in Romania and France, specialised on sustainable food planning, nature-based solution, urban agriculture, urban pastoralism, participatory planning and transdisciplinary action research and teaching. Coordinating the AESOP4food program on sustainable food planning. Acted as food thematic evaluator of the European Urban Agenda for EUI and is expert for Urbact and the European Urban Initiative concerning food

**keywords**

- local food systems —
- land-use planning —
- sustainable agriculture —
- agriparks —

## Unlocking the agroecological potential of Lucanian farming and food practices

Today, the concept of agroecology is associated with the transdisciplinary idea of combining research, education and action to achieve sustainability - ecological, economic and social - in all fields of the agri-food system (Gliessman, 2018).

Our research involves the study, through a spatial, social and ethnographic approach, of selected local food production practices, which promote diverse alternatives to dominant food chains. It qualitatively assesses how these practices modify the physical territory and social relations, also analyzing how the actors' behaviors and choices - in terms of production, distribution, consumption and waste - are induced by cultural factors. The strategies put in place by these actors in the food chain could bring out the latent potential to transform food systems by making them sustainable or even regenerative (Tornaghi & Dehaene, 2021).

The context in which our research is set is Lucania, a Southern Italian region also known as Basilicata, which, in the 1950s, was the focus of numerous sociological, anthropological and urban studies, because it was a symbol of the peasant world (Friedmann, 2001; De Martino, 1959; Olivetti, 1952) with which modernity was unable to deal. The socio-spatial experiment of the Agrarian Reform that followed, had contradictory results. However, the peasant production model (van der Ploeg, 2008) has not been completely overtaken by capitalist agriculture. A variety of food practices based on organic agriculture, traditional cultivars, social ethics, environmental sustainability and animal welfare distinguish themselves in an agricultural landscape nevertheless transformed by intensive production. They are either old practices resisting transformations (i.e. transhumance), traditional farming with contemporary twist or new endeavors.

Agroecology is not only an agricultural method, but it also contains the political, social and ecological basis for a radically alternative model of urbanization, a non-extractive, reproductive and regenerative urbanism which includes equitable sustainable food production (Deh-Tor, 2017). The involvement of farmers, with the valorisation of their empirical knowledge, can enable a generative encounter of practices and knowledge, concretising the idea of agroecological urbanism and establishing a renewed relationship between city and country, between 'those who grow food' and those who 'consume food'.

Through the theoretical framework of agroecology and Alternative Food Networks our research aims to reveal the potential of practices and identifies what enables or hamper transformations towards full agroecological and sustainable food systems. In return this analysis will inform the orientation and definition of future policies, thus accompanying the process of transformation and social innovation.

### authors

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### keywords

- agroecology
- agri-food system
- alternative food network

# Urban rooftop farming in Brussels: an analysis from an agroecological point of view

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**DE BRABANDERE Léna** is a researcher at the ULB Agroecology Lab, working within a project using Participatory-Action-Research for Brussels' urban agriculture, L[ag]UM (ERDF). Her research focuses on the role played by (Brussels) public authorities in supporting sustainable food dynamics, especially professional urban agriculture projects.

**VISSER Marjolein** is Professor in Farming Systems and Agroecology at the ULB and is interested in all questions regarding the food-farming nexus.

authors

keywords

rooftop farming —  
agroecology —  
urban agriculture —

A vision of the city of tomorrow, with roofs covered in nourishing vegetation, is prompting an increasing number of real estate developers and policy makers to endorse and support rooftop farming projects. In Brussels, the municipality of Ixelles, our Agroecology Lab, and the social economy company Refresh have set up a project questioning the relevance of such initiatives in the current context, and experimenting in real conditions.

The L[ag]UM project (ERDF) features a rooftop market gardening space geared towards agroecology principles. It is led by a social enterprise focusing on professional integration, and it underpins participative research case study. The project examines various aspects: initiation and implementation conditions; agricultural practices and associated needs/challenges; the adopted model; and the degree of support available. The study also contextualizes the project in light of the socio-political environment of urban agriculture in Brussels, aiming to draw lessons about the relevance, the possible impacts and the operational requirements for the replication of this type of project.

The critical analysis of these diverse points enables us to emphasize crucial themes to be balanced such as multifunctionality of urban agricultural projects, the environmental costs and benefits, the degree of connectivity of the project with their socio-economic environment, and the long-term challenges to keep activities going on rooftops. Additionally, we question the desired type of agriculture in cities (agroecological vs. high-tech) and the necessary networks to sustain this (fertility flows, nurseries, distribution networks, labour force ...).

## Agroecologies: Reassess Urbanisation Through Agri-Urban Design

The interconnected issues and associated challenges of current urbanisation processes – regarding the existing food system, weather and climate, the ecological debate, and governance – frame the overarching need to explore an alternative planning paradigm. One key aspect of meeting this challenge is exploring alternative densification scenarios in the built environment without giving up productive agricultural land.

This paper advocates for a novel approach, by introducing the concept of an „Agroecologies“ to strike a new balance between built and unbuilt environments. The term refers to the spatial logics of an agroecological urbanism presented in the form of an agri-urban design. Rather than offering a prescriptive solution, the definition of Agroecologies represents a novel planning strategy that incorporates agriculture and soil as essential components of urban planning, employing various mapping techniques. Agroecologies were investigated through a diverse array of mapping tools, ranging from field observation and sketching to retracing existing situations to develop a soil suitability index. By applying such different mapping methods, it proposes a planning reference – an agri-urban design – that provides a way of thinking about agro-ecology and its spatial implications.

The case study of Luxembourg serves as a pertinent starting point for rethinking agriculture in terms of spatial and socio-economic implications within urban planning. Despite significant pressure on land and real estate, Luxembourg possesses notable amounts of buildable but vacant land. The paper introduces an agri-urban zoning proposal, marking a departure from conventional development plans. The alternative planning reference presented in this paper serves as a thinking framework for agroecology and urbanization, offering insights applicable not only to Luxembourg but also to other similar contexts. Drawing on the author's PhD research project and ongoing post-doctoral research, the paper employs a mixed-method approach, engaging disciplines such as architecture, urbanism, agriculture, landscape planning, and geography.

author

**WEICHOLD Ivonne**, an architect, urban designer, and researcher, holds a Doctorate in Architecture from the University of Luxembourg (2021). Her work delves into the intersection of urbanization, design, and geospatial analysis, with a focus on the interplay between agriculture, soil, and the built environment. Currently a Research Associate at LISER, she collaborates with the Ministry of Agriculture in Luxembourg and teaches Design Studios at the Master's level at KU Leuven. As a section editor for the recent book "Urban Food Mapping: Making Visible the Edible City" (Routledge, 2024), she contributes valuable insights to the re-imagining of land and agriculture within existing planning paradigms. Her recent publications include contributions to "Architecture on Common Ground: The Question of Land" (Lars Müller Publisher, 2020) and "New Forms of Urban Agriculture: An Urban Ecology Perspective" (Springer, 2021).

keywords

— agroecology  
— agri-urban design  
— urbanisation



# Assessing the agroecological performance and sustainability of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms in Flanders, Belgium

**SAVELS Ruben** holds a MSc in Bioscience Engineering: Agricultural Sciences from Ghent University. He investigates the development of agroecology in Flanders, Belgium by unravelling interpretations of different stakeholders around the concept of agroecology, while assessing agroecology in the field, exploring its uptake in research and education, civil society and policy-making.

**SPEELMAN Stijn** joined the Department of Agricultural Economics at Ghent University as teaching assistant. After obtaining his PhD on decision support for agricultural water management in South Africa in 2009, he continued working in the department as a FWO post-doc researcher till 2014. In October 2014 he became tenure track professor.

**DESSEIN Joost** is associate professor at the Department of Agricultural Economics. He holds a MSc in Agricultural Engineering and a MSc and PhD in Social and Cultural Anthropology, at the Catholic University of Louvain (Belgium). His expertise lies in the fields of Sociology of Agriculture, Food and Rural Development.

authors

Agroecology is receiving increased attention and recognition as a concept for transitions to more sustainable agricultural and food systems. One particular and increasingly popular type of systems that explicitly aligns itself with agroecology is Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), which directly connects consumers with producers in a local food system. However, due to the many definitions and interpretations of agroecology, data and evidence of its contribution to more sustainable agricultural and food systems remains fragmented and unharmonized due to heterogeneous methods and data-collection and the use of varying scales, locations and timeframes. Furthermore, literature on CSA and its contribution to more sustainable agricultural and food systems is limited, while the link between CSA and agroecology deserves explicitation. In our research, a multidimensional assessment and evaluation of the agroecological performance of CSA systems in Flanders, Belgium was conducted using the 'Tool for Agroecology Performance Evaluation' (TAPE), which was developed by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and builds upon its framework called the '10 Elements of Agroecology'. Our results show that CSA systems can be considered as highly agroecological agricultural and food systems. Since they explicitly implement, refer to and exhibit many of the principles that characterize agroecology, further highlighted by their high performance on many of the elements of agroecology, they can be considered as exemplary agroecological systems. Additionally, our hypothesis that more agroecological systems are correlated with better environmental, social and economic performance on several indicators is tested, while synergies and trade-offs as well as intrinsic and extrinsic opportunities and challenges will be further identified by means of a participatory analysis. We further argue that CSA systems may significantly contribute to more sustainable agricultural and food systems, while concurrently contextualized evidence has been generated on the contribution of agroecology to sustainability goals related to agriculture and food systems.

keywords

agroecology —  
community supported agriculture —  
Flanders —  
sustainability assessment —

## Towards a European Urban Agriculture Policy and Governance Framework. Learning from the Roman experience.

In Rome, urban agriculture (UA) is transitioning from an informal practice to one that is progressively embedded in urban policies and informing academic research. With an agricultural area of appr. 58,000 ha. and expertise in urban farming that goes back to Roman times, the city offers endless possibilities to develop (UA) practices. Traditionally, local communities have been occupying and managing public land for ensuring food security across the city. In recent years, UA implemented by grassroot movements has gained the attention of local politicians for its potential to tackle urban sprawl and soil degradation while enhancing social inclusion. This new understanding of the multifunctional nature of UA led to the development of local policies and governance models fostering active citizenship and community cohesion. Alongside policy recognition at the local level, UA practices prompted Rome to participate in EU funding programmes. Under FUSILLI project, the City implemented a multi-stakeholder Living Lab to transition towards a sustainable urban food system. FUSILLI accelerated the creation of a Food Council to support the City Assembly in developing a food policy that embeds UA practices in all the stages of the city's urban food system. Roman UA practices – which gained the City the award of Good Practice City in 2017 - are currently being replicated in other EU cities as well as non-EU cities through URBACT and the International Urban and Regional Cooperation (IURC) Programmes. In particular, the URBACT participatory methodology was adapted to Barranquilla (Colombia) in Latin America under the IURC programme. The IURC pilots were extremely successful and received further funding under GenerACTOR. Communities in the transfer network cities are empowered to make use of degraded public land for UA purposes. This is shaping urban food planning as a bottom-up and participatory process. Rome is also playing a pivotal role in the European Forum on Urban Agriculture (EFUA) - a forum carrying out extensive research on types and benefits of UA as well as governance models. EFUA will also provide policy recommendations for mainstreaming Urban Agriculture into European, regional and local policies. By participating in the AESOP Conference, the City of Rome aims to share its UA expertise and inform on challenges encountered when implementing its management model of urban gardens across the city. At the AESOP Conference, Rome will also advocate for a European multi-level policy and governance framework to advance UA through the European climate agenda.

authors

**DE GRAZIA Giusy, HERNANDEZ Patricia, BORDI Claudio, LUZZI Elisabetta**

The author and co-authors work for the European Projects Unit of Risorse per Roma - a publicly owned company of the City of Rome. The EU Unit has more than 20 years of experience in territorial and international cooperation to promote sustainable and integrated urban development. The EU Unit has a well-established track record of coordinating EU-funded projects involving numerous organizations, both public and private, from European and non-European countries in the Mediterranean area, Eastern Europe, Latin America and Asia. The EU-funded projects cover a variety of thematic areas, including local governance (multi-level governance, citizen participation), local economic development (new urban economies, sharing economy in favor of employment and entrepreneurship), environment (regeneration of abandoned and degraded urban areas, circular economy, urban agriculture, sustainable food production, green economy, urban resilience and climate change) and social inclusion (integration of disadvantaged communities, including immigrants).

keywords

- urban agriculture
- urban food systems
- multi-level governance
- participatory processes
- living lab methodology
- multifunctional nature of UA

## The City's Low Hanging Fruits

**LEVRAN VARDI Neta** is a M.Sc. student in Urban and Regional Planning. Her study focuses on urban food policy and planning, and edible trees in the urban environment. She earned her social science degree (B.A.) at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem and her architecture-handsay training at Shenkar Handesaim.

authors

The urban environment is full of edible trees and plants that are rarely addressed as a potential source of food, despite the increasing attention to urban food policies and urban forest plans. This study explores the potential for incorporating edible trees into urban food policy and to understand the incentives and barriers for meeting this potential. Our case study considers the bitter orange, an unpopular fruit for eating, which grows in many Mediterranean cities. We consider it a 'least likely case': if it could be integrated into urban food systems, other more popular fruits could be similarly integrated.

Food policy is an interdisciplinary field relying on multiple fields of expertise,

**ORENSTEIN Daniel** is an associate professor in the Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning. His research focuses on a variety of topics related to sustainability, resilience, and human-nature interactions. His current projects focus on perceptions of nature in the urban environment and policy and planning implications.

urban food policy —  
urban forest plans —  
edible trees —  
bitter orange —  
environmental policy —  
environmental education —

**keywords**

as well as local knowledge, to maximize potential success. We conducted a three-phase Delphi survey with 13 experts representing diverse fields such as agronomy, food security, and food production, from various sectors including municipal, academic, business, and non-profit. These experts developed and evaluated the desirability and feasibility of different policy scenarios for exploiting bitter orange trees in the Israeli city of Kfar Saba for consumption. Each scenario consisted of three stages: picking the fruits, processing into product/s, and distributing.

The respondents' preferred scenario involved school children harvesting fruits as part of an agricultural-based educational curriculum, followed by fruit processing facilitated by a local food industry. The resulting product/s would be marketed locally, with profits donated to charities. Respondents highlighted this scenario's potential to convey educational values (such as learning about the source of food) and promote community building and pro-environmental behaviors. This scenario was considered feasible due to its ability to be integrated into an existing administrative framework (the school system) while ensuring financial sustainability and political appeal.

Aligned with other food policy practices, the scenario requires action from actors of multiple fields: school, factory, retail, and charity, suggesting implementation might be challenging. Since the method integrates a diversity of expert perspectives towards developing a consensual scenario, overcoming the challenges is predicted relatively viable.

Findings suggest that edible plants can be comprehensively integrated into urban food policies, not only as a food source but also as means to advance environmental and food education and increase social capital. However, the emphasis the respondents put on educational and social values rather than on trees as a food source, raises questions regarding development of environmental policies in general, with education and social values as a way of avoiding more demanding changes in behaviors.

## Agricultural practices in French prisons : towards better agro-ecological environments

Urban agriculture (UA) can fulfil a variety of functions from recreational and ecological ones to promoting health or enhancing food security and it is attested by an extensive bibliography. In the prison environment, the most recognized functions are: i-improving well-being during detention and ii-preparing prisoners for social and professional reintegration by training. Our study aims to characterise the diversity of forms and functions that UA assumes in prisons. It questions the multiple benefits offered by these kind of projects in this particular context and their capacity to reduce socio-environmental inequalities. Semi-structured interviews with 31 stakeholders enabled us to identify the functions, obstacles, and levers of these projects.

The initial results of the survey confirm the multiplicity of services provided by agricultural activities including food production, even though this is not usually the main function expected. While some products are sold to third parties, in many cases the vegetables and fruits produced are also eaten by the gardeners themselves. This increases the possibilities of deciding which food to eat, enhancing knowledge on its production processes. Paid employment was also identified as a possible function of this kind of projects.

However, access to green spaces, training and even jobs are generally highly segmented. Firstly, the distinction is based on gender: women's lower participation is associated to their minority among prisoners (around 4% of the total prison population). Secondly, eligibility depends strongly on good behaviour. This may be questioned, on the one hand in the name of democratising the benefits of urban agriculture. On the other hand, there seems, to us, to be a paradox: the subjective benefits of these activities, which are associated with a reduction in violence, are not accessible to the prisoners who may need them most. But the participation of the latter would require a reinforced support, which is not necessarily possible in the majority of prisons.

**authors** **SIAS Daniela** is an architect specialized in setting up, monitoring and evaluating urban agriculture projects. Since 2023, she has been a project manager for the urban agriculture consultancy Exp'AU (AgroParisTech Innovation).

**GIACCHE' Giulia** is an agronomist (PhD in land use planning). She actually works at INRAE AgroParisTech as researcher on "Territorial Integration of Urban Agriculture". In 2022, she coordinated two major publications: "Developing urban agriculture projects with the Meth-Expau® method" and "Urban agriculture in France: Understanding the dynamics, supporting the actors".

**AUBRY Christine** is an agricultural engineer (PhD in agronomy), founder of the multidisciplinary INRAE AgroParisTech research team on urban agriculture (2012). Since 2018, she has directed a sponsorship chair in "Urban agriculture, ecosystem services and urban food" (AgroParisTech Foundation). She co-constructed a specific engineering course at

Lastly, there is a strong spatial constraint for these projects linked to physical accessibility, which also affects segmentation. Security requirements have a major impact on the choice of land and the feasibility of projects. These activities should not become a source of segregation and exclusion. Consideration needs to be given to the most appropriate layout of existing and future establishments to achieve greater spatial and social justice.

AgroParisTech on urban agriculture and vegetation, and set up the EXP'AU research consultancy (2015).

**keywords**

- urban agriculture
- prison food
- green prisons
- environmental inequalities

## Mapping the urban food movement through its people

There are men who struggle one (of these) day(s), and they are good. There are men who struggle for a year, and they are better. There are men who struggle many years, and they are better still. But there are those who struggle all their lives: These are the indispensable ones. (Bertolt Brecht)

The most indispensable constituents of any transformative movement are people. As seen many times in history, those “indispensables” alone don’t guarantee success, but understanding their visions and drive will ease the way to it. This paper therefore aims to reflect on the challenges of building the food movement by mapping some of its key people. It contends that urban food mapping is in prime position to help us comprehend the urban food movement.

Having contributed to the food movement for the past 25 years, the author has witnessed how it grew from a fringe interest in the 1990ies to centre stage in the 2020ies. By taking stock, this paper will, I hope, assist to envisage the next 25 years, at least. This is an urgent task too given the multiple crises facing the lives on our planet, as well as the potential to positively address those through sustainable food planning.

Concentrating on one main component of the food movement – urban agriculture – the author aims to map pivotal moments, challenges and innovations in relation to people and their visions. To do so, the author draws on a range of selected international case studies and apply to those an urban food mapping tool developed by Bohn and Tomkins and described in their recently published book *Urban Food Mapping: Making visible the Edible City*.

This mapping tool, *The Urban Food Mapping Matrix*, is based on the main urban food mapping themes and types that are currently practiced across the world. The people of the food movement explicitly feature in both. The paper traces the difference between people as stakeholders and people as citizens and contends that, whilst the urban food movement needs both, stakeholders are its main “indispensables”. The author will contextualise this with examples from the selected case studies. They will present an annotated map as a visually accessible overview of people in the food movement in order to distil necessary and desirable next steps on the co-created road to a food-focused future.

author

**BOHN Katrin** is an architect, author and urban practitioner. She held professorships at the University of Brighton, Great Britain, and the Technical University of Berlin, Germany. Together with André Viljoen, she forms Bohn&Viljoen Architects and has worked intensely on their food-focused urban design concept CPUL (Continuous Productive Urban Landscape).

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keywords

- urban food mapping
- urban food mapping matrix
- urban agriculture
- stakeholders
- citizens

## Bringing about change in urban planning: how action research put urban agriculture on the map in the planning of peri-urban Oosterwold (NL)

**JANSMA Jan Eelco** is action researcher in urban food planning at Wageningen University and Research (NL). His research ambition is to improve the balance between agriculture and societal needs. Over the past 25 years, he has studied different perspectives of urban food systems, with a key focus on planning for peri-urban food systems.

author

This contribution retrospectively reflects on my role as action researcher in a process that fundamentally changed the position of agriculture in the planning of Oosterwold, a new peri-urban area of the Dutch city of Almere. The action research commenced about 20 years ago with questioning why agriculture is an outsider in urban planning. The process that followed soon focused on Almere and specifically on the planning of its future peri-urban area Oosterwold (4,300 ha and approximately 15,000 homes). In my contribution I will specify how the action research process evolved in four successive phases: (1) 2002-2006: Exploring & Substantiating, (2) 2006-2009: Designing & Co-creating, (3) 2009-2016: Advising & Monitoring, and (4) 2016-2022: Re-exploring & Supporting. Going through these phases, the process start-

Bulten, E., et al. (2020). Influence without Power: Stakeholder management in practice. Lelystad, Wageningen University & Research | Field Crops. • Chevalier, J. M. and D. J. Buckles (2019). Participatory Action Research: Theory and Methods for Engaged Inquiry. Abingdon, Oxon, Routledge. • Jansma, J. E. and S. C. O. Wertheim-Heck (2021). "Thoughts for urban food: A social practice perspective on urban planning for agriculture in Almere, the Netherlands." Landscape and Urban Planning 206. • Wittmayer, J. M. and N. Schöpke (2014). "Action, research and participation: roles of researchers in sustainability transitions." Sustainability Science 9(4): 483-496.

references

action research —  
 urban planning —  
 (peri-)urban agriculture —

keywords

ed from a situation with no predetermined goals, a target group, a methodology, nor a fixed duration but developed step-by-step based on an iterative cyclical approach of diagnosis, action, and evaluation. Eventually, it initiated a fundamental change in the planning practices of Oosterwold. Urban agriculture got formally included in the planning of the area, which in daily practice implies that residents are expected to farm at least 51% of their land. In retrospect, I reveal how the action research anticipated serendipity and zeitgeist, how stakeholder were engaged and how they successively co-shaped the action, what roles were performed during the process of action, how various competences were executed, and how funding was arranged. I will conclude with some general lessons distilled from my involvement as action researcher in the transformation of Oosterwold's urban planning practices.

## The University as a Critical Player of the Urban Food Policies. Towards a Food Atlas for the City of Trieste

Since the emergence of food-city nexus in the multidisciplinary debate, urban food systems from being "a stranger to the planning field" (Pothukuchi & Kaufman, 2000: 113) turned into a core issue to face the challenges of advancing theoretical frameworks (Steel, 2008; Parham, 2015; Cabannes & Marocchino, 2018) and methods (Bohn & Tomkins, 2024) while dealing with the implementation of food policies (Feagan, 2007), strategies (Verzone & Woods, 2020) and practices in cities and their bioregions.

In this debate, food atlases are increasingly gaining attention, emerging as urban food governance policy devices (e.g., Torino, Roma, Matera, Vienna, Lisbon, and the Netherlands). However, there is a lack of shared understanding of what a food atlas is, how it works and its empirical effects in reading the food-city nexus while driving its transformation. Rather than a result of the mapping process (Il sistema del cibo a Milano, 2018: 106), here the food atlas is considered "a context, a process, and an instrument" (Dansero et al., 2018: 17), a dynamic interface between food system multi-scalar and multi-foci representation, a participative, interdisciplinary and intersectoral process of knowledge production, and a tool to bridge food practices and actors across scales. On the one hand, food atlases' blurred contours highlight their potentiality for experimentation in diverse contexts, downscaling European food politics to local urban policies. On the other hand, this suggests that the food atlas may act as a critical device to upscale food micro-politics, where urban food policy is absent or precarious.

By questioning the university's role in re-shaping the food-city nexus (Martinielli, Annese & Mangialardi, eds., 2023), this study adopts the food atlas as a method to explore scenarios to activate local food policies. The contribution offers the initial findings of ongoing research on the food-city nexus in the multicultural city of Trieste (Basso, Di Biagi & Crupi, 2022), in the heart of Europe. As a case study, Trieste and its university are relevant because here the rural-urban relationship has been the stage of a discursive polarisation (Verginella, 2008) whose socio-spatial features manifest still today. Despite the lack of urban food policies, the recent rise of sustainable food practices and socially engaged food actors suggests the emergence of a food citizenship and the need to upscale its agency. Thus, the case study's specificity offers a lens to frame the food atlas and its spatial agency, shedding light on challenges, potentialities and limitations of exercising a systemic approach to food planning.

authors

**RODANI Valentina**, architect and postdoctoral researcher (PhD Doctor Europaeus University of Trieste 2023), engages in design-driven research to explore interdisciplinary frameworks. Her dissertation was a manifesto of liminal architecture for the Italian-Slovenian borderscape. Her work has been presented at international conferences, exhibited (Banned; Vivere negli aeroporti; Apocalipsis cum figuris) and published.

**VENTURINI Camilla**, graduated in Architectural Engineering at the University of Trento, is a PhD student at the University of Trieste. Her PhD research focuses on food as a multifaceted means of urban and territorial transformation, exploring three perspectives - foodscapes, food-networks spatial impact, and food-welfare relations - within Friuli Venezia Giulia region (Italy).

keywords

— food-city nexus  
 — food atlas  
 — university

## Productive images

**VAN DOOREN Noël** is landscape architect. As a researcher he focuses on issues of food and landscape. By means of design he reflects on the questions how landscapes will change in the transition towards sustainable food systems, and how landscapes can be an agent in that transition.

author

In planning for a sustainable food system, farmers are essential. In at least three ways: they manage land, they produce food (ingredients) and they strongly contribute to the identity of rural areas. Moving towards a sustainable food system, managing land has to do with issues of water, soil and biodiversity. Producing food ingredients strongly relates to health, and the accessibility of food. Rural identity should connect consumers and producers in fair and energy efficient chains.

In recent times however the conversation with and about farmers became extremely polarized. Partly, this is due to the strong pressure as felt by farmers to radically change their operations now.

A landscape and design perspective can introduce mediating notions of time, scale and options. First and for all it is essential to establish a conversation in which both individual farmers and other stakeholders are present. Secondly, it is essential to find common ground in the larger geographical unit a farmer operates in. Thirdly, it helps to move back and forward in time – actual farmers may not want to move, but in general they see that their successor may see more options.

We offer a framework with the iceberg model to show that individual farmers and their future development ‘root’ in scenarios or visions on future food systems. This second layer is nurtured by principles: what is a sustainable food system?

‘Futuring sessions’ help to open a conversation on possible futures, always connecting the part of individual farmers to how their region may and will develop. How will the future landscape look like, and how can this support individual decisions, now and in the future?

In these sessions, we consciously look for ‘average farmers’. Although we understand the attention for the front runners, we think that a sustainable food system inevitably asks for smaller and bigger steps of the huge group of farmers that is not particularly eager to change but is open to see the necessity.

As a ‘product’ of this research we look for three things:

- Productive images (existing or imagined) of places/initiatives/buildings/examples that help to formulate attractive and possible futures;
- Vocabulary that in a productive expresses ideas on desired future systems, connecting the small and the big scale.
- Larger concepts that are able to connect stakeholders in a region in the desire to move forward.

## Narratives of Change: more than individual intentions in the path to a sustainable and socially just food future

This paper presents a cross-case exploration qualitative analysis of the relationship between food security, sustainability, and social justice within the framework of the European Green Deal's Farm to Fork strategy. Drawing on fifty narratives in urban and peri-urban areas of five European countries (Austria, Greece, Portugal, Sweden, Turkey), developed in the ACCTING project ACCTING (AdvancedCing behavioural Change Through an INclusive Green deal) the study explores links between challenges and opportunities faced by individuals to access healthy and environmentally sustainable food and different forms of economic and social marginalisation. The narrative methodology allows us to delve into the food system realities of individuals and their families from low-income backgrounds, single mothers/parents, working parents with intersectional identities (e.g., LGBTQ, ethnic or religious minorities, migrant communities), disabled, and elderly people.

The cross-case findings reveal an interconnectedness of scales between individuals and communities with local, national, and global policies and movements in developing small food transitions into larger changes, suggesting that food must be understood by policies and authorities from a multiscale perspective (in time and space).

In fact, across combinations of demographic, socio-economic, and cultural backgrounds, more people seem to be aware about global sustainable food movements and have intentions to change their food practices. Yet, at the individual scale, a set of structural, social, and political conditions exacerbate social and economic injustices, which impede them from making the leap from intentions to food access and change. However, the analysis also unveils factors that at an intermediate scale seem essential to transform individuals as agents of change. Social support networks like neighbours, friends, and family, emerge as key enablers of changing mindsets and behaviour, by fostering trust and transmitting diverse kinds of knowledge. They seem to provide access to the needed resources (food sharing and knowledge transfer) for changes that policies and policy-makers sometimes fail to provide.

The challenge is to tie individuals, communities, and self-organised actions to feasible local, regional, and national policies. The analysis unveils factors that on this intermediate scale seem essential for change, transforming individuals into its agents. Among them, the reform of supply chains, shared knowledge, and redefined social norms emerge as tools in building a sustainable food future. By unravelling the diverse stories of struggle and transformation, our study illustrates how environmentally sustainable and healthy eating is not just a personal choice, but a collective journey, which calls for a multiscale perspective of participation, agency, and governance as analytical tool.

authors

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**ZORELL Carolin V.** - Associate Professor in Political Science at the School of Humanities, Education and Social Sciences, Örebro University, Sweden. Her research interests are in political participation, democracy, and environmental sustainability, with a particular focus on the study of diffusion processes of attitudes, norms, and behaviours.

**MORENO Luís** - Assistant Professor & researcher at University of Lisbon (IGOT-ULisboa & CEG / Associate Laboratory TERRA) in Geography and territorial development. Team member of the PhD in Sustainability Sciences (REASOn | Resources, Food and Society), and also of the Portuguese networks Animar (for Local Development) and ACSA (Feeding Sustainable Cities).

keywords

- food security
- sustainable food systems
- food justice
- governance
- individual behavioral change

## Urban food governance's potential for a gender-just food transition: preliminary results from fieldwork in Milan and Barcelona

**BERGONZINI Chiara** is a Ph.D. student in Urban Sociology at the University of Milan-Bicocca and currently visiting Ph.D. student at the University of Vic - Central

author

Urban areas are increasingly adopting the tool of urban food policies (UFPs) to address food-related challenges, especially for a sustainable transition of their food systems. Indeed, food systems were assessed to have a great environmental impact, and cities are recognized as privileged actors to address this challenge.



Catalunya University. Her research interests regard gender equality in food systems and urban food governance.

gender mainstreaming —  
urban food policy —  
food transition —  
urban food governance —  
gender equality —

keywords

More recently, the problem of justice in such transition was raised. One dimension of vulnerability proven to crosscut all food system stages, and to increase exposure to climate change effects, is gender. However, literature on just food transition and UFPs does not seem to always consider this dimension of potential vulnerability. This paper draws on previous work of the author that preliminarily assessed the lack of attention to gender differences in a relevant selection of UFPs demonstrating that, although theory seems to prove its relevance, a gender mainstreaming approach is still widely lacking from policy practice and, rather, some policies risk reinforcing existing gender stereotypes related to the food system, for example by only paying specific attention to women's needs in relation to their role of mothers. The paper also presents some preliminary results of the fieldwork investigating how relevant actors – both institutional and from civil organizations – in Milan and Barcelona understand gender differences in food systems and the potentialities that a collaboration between top-down and bottom-up initiatives bring about for a more gender equal urban food system. The contribution aims, firstly, at consolidating the idea that food governance should inherently take gender differences into consideration, as well as exploring whether and how different actors in two pioneering cities in the context of Southern Europe are currently understanding these differences compared to what literature deems relevant. Through this exploration, the study is expected to broaden the existing knowledge on the potential of urban governance to contribute not only to a more environmentally sustainable food system, but at the same time to a more gender equal one, thus guaranteeing a more gender-just food transition. The paper ends by describing the expected final results of the study and further research suggestions about potentially relevant aspects that have come up during fieldwork and would be worthy of a deeper exploration.

## Intersectional Exploration for Food Justice Initiatives in France

This newly started project explores the emerging dynamics of 'food democracy' (Paturel, Ndiaye, 2020), through the prism of intersectional and radical analysis (Crenshaw, 1989; Bilge, 2015). Focusing more specifically on organisations that aim to improve the diet of the most vulnerable populations, our initial work highlighted the following paradox. Although these initiatives claim to be fighting for food 'democracy', they often face difficulties in mobilizing the residents of working-class neighbourhoods, even though they are the most affected by these issues of precariousness, and in this case food precariousness. Moreover, they are often confronted by white volunteers and employees with far more educational and economic capital than the beneficiaries they serve (Paddeu, 2021; Montrieux, 2023).

This research aims to enrich the dialogue between Anglophone and Francophone academic worlds, while providing crucial perspectives on food democracy in a context of growing food insecurity in France. An in-depth analysis, inspired by radical perspectives in Anglophone literature, highlights race-related aspects, particularly the critique of the 'whiteness' of food movements in the United States (Guthman, 2008; Howerton, Trauger, 2017). Although little represented in French literature (Hancock, 2002), connections are emerging between these radical approaches and the concerns of associations and working-class neighbourhoods in France, often in the creation of a porous boundary between the worlds of research and activism. Figures such as Fatima Ouassak (2020), involved in inclusive and socially diverse initiatives, bear witness to these concerns. An initial series of exploratory interviews and observations were conducted in the Île-de-France region during the first year of the PhD and the master's thesis. These interviews focused on the discourses and biographical trajectories of the people involved in these associations, constitute a first step towards understanding the social and discursive these initiatives dynamics.

Despite a very strong desire to make healthy and sustainable food accessible to all, the people interviewed often say that they do not live and socialise with the people they work or volunteer for. More rarely, some even make stigmatizing comments about the eating habits of marginalized or working-class groups, labelled as "others". Also, according to our immersive observations in some organisations

author

**LALLIOT Manon** is a doctoral student in social geography at the University of Créteil. She has worked for several years as an intern or volunteer in associations promoting food democracy projects. She is particularly interested in spatial and social justice, intersectionality, associations and food practices.

and our readings on the sociology on the subject (Cottin-Marx, 2019), new internal constraints are emerging. The new economic organisation of the voluntary sector is changing the way voluntary organisations operate, as they now have to respond to calls for projects and also face difficult and precarious working conditions.

**keywords**

- food accessibility
- alternative food initiatives
- intersectionality

## “Good Food” for all? (Re)centering immigrant food justice in urban food policy

**VERA Isabela** is a doctoral researcher at ICTA-UAB. Her work explores the intersections of food justice and food citizenship for immigrant communities in Global North cities, particularly in relation to sustainable food policy. She is the founder of Feminist Food Journal and an editor of Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement.

**author**

Multicultural cities in the Global North are rapidly developing and releasing urban food policies that outline municipal visions related to sustainable food. In turn, these policies shape conceptions of food citizenship and processes of food justice in the city. Critical food and race scholars have shown that immigrants have historically been marginalized in or excluded from discourse and action related to sustainable food in Global North cities. However, it is not yet known how urban food policy discourses position immigrants and their foodways, foodscapes, and labour in relation to food citizenship, and what these positionalities imply for efforts to work towards food justice for immigrant communities. A critical discourse analysis of 22 urban food policies from Global North cities reveals that most fail to meaningfully integrate the subjectivities of immigrant producers, consumers, and workers. Meanwhile, many promote hegemonic and/or ethno-nationalistic understandings of “healthy” and “sustainable” food without recognizing how immigrants may hold valuable food-related knowledge and skills. Instead, they subject immigrants to stigmatizing discourses while failing to acknowledge the barriers that immigrants may face to participating in the food system. Policy discourses therefore largely articulate forms of food citizenship that emphasize the individual obligations associated with food citizenship over rights related to food, jeopardizing the potential for immigrants to belong to dominant political urban food communities. These findings suggest that food justice for immigrant communities has not been a focus of urban food policy so far, despite the increasing popularity of such policies within cities’ sustainable development agendas.

**keywords**

- immigrants —
- urban food policy —
- food citizenship —
- food justice —
- sustainable food —

## Special Panel: Bridging City-Region with Multilevel Governance for Food System Transformation: A Research-Policy-Practice Dialogue

Today, there is a growing movement among diverse actors, from local governments and city networks to EU agencies and international organizations, advocating for a change in our food systems guided by agroecology principles. This movement spans multiple levels, from local initiatives to transnational efforts, highlighting a commitment to promoting urban food actions and recognizing the importance of the city-region level in a broader multi-actor landscape.

Despite these shared goals, there are notable contradictions and gaps in the current approach to food system transformation. On the one hand, there exists a potential for synergy among various actors working across different levels and regions, such as EU institutions, international food organizations, and city food networks. These groups are pointing to and addressing key food systems' problems, also showing commonalities in their efforts. On the other hand, the current landscape is characterized by fragmentation, lack of communication, and isolated approaches, making the future direction of food policy, governance, and advocacy in Europe uncertain.

The central question of our panel is how to address these contradictions and foster collaborative, synergistic relationships for concrete action in food system transformation. Specifically, we aim to explore:

- a) **Developing a Comprehensive European Food Policy:** We will discuss the current state and future of EU food system policy-making, including challenges, key objectives, and potential advancements under a new EU presidency and commission. This discussion will focus on integrating local-regional levels and agroecology and food system principles into a broader European framework.
- b) **The Role and Impact of Advocacy:** By reflecting upon the efforts of various organizations and campaigns, such as ARC2020 and the initiative for a "Towards a Common Food Policy for the EU" by IPES-Food, we aim to understand the limitations and successes in influencing policy and legislation, despite the presence of powerful opposing lobbies.
- c) **Envisioning Effective Food Governance:** The panel will consider current and more effective governance structures that could better facilitate diverse levels of engagement and representation in food system discussions. This involves identifying ways to include underrepresented groups, such as city-regions and marginalized actors, in governance processes.

This open panel invites all conference attendees and others interested in food system transformation for a meaningful exchange between researchers, practitioners, and stakeholders from various levels. Our discussion will be enriched by contributions from entities like Eurocities, FAO, IPES-food, the European Food Coalition and representatives from EU institutions involved in food policy and innovation.

### INVITED SPEAKERS:

- **CALORI Andrea**, Està and Italian Network on urban food policies;
- **COSTE Madeleine**, EUROCITIES;
- **HEIDELBACH Olaf**, DG AGRI
- **MOYAERT Wim**, European Coordination Via Campesina
- **SCHAUVLIEGE Joke**, BE/EPP, NAT rapporteur on Sustainable food systems framework law

**authors** **TRIBOI Roxana** is a PhD architect and urban planner specialised on sustainable food planning, nature-based solution, urban agriculture, participatory planning and transdisciplinary action research and teaching. Currently, the food thematic evaluator of the European Urban Agenda for EU, she is also coordinating AESOP4food ERASMUS+, a transdisciplinary and participatory program on sustainable food planning for LE:NOTRE Institute, Netherlands.

**RENTING Henk** is connected as researcher-lecturer to AERES University of Applied Sciences in Almere, the Netherlands. He has a background in sociology and food studies and has been involved in various international projects on topics such as short food supply chains, city region food systems and inclusive food governance.

**Dr MANGANELLI Alessandra** works as a post-doctoral researcher in urban planning at the HafenCity University of Hamburg. Holding a PhD from the KU Leuven and VUB, she has been a consultant for the Committee of the Regions on the European Farm to Fork Strategy (Brussels, 2019-20) and she recently published a book by Springer on Urban Food Movements (<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-031-05828-8>). Representing AESOP SFP, she is partner member of the European Urban Agenda for EU Food Partnership.

**keywords**

- multi-level governance
- city-regions
- agroecology
- advocacy
- food policy
- Europe

## The role of participative foresight in creating a sustainable food supply for the Brussels-Capital Region.

Foresight encompasses various methods for exploring and analysing the future in a participatory way. Within the food and agricultural system, foresight is often employed to address future uncertainties, leading to the development of long-term future scenarios. In addition to generating knowledge and providing an initial conceptualisation of future change, the impact of such exercises can result in influencing policy outcomes. Unlike predicting the future using logical reasoning, foresight attempts to integrate complexity, aiming to stimulate creative thinking. Therefore, the foresight process is crucial, as it unites diverse perspectives and improves stakeholders' resilience in tackling future challenges.

In the context of this paper, a foresight exercise will be conducted to explore various future scenarios aimed at ensuring a sustainable food supply for the Brussels-Capital Region. The objective is to collaborate with relevant actors in identifying key uncertainties encompassing the Brussels food system and, based on this, develop future perspectives.

While there is a general consensus that participation is crucial in foresight processes, the specific actors to be involved and the manner of their involvement remain questions. A trade-off exists between capturing heterogeneity in participation and the so-called productivity of the process. In this context, involving policymakers proves crucial for influencing policy decision, but it is equally necessary to ensure adequate representation from the grassroots level.

By discussing various examples of participative urban foresight processes in the context of food and agriculture across different geographic scales and scanning relevant foresight literature, this paper aims to provide an answer to the question of which Brussels actors should be involved to achieve a representative future vision of the Brussel food supply system. Additionally, it aims to offer a more systemic analysis of the identification of participants to be involved in exploring sustainable solutions for the numerous crises currently confronting the urban food system.

authors

### DE SCHAEPMEESTER

**Hannelore:** After completing her bioengineering education, Hannelore pursued an international study in rural development. She is now a PhD student at the Sustainable Food Economies Research Group at KU Leuven.

**AMROM Caroline:** Caroline holds a MSc in agricultural sciences as well as in Climate Change Adaptation. With working experiences at agricultural organisations and in consultancy, Caroline works as research assistant at SYTRA and carries out prospective and strategic studies on the dynamics of agricultural and food transition.

**MATHIJS Erik:** Erik holds a MSc in Bioscience Engineering and a PhD in Agricultural Economics. Now, he is the Director of SFERE (Sustainable Food Economies Research Group) and Professor of Agricultural and Resource Economics at the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, KU Leuven.

keywords

- urban food systems
- foresight
- participatory processes

## Territories of urban-rural hybridisation in the agro-ecological transition. A spatial exploration of agro-ecology initiatives in Veneto plain

**MARCON Alessandra,** PhD in urbanism, is currently a post-doc researcher at the Iuav University of Venice and associate researcher at the École d'architecture de la Ville & Territoires de Paris-Est. Between research and project, her work focuses on the role of urban design in hybrid urban-rural territories and productive landscapes, with a particular focus on socio-ecological issues related to new transition initiatives linked to peasant agriculture.

authors

While Food Planning has long been interested in food spaces related to urban and metropolitan contexts, there are few case studies today that consider territories and processes of diffusion and dispersion, where urban settlements and infrastructures mix and hybridise with the rural tissue.

However, in recent years, there has been a renewed interest in the territories of urban-rural hybridisation, in an attempt to overcome those spatial categories that continue to structure much of western urban thought (city-country; urban-rural, etc.). In fact, beyond food production and the city-countryside distinction, some scholars question the renewed relationship between urbanism and agriculture and the latter's role in determining the future of inhabited territories in a necessary phase of agro-ecological transition. If numerous urban statistics and policies promote the

**TOSI Maria Chiara**, PhD in Urbanism, is Full Professor in Urban Design at Iuav University of Venice where she is also the Director of the School of Doctorate Studies and the coordinator of the PhD in Urbanism. She has been part of numerous national and international research projects on the study of the morphology and evolution of urban settlements.

hybrid territories —  
agroecology —  
transition initiatives —  
Veneto plain —

keywords

prospect of a global urban destiny of humanity, the new processes of reterritorialisation of food systems and some traces of back-to-the-land movements, re-interrogate their universality and give rise to the first hypotheses of an urban exodus. The observation of agro-ecology initiatives and the exploration of related emerging tensions, conflicts and imaginaries could help confirm or refute these hypotheses and sketch new scenarios of the future of inhabited territories.

Starting from these reflections, the contribution will focus on the construction of the methodology for the research project entitled “Territories of urban-rural hybridisation in the agro-ecological transition”, financed by the French-Italian University (UFI) and built between the École d’architecture de la Ville & des Territoires Paris-Est and the Iuav University of Venice.

The project stems from the desire of the two partners to collaborate in the construction of a shared knowledge of the territories of urban-rural hybridisation in Europe and in particular on the transformations affecting the spaces of emerging agro-ecological initiatives in the Italian case of the central Veneto plain.

How can the emerging agro-ecology initiatives help us rethink the culture of urban and spatial design? What tensions, conflicts and new imaginaries are emerging? What future scenarios lie ahead for the territories of European urban-rural hybridisation?

## Global city goes local: State ambitions and societal undercurrents of food localization in Singapore

Singapore – perhaps the quintessential city-state reliant on the global food trade is now taking a second look at its previously unquestioned policy of sustaining its food supply almost entirely on food imports. With its shift in policy, the state emphatically signals a new ambitious goal of locally supplying 30% of its nutritional needs by 2030 under its “30 by 30” strategy. It is ambitious given that current local food production accounts for less than 10% of its food supply and agriculture takes up just 1% of its land of the almost entirely urban island city. The study critically analyses the developmental state and technocentric approach often practised in Singapore applied in this unfamiliar terrain, as it offers broad strategic direction and policies, and subsidises private sector participation often through technological experimentation and development. This main (and outsized) narrative may belie the undercurrents of societal practices of food localization. This study uses interviews with experts and practitioners in food and agriculture in Singapore to examine the different strands of action towards food localization and conceptualizes how policy and societal practices and movements compared with dominant strands around the world.

author

**SOH Emily** is an urban researcher who has worked on cross-cutting urban issues including ageing and the city, transport, and food systems. Her research interests revolve around urban systems transitions, with an aspiration of guiding them towards public benefit and greater equity. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the National University of Singapore, working on food system transitions of small open economies.

keywords

— food system transitions  
— food security  
— global food trade  
— food localization

## Strategizing regional food systems as pathways towards sustainability transitions: The case of Lisbon’s Metropolitan Area.

**OLIVEIRA Rosário**, European PhD on Arts and Techniques of Landscape. She is a Research Fellow and a Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, at the SHIFT ‘Environment, Territory and Society’ Research Group. Her research seeks to respond to societal challenges, namely the climate emergency, food planning and biodiversity loss, through transformative processes and nature-based solutions that integrate science, public policy and action, with a positive impact on human well-being, the economy, environmental quality and the

authors

Sustainability Transitions and the complexity of its underlying challenges place a tremendous transformative pressure on food systems, putting the food transition on the forefront to generate co-benefits for a multitude of actors and players, translated into positive impacts on the economy, health, the environment, the climate adaptation and on the society.

Various international strategies and commitments recommend that this transition be fully achieved by 2030, contributing to the goal of carbon neutrality, climate adaptation and biodiversity conservation, increasing physical and mental well-being, especially for the most vulnerable groups of the population.

Sustainable food transition has thus recently gained increased relevance in metropolitan spatial planning and development policies. However, the complexity of steering this process and deliver transformative change sits far beyond any spatial and territorial constraints, to include the intricate, and often conflicting dynamics of

landscape. She is implementing the European Project FoodCLIC in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area. In 2023 she coordinated the elaboration of the Food Transition Strategy for this region and co-coordinated the FoodLink - Network for the Food transition in the Lisbon Metropolitan Area with two other regional public institutions, involving more than 100 stakeholders.

**MOURATO João**, PhD Town Planning - Bartlett School of Planning University College London, is a Research Fellow and Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon [ICS-ULisboa]. His work sits at the intersection between Climate Action and Spatial Planning. In particular, on how sustainability transitions challenge current institutional and policy delivery dynamics. As a research-to-policy broker João has over the last years been a consultant for the Portuguese Directorate General for Territory - Ministry of the Environment, helping develop the InC2- National Initiative for Circular Cities and the National Roadmap for Adaptation 2100. He is a technical adviser of Adapt.Local - the Portuguese Association of Municipalities for Adaptation to Climate Change.

the governance of food environments.

As an outcome of a five-year intensive process, the Food Transition Strategy for the Lisbon Metropolitan Area was delivered at the end of 2023 and is now ready to be implemented underpinning a vision to reconfigure the evolution trajectories of the metropolitan food system by 2030.

In this paper, we critically review the experience of strategizing this regional food system from a bottom-up approach by interlinking applied research with the current regional policies into force and the action undertaken by a backbone food policy network that has preliminary established the baseline for the Food Transition Policy to come up into this achievement.

**TRUNINGER Monica**, Sociologist, Senior research fellow at the ICS ULisboa and coordinator of the SHIFT 'Environment, Territory and Society' Research Group. Some of her more recent projects align with topics as: food planning in the city-region of Lisbon (FoodClic, Horizon Europe); the application of SSH tools to the implementation of the European Green Deal (SharedGreenDeal, Horizon 2020); the links between food shops in large towns that sell local foods with the productive territories in rural areas (STRINGS/FCT co-leadership); sustainability and the opinions of the Portuguese (through Large Surveys on Sustainability / Mission Continente, co-leadership).

**GARCIA TÁVORA Gabriel** - PhD in Geography from the State University of Rio de Janeiro, a

master's degree in Geography from the Fluminense Federal University and a degree in Geography from the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, he have experience in Geosciences, with an emphasis on Remote Sensing and expertise on geoprocessing, vegetation cover mapping, geoecology and environmental planning. He was a great support on mapping the metropolitan food system of Lisbon, especially to identify the higher potential territories to implement agro-food parks in the region.

**LINARES CEBALLO Fernanda** - Masters on Design for Sustainability, she is passionate of food transition and particularly creative on mapping and gapping initiatives and stakeholders of local food systems.

food transition —  
sustainability transition —  
food system planning —  
food system strategy —  
food policy network —  
Lisbon Metropolitan Area —

**keywords**

# Building Across the Food System

## Addressing the role and policy needs of Agroecology-Oriented Farmers Groups in transforming food systems.

Research on urban food policies has focused upon downstream processes, thus neglecting an integral perspective of food systems, being local and sustainable food production one challenge often mentioned. In turn, in the debates on governance, the focus has been placed upon urban settings and actors, with few studies integrating production into research on urban food policies. Additionally, the efforts of agroecology-oriented farmers and peasants' organizations have been studied in depth in relation to their political expression in global governance processes and spaces, but less so with regard to the forms they adopt to strengthen the socio-economic viability of small- and medium-sized farms within sustainable food systems, and their policy needs at national levels or below. Whilst farmers' self-organization represents a core process in the development of Agroecology-based Local Agri-food Systems (ALAS), the development of collective, economic and political structures among agroecology-oriented farmers' is still weak in the local scales. In an attempt to understand why and how agroecology-oriented farmers are constructing their own position within ALAS, and the challenges they are facing in this journey, we conducted a qualitative study on the self-organizational processes and structures of five Agroecology-Oriented Farmers' Groups in Spain. Based on 27 interviews in 5 local associations linked to urban food policy co-production in Spain; and six online, participatory workshops, our results reveal different reasons for joining and setting up farmers' groups as non-mixed collective spaces, with instrumental and social factors constituting the principal motivations. The main challenges identified refer to the precariousness and isolation of farmers, as well as of the different local groups. Our results also highlight the need to strengthen agroecology-oriented farmers' associations, and to promote greater coordination and coherence between agricultural policies (usually supra-municipal) and food policies (usually municipal). There is also a need to orient public resources towards the promotion of specifically agroecological models of food production and local markets in order for these to actually benefit agroecological initiatives. The weakness of the Agroecology-Oriented Farmers' Groups highlights the need for further action-oriented research and accompaniment.

**authors** **LÓPEZ GARCÍA Daniel** holds a PhD in Agroecology. He works as a Tenured Scientist at the Institute of Economics, Geography and Demography of the Spanish National Research Council. His research focus on agroecological transitions at food system scale, from a committed, place-based and action-oriented research.

**CARRASCOSA GARCÍA María:** Agronomic Engineer (MsC Organic Agriculture). She Works as Project manager at Fundación Entretantos and the Spanish Network of Municipalities for Agroecology. Her work focus on agroecological transitions, cultivated biodiversity and food policies. She has coordinated the National Spanish Seed Network "Resembrando e Intercambiando" for 11 years.

**keywords**

- farmers' cooperatives
- agroecology scaling
- agro-food policies
- sustainable food systems
- participatory action-research

## Agroecological urbanism for an urban future. Bottom-up Transitions: evidence from Nilüfer, Turkey

**KARAKAYA Ayalp Emel** is Ph.D., Urban Planner, Associate Professor. Received PhD degree with a thesis on alternative food initiatives and sustainability transitions. Local coordinator of the FUSILLI project, funded by the H2020 program. Coordinator of Roadmaps2SUSFOOD project funded by BAYETAV. Directed Karşıyaka Urban Food Strategy. Still working at İzmir Democracy University.

**YILMAZ Mehmet Can** is a BBA graduate from Bahçeşehir

**authors** Agroecology is an alternative to the incumbent food system paradigm and has roots since the early 20th century. It includes a wide range of issues, and the main pillars of agroecology are practice, scientific research, and grassroots movement. More clearly, agroecology is a scientific field that produces agricultural production information by use of new and interdisciplinary research and indigenous knowledge; an area of practice of agricultural production; and a grassroots movement that is characterized by food sovereignty. Its' great potential for re-localization and re-regionalization of the food system also encompasses social and environmental aspects of sustainability, it addresses the food system holistically, cares for power inequalities, and includes marginalized voices (IPES FOOD, 2022) so does avoids local trap (Born and Purcell, 2006). This paper presents the ongoing bottom-up efforts of grassroots initiatives as the niche innovations and their results on socio-technical

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**ATAY Arca**, born in 1956 in Eskişehir, he graduated from Ege University Faculty of Agriculture in 1980. He has worked in the Agriculture and Food sector for 30 years, has worked on issues such as Ecological Agriculture, Agroecology, Urban Orchards, Local Seed Libraries, Seed Exchange Festivals, is a member of the board of directors of EKODER and NİLKOOP and has been the Environment and Rural Area coordinator in Nilüfer Municipality for 10 years.

**GEÇER Sargin Feral**; Ph.D., Urban Planner, Assistant Professor. Completed post-doc research at Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Has worked in several research and implementation projects. Recently, researcher at the FUSILLI (H2020) project. Has profession in inclusive cities and social innovation. Currently working at İzmir Democracy University.

regime through the case of Nilüfer, Turkey. The niche innovations of grassroots movement in Nilüfer have endenized and transformed political discourse, local governance patterns and candidate mayors’ election pledges in the last two decades. So, the hypothesis of the research is that grassroots movements’ innovations through agroecological urbanism have triggered the transition of socio-technical regime. The research uses Multi-Level-Perspective (MLP) to test the hypothesis.

Nilüfer, which is located in the metropolitan city of Bursa, Turkey is a highly urbanized district settlement and long has resisted preserving its peri-urban agricultural production character. Starting two decades ago with the bottom-up responses to corporate food regime and the biogenetic revolution through the “NO TO GMO” Platform, a local NGO was established, the EKODER, and then has shifted the helm through agroecology by practicing agroecology in urban and peri-urban areas through seed saving, urban orchards, cooperative shops, and recycling. Through the education of children, the primary aim is to grow a new generation that will conserve agroecological urbanism practices.

The result of ongoing resistance to agroecological urbanism was the institutionalization of the pattern through urban food planning and the bottom-up transition penetrated the political will for the local governments in Nilüfer.

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This study depends on the FUSILLI project. The project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000717.

agroecological urbanism —  
multi-level perspective —  
bottom-up transitions —  
Nilüfer —  
urban food planning —

keywords

## Tackling food poverty! Towards healthy, sustainable and socially just food environments through inclusive participation

Citizens living in food poverty can easily get caught up in a vicious cycle. Socio-economically disadvantaged people are more likely to suffer from diseases caused by unhealthy diets, such as diabetes (Waskow & Rehaag, 2011). They may experience isolation and lack social capital, as they do not have the financial means to participate in social life (c.f. Bourdieu, 1987). Moreover, low-income households often become reliant on food assistance. Although the support that these channels provide is evidently indispensable, they tend to offer limited food choice, contribute to stigma and shame and treat the symptoms, not the root causes of the problems at hand (Andriessen & Van der Velde, 2023). Moreover, this group is often overlooked in decision-making processes regarding healthy and sustainable food environments. In order to create equitable food environments that can counteract malnutrition in urban areas it is crucial to incorporate the everyday challenges and needs of socio-economically disadvantaged citizens (Vilar-Compte et al., 2021). In our common research, we explore the following research questions: What are the needs of socio-economically disadvantaged people regarding a healthy and sustainable diet in Switzerland and the Netherlands? How can we create more socially just and inclusive food environments in a participatory way? Our research follows a qualitative praxeological approach to better understand habits, values, needs and challenges (Reckwitz, 2003). Seven participatory workshops with three different groups of 4 to 10 socio-economically disadvantaged people, complemented with ten semi-structured interviews, were conducted in Bern (Switzerland). In Almere (the Netherlands) the research included a photo-based study through WhatsApp with 19 participants, seven semi-structured interviews, and two workshops that were inspired by the Swiss study design. Preliminary results show that food poverty exists in Bern and Almere and not only in terms of actual access to food. Food insecurity can be a psychological stressor, affecting

authors

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**AESCHLIMANN Lukas** is an economist and research associate at BFH-HAFL with a research focus on the (participatory) design of sustainable food systems. His research focuses on socially equitable access to healthy and sustainable food for all.



mental and physical health and participation in social life, such as not being able to go out to restaurants and meet people outside the home. Our findings suggest that food poverty must be given special consideration when developing urban food strategies and health interventions. Participatory approaches offer a promising pathway towards more socially just food environments. Our participants shared various relevant insights and ideas that we wish to disseminate and valorise. In our presentation we also intend to reflect on the challenges we experienced in our attempts to reach out to and give voice to people living in food poverty.

keywords

- sociology
- food poverty
- social capital
- socially just and inclusive food environments
- social practice theory

authors

Dr. agr. **GÖTZE Franziska** is an agricultural economist and consumer researcher. Her research focuses on sustainable food consumption and sustainable food systems, meat and fish consumption, meat alternatives and the demand for organic products.

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## Connecting movements by pluralizing the governance of city-region food system transformations in (former) centres of colonial Europe: A relational review of encounters between the visions, protagonists, and governance practices of decolonial, food justice, food sovereignty and sustainability transition movements.

**JONES Tobia:** PhD researcher at the Athena Institute, with a focus on governances of city-region food system transformations, particularly within (former) colonial centres in Europe. Methodological trainer and co-creator of guidelines and mutual support within the FoodCLIC project. Learning how plural movements (can) connect and co-organise system change with PAR and co-design of systemic interventions.

**DE HOOP Evelien:** Committed researcher and teacher navigating health-sustainability interfaces within the Athena Institute. Evelien holds an MPhil degree with Honours in Geography and the Environment from Oxford University, and did her PhD at the Technology, Innovation and Society group at Eindhoven University of Technology. Her transdisciplinary research and education is rooted in STS, critical geography, post- and decolonial studies and connected history.

authors

Accelerating climate change, corporate domination, ecological annihilation, interlocking crises and social inequalities have generated an increasing sense of urgency for system change among academics situated in hegemonic western universities. A growing number of such academics, once comfortable with technocratically managed system transitions, are shifting their focus towards the governance of more radical system transformations. This article seeks to invite recognition of some radical seeds of food system transformations that have been cared for and guarded by social movements while being marginalised and ignored by mainstream academia, planners and policymakers. These seeds primarily root, germinate, and blossom beyond university disciplines and institutional privileges. They de-centre institutionalized science, technological fixes and market-oriented innovations as the (capital-intensive) magic bullets of system change.

The article cannot represent the centres of these movements whose protagonists lead the cultivation of liberatory futures that effectively resist reproducing 'the' (unsustainable corporate industrial) food system. Instead, insights are generated by guiding attention to academic productions reflecting efforts to encounter, inhabit and write on the borderlands of decoloniality, food justice, food sovereignty and sustainability transitions. Borderlands where movements connect and diverse visions and governance practices meet, clash, and sometimes complement. The intended outcome of this article is to foster mutual respect, understanding and future cooperation between a greater plurality of protagonists or changemakers who can appreciate and experiment with each other's governance practices and achieve radical food system transformation together.

A relational literature review is therefore offered to cultivate insights and sensitivities towards making care-full collaborative coalitions between radical social

food system transformations —  
governances —  
food justice —  
food sovereignty —  
decoloniality —  
relational review —

**keywords**

movements and progressive public institutions striving for food system transformations. This starts by recognizing the institutional privileges, disempowering effect and blind spots of sustainability transition literature and practice in relation to radical counterparts - challenging the urban-centric politics of food system transitions by recognising food sovereignty and agroecology movements' governance strategies and the protagonism of peasants and their agrarian realities. The privileging of privileged alternative food networks gets challenged by recognizing food justice movements' governance strategies and the protagonism of organizations of oppressed farmworkers, food workers and racialised communities. The shallow, narrow and isolationist focus of shorter food chains in (former) colonial European metropolises gets challenged by recognizing decolonial movements and the protagonism of indigenous communities and accompanying academics and artists from the ex-colonised majority world. Facilitating these recognitions, the article then shares insights from efforts to pluralising and sharing the governance of food system transformations between these movements.

## Learning from community gardens: designing an inclusive planning process in the periurban area of Bucharest

This paper starts from the idea that supporting the development of community gardens in periurban areas can contribute to the sustainable development of cities and food systems.

The emergence of community gardens in and around the city of Bucharest, in the last ten years, and especially after the Covid-19 pandemic, demonstrates the rising interest of people concerning issues such as environment, food and community. At the same time, the periurban area of the city has much potential in contributing to the sustainable development of food system as it includes recently abandoned agricultural land and subsistence food growing practices.

From an urban planning perspective, urban agriculture is not sufficiently supported by laws and public policies in Romania, contributing to a displacement of food producing spaces due to urban sprawl. The aim is to gain an understanding of the ways community food growing practices can be integrated in the urban planning process and development strategies of periurban areas. Considering community gardens as a novel typology in the local postsocialist context, this paper is investigating the potential of these spaces for transforming the periurban areas, by identifying local characteristics of community food growing practices and by deriving knowledge from current food systems planning theories.

For this aim we conducted literature reviews of urban planning theories on food systems and urban agriculture, in order to gather useful insights and apply them to the local context. We also conducted field visits and interviews with some of the initiators of community gardens in and around Bucharest, for a good understanding of the local situation.

Results show a variety of motivations, values, principles, actions and needs of these initiatives, pointing to the important educational role the community gardens have in the Romanian society. In order to thrive these small-scale bottom-up initiatives need top-down support.

Intermediary findings point towards participatory planning as an appropriate approach in this context, aiming to include local communities in the planning of a network of productive community spaces. Planning, designing and using community gardens in a participatory process enhances their educational and transformative role in today's society. We envision community gardens as places for experimenting with different values that can, in time, create a post-capitalist future in which city inhabitants will participate in decision making, help shape their environment and care for their commons.

author

**ENACHE Ioana Elisabeta** is a PhD student at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning in Bucharest and a teaching assistant at the Landscape Design and Planning Department.

keywords

— urban agriculture  
— periurban area  
— community gardens  
— participatory planning,

## Uneven Recognition: Community Gardens or Allotments?

**HASSON Alban** is a PhD Student at the Bartlett Development Planning Unit since 2018. His main research interests lie in urban agriculture & food sovereignty. His current research explores the conditions of an expansion of the political space for urban agriculture justice and food democracy in London.

authors

My PhD Thesis entitled 'Urban Agriculture & Democratisation: Comparing Allotments & Community Gardens Trajectories in London' presents the contributions of urban agriculture practitioners in expanding the political space towards a democratic food regime. It assesses the specific democratic processes of each trajectory and how they seek another way for urban citizens to engage with food and place. Through historical and ethnographic in-depth case studies, the thesis sheds light on the practices of commoning and the struggles faced by UA practitioners to create a more just and sustainable food system. It explores how community UA practitioners

allotments —  
 community gardens —  
 environmental justice —

keywords

engage with, negotiate, or resist current governance networks to expand the political space towards these democratic processes, this thesis also highlights some of the discriminations at play. Interestingly, the research seems to indicate a prioritisation of the community gardening trajectory over the more traditional allotment trajectory by local policymakers and planners. My intervention will review what this means in terms of land distribution for Urban Agriculture, the establishment of democratic food governance, and the resistance to neo-liberal urban development in the context of a corporate environment Food Regime. Specifically, I will discuss how bottom-up initiatives contrast with the top-down tendency of neo-liberal public partnerships that tend to co-opt the urban agriculture movement in delivering social prescribing on meanwhile spaces, and ways forward in building solidarity between these various UA groups.

## Community gardens as a response to the contradictions of sustainable urban policy: Insights from the Swiss cities of Zurich and Lausanne

In this contribution we explore how policy discourses on urban sustainability impact the governing of urban food gardening in favouring community gardens. Our main hypothesis is that community gardens better accommodate the tensions created by the discourses of the compact and green city compared to other types of food gardening, especially allotment gardens. In the context of the Swiss cities of Lausanne and Zurich, analysis of policy documents confirms this hypothesis by identifying four frames that orient policies toward favouring community gardening: (i) Adapting green space planning to densification favours community gardening with their modest, flexible and multifunctional design, (ii) Revaluating the role of urban food gardening in urban sustainability represents community gardening as a new multifunctional benchmark, (iii) Reorganizing urban food gardening fosters diversity in gardening opportunities which in turn supports a variety of forms of community gardening, (iv) Justifying urban food gardening through public values and needs supports community gardening with their cost-efficient green space management, lower land management and more active citizen participation. In this vein, urban policymakers continually turn to community gardens as a strategic urban planning tool that gives urban green space greater legitimacy in the wake of the densifying city. Overall, urban food gardens continue to be negotiated between space-related marginalization and socio-political significance serving different needs to urban citizens. This results in the need of a more sophisticated planning approach considering different types of urban gardens related to their location in the built city, associated functions, and user groups.

authors

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**SALOMON CAVIN Joëlle** is a senior lecturer at the Institut de géographie et durabilité, Université de Lausanne, Switzerland, with a focus on mechanisms, values, imaginaries and knowledge that guide nature-related practices and influence the making of the contemporary urban factory

keywords

— urban sustainability  
 — urban gardening  
 — urban agriculture  
 — compact city  
 — green city  
 — public policy  
 — frame analysis  
 — Switzerland

## A New Growing Season: Socially Innovative and Transformative Gardening Practices in London

**OOGHE Pieter** is a PhD researcher in Geography at KU Leuven working on a grant from the FWO on the project “Growing Utopias: Social Innovation and Transformation through Urban Gardening”. His researches contributions of civil society initiatives in tackling sustainability challenges in the (Western European) urban context.

authors

Urban agriculture has always been present London’s urban environment. Yet while over the last decades the practice of gardening in the city has seen a renewed interest from citizens in urban areas all over Western Europe, the projects themselves and especially those in or near the urban core are in increasingly volatile positions. Access to affordable land often proves to be the principal bottleneck for the start up or expansion of urban agriculture projects and, through ongoing policies of austerity and devolution, the expansion of urban agriculture has at times received limited institutional support from local councils.

In this paper we analyse how participants adopt new goals and strategies

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urban agriculture —  
transformation —  
Polanyi —

keywords

in a context of limited financial or state support, and how these lead in turn to a transformation of the agriculture and (collective) gardening landscape in the city. We complement participant observations with semi-structured interviews with both participants, organisers, and policy makers to reveal how these initiatives are organised and how (re)new(ed) practices and discourses are initiated, expanded, and contested.

Building on social innovation theory, we illustrate how these new forms of urban agriculture offer bottom up approaches to address unmet needs in these communities. We highlight how the focus on agricultural production often becomes of secondary importance in these initiatives, and how social reconnection and in-depth engagement - both on the individual and community level - with new discourses and approaches to social and ecological sustainability take precedence. The transformative nature of these new discourses and practices are analysed through a Polanyian lens, where they are understood to contribute to a “countermovement” in (at times open) opposition to the hegemonic neoliberal discourse in the city. Specifically, these projects offer ways for the participants and their communities to introduce and strengthen not just another mode of agricultural production in the urban environment, but rather to propose, in Polanyian terms, organisation along non-market-oriented “forms of integration”. We argue that these new practices, goals, and utopian visions for the city therefore display a decommodification perspective and recentre on a renewed sociality, ecological stewardship, and more egalitarian political relations.

# Strategies for Sustainable Foodscapes

## The Architecture of Sustainable University Foodscape. Design Strategies and Practices for re-shaping the Food-City Nexus

In recent decades food projects, practices and policies enacted by universities have multiplied, crossing the spheres of teaching, research and the third mission (Bartlett, 2011 & 2017; Dansero et al., 2019; Classens et al., 2023). However, the perspective of urban and architectural design still seems to be underestimated in this interdisciplinary and intersectoral endeavour. On the one hand, design disciplines may contribute with socio-spatial analysis, making visible the spatial effects of food systems. On the other hand, design may explore scenarios, triggering or facilitating alternative food processes and practices. Thus, this contribution investigates the spatiality of food across universities, focusing on how a food system may be reshaped by sustainable design research and practice. Framing the observation between the terms foodspace (O'Neal Dagg, 2014; Fodor, 2022) and foodscape (Vonthron et al., 2020), interweaving the material and sociocultural dimensions of food spatiality in universities, the contribution detects manifold case studies to understand how design strategies and practices may deal with the city-food nexus across contexts, scales and actors (Verzone & Woods, 2020).

Universities assemble a multitude of foodspaces where food is processed and consumed (from canteens to cafeterias, from collective kitchens to informal spaces), where the waste is managed (from disposal points to last-minute markets and social canteens), distributed (from vending machines to minimarkets, food trucks and street food markets) and even produced (from gardens and experimental farms to food banks and forests). Universities also generate a foodscape nourished by landscapes of agrifood production, distribution and consumption, which in turn engender landscapes of digestion (Castillo-Vinuesa & Ocaña, 2023). By questioning the spatial devices of the table, the kitchen, and the soil, design projects and practices offer a collection of strategies to transform existing food nodes and create new ones, redirecting food flows and triggering alternative foodways and food networks via rescaling, both upscaling than downscaling (Basso et al., 2022). In the multidisciplinary debate, design disciplines contribute with the specific understanding of the spatiality of the food lens, by deconstructing the conventional food system imagination while investigating spatial alternatives to materialise the principles of social justice, equality, diversity and inclusion in the university community and beyond. Rethinking the architecture of their foodscapes, universities could embrace a critical role in the struggle for the right to food and the right to the city (Basso, 2016 & 2018), thereby eliciting the societal transition towards a prospective sustainable future.

authors

**BASSO Sara**, architect, PhD in Urban Planning, is Associate Professor in Town Planning at the Department of Engineering and Architecture of the University of Trieste, where she teaches Urban Design and Planning. Her research investigates the relationship between food and the city from the perspectives of gender, welfare and living. Her hypothesis considers food as a device to reshape and to assert the spatiality of rights and justice in the city.

**RODANI Valentina**, architect and postdoctoral researcher (PhD Doctor Europaeus University of Trieste 2022), engages in design-driven research to explore interdisciplinary frameworks. Her dissertation was a manifesto of liminal architecture for the Italian-Slovenian borderscape. Her research interests intersect architecture and cross-cultural phenomenologies as migrations and the spatiality of exile and diaspora.

keywords

— university  
— foodspace

## The wobbly bridge of design for food. Evaluating the potential of spatial design to bridge the realms of agriculture and planning.

**DE WAEGEMAEKER Jeroen** is a researcher at Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO). His research focuses on the interface of planning policies, climate adaptation and

authors

While post-war planning paid little attention to the food system, today food is a fast-developing guiding principle in contemporary thinking on architecture, urban design and planning bringing forth innovative concepts. As planners and designers (re)discover the food realm, traditional agricultural stakeholders get acquainted with spatial design and the reflexive practice of research by design to 'think whilst draw-

rural development. He mostly concentrates on the dynamics of open space in highly urbanised territories, and Flanders in particular.

**MARCHAND Fleur** is scientific director of the Social Science Unit at the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) and guest professor at the University of Antwerp. She builds her expertise mainly on research processes supporting a transdisciplinary and systems approach together with stakeholders striving for sustainable agriculture and food chains.

**ALLAERT Sij** is a PhD researcher in Social Sciences unit at the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) and the University of Antwerp. With a background in sociology, he studies how systems thinking affects multi-actor processes in polarized agricultural and food system issues.

**ROGGE Elke** is scientific director of the Social Science Unit at the Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO). Her research mainly focusses on spatial transformations, participatory planning processes in rural areas, and multi-actor processes in food systems transition.

ing'. The prevailing idea amongst planners is that spatial design helps to address wicked problems through the production of graphical material which makes abstract concepts tangible, allowing people to react on them. Moreover, spatial design creates a platform for co-creation on a territory and serves as a tool to negotiate the its future development.

Through spatial design, the architecture and planning community attempts to bridge the post-war gap between the realms of agriculture and planning. As designers devote their creative energy to the food system, there is a growing need for theory building on design for food to unlock the full potential of spatial design to contribute to food planning. This paper contributes to theory building by analyzing two projects in Flanders (Belgium) where research by design was employed to bridge the realms of agriculture and planning. Through document analysis, interviews and an ex-post survey, the paper reviews the design concepts and the graphic material that they generated as well as the objectives and the architecture of the design processes.

In the project Labo Ruimte Boerenland two design teams were tasked to explore the future of farming in 2040 at regional level. Each design team was assigned to a different case study area and engaged with stakeholders and policy makers from the food and planning realms in design workshops at local and Flemish level. In the project Innovative Veehouderijconcepten an transdisciplinary team of (agricultural) researchers, designers and farmers collaborated to co-design innovative and sustainable farming concepts for dairy farming in Flanders. This project focused on the farm scale and engaged with policy makers from the policy domains of agriculture and environment.

The results show that spatial design can serve as a bridge between the realms of food and planning, although somewhat wobbly. To successfully engage with the traditional agricultural actors, there is a need for deliberate, clear and well-communicated choices about both the objective and the scope of the design exercise as a whole, and the individual maps, schemes and collages that are created.

## Gaps in urban food systems in Portugal: Lessons learned from 91 projects funded by national authorities

Contemporary food systems face critical global challenges, including malnutrition, obesity, resource scarcity, food waste, and the climate crisis. Rapid urbanization exacerbates these issues, placing immense pressure on Urban food systems. Recognizing potential synergies between cities and food systems offers a mutual benefit opportunity. Territorial and cross-cutting approaches, with urban and spatial planning as strategic components, become crucial in addressing these complex challenges.

The research intends to assess the status of Urban food systems in Portugal by analysing 91 food projects funded through six programs from 2017 to 2021. We draw on an Analytical Tool to systematically map food projects based on five criteria: 1) territorial scope; 2) governance; 3) area of intervention of the food system; 4) Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) recommended actions; and 5) Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) targets. While mapping Food systems initiatives is vital for rethinking essential public policies and consolidating good practices, our research focused on a specific project subset (financed by national programs), leaving many other initiatives beyond the scope of this analysis. Acknowledging the need for refinement, our model serves as a robust foundation, contributing to constructing more sustainable, socially, economically, and environmentally resilient local food systems.

Besides the mentioned limitations, Our findings indicate that: 1) Projects are concentrated in 36 out of 308 municipalities in Portugal. 2) Nearly half (47%) of the initiative comes from universities and academia. 3) The dominance of the food production stage persists, with the other food system stages, as e.g. logistics often overlooked. 4) Few projects align with MUFPP recommendations, revealing a lack of holistic vision for UFS. Production remains prevalent, and the "food waste" dimension is neglected. 5) SDGs 2 (zero hunger), 9 (Industry, innovation and infrastructure),

**authors** **ARCHER PRATAS João** is an architect, urban planner, and entrepreneur, currently serving on the board of the Portuguese NGO Feeding Sustainable Cities. With a diverse background, from small-scale (DIY) projects to urban planning, he focuses on co-creating initiatives that highlight urban food systems.

**DELGADO Cecília** is urban planner, activist, and researcher in public policies, connecting Territorial Planning, Urban Food Systems, and Local Development. Main researcher at the NOVA.FCSH and affiliated with CICS.NOVA at Nova University Lisbon. Currently participates in European Projects such as MOSAIC and PHOENIX. She is the director of the Portuguese NGO Feeding Sustainable Cities

and 12 (Responsible consumption and production) are prominent (71%), while SDG 11(Sustainable cities and communities) is notably absent.

In conclusion, despite promising aspects, Portugal's food projects face shortcomings, such as the absence of a holistic FS view and a systemic, multidimensional perspective. Additionally, there is weak involvement from local governments, which should play a central role and act as catalysts for food strategies, especially at the city-region level. Furthermore, there is a lack of empowerment of civil society. Empowering civil society is crucial. It cultivates active participation, ensuring diverse perspectives shape urban food systems. This bottom-up approach strengthens resilience, making communities better equipped to tackle contemporary global challenges in sustainable and inclusive ways.

**keywords**

- urban food systems
- food governance
- funding programmes
- Portugal
- Milan Urban Food Policy Pact
- Sustainable Development Goals



## Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement: A Framework for Food Equity and Empowerment

Socio-environmental emergencies and other similar shocks, particularly during wars, conflicts and post-conflict settings, often generate mass forced displacement. These can result in increased vulnerability and food inequities for refugees and internally displaced persons who may find themselves clustered in camps and/or dispersed in hosting urban centres. These food inequities exist despite the potential of developing innovative humanitarian responses utilising short food chains, bio-circular economy and urban agriculture (UA), under a broader nature-based solutions approach. In this paper, we present a framework for incorporating UA into food strategies within the context of forced displacement. This framework has been developed for application across a range of spatial and temporal contexts that apply to different refugee hosting landscapes; these contexts may range from the early onset of an emergency to later stages of resettlement and/or return for forcibly displaced persons. There is a clear need for such a framework based on more robust knowledge of the role of UA in these contexts. Despite the presence of handbooks and guidelines related to the integration of UA in camps and settlements, UA is often not adequately planned for or supported by UN agencies, NGOs, and government bodies.

Building resilience in local food systems for all is key to fostering food equity and going beyond conventional humanitarian food security approaches. Integrating UA into development and humanitarian assistance also provides opportunities for empowering forcibly displaced persons and host communities while building social cohesion. In the fragile contexts of forced displacement, UA can increase resilience at both the livelihood and landscape levels and even form a bridge to socio-ecologically just food systems. This innovative framework draws from empirical work that is being presented in a new volume currently in progress entitled *Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement*, destined for the Springer Urban Agriculture Book Series (edited by Mary Njenga, Rene van Veenhuizen and the speakers). It will be the first book to focus on the role of UA in forced displacement with a global scope that includes both contemporary and historical case studies. Given the current scale of forced displacement, and the relevance of UA to challenges such as climate change, gender equity, and urban resilience, the book will be an invaluable addition to this topic. In addition to the innovative framework, it will present new knowledge and inspiring ideas for academics and practitioners in related fields.

**ADAM-BRADFORD Andrew** is an independent consultant and researcher, with over two-decades of experience, specialising in stabilisation agriculture with a focus on urban agriculture and food security in challenging environments, including wars, conflicts, urban sieges and post-conflict settings. He is one of the editors of the forthcoming Springer book: *Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement*.

**NASR Joe** is an independent scholar, lecturer and consultant, affiliated with Toronto Metropolitan University. He is exploring urban agriculture and food security issues for over three decades. He co-wrote or co-edited five books, including the seminal *Urban Agriculture*, and dozens of articles, and co-edits the Springer Urban Agriculture Book Series.

**VERA Isabela** is a doctoral researcher at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA-UAB). Her work explores the intersections of food justice and food citizenship for immigrant communities in Global North cities, particularly in relation to sustainable food policy. She is the founder of *Feminist Food Journal* and an editor of *Urban Agriculture and Forced Displacement*.

**keywords**

- refugees
- internally displaced
- gardening
- livelihoods
- urban agriculture

## Transforming Food Systems in Lebanon: A Tale of Two Alternative Food Models in the Time of Crisis

**ASSAF Sherin** is an architect, urban planner, and doctoral candidate at the University of Poitiers. Her work focuses on local development planning models, emphasizing the role of civil society organizations and alternative urbanism, particularly concerning food systems. She has

**authors**

This study presents a comparative analysis of two distinct non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Lebanon, the Lebanese Organization for Studies and Training (LOST) and Jihad Al-Binaa (affiliated with a political party), and their innovative responses to the country's post-2019 crises in developing socio-ecologically just food systems. LOST's community farm in Baalbeck has evolved from a project-based approach to an agri-food incubator, supporting over 3000 farmers on a regional level with plans for replication in other regions. Jihad Al-Binaa's response to the crisis

also coordinated a Franco-Lebanese interdisciplinary research project aimed at developing a resilient and sustainable food system in Lebanon.

**FARAH Jihad** is a professor in urban planning at the Lebanese University and director of the urban policy research program at the Arab Urban Development Institute. His research focuses on institutional and informal sociotechnical arrangements in urban infrastructural and space production in contexts of crises, fragmentation and uncertainty.

**YENGUE Jean Louis** is a geographer and University Professor at Poitiers. His research explores the connections between plant resources and societies. He has led around twenty research projects on these topics in France and internationally, notably on urban agriculture and food.

involved expanding their efforts nationwide, promoting food sovereignty and advocating for an environmentally responsible alternative economy. Benefiting from their political affiliation and long history, they focus on enhancing proximity between consumers and producers by developing direct marketing channels, networking, and boosting local production. This model contributes to a just and equitable food system and holds the potential for systemic change.

The research methodology encompassed a mixed-methods approach conducted in two phases. Data were first collected in the summer of 2020, involving semi-structured interviews with diverse stakeholders. The second phase in the summer of 2023 included participatory observation, further interviews, and analysis of social media. This approach provided a comprehensive and evolving understanding of each initiative's strategies, impacts, and scaling up.

Both models exemplify the integration of food into local development models, in which civil society actors can play the role of mediators in addressing immediate needs for equitable food access while laying a foundation for a healthy environment. They highlight how crises can spark alternative food models for local development. The findings offer insights into scaling up innovative alternative food models in crisis contexts, providing lessons in resilience, adaptability, and planning relevant to sustainable food systems globally. The study contributes to the understanding of the challenges and opportunities of alternative food planning for just and sustainable food governance, offering valuable lessons for integrating food into local development during crises.

crisis —  
food systems transformation —  
alternative food models —  
socio-ecological justice —  
Lebanon —

**keywords**

paper session **2.F** **Experimenting  
with Urban Food  
Governance**

Track F - Food Governance  
and Experimentation

Session chair  
**Alessandra Manganeli,  
Luca Battisti & Federico  
Cuomo**

**Thu 20.06 - 15:15-16:45  
00.11 Auditorium**

## The role of evaluation and learning in innovative food governance

There are pressing needs to create more resilient food systems that allow people to produce and consume more sustainable food. With a proliferation of food projects, programmes and diverse initiatives to that effect, how do we know what works, for whom and under what circumstances? Given that food systems are complex and evaluation is at times seen as tick-box exercise, how do we use it to inform decision-makers at the local, national and international levels? How can evidence gathered by evaluation be more effectively shared and communicated?

In our contribution, we will reflect on a series of co-designed evaluation projects assessing the contribution of cross-sectoral partnerships seeking to transforming UK food systems. Food Power (2017 - 2021) supported over 80 food poverty partnerships to tackle food poverty through locally coordinated action. Evaluation sought to understand its impact whilst contributing to the core programme aim of enabling learning and sharing good practice through webinars, peer mentors, toolkits and case studies. Resilient Green Spaces was a multi-partnership programme supported by the Welsh Government to deliver six collaborative activities to pilot initiatives in re-localisation of food systems. Working alongside practitioners and decision-makers throughout these projects raised strategic questions about the role of evaluation in creating changes in food systems. We explored these with stakeholders at a workshop bringing together different actors in food evaluation: researchers, private and public sector representatives, third sector organisations and engaged food citizens.

Therefore, in our paper we will discuss challenges of creating and sharing learning in a short-termist funding environment, discord between small-scale pilots and the need for a systematic, big picture approach and lack of capacity to communicate findings effectively. Despite these challenges, we will suggest three aspects of food evaluation demonstrating its value beyond immediate measurement of impact, by contributing to broader food system transformation. First, we will show how evaluation can provide an impetus for meaningful personal and organisational reflection to inform project delivery and strategic planning. Holding a space for contemplation is crucial in a time of multiple food crises pressuring private and public organisations to focus on delivery. Second, evaluation is an important tool for cross-organisational peer learning. Sharing learning with others is critical for efficient use of resources and enhancing long-term collaboration. Third, we will explore barriers and opportunities to use evaluation most effectively to inform decision-making across different scales of food governance.

authors

Dr **ADLEROVA Barbora** is a social researcher and graduate tutor at Cardiff University. She is interested in how we can create more just participation in food governance through mobilising and integrating lived experience. She has also worked on co-produced evaluation of community food initiatives and developing participatory and reflective approaches to research and teaching.

Dr **PITT Hannah** is Lecturer in Environmental Geography, Cardiff University. Her research explores interactions between community, places, and sustainability, particularly within food systems. Most recently her focus has been skills and work in UK horticulture. She often collaborates with third sector organisations, and has particular interest in understanding human-plant relations.

keywords

— evaluation  
— short supply chains  
— food poverty  
— sharing learning

## The role of food movements in catalyzing Urban Food Policies. The Punto al Cibo network in Torino

**ALLEGRETTI Veronica** is a sociologist and a research fellow at the University of Turin. Her work revolves around issues in food studies including food poverty, food policies, social representations of food. Her expertise extends to both national and international research projects. She is active in the research group Atlante del Cibo di Torino Metropolitana.

authors

This paper presents an exploration into the socio-political evolving dynamics of urban food policy-making, with a specific focus on the role of emerging actors. Central to this exploration is the recognition of urban food movements as key catalysts in reshaping local food systems. Far from being mere observers, these movements actively engage in and influence civil society's participation in policy-making, thereby enhancing the democratic nature of decision-making and promoting inclusivity in policy development. This study documents the current landscape of urban food movements, investigating the factors contributing to their emergence and effective-

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**DANSERO Egidio** (PhD in Urban and Regional Geography) is Full Professor of Political and Economic Geography at the University of Turin and Vice Rector for Sustainability and Development Cooperation, and President of the “Società di Studi Geografici”. Since the first studies of urban and industrial geography, his research interests have unfolded in the field of political and economic geography, spatial, environmental and development policies and in the last ten years focus on alternative food networks, local and urban food policies and strategies. He is coordinator of: the Italian Network on Local Policies of Food; the working group Food of the RUS; the Atlas of Turin Food System.

ness. It critically examines the sustainability of these movements, their capacity to drive long-term policy changes, and the challenges they encounter in sustaining momentum and relevance amidst the rapidly changing urban environment.

At the heart of this study is a detailed empirical examination of the Turin context, where there is a notable surge in interest and involvement in local food politics. This phenomenon is linked to the rising influence of the “Punto al Cibo” movement, an entity that has become a significant actor in the governance of Turin’s food system. Punto al Cibo, characterized as a network of networks, represents a curious interplay of initiatives, organizations, and individuals dedicated to transforming the food system in Turin. This paper delves deeply into the structural and operational nuances of Punto al Cibo, analyzing its influence on shaping local food policy, its impact on the broader food system, and its potential as a replicable model for other urban areas facing similar challenges.

The methodology of this research includes comprehensive desk research, analyzing Punto al Cibo’s documents, and active participation in its meetings and network assemblies. It employs a flexible thematic analysis approach, which allows for the identification of relevant themes emerging both from the research objectives and the in-depth analysis of textual materials.

By offering a detailed case study of “Punto al Cibo” and its pivotal role in the context of Turin’s urban food policy, this paper makes a substantial contribution to the broader understanding of urban food policy-making. It provides valuable insights for policymakers, academics, and activists involved in urban food systems, potentially informing and inspiring similar initiatives globally.

food systems —  
food movements —  
food policies —  
civil society —  
hybrid governance —

keywords

## Navigating Hybrid Governance Tensions in Alternative Food Networks: A Case Study of ‘La Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise’ in Liège, Belgium

This paper studies governance dynamics in the transition towards alternative food systems, focusing on the case study of ‘La Ceinture Aliment-Terre Liégeoise’ (CATL) as an Alternative Food Network (AFN) in Liège, Belgium. Through a qualitative research approach, the study aims to understand how governance challenges were navigated during the scaling process of the CATL. Based on a literature review, the paper conceptualize AFNs as social innovations. They evolve in a hybrid sector, a dynamic sector at the intersection of the public, market, and community sectors. Within this context, governance tensions inherent to the existence of different social orders from the distinct sectors emerge as critical challenges for AFNs. They are stemming from discrepancies between public/private, for-profit/non-profit, and formal/informal institutions. The literature identifies hybrid governance tensions to be organisational, institutional, and resource related. This research aims to shed light on how these tensions impact the evolution of AFNs and, in particular, how the CATL coped with such challenges in the process of scaling. The paper analyses the evolution of the CATL, examining the diverse actors and sectors involved in its development. The research shows that the way in which governance tensions are addressed significantly impacts the development of AFNs. Notably, the CATL employed networking and flexibility as effective coping mechanisms, helping them to scale. These findings contribute to the understanding of how AFNs can effectively navigate and overcome governance challenges, ultimately paving the way for successful transitions in the food system. The paper concludes that, despite inherent tensions, AFNs can thrive in the hybrid sector, and initiate steps towards food system transitions.

**LONGTON Louise** is a PhD candidate and junior lecturer at the Maastricht Sustainability Institute. Her research focuses on the scaling process of Alternative Food Networks (AFNs). Using a hybrid governance perspective, her research analyzes governance tensions stemming from the inter-sectoral nature of ANFs.

**SCHOLL Christian** is Assistant Professor at the Maastricht Sustainability Institute. His research focuses on urban sustainability, participatory and collaborative forms of governance, social movements and social learning. He has coordinated several transdisciplinary research projects on City Labs and Urban Living Labs delivering interactive and reflexive support tools for practitioners and their experimental learning processes.

— governance  
— hybrid sector  
— alternative food networks  
— social innovations  
— scaling

keywords

### Fostering Transformation through Blended Learning: The AESOP4Food programme

The Erasmus Plus Action for Education, Spatial Organisation, and Planning for Sustainable Food (AESOP4Food) is a partnership of universities and NGOs from Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, and Spain. It addresses the need for sustainable food planning by creating a joint interdisciplinary learning activity that fills significant gaps in transformative competencies. This initiative recognizes the essential role of planning graduates in developing integrated territorial plans through a democratic, multi-sectoral, multi-level, and multi-stakeholder approach. Core target groups include university staff and students from architecture, urban planning, landscape architecture, agronomy, environmental sciences, and sustainability studies, while secondary audiences are NGOs, communities involved in local food systems, municipalities, and the wider public.

AESOP4Food developed guidance for teachers, researchers, community workers, and other parties aiming to support transformative changes for sustainable food systems. This free access manual includes approaches, principles, values, and methods for collaborative learning. Reflecting on lessons learned from online seminars and intensive community participation workshops within Polish, Spanish, Belgian, and French Living Labs, it provides educational material for both academic contexts and civil society. This material helps to build capacity by developing new food planning curricula, adapting existing modules, creating awareness of food production and consumption developments, organizing living labs, and applying methods for practice-oriented workshops and community collaboration.

The online seminar combines lectures, interactive exercises, tailored assignments, and participant presentations, supported by a Wiki with learning outcomes, exercises, assignments, and references. It utilizes interactive digital tools such as Mural.co and Padlet. The partnership between academic institutions, civil society, and local authorities is reinforced by the Participatory Action Learning and Research (PALAR) approach, allowing knowledge to be co-created rather than top-down transferred, ensuring relevance to local circumstances and needs. Over the course of the project's course, AESOP4Food has adapted the course to better meet learners' needs by making assignments more flexible and tailored to various learning modes.

Reflecting on the lessons learned from Living Labs, AESOP4Food shares successful practices and challenges encountered. Additional materials include tools and methods for collaborative goal setting, power mapping, and visioning, along with reading lists and presentations available in open access. Educational modules are provided for updating, developing, or evaluating food planning curricula. By integrating education into practical, community-based activities, the AESOP4Food initiative fosters a deep understanding of sustainable practices and encourages transformative changes. This comprehensive approach ensures that the body of knowledge remains useful for a wide range of learners, promoting long-term capacity building and sustainable development.

#### authors

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Landscape architect, researcher and director at the LE:NOTRE Institute. Researches the design of foodscapes in metropolitan areas, production typologies, and strategies to integrate these in the spatial design of peri-urban areas. Works as a professional practitioner, lecturer, and researcher. His mission is to foster the development of local food systems.

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#### keywords

— participatory action learning  
— e-learning  
— living labs  
— sustainable food planning





**SESSIONS**

**ON**

**FRIDAY**

## Public urban agriculture equipment for sustainable food systems: the necessary mobilization of multiple public policies.

The question of healthy, sustainable and equitable food production has become a major issue in current food and environmental policies, particularly in cities. For public authorities, urban agriculture designed and maintained according to the most exemplary agricultural practices in terms of sustainability appear to be a relevant response. The triple layered business model (Joyce and Paquin, 2016), usually used to study an organization's sustainability strategy, here reveals an essential governance and policy convergence for two urban farms that everything seems to oppose (history, location, types of farming practices, management method): "le Potager du Roi de Versailles" and "La cite Maraichère de Romainville". Our analysis shows the mobilization of multiple public policy and general interest missions of these urban farms and leads us to propose their characterization by an innovative concept "public urban agriculture equipment (PUAE)". This concept can enable and enhance their utility and replicability. First, both examples drive urban economic development and place agriculture in urban landscapes that are no longer immediately associated with them. Second, at the center of the multiple missions (food production, economic, urban planning, health prevention, environmental protection, leisure, social link) of these PUAE is teaching and lifelong training. So, the renewal of the farmers now involves urban residents. Finally, the public status and economic business model of these PUAE allow for the technical and social experimentations necessary to develop adapted territorial responses and sustainable food systems.

authors

**SAINT-GES Véronique** (Phd, economics) is a member of the UMR SAD-APT (INRAE, AgroParis-Tech, Université Paris-Saclay). Her research uses the concepts of innovation economics to contribute to the comprehension of the development strategies of sustainable urban farms.

**JACOBSOHN Antoine** studied agronomy at Cornell University (USA) and then history and anthropology at Ecole des hautes études en sciences sociales (Paris). From 2007 to 2023, he was director of the Potager du Roi in Versailles. His research explores the relationship between the production and the consumption of food.

keywords

- urban agriculture
- public equipment
- triple layered business model
- agriculture education

## Roles of Local Governments in the Governance of Agricultural Land in France

**PERRIN Coline** is a geographer and a research director at INRAE in Montpellier. Her work particularly analyzes the integration of issues related to farmland and food systems within urban planning. She published a book entitled *Toward Sustainable Relations Between Agriculture and the City* (Springer) and works in collaboration with local governments and civil society organizations such as Terre de Liens.

**LÉGER-BOSCH Christine** is a researcher in institutional economics at INRAE in Clermont-Ferrand, with a particular focus on agricultural land tenure. She published several papers on social innovations related to farmland, for instance in *Land Use Policy*. Alice Martin-Prével is a mission officer for territories and local governments at the National Federation of the citizen movement Terre de Liens. She has worked on

authors

In France, 88 hectares of farmland disappear each day, and half of the farmers will retire by 2030. Internationally, France is recognized for its proactive land policies and robust regulation of the land market through institutions such as Safer. However, the central government currently faces challenges in adapting long-standing instruments to meet societal expectations regarding environmental and food-related concerns. This is evidenced by recurrent debates since 2017 surrounding an agricultural land law project (Calo et al., 2021). This national impasse is particularly linked to the historical co-governance between conventional farmers' unions and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Conversely, at the local level, local authorities, farmers' or citizens' groups are actively involved in preserving agricultural land and promoting agroecological and food transitions. They identify available lands, revitalize fallow areas or public lands, and support the establishment of new farms (Perrin & Baysse-Lainé 2020; Léger-Bosch, 2020). However, these actors are not always aware of similar experiences conducted elsewhere, and they lack references when it comes to avoiding tensions surrounding land issues that may impede these agricultural dynamics.

This presentation will shed light on the various roles played by local French governments in the management of agricultural land. It draws upon a database of over 80 initiatives documented on the web platform RECOLTE established since 2020 by INRAE and Terre de Liens, based on feedback from local actors and research studies. This database reveals the diversity of agricultural land actions taken by local



the H2020 Ruralization project with the European network Access to Land.

**DIF Roxane** is a territorial facilitator at Terre de Liens in Languedoc-Roussillon. She notably supports the agricultural land initiatives of local authorities and the establishment of farmers on farms acquired by Terre de Liens through social investment.

farmland —  
innovations —  
scaling up —  
agroecological transition —  
public policies —

**keywords**

governments, presenting a range of solutions and operational approaches related to land-use planning, land market regulation, mobilization of public land, and land management facilitation (Martin-Prével et al., 2023). It allows us to identify obstacles and drivers and draw generic lessons valuable for supporting local governments in formulating tailored land strategies, engaging with relevant stakeholders, and better aligning the timelines of public policies with those of farmers. Notable differences are observed between initiatives in rural vs. peri-urban areas and in plain vs. mountainous regions.

Around this database, annual meetings are organized to facilitate exchanges among elected officials and technicians from local authorities, state services, practitioners, agricultural organizations, researchers, (new) farmers, and citizens. The goal is to strengthen their collective capacities to act locally but also at higher levels, contributing to the improvement of public policies and the dissemination of practical solutions. In conclusion, we will discuss the transformative potential of this project to scale up these land innovations.

## A cartography of change: Public farmland as a catalyst for sustainable food planning

Global challenges caused by urbanisation and the evolving dynamics of the 20th-century food regime, necessitate a transformative shift in the food system towards more sustainable forms. The growing emphasis on local food policies has brought attention to the presence of public agricultural patrimony and its potential strategic significance (Vandermaelen, Dehaene, Tornaghi, Vanempten & Verhoeve, 2021; Perrin, 2017; a.o.). In Flanders (Belgium), despite their longstanding existence for centuries, these public lands were impacted by 20th-century urbanisation processes, diverting productive agricultural lands into the broader framework of the global food regime (Vandermaelen, 2023). Motivated by profit maximisation, the historical legacy of local governments in managing (agricultural) patrimony experienced a rapid decline. However, the emergence of local food policies has unveiled public farmlands as a compelling yet underexplored and often unrecognised instrument for achieving a more sustainable food system.

The prevailing knowledge gap results from the lack of comprehensive data and maps detailing public land positions, coupled with a limited understanding of the extent of public land ownership and the role of public institutions in urban land markets (Vandermaelen, Dehaene, Tornaghi, Vanempten & Verhoeve, 2023). This underscores the need for a spatial focus in food policy. Using Belgian Land Registry data, we have created a cartography encompassing public landownership in Flanders and Brussels. Subsequently, this cartography is intersected with data on current agricultural use (LPIS-data) to discern the spatial impact of policy on public farmland. Initial tests conducted in the province of East Flanders reveal a threefold multiplier effect. Further findings suggest that the potential of public farmland extends far beyond the use value of individual plots. It provides a strategic policy instrument for building sustainable food systems. The subject has captured the interest of urban and rural communities alike, making it a good starting point for conversations across the urban-rural divide.

**authors** **WILLEMS Glenn**, a landscape architect, urbanist and spatial planner, is a scientific researcher at the Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (ILVO) in Flanders, Belgium. His research is situated at the interface between urban and rural dynamics, open space development, research by design, food planning and agroecology.

Dr. **VANDERMAELEN Hans** is a scientific researcher at the Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (ILVO) in Flanders (Belgium) and guest professor urbanism and agriculture at Ghent University. His research is situated at the interface between urbanism and agroecology, access to land, soil care and landscape agroecology. In 2023, he completed a PhD in urban and regional planning with his research “Urbanising the agroecological reproduction of soil fertility”.

Dr. **VANEMPTEN Elke**, a civil engineer-architect with a Ph.D. in urbanism and spatial planning, is a scientific researcher and project coordinator at the Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Food (ILVO) in Flanders, Belgium. Specializing in action-oriented research, she brings in expertise on open space development, research by design, urban-rural dynamics, and spatial concepts for transformation processes involving farmers. Additionally, Elke is a guest professor in the MSc in Urban Design and Spatial Planning (SteR\*) program at Vrije Universiteit Brussel.

**keywords**

- public farmland
- agricultural patrimony
- local food policies
- cartography
- sustainable food systems

# Perceptions of, and barriers to, urban food growing: Informal food growing and access to public land. Examples from the UK

**BLYTHE Chris.** Is a PhD student at Oxford Brookes University exploring perceptions of urban food growing and Edible Streets, as well as Motivations and Barriers to participation in urban food growing. Chris is also Chair Of The Board Of Trustees at Birmingham Open Spaces Forum (BOSF). A former director of Social Farms and Gardens Charity, in the UK.

**HOARLE Chloe.** Is a third year Geography MSci undergraduate at the University of Birmingham. She is currently working on a third year project with BOSF exploring the potential to develop a Right to Grow motion in Birmingham, and the relationships between community access to land and environmental/social justice.

**SAMANGOOEI Mina.** Is a Senior Lecturer in Architecture, she specialises in ecological and regenerative building design with a focus on urban greening and healthy buildings. Mina's research specifically looks at integrating edible urban greening with architecture and the built environment. She also has an interest in how the psychology of motivation and behaviour can progress this field.

**THONDRE Pariyarth Sangeetha:** Is a senior lecturer in Nutrition at Oxford Brookes University, she has MSc in Biotechnology from Cochin University of Science and Technology and a PhD in Biotechnology from The Central Food Technological Research Institute, India on the topic 'Microbial production of fructooligosaccharides'. Prior to working as a Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University, she studied plant tissue culture and analytical food testing laboratories in India and the UK. She is a Registered Nutritionist and the research lead for the 'Metabolic Testing', 'Glycaemic Index Testing' and the 'Food components and Activity' testing services offered by the Oxford Brookes Centre for Nutrition and Health (OxBCNH).

**DAVIES Emma:** Is the lead of the Health Behaviour and Wellbeing Research Group and Deputy Director of the Centre for Psychological Research at Oxford Brookes University. Emma's research explores the psychological factors associated with health behaviours such as alcohol

authors

The United Nations projects that by 2050 68% of the world's population will live in urban areas. In the UK, this figure is already estimated to be over 84% in the year 2022-2023. The impact of these urban population increases is huge in terms of food security, community health and well-being, biodiversity, and many other crises which we face in the modern world. It is recognised in the literature that urban food growing in its many forms has the potential to impact on these societal challenges. Many factors are suggested to influence the success or failure of urban food growing initiatives, including the different perceptions of the language used across the spectrum of policy makers through to practitioners. Furthermore, the motivations and particularly the barriers to participation are recognised as being of immense importance to the growth of the sector. Presenting early results from a survey of over 300 participants from across the UK on their understanding of some of the terms used in relation to urban food growing, this paper initially focuses on how people perceive the term informal food growing, alongside other terms such as urban agriculture. Data from the survey also suggests that one of the biggest challenges faced by those involved in urban food growing is access to land. Without suitable land, many food growing projects and enterprises cannot have a hope of getting started or developing. In an attempt to support the development of more urban food growing across the UK, cities, towns, other local authorities and even central government are becoming increasingly interested in the Right to Grow Campaign. This recently culminated with the City Council of Hull passing a Right to Grow motion in October 2023. Other cities are following suit, and many are currently exploring the opportunity. Using evidence from a range of sources, including the development of a Right to Grow motion in Oxford, and the initial discussions around a Right to Grow in Birmingham (The UK's largest local authority), this paper will further explore the implications for urban food growers in embedding a right to grow in local, regional and national policy. What implications are there for the transition from informal to formal urban food growing as local authorities adopt the Right to Grow? Is this a positive move for the sector?

consumption and physical activity. With expertise in the development and evaluation of behaviour change interventions across a wide range of domains, including alcohol, sexual consent, e-cigarette use, and physical activity. She is particularly interested in the social and emotional aspects of health behaviours and how they impact on our mental health and wellbeing. Emma is part of the Global Drug Survey Core Research Team.

urban food growing —  
public land —  
land access —  
informal —  
formal —  
UK —

keywords

## Thinking through landscape frictions: unlocking the transformative power of permaculture projects

Permaculture refers to a design method infused by an ethics of care towards food and non-human entities, embodied through innovative ecological farming practices and spread through a transnational social movement. It is organized as an emerging network of geographically dispersed places experimenting with alternative ways of designing and inhabiting the land. Permaculture pledges for a food system based on intimate relations with the land and with the diversity of its inhabitants. Permaculture design is not, as such, a form of territorial planning, but rather a multi-species design with and for the land (Chakroun & Droz, 2021). Because permaculture design is still marginally applied on agricultural lands, it provokes surprising, even conflictual transformations of the landscapes. I designate those as “landscape frictions”. To explain this concept, I introduce two study cases in Switzerland, which illustrate the opportunities and challenges faced by permaculture, intentionally “disturbing” the traditional agrifood landscape (Chakroun, 2020).

The first case is a small highly diversified permaculture farmer in the Rhone valley in the Alps. The landscape of the region is marked by countless lines of industrial fruit monocultures (apricot, pear, apple), whereas the permaculture farm has been evolving towards a lush “edible forest”, where a large diversity of plant and animal species intertwine and mingle. The neighboring farmers complained to the local authority and accused the permaculturist to “create pests”. This conflict shows that the future of the agrifood system should be negotiated beyond the limits of each individual farm.

The second case rather narrates a local experimentation with agroecological urbanism in Lausanne city. A large permaculture project emerged thanks to a political will to “ecologize” all agriculture lands owned by the Municipality (900 hectares). After the retirement of a couple of conventional farmers practicing on a thirty-hectare farm, Lausanne city (at the time run by the Green Party) opened a “call for projects” to re-assign the land to a project with socio-ecological dimensions: mandatorily organic farming, direct distribution, and the creation of educational garden. The success of the project shows the importance of thinking the evolution of planning from “transactional places” (Chakroun & Dugua, 2019): places where a diversity of actors can share and experiment innovative visions for the future of the agrifood system.

While permaculture design stays territorially marginal, especially among professional farmers and institutional land-use planners, permaculture places should be considered as key, to impulse democratic, multi-actors and multispecies sustainability to our agrifood system.

author

**CHAKROUN Leila**

PhD in environmental sciences with a thesis on the renewal of ecological activism, with an ethnographic fieldwork in the permaculture movement in Switzerland and Japan, adopting the perspective of mesology (= inbetween anthropology and geography). Specializing in agroecological landscapes and embodied practices in postdoctoral research.

keywords

- permaculture design
- multispecies planning
- transactional places
- ecologies of care

## The challenges to build prefigurative food movements: critical reflections from the experience of SPGs in Italy

**CORNAGGIA Cecilia** is a research fellow at the Catholic University of Milan. Her main interests include sustainability in food and fashion, and gender studies.

author

Food movements are a relevant phenomenon, which takes on specific characteristics in different geographical contexts (Martindale et al., 2018). In South America movements for food sovereignty, such as Via Campesina, are particularly strong, in North America and Western Europe food movements often take the form of Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) for food provisioning (Goodman et al., 2012),

such as Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), urban gardening and Solidarity Purchasing Groups (SPGs).

SPGs are among the most widespread AFNs in Italy (Corvo & Matacena, 2018). They are based on the creation of solidarity ties between groups of consumers and small-scale suppliers, generally providing local and organic products. Founded in the 1990s, SPGs have become more and more numerous in the following decades, reaching around two thousand units in 2013 (Forno et al., 2013). However, after that peak, SPGs seems to have lost momentum.

Even though various studies have been conducted on SPGs, research lacks an in-depth reflection on the criticalities connected to this experience, that prevented SPGs to further scale out. Driving on nine in-depth interviews to leaders of the movement, both at the national and local level – in this case, focusing on Lombardy, the Italian region having the highest number of SPGs (Guidi & Andretta, 2015) – the present study critically reflects on the challenges of building a practice-based food movement, and the difficulties that led to the actual fragmented panorama of SPGs.

The analysis shows some interesting results. First, the presence of two levels of organization – group vs. movement – has made it difficult to develop a shared identity, one of the key elements of social movements (Della Porta & Diani, 2020): SPGs are rhizomatic realities (Weiner & Forno, 2020), born spontaneously, and many of them have never connected to the broader movement, remaining focused on daily consumption routines, which are often time-consuming (Dal Gobbo et al., 2022). The difficulty to develop a shared identity and vision was also affected by the poor formalization of the roles within the movement, linked to the desire to avoid institutionalization. Precisely this antagonistic positioning was, in the long term, detrimental, producing few changes at a legislative level and little recognition for the SPGs movement itself which, at least from a cultural point of view, was a forerunner of consumer trends that have now become mainstream, such as the preference for organic and local products.

food movement —  
prefigurative movement —  
sustainable food consumption —  
AFN —  
Italy —

**keywords**

## Building Community Resilience through a Civic Hub: A Case Study of the “Civic Pole” Project in the 8th district of Rome

The Civic Pole/Community hub project seeks to enhance the existing network among third-sector associations and mobilise the community of the 8th district of Rome. The primary strategies involved increasing collaboration among these associations to provide a more integrated welfare service and fostering the creation of innovative projects within the association network.

The chosen thematic focus of the Civic Pole was access to healthy and sustainable food, serving as both a common thread and a bridge connecting the diverse activities of the participating associations. Each association contributed to the realm of food in distinct ways, such as distributing food packages, providing nutritional education, organizing solidarity-based purchasing groups, and more. The multifaceted nature of food within the Civic Pole encompassed solidarity, nutritional education, empowerment and employment, multicultural exchange and commensality, and alternative production and consumption.

These five dimensions emerged from preliminary project interviews conducted with identified local stakeholders. Subsequently, three community co-planning workshops were organized, during which three collaborative projects were proposed by the participants:

1. Territorial Recipe Book: A collective effort to compile a recipe book reflecting the cultural diversity and culinary heritage of the community. This project aims to celebrate local traditions and multiculturalism, fostering a sense of pride in the neighbourhood’s gastronomic richness.

2. Food Festival: The creation of a community-driven food festival, showcasing the culinary talents of the neighbourhood. This event aims to promote social interaction, cultural exchange, and economic opportunities while celebrating the diverse food practices within the community.

3. Community Kitchen: Establishing a communal kitchen space that would

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**CAIXETA CUNHA Eloisa** is a right to food specialist with experience in integrated urban food policies and food systems.

serve as a hub for collaborative cooking, workshops, and community gatherings. This initiative seeks to promote shared responsibility for food preparation, consumption, and education.

Another significant outcome of the Civic Pole initiative was the development of a digital “Service Charter”. This innovative tool consolidated all the services offered individually by each participating association, providing a comprehensive and accessible guide for residents seeking welfare support.

The Civic Pole project stands as a testament to the power of collaboration, thematic cohesion, and community-driven initiatives in fostering resilience and well-being within urban neighbourhoods. This case study provides insights into effective strategies for building social capital, promoting local empowerment, and addressing multifaceted community needs on food systems through a shared and open civic platform.

keywords

- community-driven initiatives
- welfare
- urban food policy
- multi-stakeholder platforms

## Exploring the Dynamics of University-Led Communities of Practice in Shaping Food Democracy

After her master’s in International Politics, **STEYAERT Amber** started working as a PhD researcher at INSPIRA at the faculty of Bioscience-engineering. In her research, she focuses on the inclusion of currently unheard voices in local food system decision-making. As part of her research, she started a trajectory within de Stadsacademie on food democracy.

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authors

Achieving food democracy at a local level requires adopting a more democratic method for generating and disseminating knowledge. We argue that academic communities can play a pivotal role in this endeavor. Given their central role in knowledge creation, they possess the capacity to improve access to and reframing of knowledge. However, to be able to fulfill this role, these communities need access to the right structures. A promising development in this regard is the rise of university-led communities of practice.

Communities of practice can serve to operationalize food democracy by creating social learning structures open to different kinds of knowledge. However, both the conceptual clarity as the empirical evidence on university-led communities of practice is still lacking, especially when it comes to how knowledge is collaboratively created and shared within these communities.

This action research aims to unravel some of the mysteries surrounding university-led communities of practice. In order to do so, we delve into the dynamics of one such community, specifically examining the trajectory of food democracy at the Stadsacademie - a collaborative platform addressing complex sustainability issues in the city of Ghent and Ghent University. Within this trajectory, a transdisciplinary community of researchers, master’s students, policymakers and civil society organizations has been collaborating on two topics: food support and public food infrastructure.

By using participatory observation, in-depth interviews, workshops and focus groups, we follow the development and internal dynamics of this trajectory. For this purpose, we have developed an analytical framework grounded in the principles of democratic directionality for transformative food system research and the four analytical dimensions of food democracy.

In the presentation, we will share the first results of this research, focusing on the following questions: Whose knowledge is considered valid to share? Who is included in the process of knowledge creation and who gets to include? Does the co-creation and sharing of knowledge lead to collective actions? Does the UCOP create possibilities for taking an engaged position related to food system issues?

These findings will provide more insight into how academic communities can contribute to movement building (linked to the food democracy movement). Additionally, we will also reflect on and the benefits and challenges of setting up and maintaining a trans-disciplinary community the roles, experiences and responsibilities of the organizer.

keywords

- communities of practice
- food democracy
- trans-disciplinary
- action research

## Urban agriculture and support from local authorities: the case study of Brussels

Over the last fifteen years, urban food production has experienced a transformation in Brussels: new professional urban farms emerged next to existing community gardens and garden allotments. In 2023, Brussels counted 36 urban farms and over 400 collective and community vegetable gardens. These projects, initiated by farmers, citizens or public administrations, are transforming urban spaces into playgrounds for the transition of food production systems on a wider scale.

Even though this dynamic catches a lot of media attention, farmers find themselves in precarious situations mainly because of income insecurity and uncertain access to land over time. Public authorities already play an important role in supporting those initiatives at European level as well as at regional level. In Brussels, the development and the sustainability of this sector are part of the city's political concerns. They have been framed since 2016 by the Good Food regional strategy, which aims to "transition the Brussels food system towards greater sustainability", including by increasing local agro-ecological food production. The Good Food strategy emphasizes the need to rely on different political levels to support the various forms of urban agriculture: the action of local authorities (municipalities, CPAS, etc.) will focus on citizens' vegetable gardens, while the regional level will be responsible for supporting professional projects. However, a closer analysis of the Brussels' urban agriculture ecosystem reveals that this theoretical framework does not entirely correspond to reality. In fact, several municipalities and CPAS have included ambitions in terms of professional urban agriculture in their strategic plans and some already have their own projects or are in the process of setting one up.

Through an analysis of existing and developing local dynamics in Brussels, this presentation sheds light on the role played by local authorities (municipalities, CPAS) in the development of the urban agriculture sector. What types of projects are supported by these local authorities and how? What prospects can they offer for tomorrow's urban agriculture, and better than regional authorities? How can local authorities act against the precariousness of producers?

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keywords

— urban agriculture  
— local public policies

## Contributions of urban agriculture intensification to ensure a sustainable and equitable food security – a systematic literature review

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**SCHRÖTER Barbara**, ILS - Research Institute for Regional and

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Urban and peri-urban areas are increasingly being recognized as viable locations for the sustainable intensification of agricultural production to address the growing global demand for food in the future. Planners, community stakeholders, civil society groups, and businesses are optimistic that integrating food production into urban areas holds the potential to shorten supply chains, reestablish connections between producers and consumers, and simultaneously achieve the objectives of enhancing socio-environmental sustainability and resilience.

Sustainable urban agricultural intensification (UAI) is anticipated to necessitate a greater reliance on technology as future food production is expected to detach itself from environmental constraints, such as seasonal climate and land availability, utilizing capital-intensive approaches like vertical farms. While the imperative for social and environmental resilience justifies the intensification of urban agriculture,

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Kathrin is the deputy head of the Department of Spatial Planning and Urban Design at the ILS Research Institute for Regional and Urban Development. She gained her PhD in Agricultural Economics. Her focus is on urban agriculture, local food systems, "Alternative Food Networks (AFN)", urban food policies, and governance.

the equitable aspect of urban food policies remains largely unexplored.

In this paper, we present the results of a systematic literature review to identify and analyze how urban agriculture can contribute to food security while enhancing equity and justice in the food system. This includes evaluating the methodology of relevant studies and collecting data on indicators related to food security and equity.

As a result, we developed a prefinal transferable list of indicators that urban regions can employ to assess the impact of specific urban agriculture approaches on different dimensions of equity in emerging food consumption and production systems. This list will be finalized in collaboration with various food system stakeholders.

Based on our results we give recommendations for transformative, justice-oriented policy innovations and principles that seek to fortify city region governance networks, steering UAI toward the establishment of a just food system.

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urban agriculture, —  
urban food system —  
food security —  
equity —  
justice —  
literature review —

**keywords**

## Mapping and exploring the role of Urban Agriculture in EU policy discourses and practices: From invisible practices to leverage point for food system integration?

There has been considerable and growing interest in Urban Agriculture (UA) and its multiple benefits over the last decades. UA increasingly appears as a promising approach to green the city whilst also contributing to food production and the development of a city's identity and UA and urban gardening initiatives are considered to have potentials to contribute to a better quality of life and social cohesion.

At the European level, however, UA seems not (yet) to be on the radar as a national and transnational policy issue. This paper presents the results of a review and analysis of the state-of-the-art, limitations and prospects of European policies on Urban Agriculture that was realized for the EU-funded Horizon2020 project EFUA (European Forum on Urban Agriculture). The review makes it clear that EU policies for UA are still very fragmented and incomplete. While relevant actions do exist in some policy areas, they remain isolated and there is no overall, integrated policy for UA.

On the positive side, EU policies are shifting towards more integrated, less sectoral approaches to food system policies with the development of integrating, thematic policy strategies, such as the Farm to Fork strategy (F2F), the Green Infrastructures strategy and the EU Soil Strategy. A Food System Framework law, as has been foreseen in the F2F Strategy, could be a particularly important development for more integrated EU food system policies. That said, it is still very unclear how far UA would be explicitly included in F2F and the Food System Framework - even though it is clear that UA is very relevant for its goals (as well as for wider goals of the EU Green Deal).

Until now, the EU Food System approaches favour elements such as food environments, food procurement and labelling schemes and food waste - that is, areas on the consumer side of the food system. While these food system elements are certainly relevant, for a really transformative approach to food systems it is vital that the various different types of UA be addressed, and their huge potential benefits be acknowledged.

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# LET'S GROW TOGETHER! – The European Forum on Urban Agriculture (EFUA) Manifesto

## ORIGIN AND AUTHORSHIP OF THE MANIFESTO

The Manifesto is a collective output of the EFUA consortium partners, rather than the work of individual authors. It has been in response to the perceived need to provide clear and non-technical guidance to policymakers at EU level. Full details of the EFUA partnership can be found [here: https://www.efua.eu/about-efua/efua-partners](https://www.efua.eu/about-efua/efua-partners)

authors

The European Forum on Urban Agriculture (EFUA) is a 4-year project, funded under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, which is running from 2020-2024. EFUA's objectives are to unlock Urban Agriculture's potential through achieving better networking, better knowledge, better deployment and better policies in the field. Since its inception, EFUA has promoted an integrated approach involving civil society, agricultural businesses, researchers and government working together. The Project's outputs and guidelines have covered diverse themes including UA typologies, benefits and governance topics.

However, it has become apparent that the potential of Urban Agriculture can only be fully realised through achieving better the integration of UA within cross-cutting policies. Policy integration is therefore urgently required across a range of spatial scales; from city level through to European level, to facilitate more effective implementation of UA initiatives, thereby assisting the work of both commercial UA businesses and civil society initiatives on the ground. A structured approach will also help to unlock the benefits of UA through ensuring better planning and coordination of UA delivery, greater recognition of multiple benefits and potential for increased leverage of resources and financial support.

The EFUA partners have therefore put together a Manifesto entitled "Let's Grow Together", to provide recommendations for EU policymakers and practitioners. The key messages of the Manifesto are:

01. Create an official Status for Urban Agriculture
02. Facilitate exchange through themed Urban Agricultural Open Days
03. Develop structured methods for collating UA statistics and data on UA
04. Mapping and managing spaces for UA
05. Create Urban Agricultural Councils and working groups

It is intended that the Manifesto will be widely endorsed and supported by key UA stakeholders including individual municipalities, NGOs, civil society organisations, government agencies and members of the research community.



## Food desert of alternative consumption spaces in European cities

Food deserts is a term referring to geographic areas where access of residents to affordable, healthy food is restricted or nonexistent due to varied reasons such as the absence of affordable grocery stores within walkable distance. This study aims to identify the baseline situation of food deserts of alternative consumption spaces that have no or limited access to current Alternative Food Initiative (AFIs) within 12 FUSILLI\* cities Living Lab (LLs) borders before the implementation of LLs projects. 'At the core of FUSILLI projec, there are 12 LLs in 12 different cities, whose main objective is to develop urban food plans within their local contexts to achieve an integrated and safe holistic transition towards healthy, sustainable, secure, inclusive and cost-efficient food systems.'\*\* The selection of AFIs is based on the quality and ecological concern of accessible food.

The methodology relies on buffer (radius) technique that calculates Euclidian distance from the geographical location of a food space in ArcGIS. The buffers corresponding to the accessible service area of a food space are calculated based on 400m and 800m radius from the AFIs locations representing the 5-minute and 10-minute walking distance. The borders of the calculation are determined to FUSILLI Living Lab borders consisting of AFIs, which differs from city to city that is the whole city in some cases or a neighborhood border area for some others.

The data used in this study is primarily collected for studies done in FUSILLI leaded by Izmir Democracy University. Data primarily depends on the geographical locations of AFIs which are alternative consumption spaces to represent affordable healthy food spaces in each city. AFNs are exemplified with some examples e.g., consumer cooperatives, ecology collectives, buyers' club, community supported agriculture groups, organic bazaars, farmers' market etc.

We calculate the data at city level as the calculation of total area of food desert within LLs as sub-regions in each city. It is seen that except Athens and Torino, averagely % 75 of LL areas is food desert in 10 cities.

This study depends on the FUSILLI project. The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000717.

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keywords

— food deserts  
— accessibility  
— alternative food systems

## How people navigate the foodscape? Analyzing the diversity of households' food procurement practices

**VONTHRON Simon**, PhD, is researcher in geography at INRAE. He works on food access inequalities. More specifically, his research focuses on foodscapes, the spatial practices of household food provisioning and the effect of planning and transport policies on these landscapes and practices.

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authors

Although the food environment is thought to affect food behaviors, studies' results are inconsistent (Dixon et al. 2021). Beyond the heterogeneity of the methods used (Bivoltsis et al. 2018), different studies underline the importance of individuals' perception of their food environment on their practices (i.e. MacNell et al. 2017; Gravina et al. 2020). It is necessary to look beyond the causal analysis of the relationships between the spatial distribution of food outlets and individual food practices. We need to study how people navigate their food environment, thus moving to a foodscape approach (Vonthron et al. 2020).

In this study, we investigated how people organize themselves practically, in time and space, to procure food. We conducted semi-structured interviews with 27 households in the Montpellier-city region, France. We then analyzed their food procurement practices, the reasons and the meaning they give for their choices and their practices.

We identified eight patterns of food procurement logics (i.e. coherent combinations of choices and practices), that we labelled: budgetary, efficient, avoidance, relational, physical accessibility, recreational, product, and committed. The terms and arguments used in the budgetary, efficient and avoidance logics highlight a "constrained" foodscape, due respectively to the budget, the time, and the sensitive relationships with others implied by this social activity of "shopping". Conversely, the terms and arguments used in the relational and recreational logics reflect a "chosen" foodscape associated with the satisfaction people gain from these practices. The logic of physical accessibility leads to discourses that oscillate between constraint and opportunity. Finally, in the case of product and committed logics, respondents' discourses depend on the characteristics of the products sold, the shops or the shopkeepers, whatever the landscape associated with the places concerned. Our results thus suggest that the relationships between foodscapes and procurement practices differ according to diverse combinations of such logics.

These results contribute to explain why even when public actions strongly impact food environments, households' food procurement practices do not necessarily change, as they are part of routines (Castelo et al. 2021) and respond to diversified logics. Thus, a policy aiming at opening new food outlets in neighborhoods must take into account the households' logics. It is on the basis of this knowledge that a process of co-design of projects aimed at changing foodscapes should be initiated, if public stakeholders want to have a concrete impact on inequalities of access to healthy food.

food environment —  
food outlet —  
lived space —  
logic of action —  
Montpellier —

**keywords**

## Exploring the Rural-Urban Continuum of Food Poverty in the Metropolitan city of Rome

Recently, a disconcerting reality has challenged the prevailing notion that food poverty is confined solely to economically disadvantaged nations. Contrary to this perception, it has become increasingly evident that food poverty is not exclusive to impoverished regions but persists and escalates within numerous advanced economies (Caraher & Cavicchi, 2014).

Food poverty remains a significant challenge in both urban and rural settings, albeit with distinct dynamics. In the Metropolitan city of Rome, Italy, food poverty emerges as a concern within the broader rural-urban continuum. This study delves into the intricate interplay of socio-economic factors shaping food poverty across both rural and urban landscapes. Utilizing a multidimensional approach that considers various causes and consequences of the phenomenon, our aim is to offer a comprehensive understanding of disparities in access to nutritious food along this continuum.

Our research employs a mixed-methods design, integrating quantitative data analysis and qualitative case studies. The quantitative analysis explores household income, food prices, food desert and food aid networks distribution to unravel the complex web of factors contributing to food poverty. Additionally, qualitative case studies focus on specific communities to uncover lived experiences and contextual nuances that quantitative data may overlook.

Preliminary findings indicate that the rural-urban continuum introduces unique challenges and opportunities regarding food poverty. In rural areas, limited access to services, transportation, and employment opportunities exacerbates food insecurity. Moreover, food deserts and lack of food aid networks pose a significant problem, as has been identified in the literature (Bernaschi et al., 2023). On the other hand, urban areas present different challenges, including rising living costs and income inequality, resulting in pockets of deprivation amidst relative affluence. Moreover, cultural and infrastructural factors significantly influence the continuum of food poverty. Bridging these gaps necessitates tailored interventions addressing the specific needs of diverse communities.

Our study underscores the importance of a holistic policy approach that considers both rural and urban dynamics. Initiatives aimed at improving services, connections, food environments, and food assistance networks can profoundly im-

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pact the reduction of food poverty. Additionally, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and strengthening food distribution networks are imperative steps toward creating a more equitable food landscape.

In conclusion, this research illuminates the intricate relationship between the rural-urban continuum and food poverty. By unravelling the complexities of this continuum, we can inform targeted policy interventions addressing the root causes of food insecurity in diverse settings.

keywords

- rural-urban linkages
- food poverty
- urban food policy, inequalities

## Examining the influence of built and food environments on the quality of children's diets. Insights from the city of Avignon.

**HORVATH Camille**, junior researcher, PhD in economics, specialised in analyzing how supply and demand interact in short food supply chains, particularly with regards to peri-urban and urban location markets.

**SANZ SANZ Esther**, senior researcher, PhD in Geography and Urban Studies, master in Architecture and Urban Planning. Specialized in spatially explicit and policy-oriented social-science participatory research in the field of food, agriculture and planning, specially concerning local food systems. Focus on peri-urban food geographies, foodshed modelling approaches, sustainable public food procurement and the interlinkages between medium-scale food-supply chains and the spatial morphology of land use.

**NAPOLÉONE Claude**, senior researcher, PhD in economics, works on the interactions between agricultural and urban areas and on the evaluation of the location of land use factors, in order to assess the effects of temporal changes (climate change, changes in land use, etc.) on food, agriculture and nature. Its results concern the identification of land use factors, the calibration of food supply location models, tools for public management of land use changes, etc... based on an interdisciplinary analysis of anthropogenic influences on natural and agricultural areas (in interaction with geography, ecology, sociology and agronomy).

**VERGER Eric**, senior researcher, PhD in nutrition, food engineer, researcher in nutrition and food sciences at IRD and member of the UMR MoISA. He joined IRD after a PhD and a postdoctoral position focusing on the assessment and improvement of the quality of food intake among European populations.

authors

Children are a nutritionally vulnerable group. Examining the factors influencing the quality of their diet is of particular importance to public decision-makers, since scientific evidence shows that unhealthy dietary practices adopted in childhood often persist into adulthood, and are the cause of increasing serious non-communicable diseases. While most studies mainly focus on the relationship between adults' dietary choices and behaviour and the food environments to which they are exposed, the present study explores the relationship between the quality of children's diet and the characteristics of the built and food environments in which they live. Furthermore, we took on the challenge of exploring the links between these factors measured at the meso level and factors measured at the micro level (i.e. individual characteristics and food behaviour).

We analyse a case study in the city of Avignon (90.000 inhabitants, France) using data from a questionnaire survey conducted in 2023 among 679 parent-child duos attending public primary schools (aged 6-11), which enable us to assess the quality of children's diet. In addition, we collected available data on the spatial distribution of food outlets, including points of sale in short food supply chains, such as open-air markets or on-farm selling. We also computed various variables to characterize the built environment (e.g., housing density and height). First, we defined a typology of residential neighbourhoods based on their socio-economic characteristics (eg. average income) as well as the characteristics of their built and food environments. Then, we constructed an econometric model to investigate the interrelationships among these factors.

Our findings show that both built and food environments significantly influence the quality of children's diets. We highlight the impact of individual characteristics such as food consumption habits (e.g., eating in front of the television) alongside the substantial effects of the residential neighbourhood. Children residing in neighbourhoods with dense food environments (i.e. great presence of food retailer per capita) show healthier dietary patterns compared to those living in areas with non-dense food environments, regardless of the neighbourhood socio-economic characteristics. Nevertheless, at equal food environment densities, children living in wealthy neighbourhoods exhibit better dietary outcomes than those living in low-income neighbourhoods.

These results provide scientific evidence that may be useful for policy and decision makers aiming at taking action against children's poor nutrition and associated diseases. In concrete terms, as a complement to policies developed at micro level, they show the usefulness of intervening at meso level and the need to plan dense and diversified food environments. Research avenues include exploring the type of health-promoting food outlets and the optimal density threshold to recommend in planning.

**LAAJIMI Rawaa**, junior researcher, PhD in economics, specialised in the spatial configurations and location choices of economic activities, including food outlets. Interested in economic questions related to development economics and spatial economics in developed as well as developing countries.

keywords

- food environment
- children nutrition
- typology
- econometrics

# Procurement, Redistribution and Welfare

## Greening school meals: towards a public food system? Case studies from Normandy (France)

With the passing of the EGalim law in 2018, French legislation aims to increase the presence of organic and quality food in collective catering. Specifically, 50% of meal composition is required to meet these quality criteria. By demanding at least one vegetarian meal option per week, the law also intentions to promote vegetarianism. This food regime not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions, but also accommodates various specific diets based on preferences, beliefs or convictions.

The aim of this proposal is to investigate whether and how local authorities responsible for school meals comply with the required reform of school meals (Morgan, 2006). The study will be based on data from a long-term study (2018-2023) gathered through interviews with school chefs and local authority technicians in three regions of Normandy (France), collected for a PhD thesis.

The responsibility for school meals varies depending on the type of school, which means that multiple actors need to coordinate their efforts in the same area while developing different policies. This study presents the local policies and their effects on school meals and food planning. For example, the Normandy regional authorities support the development of legume crops, in order to increase the plant-based meals in school food. However, this type of food is not used in the primary school meals, as it is not under the same authority. This calls for local food governance, which is partly provided by territorial food plans. In this study, we will demonstrate that this kind of council does not provide a sufficient coordination, as it does not systematically include the schools' chefs. Furthermore, local elected representatives may not always be motivated to alter the food regime, or may only request an increase in locally-sourced food (Caune et al., 2023). However, this does not address the requirement for a more just food system (Born et Purcell, 2006 ; Slocum et al., 2016). Private actors, such as entrepreneurs, grocers, or local chefs, can have a more significant impact on food systems than the public authorities by developing intermediate food tools, such as logistics platforms or vegetable processing units. Their involvement in local governance varies depending on their willingness to participate.

Different policy levels are involved in school food procurement and we want to understand how they can be made more efficient, particularly through dialogue with local authorities and sharing our results. How they respond will implement the conclusion of this proposal.

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**keywords**

- school catering
- vegetarianism
- food governance

## What role for small retailers in urban cross-sectoral partnerships for food redistribution? Evidence from Italy

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**authors**

In recent years, local governments, in collaboration with a broad network of urban actors operating in the agri-food system, have started to drive actions on innovative context-sensitive food strategies and practices aimed at redesigning urban food systems towards more just, resilient, and sustainable pathways (Moragues-Faus & Battersby, 2021). With urbanization affecting food systems, cities are thus recognized as an ideal scale for experimenting innovative food governance models and policies aimed at contributing to socio-economic justice and environmental quality

on urban food systems- and urban forestry-related issues.

**BARTEZZAGHI Giulia** is Director of the Food Sustainability Lab and PhD Candidate in Management Engineering at Politecnico di Milano. She conducts research on supply chain, organizational and policy innovation for sustainable agrifood systems. Her research focuses on cross-sector partnerships and policies addressing food insecurity and food waste in cities.

**GARRONE Paola** is Professor of Business and Industrial Economics at Politecnico di Milano. She does research on business strategies and sustainable development, and economics and policy of utilities. Her most recent works concentrate on the adoption of circular economy strategies and cross-sector partnerships in food and water systems.

urban food system —  
surplus food redistribution —  
food poverty —  
urban food governance —

keywords

(Fattibene et al., 2020; Cabannes & Marocchino, 2018).

In this light, food recovery and redistribution (FR&R) practices steered by cross-sector partnerships (CSPs) are gaining momentum in research and practice as an effective and valuable approach to transition towards closed-loop food systems (Bartezzaghi et al., 2022; Lever & Sonnino; Garrone et al., 2014). With scientific literature calling to better understanding how food governance models operate, especially through evidence-based studies (Sonnino et al., 2019), this study adopts a Resource-Based View perspective (Clarke & MacDonald, 2019) to investigate CSPs for food redistribution, with a focus on the poorly explored role of small retailers in contributing to address the food insecurity-food waste paradox.

The specific study's objective is to shed light on the relationships between actors involved and mobilized resources within such CSPs, aspects related to the design and management of the partnerships, and drivers and barriers influencing the engagement of businesses operating on small scale. Based on a multiple-case study design, this exploratory research investigated eight CSPs steering FR&R initiatives based in four Italian cities, namely: Rome, Milan, Turin, and Genoa. Data collection was performed through: desk analysis of e.g. available technical reports, websites, and newspaper articles; semi-structured interviews with 32 key informants involved in the governance and activities shaping the initiatives selected; and field observations.

Findings show that establishing CSPs, thanks to the allocation of a wide range of resources by the various actors involved, can effectively improve surplus food redistribution to people in need, also through the implementation of novel management models. The contribution of small retailers (e.g. market vendors, neighborhood stores) as donors emerges as marginal as for the volume of rescued food, but they play a crucial role in providing high quality fresh food and in fostering social innovation. In this regard, it is important also considering the barriers they face such as i.e. lack of knowledge about current legislation, difficulties in conducting additional tasks, and high perishability of fresh products.

## Re-imagining foodspaces-welfare nexus across scales: building proximity networks

Among the various challenges of the contemporary world, in the last decades research started recognizing food system as a potential key-driver of transition towards more liveable, sustainable, and just cities (Feagan, 2007; Morgan, 2009; Pothukuchi & Kaufman, 2000; de Zeeuw & Drechsel, 2015).

Recently, research highlighted how diseases and inequalities built by the contemporary food system express and spatialise themselves differently worldwide (Patel, 2007), leading to prioritize the examination of north-south divides – as it represents the clearest expression of these disparities –, and to the delineation of strategies and actions for the Global South. Then research started investigating the Global North context, where attention has firstly been given to extreme conditions again, such as studies on food deserts and the connected diversified marginalisation in many American areas (USDA, 2009; Coppola, 2012). Despite the specificity of the geographical and social situation, this moment represents a turning point in the food system-spatial justice nexus perspective, since it contributed to shed light on its material expression, on its territorial distribution, and on urban planning's responsibilities in drawing these geographies.

Considering these assumptions, the contribution aims to underline other forms of food poverty in contexts where – although displayed in a less extreme way – the phenomenon is turning into a structural issue again. Italian contexts can be considered representative of this condition (and particularly, for this contribution, the Friuli Venezia Giulia region), where recent global crises are indeed increasing the amount of people living in poverty (De Lauso & Nanni, 2023), considered here in its multifaceted dimensions (economic, spatial, and social).

In this context, the presence of emerging downscaling micro-strategies and practices – such as local food networks and food surpluses redistribution practices in

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favour of poor and marginalised people – is recognised as a potential prime mover towards more structured welfare macro-strategies and politics. On the other hand, it is important to highlight how micro-strategies and practices could be upscaled through interconnections among foodspaces, and between these and the city. Therefore, foodspaces can play a key-role in the construction of proximity networks among the spaces of welfare and for collective use, building a process of urban transformation towards inclusive cities; they can also contribute to re-design relations among actors, while providing opportunities for the re-imagination and re-configuration of residential and domestic spaces (Puigjaner, 2017). Considering these premises, the objective of this contribution is unveiling foodspaces' potential as devices and drivers for the re-territorialisation of welfare.

**keywords**

- foodspaces
- welfare strategies
- proximity networks

## What planning capacities do municipalities have to promote resilient regional food systems?

Crises like climate change, environmental degradation, geopolitical conflicts, and the COVID-19 pandemic show the vulnerability of food systems. Local and regional governments are increasingly seen as important actors in developing resilient food systems that can handle these disruptions and uncertainties. At the municipal level, it has been recognized that more collaborative and integrated planning is needed when it comes to developing resilient food systems. Often, planning approaches that consider interlinkages between both urban and rural, and regional economic, environmental and social aspects, as well as creating collaborations between all concerned stakeholders are suggested.

The aim of our paper is to understand what planning capacities municipalities have to promote resilient food systems, as well as what barriers and enabling factors they face. The paper develops a resilience capacities framework aiming to define those factors needed for municipalities to govern resilient food systems at the regional level. Capacities include, but are not limited to: having a systems perspective; knowledge exchange, co-production and collaboration in governance processes; and a consideration of local interlinkages.

Interviews with municipal civil servants and policy document analysis were conducted in three Swedish municipalities. The case studies represent two larger and quite urban municipalities, and one small and rural municipality with a strong agricultural sector. The interviews explored ongoing activities, collaboration, and what barriers and enablers they face.

The results show that the municipalities deal with food systems planning in different ways. One focuses on procurement of local food, one mainly works with two different projects around local food, and one has developed a food strategy. There is a will to work with local food systems both from politicians and municipal civil servants. The municipalities collaborate to some degree both internally and with external actors, but also mention difficulties in breaking out of the municipal silos and reaching external actors. In the smaller municipality, it was stated that collaboration is easier due to the short distances between people and the multiple roles civil servants have. The projects have also enabled collaboration. A lack of direction and guidance from the national and regional governance level is mentioned as a barrier.

In the presentation the resilience capacities framework will be outlined, and we will present how our research contributes to knowledge about barriers and enabling factors that municipalities face in food systems planning.

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**keywords**

- food policy
- food systems planning
- local government
- regional food systems
- resilient food systems
- resilience capacities

## Navigating Urban Food Governance: Insights from Food Policy Councils in the United States

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**author**

In response to urgent socio-ecological crises and the imperative to foster resilience in our food systems, this study delves into the landscape of urban food governance in the United States, with a specific focus on the alternative governance model of Food Policy Councils at the urban scale. The research aims to introduce historical challenges of urban food planning, consider emerging participatory governance structures, and assess the efficacy of Food Policy Councils with regard to

creative problem solver passionate about global sustainability and the intersection of planning and food systems.

food policy council —  
participatory governance —  
urban food governance —  
citizen participation —  
democratic governance —

keywords

citizen participation, a critical aspect of participatory urban food governance. Exclusively focusing on the U.S., this study leverages the abundance of available detail to offer comprehensive insights into governance structures, planning processes, and implementation challenges. Starting with an exploration of urban-scale food planning in the United States, the research examines the current state, raising pivotal questions about socio-ecological justice, diverse participation, and representation. It seeks to illuminate the often-invisible dynamics within urban food policies and governing structures like Food Policy Councils. Beyond providing solely a description, the study aims to offer actionable insights into the role of planners in equitable food system planning and the potential of food councils and strategies in enhancing democratic governance, particularly amidst socio-environmental challenges. The narrative extends to touch on the overarching policy framework at federal and state scales, highlighting its impact on current challenges and obstacles at the local level. Recognizing the limitations of focusing on a singular case area, this focused approach allows for an in-depth analysis and sets the stage for future comparative studies. While rooted in the U.S. context, the study aspires to contribute insights that transcend borders, laying the groundwork for broader discussions and comparative analyses encompassing peri-urban and rural landscapes, and guiding future transformative efforts toward resilient and sustainable food systems.

## Food system transformation pathways on hold. Why can local food policies get stuck?

Local food policies are increasing worldwide and are presented as a fundamental part of the solutions to develop transition pathways for food systems' sustainable transformation (Moragues-Faus and Morgan 2015). They are lauded for and, to different degrees, have had the power to bring together and enhance sustainable food initiatives, act upon public food procurement's sustainability and food access, foster innovative forms of governance and participatory processes, among other things.

However, these policies can also get stuck or simply never evolve from political declarations of intents, or assemblies of Civil Society Organizations, into concrete plans and actions. In this paper, we build on the case study of the intermunicipal food policy *Piana del Cibo* - which was created in 2019 in the province of Lucca (Italy) - to attempt to understand why it went through a period of inactivity despite its high potential and expectations around it.

We make use of the literature on food policy cycles (e.g. Galli et al. 2020), food system transformation and critical agrarian studies (e.g. Benegiamo 2022) to highlight the reasons behind the slowdown of this policy as well as its progressive detachment from the palette of local actors that were involved in it in the first place. While we highlight the context-specificity of these challenges, we also reflect on issues and barriers that can be found in various if not all contexts, namely difficulties around participatory processes, volunteer work, involvement (or lack of involvement) of representatives of diverse sectors and social groups, siloed approaches, and the navigation of political changes.

We also reflect on the capacities and possibilities that local stakeholders might have or miss, arguing for an increase (and attentive monitoring) of specific experimentations, which can provide more solid basis for continuous food policy integration as well as for action-oriented participation.

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**ARCURI Sabrina** is a researcher at the Department of Agriculture, Food and Environment of Pisa University. Her current research work includes urban/local food strategies and policies, rural development, and sustainable food systems.

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**keywords**  
— local food policies  
— food systems  
— sustainability transition



# Thematic Food Partnership from Urban Agenda for the EU: Catalyzing Local Food System Transformation in the EU

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authors

This paper examines the role of the Thematic Food Partnership within the EU's Urban Agenda, particularly its impact in narrowing the divide between overarching EU policies and grassroots innovations in food systems. It calls for a significant shift in perspective to acknowledge and bolster the variety of local food systems, along with their potential to foster equitable and sustainable practices through relocalisation and reterritorialisation. The need for a strong, multi-level governance framework within the EU is stressed, with a focus on how the Thematic Food Partnership can aid cities in formulating thorough food policies. From January 2024, the partnership will encompass a diverse range of 19 partners, including cities, metropolitan regions, academic bodies, and other stakeholders, managed by the City of Milan and the Lisbon Metropolitan Area.

The initiative aims to tackle gaps in knowledge, policy, and funding at the EU level, striving for policy consistency and enabling cities to be pivotal in driving transformative changes in food systems. It highlights the crucial role of local authorities and the city-region dimension in developing cohesive local policies that span the rural-urban divide and concentrate on bioregional dynamics. The partnership is set to offer a framework for sustainable, resilient, and fair food systems throughout Europe, aligning local breakthroughs with broader EU aims. This includes participation from cities such as Mouans-Sartoux, Vitoria-Gasteiz, and Ghent, which are recognised for their progressive local food policies.

## Proximity Agriculture in Underdeveloped Urban Areas: A Case Study in Matosinhos, Northern Portugal

The escalating urbanization of territories worldwide poses a significant threat to agriculture, as the demand for infrastructure, housing, and economic development encroaches upon productive areas. This study focuses on Matosinhos, a municipality in the Porto Metropolitan Area, which seeks to counteract these pressures by enhancing urban resilience through the preservation of existing agricultural activities and the promotion of new food production initiatives within its territory. Matosinhos' municipal master plan identifies distinct patterns of urbanization, including a typology named AUDAC - Áreas Urbanas Disponíveis a Consolidar (Available Urban Areas to Consolidate). AUDACs are defined as underdeveloped areas lacking planning terms of mobility and green infrastructure (CMM, 2019). They are situated within a context of low-density urbanization, characterized by small to medium-scale residential lots (many with cultivated backyards) interspersed with local commercial activities, small-scale agricultural areas, and vacant green areas (often encroached by unauthorized production areas). Moreover, these AUDACs lack quality public green spaces and suffer from limited connectivity with the broader territory, resulting in restricted mobility and limited access to basic services, including food facilities and markets. This research proposes a model that integrates the concepts of the "15-minute city" (Moreno et al., 2021) and proximity agriculture (Tulla & Vera, 2019), using urban agriculture as a strategy to consolidate urban areas while enhancing resilience in terms of food security and quality of life. The model aims to identify underused green areas and propose new multifunctional spaces combining agriculture with recreation, such as edible gardens, community gardens, and urban farms. Additionally, the idea of a local fresh produce market is envisioned to explore its economic and social potential, fostering the integration of these new productive spaces into the local food system.

In the initial phase, an AUDAC was selected for comprehensive analysis focusing on identifying constraints and potentials for applying a food-productive neighborhood model. These results informed an initial version of the model to be discussed and further co-created with municipal planners to refine, adapt, and validate the strategy. The final model will provide guidelines to integrate the "food factor" into the process of planning the AUDACs. Ultimately, the study aims to transform underdeveloped areas into vibrant and food-productive neighborhoods, leveraging urban agriculture as a key tool in the consolidation of urban areas and as a main component of its green infrastructure.

### authors

**ANTUNES Heloisa** holds a master's in landscape architect from the University of Porto, and a bachelor's in Agronomic Engineering from the University of São Paulo. She is currently pursuing a PhD with the project "Increasing Urban Resilience Through a Productive Green Infrastructure", developing planning strategies to urban agriculture in Portugal.

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### keywords

- proximity agriculture
- multifunctional green spaces
- urban landscape planning
- Portugal

## Agri-food chains in marginal areas: an occasion for systemic policy experimentation

**FERA Anna**, geographer and Ph.D. candidate in Urban Planning, Design, and Policy at the Polytechnic University of Milan, her research focuses on agri-food chains and slow tourism projects as opportunity for the regeneration of marginal and mountain areas.

### author

This research is part of a doctoral project in Urban Planning, Design, and Policy at the Department of Architecture and Urban Studies of the Polytechnic University of Milan. Its objective is to explore how agri-food chains can support systemic political strategies for marginal areas local development. European marginal areas are currently facing various significant challenges: the lack of essential services, limited accessibility, socio-economic and employment issues, other than a lack of opportunities for local development. These conditions represent a threat to the fundamental citizenship rights of individuals. Nevertheless, these areas

are also characterized by significant potential in terms of agricultural, environmental, and cultural heritage.

The study investigates the relational potential of agri-food chains as an opportunity to identify systemic interrelationships and strategic points for intervention to generate systemic and widespread benefits in territorial systems, especially in marginal areas.

The work starts with a reflection about the complexity and multifaceted nature of the agri-food chain and territorial marginality concepts and their policy implications. Both dimensions are in fact intertwined in various policies (Agricultural Policy and Territorial Cohesion primarily) which integrate objectives, funds, and tools. However, an effective integration remains a challenge.

Starting from these considerations, the research focuses on Italian policies for territorial cohesion and agriculture which have in the recent National Strategy for Inner Areas (SNAI) an innovative and potential space of experimentation. The SNAI policy dedicated a considerable part of its funds to agri-food chains projects for local development, based on bottom-up and cooperative approach. Thus, the work analysed the geography of the interventions (geography, actors, funds, projects, objectives etc.) at the national level and their implications in terms of governance experimentations. The research has the potential to shed light on conceptual, political and practical challenges regarding agri-food chains-based policy in marginal areas: Which model of local development and which model of agri-food chain are proposed? Do innovative and cooperative practices and tools have already been tested? These questions and others will guide the reflection with the ultimate goal to identify critical and potential theoretical and practical scenarios for territorial systemic rebalancing through agri-food systems.

agri-food chains —  
marginal areas —  
local development —  
public policies —

keywords

## Progressive Loss of Agricultural Land in Agglomerations: A Case Study of Poznań, Poland

The pressure exerted by a large city determines non-agricultural forms of land use in areas situated in its neighbourhood. Among the most alarming consequences of urban sprawl onto the surrounding areas are a steady and irreversible shrinkage of farmland, progressive loss of good quality soils and conflicts resulting from a mix of functions performed by the areas. This article describes the dynamics, scale and spatial differences of the process of taking agricultural land out of production in the Poznań agglomeration in the 21st century. When characterising the converted land, the chief directions of its transformation for 2012–2022 were presented, as well as the applicable law and the guidelines on farming contained in strategic documents. Progressive loss of agricultural land, including that with very good and good quality soils, was shown based on Register of Land and Buildings data and strategic documents. Contrary to the modern guidelines about planning and development of cities, pointing to the validity of protection and suburban and urban agriculture development, in the Poznań agglomeration agricultural land is still seen primarily as investment resources, i.e. land intended for non-agricultural purposes. This approach is also reflected in strategic documents on the future development of the agglomeration, in which agriculture is marginalised.

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**keywords**

— agricultural land  
— land-use change  
— farmland conversion

# Socio-metabolic approach to urban and rural links - operationalization through alternative food initiatives

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This study depends on the FUSILLI project. The project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 101000717.

authors

This study aims to argue for a socio-metabolic approach (Brenner and Katsikis, 2020) to re-investigate urban, peri-urban, and rural areas, and peri-urban and rural interlinkages concerning specific characteristics and specifications for an integrated sustainable urban food system. This is achieved by operationalizing the approach through Alternative Food Initiatives (AFIs). Firstly, the study explains the need for a socio-metabolic approach to comprehend urban and rural areas and their interlinkages. Since urbanization processes are not limited to the "urban" itself, this approach introduces a conceptualization to understand a new approach beyond methodological cityism (Angelo and Wachsmuth, 2014) in urban planning. Secondly, the socio-metabolic approach brings out a new conceptualization of the city and its hinterland relationship associated with emergent geographies and ecologies of planetary urbanization (Brenner and Katsikis, 2020, p.26). The term 'hinterland' is used instead of 'rural' for most of the time, and further, it is used to conceptualize the relationship between non-city and city spaces such as supply zones, impact zones, sacrifice zones, logistics corridors, and urban areas. These spaces include diverse types of settlements (towns, villages, hamlets), land-use configurations (industrial, agrarian, extractive, energetic, logistical), and ecologies (terrestrial, oceanic, subterranean, atmospheric). City hinterland or 'rural' areas do not correspond to a passive category of the urban anymore; rather, they are at the core of the urbanization processes (Brenner & Schmid, 2015). We refer to this approach to explore such spaces and their role in urbanization processes (Brenner and Katsikis, 2020). Therefore, from this point of view, cities are supported by diverse metabolic inputs (labor, materials, fuel, water, and food) and engender a range of metabolic byproducts (waste, pollution, carbon). Since food is one of the metabolic inputs by its byproducts produced within the urbanization processes, this approach helps to understand the current food value chain and to design proper strategies for a sustainable food supply chain. In this context, we try to operationalize the socio-metabolic approach by using the physical distribution and the location of AFIs in 12 European cities. The results of the research show that in those cities in which the alternative food movement is strong and has long been established, the socio-metabolic approach may provide attributes for defining city and non-city relations.

## Centering Indigenous Knowledge and Values in the Development of Integrated Agroecological Renewable Energy Systems

The deployment of renewable energy systems across vast landscapes across the world - expected to advance the transition from national reliance on fossil fuels to renewable energy - brings with it questions of competing land uses, effects on soil and water systems, and implications for equity, justice, and Indigenous self-determination. Indigenous lands house considerable potential for renewable energy generation and are increasingly targeted in initiatives to transition countries away from fossil fuels. Yet top-down planning practices risk both violating the sovereignty of Indigenous nations and reproducing energy systems that mirror the monocropping, single land use mindset of large agribusiness. Our research contributes to the nascent body of research on the integration of solar energy into agricultural and other environmental systems by focusing on the co-design of integrated agroecological renewable systems to emphasize the multifaceted goals that may be achieved beyond or in synergy with crop and energy production that reflect additional goals of Indigenous communities. This project forges a convergent research paradigm that not only deeply integrates disciplinary modes of thinking from otherwise siloed fields, but also incorporates the values, knowledge, and priorities of Indigenous communities, thus confronting legacies of dispossession and demonstrating the potential of communities underrepresented in scientific research to contribute to research that can address society's most urgent problems in both food system and energy system sustainability.

### authors

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### keywords

- convergent research
- agroecology
- indigenous knowledge
- just energy transitions

## Promoting Farmers' Innovation for Food Security and Agrobiodiversity

**GHIMIRE Saurav** is a doctoral researcher at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He is currently working on the research project "Farmers as Plant Breeders: Legal Mechanisms to Foster Farmers' Innovation" funded by Research Foundation Flanders (FWO).

### author

Plant breeding was almost exclusively carried out by farmers until the late nineteenth century. Modern scientific breeding only started after the development of a new science of genetics based on the rediscovery of Mendel's publication in 1900. The establishment of the plant breeding industry soon followed, shifting the focus of plant innovation from farmers to corporations. The subsequent legal development considers farmers as passive users of "genetic material" developed outside the communities and made available to them primarily through sale. Farmers' role in plant breeding did not receive adequate attention, even from the international scientific community and civil society organisations, till the 1980s. By the 1990s, through the seed sovereignty movement of farmers' organisations, their contributions as plant breeders who continue to breed new varieties were highlighted.

Due to their inbuilt resilient mechanisms and heterogeneity, farmers' varieties are better adapted under marginal and low input environments and play a significant role in food and nutritional security, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Farmers in both the Global North and South have been taking initiatives in various forms to regain, maintain and increase their control over seeds. In Spain, Red de Semillas: Resembrando e intercambiando (RdS) aims to reintroduce local, traditional and farmers' varieties and reclaim the development of public policies to facilitate farmers' rights to conserve, use, exchange and sell their own seeds. In France, Réseau Semences Paysannes (RSP) calls for farmers to 'reappropriate' seeds. In Vietnam, farmers have organised themselves in self-managed seed clubs and produce 'high quality good seeds' - characterised by high seed purity, high seed germination rates,

farmers —  
 plant breeding —  
 innovation —  
 agrobiodiversity —  
 food security —  
 farmers' rights —

keywords

uniformity in growth, and higher yield. This paper will share what legal mechanisms can be devised to promote such farmers' innovations.

Building on UNDRIP and internationally binding instruments like the CBD and the ITPGRFA, the UNDROP recognises the rights of farmers to maintain, control, protect and develop their own seeds and traditional knowledge and obliges states to promote and protect the innovation and practices of peasants. However, as seed is one of the highly regulated resources, being involved in plant breeding means navigating through the complex web regulations. While the conservation policy seeks to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of genetic resources, the risk prevention regulations view seeds as potential sources of risk to human health and the environment as spreaders of pests and diseases. Furthermore, the market tools view seeds as market goods, which, as such, need to be regulated in terms of quality, identity, and productivity, while providing market incentives for their development through intellectual property rights (IPRs). Such regulations are shrinking farmers' space to operate as breeders and restrict their innovation.

Against this backdrop, this paper will share the legal challenges in farmers' plant breeding based on a field study in the south of Belgium. Highlighting the importance of farmers' innovation from the perspectives of agrobiodiversity and food security, the paper will share the challenges on three major stages of farmers' innovation namely, (a) access to breeding material, (b) access to the market, (c) suitable reward or protection.

## How Farmers Disentangle from Convention and Develop Social and Ecological Objectives in Lincolnshire

Due to the ecological and social impacts of conventional farming, initiatives to regulate and encourage certain practices proliferate in the European policy agenda. Yet, the ways in which farmers develop their own ecological and social practices are not well understood. Building on practice theory, I advance a new framework to study how conventional farmers develop social and ecological objectives. Employing this framework in Lincolnshire, England, I find three major pathways of practice development. I model these pathways to visualize how practices transform gradually and cyclically. This helps reveal the process in which some farmers disentangle from convention and engage in new objectives on their own terms.

author

**WEINBERG Yonatan's** research focuses on farmers' approaches to agroecology. He has studied approaches of both conventional farmers in England and indigenous farmers in Cambodia. He is a recent graduate of the Resilient Farming and Food Systems / Agroecology double Masters program at Wageningen University and ISARA.

keywords

— regional food systems  
 — entanglement  
 — practice theory  
 — agroecology

## Resisting the agro-industrial model. Building food autonomy from a territory of conflict

**MIGLIO Alessandra** graduated from the School of Architecture of Marseille in 2023, with honors in Research. Her Master's dissertation delved into the autonomization processes of peasant farmers in Notre-Dame-des-Landes ZAD, challenging agro-industry model. Committed to farmland preservation and food justice, she is advancing her research to approach a PhD program.

author

Diverse local initiatives of resistance arise against the increasing integration of the French food system into the industrial logic, claiming the need for a balance of power to counter the agroindustrial complex and the process of land artificialization. These struggles are often part of a collective process of setting up peasant farms, and sometimes, they succeed in subtracting large areas of land from the hands of the techno-capitalist production system - in the case of this study, 1650 hectares of bocage (grasslands) threatened by a new airport project near Nantes.

This study analyses how the inhabitants of the Notre-Dame-des-Landes 'zad' (acronym for zone to be defended against urbanization) deal with the issue of food subsistence, and how their farming activities emancipate themselves - when this is the case - from the productive framework imposed by agroindustry and its multiple 'enclosures'.

This ethnographic study was carried out over two long field trips, involving a critical re-reading of the manuscript by the residents concerned. Watercolour drawings help to describe the practices, people and technical objects encountered during

the survey.

The study first show the ways in which the zad's food system is organized, analyzing the types of production, the organization of labor and the ways in which the food is distributed. The relationship between these agricultural experiments and the agro-industrial system is then examined based on field observations of land, technological, epistemological, economic and normative issues. The complex reality of the zad presents conflicts and interdependencies: neo-peasant farms aiming for economic profitability coexist with small self-subsistence farming practices, taking care of the community's food needs and of the natural environment. Finally, the survey reveals a collective and multi-scalar conception of autonomy, giving rise to a vast network of material interdependencies between territories in struggle.

Given the specific nature of the land situation resulting from the struggle, given also the ongoing experimentation with organizational methods, and their heterogeneity, the zad is not a model that can be generalized, nor does it wish to be. Rather, the Notre-Dame des Landes zad represents an experiment in otherness, daring to question and overturn in practice some of the self-evident truths that underpin our relationship with agricultural and food issues. The diversity of relationships that these farmers forge with their land remains the common thread throughout the research, linking the issues of subsistence and peasant autonomy to the specific ways of living in a rurality 'in resistance'.

collective subsistence —  
food autonomy —  
struggle —  
resistance against —  
agroindustrial complex

**keywords**

# From Informal to Formal Urban Agriculture

## Reviving the educational garden – unfolding an ambiguous pathway for political recognition

The movement of educational gardens have, historically been an important part of urban agriculture. Countless elementary school pupils have during the years gained knowledge and experience with cultivating practices, ecological understanding and food literacy, and their vegetal produces have played a role in many household economies, not least during times of scarcity.

Today, do such cultivating activities no longer form part of the formal school curriculum and garden spaces have been converted into other functions.

However, small enclaves of educational gardens have survived around the world and preserved a unique organizational and pedagogical knowledge base built over the years. Regardless of a predominantly fragile organizational framework based on few dedicated grassroots, the educational garden is a persistent, tangible and self-evident phenomenon that can attract attention and support from politicians and planners. Hence, it has a huge potential for upscaling.

This paper draws on a single case study of a large, hundred-year-old educational garden in Copenhagen, Denmark and unfolds the pathway of this old garden's revival.

Firstly, it outlines how the garden recently was revitalized after decades of decay and political unrecognition and transformed into place-based node and an organizational network that has enabled a stepwise proliferation of new educational gardens in other parts of the city – and by that made it possible to provide many more children the possibilities to experience joy of growing, nature contact and of taking home their own produce.

Secondly, the study analyzes the embedded and shared values that have guided the important steps behind the transition from informal, voluntary based-place organization to today's formalized organization, that is integrated and underpinned by the city administration and with people on the pay roll.

Eventually, the paper sheds light on the development of ambiguous strategies for, on the one hand, preserving the qualities that follows an informal movement while on the other hand acknowledging a continuous need for investing efforts that may ensure educational gardens progressively embedding in urban and educational policies, including how to balance efforts invested in internal core activities vis-à-vis strategic activities in partnerships with external stakeholders.

author

**CARSTENSEN Trine Agervig**

Associate professor in urban planning. Core to my research and teaching is the interrelations between everyday lives and human-made environments. With a specific focus on marginalized citizen groups' – e.g. children's - attachment to place and nature, I study governance and planning practices and their implications for urban justice and sustainability.

keywords

- educational garden
- values
- formal
- informal
- organization
- external stakeholders

## Edible Streets - Proposing semi-formal urban food growing

**SAMANGOOEI Mina** is an Architect and Senior Lecturer based in the UK. Mina specialises in the integration of nature in cities and with architecture, linking with behavioural psychology. Mina is an expert in housing design with communities, and also experienced in ecclesiastical, commercial, community, health care and education buildings. Mina's research is currently looking at Edible Streets and the integration

authors

This research aimed to understand the feasibility of growing food on residential streets. In collaboration with Oxfordshire County Council Public Health, this project designed and implemented an Edible Street intervention in a residential street in Oxford. Public engagement exercises gathered views about initial design ideas. Thirty-five interviews were undertaken with Oxford residents and a workshop was held with 16 stakeholders including the Local Authority, charities and community groups. Interventions were designed through co-creation with residents and architecture students, as well as from the findings from content and thematic analysis of interview transcripts and workshop notes. Key findings showed that there is interest and enthusiasm for growing food in streets to create more opportunities for com-



of edible biodiversity with Architecture.

### **THONDRE Pariyarth**

**Sangeetha** (Oxford Brookes University, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences) is a senior lecturer in Nutrition, with experience in human studies investigating the effect of food components on metabolic markers. She is a Registered Nutritionist and the commercial research lead for the Oxford Brookes Centre for Nutrition and Health (OxBCNH). Sangeetha's current research also focuses on sustainable food production and consumption and addressing food security.

### **DAVIES Emma** (Oxford Brookes University, Centre for Psychological Research)

Emma Davies: Is a Reader in Psychology, the lead of the Health Behaviour and Wellbeing Research Group and Deputy Director of the Centre for Psychological Research at Oxford Brookes University. Emma's research explores the psychological factors associated with health behaviours with a focus on how they impact on our mental health and wellbeing.

munity cohesion as well as the health and well-being benefits. There is a significant barrier from Local Authority Highways due to the need for Public Liability insurance and gaining a licence for using publicly owned land. Findings from this research were used to develop a "How to" Guide for Edible Streets. These findings have shown that Edible Streets can be seen as a semiformal type of urban food growing where it is maintained by residents/occupants of a streetscape but also permitted by a landowner rather than planted without permission or planted but not maintained often (informal).

### **BLYTHE Chris** (Oxford Brookes University, Psychology)

Is a PhD student in psychology at Oxford Brookes His PhD focuses on the language of urban food growing, and people's motivations and barriers to being involved in the activity.. Before starting his PhD, Chris has spent the last 15 years working in the third sector as a practitioner, project manager and leader of projects and organisations involved in urban food growing and community development. Chris is also currently the Chair of Trustees of Birmingham Open Spaces Forum, the umbrella group for green space groups across the city.

semiformal —  
urban food growing —  
neighbourhood —  
biodiversity —  
health and well-being —

**keywords**

## **Educational and advisory services for urban and peri-urban agriculture: Informal and formal tools for enabling knowledge and innovation**

The UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) defines urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) as "the production of food and other outputs and related processes, taking place on land and other spaces within cities and surrounding regions" (2022). UPA can improve food security, nutrition, and livelihoods of urban dwellers, while providing access to income and employment, shortened supply chains, increased resilience, greener cities and greater social cohesion. UPA, however, comes with challenges, and its practitioners often lack the necessary knowledge and skills to succeed.

Extension and advisory services (EAS) have long existed as mechanisms for supporting agriculture. Traditionally oriented towards rural, industrial, large-scale, commercial agriculture, EAS has lagged in responding to the growing importance of UPA. EAS actors may lack contacts in urban farming communities. Established EAS institutions are often ill-prepared to respond to varied needs and specific demands of urban and peri-urban farmers, from innovative production approaches, to improved resource use, to social justice and inclusion; they have generally not adapted to engage with UPA, from policy advice to service delivery.

Meanwhile, organisations and individuals active in UPA have increasingly filled this gap through a great variety of educational, training, advisory, knowledge-sharing and other services that are improving labour needs and practices, general and specialised infrastructure, and supportive food-system services. UPA practitioners themselves, along with a range of other urban actors, are thus quickening and expanding the spread of innovation and knowledge.

There is a knowledge gap about who works with UPA farmers and value-chain actors, how they address their needs and challenges, and what they can do to better support UPA. FAO commissioned an issue paper that documents promising case studies and good practices from around the world and identifies a set of actionable recommendations for EAS to effectively support UPA practitioners on the

**authors** **NASR Joe** is an independent scholar, lecturer and consultant, affiliated with Toronto Metropolitan University. He is exploring urban agriculture and food security issues for over three decades. He co-wrote or co-edited five books, including the seminal *Urban Agriculture*, and dozens of articles, and co-edits the Springer Urban Agriculture Book Series.

**KUHNS James** has been working in food security and urban agriculture related activities for the past 25 years. He is an associate of the Toronto Metropolitan University Centre for Studies in Food Security, where he teaches courses on urban agriculture, and food security. He holds a M.Sc. in agricultural development.

ground as well as through policy and institutional change.

This presentation is inspired by the authors' work on this issue paper. It is relevant to the questions around informal/formal urban agriculture in several ways. It identifies a variety of actors, from established EAS providers to emerging entities, who are providing advice and fostering innovation specifically for urban and peri-urban contexts. It shows the wide range of existing approaches (from institutionalized to ad-hoc) for providing EAS to UPA practitioners. Finally, it considers how the emergence of such a wide array itself represents a shift in recognition of urban agriculture from the informal to the formal.

keywords

- agricultural extension
- advisory services
- urban/peri-urban agriculture
- knowledge provision

## Grey areas and green spaces: revealing the conflicts and gaps in the formalisation process of urban agriculture in Bogotá

**MANENTE Valentina** PhD candidate in architecture and the built environment\_Kent School of Architecture and Planning Valentina has a transdisciplinary background as architect, urban planner, and researcher. After graduating at Politecnico di Milano in 2016, she worked for several years in South Africa where she investigated the topics of informal settlements, rogue economies, and radical landscapes. After this experience, she returned to Italy where she worked as an architect on public space upgrading. She decided to undertake her PhD to connect the topics of urbanization in developing countries and sustainable growth. Valentina was awarded a full scholarship by the Global Challenges Doctoral Centre in 2020 and is currently completing her thesis titled "The Urban Agriculture Nexus in informal settlements: an investigation on the benefits of urban food growing in the barrios of Bogotá", under the supervision of Dr Silvio Caputo (KSAP) and Professor Jaime Hernandez-Garcia (Pontificia Universidad Javeriana in Bogotá).

authors

In Bogotá, Colombia, Urban Agriculture (UA) started as a spontaneous activity practiced by citizens in the poorest areas of the city. Over the years, the socio-economic changes affecting the country, as well as many other areas in Latin America, have amplified and diversified this phenomenon. In 2023, urban gardens in Bogotá were reported to be more than 7,000.

Although institutional programmes in support of urban farming in Bogotá date back to 2004 and the local Botanical Garden was appointed to their management in 2015, the modalities and spaces of urban farming in the city still maintain a strongly informal character, and farmers often occupy land to grow food without official permission.

Local authorities are willing to embrace UA's bottom-up and informal character in order to benefit from the impacts of this practice, although with inconsistent approaches. This is evident in the Botanical Garden's urban agriculture programme, which does not promote the creation of new spaces, but rather aims to support existing gardens. At the same time, the inclusion in 2020 of urban agriculture among the permitted land uses in public spaces has allowed many community gardens to take part to the Botanic Garden programme, but still no mention was made of the infrastructures and land necessary to implement these spaces.

This presentation examines the stories of 15 urban gardens in Bogotá, which participated in 2022 to a data collection activity to identify food and social benefits accrued. It analyses the stance and perspective of the two factions (local authorities and farmers) when these gardens enter a process of top-down recognition. It also analyses the influence that such dynamics bear on the character of the built environment in this city.

One of the findings is that UA spaces often arise from the desire of citizens to improve the society in which they live. This often stems from dissatisfaction with institutions and the state in general. Yet this dissatisfaction does not manifest itself as a protest but rather as a constructive engagement with the institutions that they criticise. Interviews with farmers suggest that the informal nature of their gardens is not understood as a deviation from the norm (i.e. the formal), but rather as an alternative, a different path to be undertaken in the construction of relationships, households, communities, neighbourhoods, and cities.

keywords

- Global South —
- informality —
- urban agriculture —

**Dr CAPUTO Silvio** Senior Lecturer, Director of Research & Innovation\_Kent School of Architecture and Planning Silvio Caputo has long-standing experience as a practitioner and researcher. His research area is highly interdisciplinary and multi-scalar (from buildings to cities), focusing on nature-based solutions for cities, especially in the areas of urban farming, building-integrated urban farming, care farming and sustainable food planning. His projects investigate the environmental, social and political implications of nature-based solutions for the built-environment, hence covering issues related also to environmental justice, access to land and food vulnerability. Public engagement and co-creation are at the core of such projects, in the recognition that stakeholder's participation is a fundamental component of academic research.

## Design possibilities for rooftop agriculture: reflections on two decades of pedagogy, policy and practice in Toronto

Zoning and other regulations that address built form and/or open space sometimes work against initiatives to intensify foodscapes in cities. Conversely, a green roof bylaw combined with a financial incentive program for “Eco-roofs” – both green roofs and cool roofs – enacted in Toronto, Canada in 2009, positively impacted foodscapes – particularly food growing. These initiatives were primarily aimed at reducing the heat-island effect in the city and reducing storm-water runoff, and over 600 eco-roofs have been installed since the start of the program. This paper explores some of the productive roof outcomes of these initiatives.

At Toronto Metropolitan University, (TMU, the former Ryerson University) two productive green roofs on campus are exemplars of what can be done when green roofs are adapted to work as productive spaces as well as planned for in a new building from the outset. Along with other Toronto roofs, the TMU roofs have served as design examples for students in the TMU architectural science program. The program has been teaching about green roofs and productive green roofs at a variety of scales. Students are looking at green roofs as a way to enhance the Toronto Foodscape, create pollinator corridors and habitats, and more. Aided by real-world examples in Toronto as models for their design work, students are proposing the future of productive green roofs.

Beyond pedagogy, the TMU roofs provide food for the cafeterias, a market, and a free food program for students. The roofs are also testing grounds for research. On these roofs, researchers are determining what benefits and problems food-growing green roofs present. They have been exploring questions such as whether productive green roofs act similarly to non-productive green roofs in the reduction of stormwater runoff, if the mitigation of heat island effects equals that of green roofs not producing food, how the addition of green roofs can add to green spaces in the city, and what cost and design differences need to be considered for productive green roofs.

This paper explores the origins and evolution of Toronto’s green roof bylaw and incentive programme and reviews how this has affected the foodscape of rooftops in Toronto. Looking at exemplars, as well as what students propose for new productive roofs in a city that adopted green roof bylaws 15 years ago can provide insights into one aspect of a multivalent approach to designing and planning for the future of food.

**author** KOMISAR June is a registered architect and a professor in the Department of Architectural Science at Toronto Metropolitan University in Toronto. She has a M.Arch from Yale University and a PhD in architecture from the University of Michigan. Her research and teaching spans aspects of design and architectural history and theory, including the connections between urban agriculture and sustainable design.

**keywords**

- urban agriculture
- rooftop farm
- Toronto architecture
- pedagogy

## New Actors in Metropolitan Food Governance. The Potential role of Museums and Ecomuseums

**BORRELLI Nunzia**, Associate Professor of Environmental Sociology, UNIMIB is environmental sociologist in the field of sustainability with a focus, inter alia, on museum studies. She is a Visiting Scholar at Columbia University, New York City where she investigates the current worldviews of relevant

**authors**

The main aim of this paper is to explore the frontiers of urban food co-governance processes or hybrid governance (Manganelli, 2022) by examining the contribution of some actors in making such processes more inclusive, sustainable, and able to stimulate learning and capacity building processes. Andrée (2019) underscores that the imperative for enhanced integration in food system is to foster the discussions regarding the contributions and roles of diverse food system actors.

Our research hypothesis is that museums and ecomuseums can be an entity that, while not directly involved in food policy, can contribute to food co-governance

stakeholders about the role of museums in food systems governance. She was a Fulbright scholar at Loyola University, Chicago, in 2009. She has been a Visiting lecturer in research centers such as ICCHS (International Centre for Culture and Heritage Studies) University of Newcastle, UK, and research collaborator of several international Universities (e.g., Xiamen University, China; Portland State University, USA; Napier University of Edinburgh, UK) and research centers such as Green Lines Institute, Portugal. She has published monographs and peer-reviewed articles and chapter contributions.

**KOCH Pamela** is a professor in Food Studies at Mary Swartz Rose Associate Professor of Nutrition and Education Columbia University – New York.

**AZZARITO Laura** is Program Director of the Graduate Program in Physical Education Pedagogy and Physical Culture and Co-Director of the Visual Research Center for Education, Art, & Social Change at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York.

**ADDIS Ginevra** is a Postdoctoral Fellow (with a Research Grant) at the National Future Center of Biodiversity at UNIMIB, conducting research on Biodiversity, Sustainability, Art, and Territory in EU and Non-EU countries. Currently, her focus lies on exploring how museums and ecomuseums engage with contemporary art practices in alignment with the 2030 SDGs. She holds a Ph.D. in Analysis and Management of Cultural Heritage, obtained from the IMT School for Advanced Studies in Lucca (Italy) in December 2019.

practices to the extent that they employ learning and capacity building tools that engage the local community or national and international visitors.

The role of museums today is changing. From dusty repositories of ancient artefacts deemed important by a handful of scholars, museums have become ‘social agents’, capable not only of assuming social responsibility but also of catalysing change through capacity building. This idea is an evolution and active expression of the school of thought known as ‘New Museology’, which emerged in the 1960s and 1970s. New Museology focused on how museums could support disadvantaged communities and stimulate processes of social, cultural, and environmental change.

As is well known, according to the latest ICOM definition of 2019, a museum is “a not-for-profit, permanent institution in the service of society that researches, collects, conserves, interprets and exhibits tangible and intangible heritage. Open to the public, accessible and inclusive, museums foster diversity and sustainability. They operate and communicate ethically, professionally and with the participation of communities, offering varied experiences for education, enjoyment, reflection, and knowledge sharing” (ICOM, 2022).

Ecomuseums are a type of museum that extends ‘beyond the walls’ of a traditional museum, to encompass the ecosystem of the surrounding territory, including its tangible and intangible cultural and natural assets, and the local population. Conceived as an on-going process of becoming, it has been defined by Peter Davis as: “a community-based museum or heritage project that supports sustainable development (Davis 2007: 116). Other definitions of relevance to the XXX project include:

To achieve the objective and discuss the hypothesis outlined above, the paper is structured as it follows: First, theoretical framework is defined. Second, we debate how museums and ecomuseums work in the field of food education. The third section presents some practices around the world. The conclusion returns to the hypothesis proposed at the beginning and draws final conclusions.

**MURA Giulia** current focus of interest is sustainability, and the mechanisms underpinning sustainable change and innovation, both at organizational and territorial levels. Over the years, she has deepened the study of quantitative research strategies and investigated various impacts of the diffusion of ICTs in the society.

keywords

governance —  
 food —  
 cultural institutions —  
 museums and ecomuseums —

## Raising urban planners’ awareness for integration better food and agriculture-related measures into Climate Strategies and Plans – Lessons learned from the Portuguese campaign

Recent scientific research based on the analysis of 14 Climate Adaptive Strategies or Plans in Portugal (Delgado, 2024) concluded that food and agriculture measures only count for 10% of the total, although it contributes up to 30% of total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions (IPCC, 2022). Moreover, the inclusion of those measures and actions into planning instruments is foreseen but limited. In short, the potential role of planning and more precisely food planning in adaptation to Climate Change is not being fully unleashed.

The scientific research gave place to a national campaign, supported by the “Food for Planet Grant”(2023). The aims of the campaign are: A1 – Raise awareness and build capacities of food planners; A2 – Contribute to build a collective of food campaigners’ champions that upscale and give continuity to the present campaign; A3 – Formulate tools to support the above activities.

**author**

**DELGADO Cecilia** is a Researcher Fellow at the Interdisciplinary Centre of Social Sciences of NOVA FCSH (Portugal). Currently, her research is focused on public policies and governance on the articulation within urban and peri-urban agriculture, urban food systems, and urban planning. Her work in the last years has resulted in almost 70 research outputs covering scientific papers, books, book chapters, working papers and policy briefs

So far, the campaign has taken shape in 10 workshops targeting architecture and planning students all over the country and from different academic levels (degree, master and PhD), and lastly, one webinar hosted by the National Urban Planner's Association (October to December 2023). Besides raising urban planners' awareness, the aims of the workshops were, to collect questions and recommendations that will feed two publications foreseen as part of the campaign (A3): "Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) - Manual for food planners" and the "Guidelines for Food Campaigners Champions to better integrate food into climate territorial planning".

Roughly 130 questions on "What do you want to know about the planning, food, and climate nexus?" and more than 81 recommendations on "How to put this into practice?" were collected.

Results show that subjects covered by the questions do not mirror all the food system dimensions, i.e., there are gaps of concern and interest among architects and planners' students. Second, the subject of the questions can change somehow with academic level, background, and territorial context e.g. governance issues came up in the workshop with PhD students, and water scarcity only came up in the south territorial context. The analysis of the 81 recommendations shows that more than half of them 56.5%(46) concern topics related to territory /urban planning, and still 78% are related to space for food production. Specific legislation or policies and awareness campaigns are the most often tools mentioned to make it happen.

This is still a work in progress. The final results and conclusion are being worked out to present at AESOP 2024 conference.

**keywords**

- urban planning
- climate change
- food systems
- Portugal

**Landed  
Community  
Kitchens****Landed Community Kitchens: bringing together good food and food justice for all**

Landed Community Kitchens have been pointed out as potential building blocks of an urbanism centred around the social and ecological value systems of agroecology, which could be summarised as bringing together care for the soil, care for the plants and care for the people. The Covid-19 pandemic has seen a multiplication of community kitchens, largely emerging out of grassroots self-organisation and social innovation, working to bridge the gap between those who can afford good food, and those who struggle to eat.

Despite this growth, and a broader societal understanding of the needs to shift to alternative, and more socially just food systems, community kitchens remain fragile mechanisms, that rely on unpaid labour (volunteers), broadly available cheap and unsustainable food (i.e. 'surplus' food produced in conventional agri-food chains and discarded by the conventional retail system), temporary /insecure access to key resources and infrastructures (i.e. storage space, equipment, kitchens, etc.), and a range of precarious economic arrangements (annual grants) to source and make available their food. Opening a conversation with a range of actors who have been directly involved in these kitchens in Belgium and/or that have been exploring the kitchens comparatively across geographies (UK, Latin America), this session aims to 1) unpack the logistic and economic barriers that prevent such initiatives to become viable and long-terms articulations of a just food system able to provide agroecological food to all; 2) the specific demands that community kitchens are bringing (or should bring) to the public policy community; 3) the role they envision for the agroecological movement in supporting the kitchens as crucial nodes of urban-rural and producers-consumers articulations.

**INVITED SPEAKERS:**

- **RIJCKAERT Alix** - Kom à la Maison
- **VANDEMOORTELE Isolde** - Urban Tractor
- **DAEMS Amelie** - Cuisine de Quartier
- **ALLEMEERSCH Leontien** - DeKoer

**authors**

**TORNAGHI Chiara** is Associate Professor in Urban food sovereignty and resilience at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, UK. A scholar activist, her work is focussed on advancing an agroecological urbanism by mobilising feminist political ecology and movement pedagogies for agroecology across the urban-rural and consumers-producers divide.

**PROVÉ Charlotte** is coordinator of the Stadsacademie (UGent), a platform for university-city collaborations on wicked urban sustainability issues in the context of Ghent. Charlotte has a background in Sociology and Nutrition and Rural Development. Her PhD (UGent, 2018) focused on the politics of urban agriculture and local food systems.

**BUXANT Jennifer** is a master student in agroecology (University of Liège, Belgium). She studied project management in the field of international cooperation before exploring agroecological transformation. Interested in its social implications, she spent a semester working with Chiara Tornaghi (University of Coventry, UK) on Landed Community Kitchens.

**keywords**

- landed community kitchens
- agroecology
- food sovereignty
- food justice
- agroecological urbanism

## Urban Gardening Valuation: Unraveling the Nexus with Food Justice in Dortmund, Germany

After gaining attention over the years, urban gardening – defined as social practices related to cultivating primarily edible plants in (semi-) public urban areas – has proven to be more than a passing trend. It is associated with positive effects on the sustainability spectrum, including ecological impacts and contributions to social inclusion and urban development. Despite these positive attributes, the academic community recognizes urban gardening as a phenomenon with inherent contradictions, seldom reflected in its enduring popularity in municipalities of the global North. Understanding these contradictions is crucial for effectively harnessing urban gardening to address challenges within the industrial food system, all while being mindful of potential neoliberal influences.

Against this backdrop, this paper examines how urban gardening is valued by the city administration and local politics in Dortmund, Germany, especially in relation to both food and food justice. The study seeks to comprehend the criteria and patterns of value attribution associated with urban gardening, covering both direct and subtle assessments.

How do the city administration and urban politics value urban gardening at the intersection with food? This question, guided by theoretical insights from the sociology of valuation, directs the examination of the valuation of urban gardening in Dortmund. By concentrating on the valuation process, the author addresses the research gap concerning urban gardening and food justice – an intersection that remains understudied in the German context, emphasizing the need for a deeper understanding of their connections.

To investigate the municipal perspective on urban gardening, this paper employs qualitative document analysis complemented with expert interviews, utilizing documents from city politics, municipal websites, and informal planning documents. The results are contextualized within the theoretical concept of food justice, and their implications are elaborated.

The research is driven by the recognition that cities play a pivotal role in addressing food-related issues, with urban planning having the potential to contribute to a more just and sustainable city. Urban food spaces can significantly influence various food-related problems, and municipalities can offer solutions by integrating food into their planning processes. The paper's results aim to enhance the understanding of the targeted utilization of urban gardening as an instrument for urban food planning. The findings will provide insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to leverage urban gardening as a local problem-solving strategy while promoting a more socio-ecologically just food system.

author

**BAKUNOWITSCH Julija** is a PhD researcher and scientific associate at TU Dortmund, Faculty of Spatial Planning. Being passionate about exploring the intersections of urban gardening and food justice as well as valuation studies, and practice theory, she is driven by theoretical curiosity and a commitment to socio-ecological transformation.

keywords

— urban gardening  
— food justice  
— valuation  
— urban planning  
— municipality

## Post-Growth Metabolism: Rethinking Urban Planning and the role of Open Municipal Markets

**CARRASCO BONET Marta**,  
Architect and urban planner  
by Universitat Politècnica de  
Catalunya-Barcelona Tech. She is  
associate professor at Universitat  
de Girona and also member of the  
Architecture and Territory research

authors

Global agrifood system is one of the major forces of climate change, ecological disasters and rural decline. These threats call for taking action in climate change mitigation effects, making urgent to rethink the role of urban planning in food provision (Tornaghi & Dehaene, 2020). In post-growth metabolism era (McGreevy et al., 2022) reformulating the interconnections of the spaces of the food chain, especially the

group. She is currently working on her doctorate about food chain spaces from a regenerative social-oriented urban planning and design perspective.

**FAVA Nadia**, Architect, she is Professor of Urban Planning at Universitat de Girona and leads the Architecture and Territory Research Group. Her research centres on social-oriented urban planning, emphasizing sustainable transitions, particularly in agroecological urbanism. Funded by national and European grants, her work gains international acclaim through publications in international journals. Orcid: <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7016-3724>

open municipal markets —  
food chain relocalisation —  
post-growth metabolism —  
urban food planning —

keywords

productive areas and food retailing spaces, becomes imperative to shorten the spatial distribution of food supply and maintain a capillary food distribution, preventing concentration of the main food chain (Fukuda, 2022). This contributes not only to reduce “foodprint” but to construct inclusive foodscapes, by enhancing the access to healthy food for a wider range of population and giving new jobs opportunities in rural areas. The proposed perspective integrates urban and territorial scales, exploring connections between food production areas, producers’ residences, and open municipal markets (OMM) (Fava et al., 2022). The developed research within the framework of the project “PECT Girona, sustainable food system” (2021-2023) has analysed the food ecosystem that constitutes the 105 OMM by: a) GIS data analysis in a regional scale; b) urban analysis of 60 selected OMM in a urban scale,; and c) statistical analysis of 300 interviews to the markets’ stallers, about the origin of the offered food products and the interrelations between markets according to the routes of the stallers. The analysis was developed based on the inductive hypothesis of 8 food clusters that were identified crossing socioeconomic and geographical conditioners. The main results show that especially during post-covid times there has been a decrease of local farmers and producers that sell in OMM, having the food re-sellers a major presence in OMM. This has a direct effect on the origin of the sold product and in the extension of productive land-use that is finally managed. Comparative cases in mountain, coast or inland clusters show differences in OMM models and the productive capacity of the areas. Also, tendencies in concentration areas of local farmers and OMM that promote them. Addressing the issue relationally suggests that the OMM model can benefit local consumers and farmers, aligning with degrowth metabolism principles: distribution, regeneration, and care. The study emphasizes that OMM, as public facilities, serve as urban planning levers for food chain relocalisation, fostering spaces of sufficiency and care that promote food chain sustainability.

## Urban Agriculture, Land, and Environmental Justice in San Diego, California

Community gardens have become popular in cities of the Global North as part of a greening agenda promoted by local governments and nonprofits. Its proponents argue that growing food in urban environments provides a variety of environmental, social, economic and health benefits.

However, urban farming does not happen in a vacuum. It takes place in cities that are shaped by historical and current political, economic, and social forces, which underly food injustices such as uneven access to food, land, and dignified food jobs. Thus, urban growers face different opportunities and constraints, which in turn lead to disparities in the benefits of urban agriculture, challenging its common perception as a grassroots solution to create more just food systems that primarily address the needs of low-income households, including immigrants and people of color.

While the environmental justice literature provides ample evidence that people of color and low-income people tend to have lower access to green space and higher exposure to pollution, we have limited knowledge of how these patterns impact urban agriculture in US cities. To the extent that these populations disproportionately reside in older urbanized and industrialized areas, they may have lower access to clean and uncontaminated land where they can safely grow food. In addition, they may have limited resources to address potential contamination. Yet, when they beat these odds and build successful green spaces, they often face gentrification and displacement. Unless we recognize and address these disparities, urban agriculture will fail to generate food justice.

This paper aims to address this research gap and contribute to both academic literature and urban policy by examining: (1) the availability and quality of land for urban agriculture in San Diego County and their relationships to the region’s racial and socio-economic urban geography, (2) differences in growers’ understanding and response to these environmental hazards, and (3) the spatial relationship between greening efforts and gentrification in low-income communities of color. Our research is based on fieldwork we conducted in urban San Diego County in 2023, collecting

**author** **JOASSART-MARCELLI Pascale** is Professor of Geography, Director of the interdisciplinary Food Studies and Urban Studies programs, and Founding Co-Director of the Center for Better Food Futures at San Diego State University, where she has been developing and teaching courses such as Geography of Cities, Geography of Food, Food Justice, Feeding the World, and Food, Place, and Culture. Pascale’s research centers the relationship between place, ethnicity, and food, including the role of food in creating just and sustainable cities for all, with an emphasis on immigrant communities. Her projects have focused on urban agriculture, street vendors, ethnic businesses, and food media, providing a geographic perspective on material and discursive disparities underlying contemporary urban foodscapes. Her work seeks to generate a better understanding of social, racial, and spatial processes such as food apartheid and food-led gentrification. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, is the author of *Food Geographies: Social, Political, and Ecological Connections* (2022) and *The \$16 Taco: Contested Geographies of Food, Ethnicity, and Gentrification* (2021) and the co-



both qualitative and quantitative data from 53 community gardens, including soil samples, audits, and interviews. These data will be combined with fine scale public data about historical and current land use, population, housing, and pollution. Our findings will generate a better understanding of the importance of land/soil in urban agricultural geographies and will assist community organizers and policymakers by emphasizing its significance in shaping the opportunities and benefits of urban agriculture.

editor of *Food and Place: A Critical Exploration* (2018). Her research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture, and other private and public funding agencies.

**keywords**  
 — urban agriculture  
 — gentrification  
 — environmental justice  
 — soil  
 — political ecology

## Public food markets; inclusive community hubs for just food systems

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Professor **GONZÁLEZ Sara** is a critical urban geographer interested in political and economic transformation of cities, neoliberal urban policies, gentrification and contestation. Her research explores the transformation and social value of traditional retail markets in UK, European and Latin American contexts, and considers urban food systems from a food justice angle.

**authors**

Achieving a socially and ecologically just world is challenging and multi-dimensional (Vogt and Weber, 2019). Food and how it is grown, transported, prepared, cooked, eaten and wasted can contribute to sustainability ambitions (Springmann et al., 2021). At present, the food system, which encompasses the journey of food from farm to fork, is not working for people or the planet. It is responsible for about a third of all greenhouse gas emissions (Mbow et al. 2019) and contributes to the burden of non-communicable diseases (GBD, 2017).

Traditional markets, selling food and household items, can support healthy diets and sustainable practices, particularly for low-income consumers (Smith 2012; House of Commons, 2009). They can improve access to healthy and affordable food (Newing et al., 2023), especially if combined with initiatives such as Healthy Start (Sustain, 2023; Bury Market, 2023). Markets can also support local and seasonal purchasing (Smith, 2012), provide employment opportunities, and help to reduce food waste (Markets4People, 2022). However, there is a lack of data, research and policy focus (Machel and Caraher, 2012) on the role of traditional markets in developing a more sustainable food and urban system.

Bradford is a city in West Yorkshire, England. It is one of the most deprived cities in the country. To support Bradford to achieve a more socially and ecologically just local food system we worked with local authority partners, market traders and members of the local community to develop healthy and sustainable market charters for traders and the council team working in the new Darley Street Market. Following a six-phase, mixed method process to develop the charters, which employed participatory approaches, we worked with the council's public health and market teams to discuss the implementation and monitoring processes for the charters.

There are challenges with the implementation of the charters, including concerns over green gentrification. However, if implemented in such a way that supports trader, public and council behavior change and promotes social inclusion, the charters will support the new Darley Street Market to operate in a way that is as sustainable as the building itself. This work highlights the important role that markets can play in achieving sustainability and health goals which could be explored in other cities in the UK and beyond.

**keywords**  
 — food system  
 — traditional markets  
 — sustainability  
 — just transition  
 — health and wellbeing

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