



RIHN 15th International Symposium

第15回地球研国際シンポジウム

Transitioning Cultures of Everyday Food Consumption and Production: Stories from a Post-growth Future

日々の食の消費と生産の文化を変える：
ポスト成長期の未来からの物語



Inter-University Research Institute Corporation
National Institutes for the Humanities
**Research Institute for
Humanity and Nature**

Jan. 13-16, 2021

Online





Research Institute for Humanity and Nature is a national research institute established by the Government of Japan in 2001 and it is part of the National Institutes for the Humanities. RIHN research starts from the premise that environmental problems are rooted in human society, culture, and values. The goal of RIHN is to seek concepts, theories and mechanisms capable of describing and enabling transformation of human-environment interactions. This implies that RIHN research involves a normative dimension, driven by questions such as what the relationship between humanity and nature ought to be like. To this end, RIHN solicits, funds, and hosts integrative research projects investigating environmental change problems in specific settings. Research projects are undertaken by interdisciplinary teams at RIHN, partner institutions, and societal stakeholders in Japan and abroad.

We at RIHN believe that research ought to contribute to the search for solutions to real-world problems and, therefore, we promote a co-design and co-production approach where researchers and societal actors join hands in exploring problems and developing new framings and possible solutions. RIHN research is increasingly transdisciplinary in that it seeks to redefine the role of science in society, improve dialogue between different traditions of knowledge, and stimulate new multi actor local, national and international collaborations. This approach needs to draw on multiple, diverse perspectives from a range of disciplines including the natural and social sciences, arts and humanities, and engineering and design.

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**Transitioning Cultures of Everyday
Food Consumption and Production:
Stories from a Post-growth Future**

January 13 - 16, 2021
Lecture Hall, RIHN and Online

Organized by
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN)
National Institutes for the Humanities (NIHU)
Inter-University Research Institute Corporation

PREAMBLE

Theme:

Whether by ecological breakdown or concerted action, the era of mass production and consumption is nearing its end. This means that the resource-intensive systems of provisioning on which many currently depend upon to meet their daily needs will change. For years, weak sustainability approaches emphasized the importance of individual attitudes, behaviors, and choices as the lever to shift economies and societies toward smaller footprints. These strategies have not only proven unsuccessful, they point to fundamental flaws in consumption-based economic models. Recent crises serve to further stress the fragility of economies that must perpetually grow.

Food systems, in all their many forms and complex interaction, are already showing signs of failure. Industrial agriculture, factory farms, and mass-produced and processed food are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, cause massive biodiversity and soil fertility loss, contribute to non-communicable diseases, and weaken farming communities worldwide. Industrial agriculture alone is a significant contributor to 8 of the 10 planetary boundaries.

The window of time in which effective action is possible is closing fast and the degree of change needed is immense-- stronger, more radical strategies for economic and social change are essential. Driving the agricultural crisis, and much of the environmental crises we see today, is the relentless push for economic growth. The question before those concerned about the future of food and the planet, is how to reimagine and enact models for production, consumption, and governance that are viable, desirable, and possible outside of a growth-first paradigm. We must not only downscale energy and material throughput, but design a metabolism that functions very differently-- different values, different lifestyles, different practices, and a different way of relating to nature.

As food is so ingrained in culture and the rhythms of daily life, the repatterning of a post-growth food system has profound implications for the future of lifestyles, work, and health. How might sustainable food practices reconstitute foodscapes of sufficiency and conviviality, in which the line between consumer and producer is blurred? How do we redesign food production around the principles of agroecology so they might regenerate ecological synergies and expand farmer and citizen sovereignty? Food futures are political-- how do civic food actors rally around desirable food visions and find agency in transforming their foodsheds? Finally, can our relationship with food and agriculture redefine socio-cultural ideas of the good life and enable alternative worldviews that embrace ecological and social limits?

Seeking a post-growth future for food and society is reengaging with core tenants of RIHN's mission: to debate how human culture ought to operate on the planet and identify practical solutions and transformative pathways to get us there. This symposium brings together interdisciplinary scholars to share stories of a present and future in which "enough is as good as a feast."

An online symposium

Due to the global pandemic, the symposium will be carried out online using a number of platforms. We anticipate the bulk of the interaction will take place via video chat software, such as Zoom, but we also plan on using online messaging software, such as Slack, to extend the discussion beyond live interactions.

OUTLINE OF THE SESSIONS

Session 1: Regional and Regenerative Foodsheds

In this session we critically reimagine food production as bioregional, decentralized, and highly autonomous systems. We examine the spatial implications of such a redesign and what they mean for food security and sovereignty. How do we plan, construct, and measure the impacts of place-based, localized food systems and what are some examples? How might food production change to be more agroecological and sensitive to the needs of other species?

Session 2: Food Futures, Transdisciplinary Processes, and Politics

The way we envision the future unfolding has tremendous influence over how we make decisions. Likewise, who is included in policy-relevant discussions and joint knowledge production contributes significantly to the robustness and legitimacy of possible outcomes. New forms of governance and policy that engage with the future and relevant stakeholders will be needed to reach a more sustainable food system. How do future-making activities -e.g. foresight, models, scenario exercises- engage and (de)politicize food futures? How do transdisciplinary processes involve stakeholders effectively in the context of food policy? And what are the stories associated with these processes?

Session 3: Food-alternatives in the Present

There are post-growth food practices hiding in plain sight, incubating and awaiting their moment to spread. In what ways do consumers and producers enact alternative food practices in their daily lives and rhythms of work and what are the implications for the future? What role do alternative business models and technologies play as key materials in the reproduction of practices?

Session 4: Sufficiency and Cultural Change

Underlying societal change are processes of cultural shift-- values and worldviews that make sense of the world we live in. How can our relationship with food and agriculture redefine socio-cultural ideas of the good life and enable alternative worldviews that embrace ecological and social limits?

PROGRAM

Wednesday, 13 January 2021

(JST Tokyo)

- 09:30-09:35 Welcome and Opening Remarks
YASUNARI Tetsuzo (Director-General, RIHN)
- 09:35-09:45 Introduction
Steven R. McGREEVY (RIHN)
- 09:45-10:15 Keynote Address
Overcoming the Problem Bias – Researching and Learning Sustainable Food Economy Solutions
Arnim WIEK (Arizona State University, USA)
- 10:15-10:30 Break

Session 1 Regional and Regenerative Foodsheds

Chair: **Steven R. McGREEVY** (RIHN)

- 10:30-10:45 Designing the Sustainable Foodshed of Japan: Insights from Ecological Footprint Modeling and Local Food System Mapping
TSUCHIYA Kazuaki (The University of Tokyo, Japan)
- 10:45-11:00 The Bounty of Enough: (De)Constructing the Global Industrial Food Complex through Narratives of Scarcity
Oliver TAHERZADEH (RIHN)
- 11:00-11:15 Designing Biodiverse and Resilient Farming Systems: Experiences from Latin America
Clara Ines NICHOLLS (University of California, Berkeley, USA)
- 11:15-11:30 Our Collective Future: Building Sustainable Agrifood Systems and Resilient Rural Communities. Lessons from the US and Japan
TANAKA Keiko (University of Kentucky, USA)
- 11:30-12:00 Session Discussion

Thursday, 14 January 2021

- 15:00-15:05 Yesterday's Recap & Today's Overview
Christoph D. D. RUPPRECHT (RIHN)
- 15:05-15:35 Keynote Address
Limits, Degrowth and Environmental Justice
Giorgos KALLIS (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain)
- 15:35-15:50 Keynote Q&A
Moderator: **Christoph D. D. RUPPRECHT** (RIHN)
- 15:50-16:00 Break
- 16:00-16:15 **Arnim WIEK** Keynote Q&A
Moderator: **Steven R. McGREEVY** (RIHN)

Session 2 Food Futures, Transdisciplinary Processes, and Politics

Chair: **Christoph D. D. RUPPRECHT** (RIHN)

- 16:15-16:30 Using Gaming to Develop Public Capacities for Anticipatory Governance
Joost VERVOORT (Utrecht University, Netherlands)
- 16:30-16:45 Commodity, Commons, Public Good or Human Right. Normative Food Narratives Shape Future Food Transitions
Jose Luis VIVERO POL (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium)
- 16:45-17:00 Grappling at Food Policy in Kyoto: Experiences and Future Prospects
AKITSU Motoki (Kyoto University, Japan)
- 17:00-17:15 Evaluating Futures for Food Systems Change: From Imagination to Transformation
Astrid MANGNUS (Utrecht University, Netherlands)
- 17:15-17:30 Constructing Practice-oriented Participatory Policy for Sustainable Everyday Urban Food Futures in Bangkok
Kanang KANTAMATURAPOJ (Mahidol University, Thailand)
- 17:30-18:00 Session Discussion

Friday, 15 January 2021

15:00-15:05 Yesterday's Recap & Today's Overview
Maximilian SPIEGELBERG (RIHN)

Session 3 Food Alternatives in the Present

Chair: **Maximilian SPIEGELBERG** (RIHN)

- 15:05-15:20 Reimagining Informal Food Practices: Sustainability Lessons from the European East
Petr JEHLIČKA (Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic)
- 15:20-15:35 Consumption and Everyday Life: How Prescriptions Inform Our Understanding of Healthy and Sustainable Food
Marlyne SAHAKIAN (University of Geneva, Switzerland)
- 15:35-15:50 Love thy Robber: Exploring the Informal Food Economy of Unattended Food Stands
KOBAYASHI Mai (RIHN)
- 15:50-16:05 Legumes' Role Post-COVID-19: Reorienting the Focus of Policy on Legume-based Food and Feed System
Bálint BALÁZS
(Environmental Social Science Research Group, Hungary)
- 16:05-16:35 Session Discussion
- 16:35-16:45 Break

Practitioner Roundtable

Facilitator **Hein MALLEE** (RIHN)

- 16:45-16:55 Kyoto Organic Action (KOA): A Cooperative Attempt to Establish an Independent Distribution System for Local Organic Produce
SUZUKI Kentaro (Kyoto Organic Action, Japan)
- 16:55-17:05 Realizing Gender Justice through Agroecology – Lessons from Women's Collective Farming Efforts in India
Ashlesha KHADSE (Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology Center, India)
- 17:05-17:15 Climbing Mount Improbable: The Beginnings of a Post-growth Food Narrative in the UK
Chris SMAJE ("A Small Farm Future", England)
- 17:15-17:45 Discussion

Saturday, 16 January 2021

- 09:30-09:35 Yesterday's Recap & Today's Overview
TAMURA Norie (RIHN)
- 09:35-10:05 Keynote Address
Food Journeys: Encounters that Engender Empathy across Difference
Michael CAROLAN (Colorado State University, USA)
- 10:05-10:20 Keynote Q&A
Moderator: **TAMURA Norie** (RIHN)
- 10:20-10:30 Break

Session 4 Sufficiency and Cultural Change

Chair: **TAMURA Norie** (RIHN)

- 10:30-10:45 Willingly Sliding down the Slope: Narratives and Games for a more Sustainable Food Culture
Ilan CHABAY (Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany)
- 10:45-11:00 The Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Agriculture
Daniel NILES (RIHN) and **ABE Ken-ichi** (RIHN)
- 11:00-11:15 Subsistence Agriculture in the US: Reconnecting to Work, Nature, and Community
Ashley COLBY (Rizoma Field School, Uruguay)
- 11:15-11:30 Pahom and the Everlasting Plate – Stories as Bearers of Alternative Food Visions
Rajat CHAUDHURI (Fiction writer and Activist)
- 11:30-12:00 Session Discussion

Final Session

Chair: **Steven R. MCGREEVY** (RIHN)

- 12:00-12:35 Final Comments & Discussion
SATO Yo-Ichiro (Kyoto Prefectural University, Japan)
TACHIKAWA Masashi (Nagoya University)
- 12:35-12:45 Closing Remarks
Steven R. McGREEVY (RIHN)

Keynote Address

Overcoming the Problem Bias – Researching and Learning Sustainable Food Economy Solutions

Arnim WIEK
Arizona State University, USA

Arnim WIEK is professor in the School of Sustainability and director of the Sustainable Food Economy Lab at Arizona State University, USA. He also holds a guest professorship at Leuphana University of Lüneburg, Germany. His team conducts research on sustainable solutions for local food businesses and economies in close collaboration with entrepreneurs, government agencies, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders. He had research and teaching appointments at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, the University of Tokyo, and Utrecht University.

Abstract

After centuries of standardizing, commercializing, and globalizing the food economy, the detrimental effects on the environment, workers, and the public have been widely recognized. Increasing problem awareness has triggered transitions to sustainable food economies guided by principles of regeneration, localization, circularity, justice, and public-value generation. Following these principles, many small food businesses, short food supply chains, and novel economic support structures are paving the way for a broader adoption of sustainable practices, models, infrastructures, and technologies. These include organic practices, renewable energy, local sourcing, reusable packaging, workforce diversity, employee ownership, social financing, and cooperative networks. While these pioneering efforts are well underway, research and education lag behind, struggling to emancipate from the conventional problem focus. This talk outlines and illustrates a significant shift towards solutions – how research and education ought to focus on the development of sustainable food economies, from the micro (business) to the macro scale (economy). Key aspects of this shift towards solutions are interdisciplinary collaboration among various scholars, transdisciplinary cooperation with practitioners, and inspiration for the next generation of food economy actors.

Designing the Sustainable Foodshed of Japan: Insights from Ecological Footprint Modeling and Local Food System Mapping

TSUCHIYA Kazuaki
The University of Tokyo, Japan

TSUCHIYA Kazuaki is an assistant professor at Department of Ecosystem Studies, Graduate School of Agricultural and Life Sciences, The University of Tokyo, Japan. He studies linkages between urban lifestyle, environment and health issues. He is a Co-chair of Working Group 1 “Food system mapping & modeling” at the FEAST project, RIHN. He has a Doctor of Agriculture from the University of Tokyo.

Abstract

How are we eating? How does our food impact the environment? How could we eat in the future? These are the questions we tried to answer in the Working Group 1 “Food system mapping & modeling” at the FEAST project, RIHN. We took a closer look at the way food and agriculture work today to learn how we can create ecologically and socially sustainable agrifood systems in Japan. Because food and agriculture are linked in complex ways, we used a range of methods in our research. These include for example GIS and land use analysis, consumer surveys, ecological footprint modelling in collaboration with the Global Footprint Network, and modelling of potential future diets in collaboration with Institute for Global Environmental Strategies. Specifically, we worked on two topics: ecological footprint modeling in Japan and local food system mapping in Kyoto. Sub-national ecological footprint analysis showed that prefectures with a higher proportion of urban and elderly population had high food Ecological Footprint per capita. Our findings implied that policy makers should consider supporting local food activities with elderly populations, as processed food dominates majority part of the food Ecological Footprint. Local food system mapping showed that consumer’s attitudes toward local agriculture, as well as accessibility to local food, are the key to realize resilient local food systems.

The Bounty of Enough: (De)Constructing the Global Industrial Food Complex through Narratives of Scarcity

Oliver TAHERZADEH

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan

Oliver TAHERZADEH is a Senior Researcher at RIHN interested in how environmental risks connect different actors within global supply chains. His research explores this in relation to food system sustainability, international trade and national consumption. Before joining RIHN Oliver completed his PhD at Cambridge University on the scale and source of water, energy and land insecurity within the world economy. Oliver's recent research invites reflection on the unequal environmental footprint of consumption, within and between nations, and whether this can be addressed through market-led instruments and green growth.

Abstract

The global industrial food complex is increasingly framed as a logical response to the productive limits of regional food-sheds. Increased trade, productivity and mechanisation have emerged as key imperatives to overcome such limits and feed a growing global population. Yet, transformation of food systems towards this end have led to a zero-sum game between food and environmental security. This invites critical evaluation of the global industrial food complex and the narratives of scarcity which it is constructed. Using cross-country evidence, this talk will show that regional food-sheds are not scarce but bountiful and capable of meeting food needs sustainably and equitably. Food trade and efficiency claims will also be interrogated alongside this to illustrate their potential and limits within context.

Designing Biodiverse and Resilient Farming Systems: Experiences from Latin America

Clara Ines NICHOLLS
University of California, Berkeley, USA

Clara Ines NICHOLLS is a Colombian agronomist with a PhD in Entomology and Biological Control from the University of California -Davis. She is a Permanent Lecturer on Sustainable Rural Development in Latin America at the University of California, Berkeley. She also teaches in various universities in Colombia, Brazil, Nicaragua, Argentina, Spain and Italy. She served as the president of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology (SOCLA) and is co-director of the Centro Latinoamericano de Investigaciones Agroecológicas (CELIA-www.celia.agroeco.org). She is the author of 4 books (among them Biodiversity and Pest Management in Agroecosystems) and of more than 50 scientific journal papers.

Abstract

Diverse, severe, and location-specific impacts on agricultural production are anticipated with climate change. The last IPCC report indicates that the rise of CO₂ and associated “greenhouse” gases could lead to a 1.4 to 5.8 °C increase in global surface temperatures, with subsequent consequences on precipitation frequency and amounts. Temperature and water availability remain key factors in determining crop growth and productivity; predicted changes in these factors will lead to reduced crop yields. Climate-induced changes in insect pest, pathogen and weed population dynamics and invasiveness could compound such effects. Undoubtedly, climate and weather induced instability will affect levels of and access to food supply, altering social and economic stability and regional competitiveness. Adaptation is considered a key factor that will shape the future severity of climate change impacts on food production. Changes that will not radically modify the monoculture nature of dominant agroecosystems may moderate negative impacts temporarily. The biggest and most durable benefits will likely result from more radical agroecological measures that will strengthen the resilience of farmers and rural communities, such as diversification of agroecosystems in the form of polycultures, agroforestry systems, and crop-livestock mixed systems accompanied by organic soil management, water conservation and harvesting, and general enhancement of agrobiodiversity. Traditional farming systems are repositories of a wealth of principles and measures that can help modern agricultural systems become more resilient to climatic extremes. Many of these agroecological strategies that reduce vulnerabilities to climate variability include crop diversification, maintaining local genetic diversity, animal integration, soil organic management, water conservation and harvesting, etc. Understanding the agroecological features that underlie the resilience of traditional agroecosystems is an urgent matter, as they can serve as the foundation for the design of adapted agricultural systems. Observations of agricultural performance after extreme climatic events (hurricanes and droughts) in the last two decades have revealed that resiliency to climate disasters is closely linked to farms with increased levels of biodiversity. Field surveys and results reported in the literature suggest that agroecosystems are more resilient when inserted in a complex landscape matrix, featuring adapted local germplasm deployed in diversified cropping systems managed with organic matter rich soils and water conservation-harvesting techniques. The identification of systems that have withstood climatic events recently or in the past and understanding the agroecological features of such systems that allowed them to resist and/or recover from extreme events is of increased urgency, as the derived resiliency principles and practices that underlie successful farms can be disseminated to thousands of farmers via *Campesino a Campesino* networks to scale up agroecological practices that enhance the resiliency of agroecosystems. The effective diffusion of agroecological technologies will largely determine how well and how fast farmers adapt to climate change.

Our Collective Future: Building Sustainable Agrifood Systems and Resilient Rural Communities. Lessons from the US and Japan

TANAKA Keiko
University of Kentucky, USA

Dr. **TANAKA Keiko's** research examines various aspects of sustainable agriculture and food systems. Her current projects on beginning farmers in the Southeastern US and in Japan concern the intersection of farmers' knowledge, practices and perspectives on agricultural sustainability. She is a member of the multistate research program on an "agriculture of the middle." Under this program, she is conducting a grant-funded project to examine creativities and challenges for operating social justice-oriented food hubs (supply chains) in the Southeastern US. Her instruction focuses on the sociological examination of global food systems and agricultural sustainability, particularly the role of science and technology in reconfiguring relationships and practices of food production, circulation, and consumption. She publishes both in English and Japanese. Her publications in English can be found in *Agriculture and Human Values*; the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*; the *Journal of Rural Social Sciences* (or formally *Southern Rural Sociology*); and *Rural Sociology*. She has been very active in the Rural Sociological Society (RSS). In 2018-2019, she served as president of RSS.

Abstract

The future of farming greatly depends on each nation's capacity to cultivate new, young farmers. Using the cases of farmers in Kyoto and Kentucky, this presentation compares Japan and the United States in the infrastructure to support "beginning" farmers and the perspectives of these farmers on "sustainability" and "success." Although the necessary elements for farmer support are similar, the role of rural "community" in the skill and professional development of these farmers differs notably between the U.S. and Japanese agrifood systems. This presentation will explore both theoretical and policy implications for building sustainable/resilient agrifood systems in the context of increasingly globalized and highly technology-driven capitalist economy.

Keynote Address

Limits, Degrowth and Environmental Justice

Giorgos KALLIS

Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain

Giorgos KALLIS is an ecological economist, political ecologist, and Catalan Institution for Research and Advanced Studies (ICREA) Professor at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, Barcelona. He is the author of 'Limits' (Stanford University Press) and 'The case for Degrowth' (Polity Press, 2020). His research is motivated by a quest to cross conceptual divides between the social and the natural domains, with particular focus on the political-economic roots of environmental degradation and its uneven distribution along lines of power, income, and class. His current work explores the hypothesis of sustainable degrowth as a solution to the dual economic and ecological crisis. He was previously a Marie Curie Fellow at the Energy and Resources group at UC Berkeley, and he holds a PhD in Environmental Policy from the University of the Aegean, an MSc in Economics from Universitat Pompeu Fabra, and an MSc in Environmental Engineering and a Bachelors in Chemistry from Imperial College, London.

Abstract

Drawing on material from my two recent books, 'Limits' (Stanford University Press, 2019) and 'The case for degrowth' (Polity Press, 2020), I make three arguments: first, that limits and limitless growth are two sides of the same coin that perpetuate injustices in the name of progress. Second, that global environmental justice requires that the over-developed economies of the global north find ways to limit their growth. And third, that environmental injustices are not externalities or corrigible side effects, but systemic features, functional to capitalist growth. I will illustrate my arguments with examples from my fieldwork over the years on cases of water conflict and climate adaptation as well as with data from my macro-work on degrowth economics.

Using Gaming to Develop Public Capacities for Anticipatory Governance

Joost VERVOORT
Utrecht University, Netherlands

Joost VERVOORT is Associate Professor of Foresight and Anticipatory Governance at the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development at Utrecht University, an Honorary Research Associate at the Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford, and a Visiting Fellow at the Research Institute of Humanity and Nature, Kyoto. Joost leads the food foresight project of the CGIAR's Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security programme, which has operated across 7 global regions for the last ten years, resulting in many processes in which foresight was used to guide national policies and strategies on food, agriculture and climate. He also leads a number of other major international research projects focused on foresight, anticipatory governance and simulation gaming.

Abstract

There is a need for new ways to move beyond the current 'crisis of the imagination' in food systems and in sustainability more generally. There have long been calls for a 'democratization' of futures and foresight, a need for 'public' foresight. Such calls are part of a more general perceived need for new forms of participatory governance and public engagement with societal challenges. Games have a long history of use in formal policy and planning contexts. However, the commercial game sector, a industry that has outgrown other media in many respects, is often ignored by sustainability literature interested in more formal game applications. Other literatures, mostly in media studies, psychology and sociology, have explored the societal significance and potential impacts of games. However, these analyses have not, so far, been connected to research focused on sustainability transformations. In this presentation, I will seek to integrate 1) current understandings of the societal impacts of commercial and public games with 2) research on the cultural dimensions of sustainability transformations and 3) findings from the literature on games and sustainability. In doing so, I will aim to offer a novel framing for understanding the potential and limitations of commercial and public games as catalyzers of transformational change. I will draw on a number of on-going, high-profile examples that show the possibility space.

Commodity, Commons, Public Good or Human Right. Normative Food Narratives Shape Future Food Transitions.

Jose Luis VIVERO POL
Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium

Jose Luis VIVERO POL is associated researcher in the Centre for the Philosophy of Law at the University of Louvain. An engaged scholar collaborating with universities of Cordoba, Edinburgh and the Spanish Right to Food Observatory. His research interests include the political economy of the right to food, epistemologies of commons (food-producing commons and commons-based food systems), non-market systems, food narratives and framings, and alternative food systems in Western countries and fragile states. He is analysing collective arrangements in customary and contemporary food systems, and how they can coalesce to form a networked alternative to the hegemonic industrial food system.

Abstract

Food is a life enabler with multiple meanings and different valuations for societies and individuals throughout history and geographies. The progressive commodification of food as a vital resource is understood as a social construction, informed by Academia, that shapes specific food policy options and blocks or discard other policies. In opposition to this dominant paradigm, an alternative valuation of “food as a commons” is discussed, in practical and theoretical terms. This paper focuses on Food Narratives of Agents in Transition using two theoretical frames (Discourse Analysis and Transition Theory) and adopting three methodological approaches: systematic, heuristic and governance. The first approach presents a genealogy of meanings of commons and food by exploring five schools of thought plus a systematic review of academic literature where food is discussed either as a commons or as commodity. The heuristic approach investigates the relevance the two narratives had in influencing individual and relational agency of food-related professionals working in food systems in transition. The governance approach navigates the policy arena to study how the absolute dominance of the tradeable dimension of food in the political stance of some important countries obscures other non-economic dimensions such as the consideration of food as a human need or human right. Finally, a normative theory of food as a commons is presented, with particular attention to policy and legal options to radically transform the industrial food system.

Grappling at Food Policy in Kyoto: Experiences and Future Prospects

AKITSU Motoki
Kyoto University, Japan

AKITSU Motoki is a professor of Philosophy of Agricultural Science in the Graduate School of Agriculture at Kyoto University. He received PhD in Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology from Kyoto University and now is in the presidential position of Asian Rural Sociology Association and Japanese Association for Rural Studies. His recent publications are 'Revitalising rurality under the neoliberal transformation of agriculture: Experiences of re-agrarianisation in Japan' in *Journal of Rural Studies* and a book by an editor, *New Horizon of Ethics of Agriculture and Food* (in Japanese), regarding ethics as an important driver to save a great distress of Japanese agriculture.

Abstract

Compared with the dynamics of food issues in other developed countries, Japan walks along a unique or isolated trajectory. Disparity in living standard seems invisible, the obesity rate continues to be amazingly low, but domestic food production faces a stark crisis represented in, for instance, a food self-sufficiency rate hovering under 40%. We started action research to build local food policy in Kyoto, aiming for consciousness raising on food, sustainable food production and consumption, and the regeneration of a locally circulated economy. Two sites, Kyoto City and Kameoka City, are intimately tied together due to their close proximity. In Kyoto City, famous for its rich culture and tourism, we first tried to involve food-related NGO activists and municipal officials in order to share a common vision. Thereafter, the diverse group focused on some relevant and particular issues, held public events, and conducted joint research. It is only recently when we've been able to intervene in the new 10-year agriculture and forestry policy making process. Kameoka City with 89,000 population, adjacent to Kyoto City, was selected for comparative study. In Kameoka, research on consumers' behavior and food stakeholders workshops were conducted at the beginning, and organic farming was chosen as a joint focal point. At present, activities are ongoing in collaboration with organic farmers, an initiative led by an Art University, and the municipal authority including the mayor. This presentation examines the policy process for the two cases in four stages: Visioning, Organizing movement bodies, Forming the action plan, and Policy orientation and interaction with "regime".

Evaluating Futures for Food Systems Change: From Imagination to Transformation

Astrid MANGNUS
Utrecht University, Netherlands

Astrid MANGNUS is a PhD researcher at the Urban Futures Studio and the Copernicus Institute of Sustainable Development (Utrecht University). Her PhD has a specific focus on urban areas and their dynamics, both in Europe and in Japan. In these contexts, she studies the use of various approaches to futuring, including gaming, in the context of imagining and realising sustainability transformations. She is particularly interested in how different factors (institutional context, process, participants, methods and design affordances) that make up futuring practices relate to outcomes such as learning, capacity development and networking, as well as new contributions to sustainability transformations.

Abstract

It has become abundantly clear that many current human systems, including food systems, are fundamentally unsustainable and deeply unfit to face the challenges of a changing planet. As a result, there is an urgent need for new ways to imagine societal transformations toward more sustainable futures. We have investigated a process where different, complementary foresight approaches were used by an alliance of food system actors from Kyoto prefecture interested in sustainability transformation. The research question we investigate was: how can we evaluate the long-term effects of using foresight to mobilize food system actors toward urban food system transformations?

Firstly, the aim of this foresight process itself was unusual compared to more straightforward policy or strategy guidance processes: in this case, the process focused on allowing participants to experiment with an entirely new form of food systems governance, the Food Policy Council (FPC). The methods employed were also chosen to fit this novel purpose. Secondly, we present a longitudinal analysis that allows us to evaluate the long-term effects of this experimental foresight process on present day actions.

From in-depth semi-structured interviews and discourse analysis on policy documents we have constructed and applied an evaluation on earlier food system futures work. From this, we drew key lessons on 1) initiating long-term change through new governance modes (the FPC); 2) initiating immediate change by bringing together existing 'seeds' of good practices; and 3) the vital role of key champions in driving transformation processes towards more sustainable food systems.

Constructing Practice-oriented Participatory Policy for Sustainable Everyday Urban Food Futures in Bangkok

Kanang Kantamaturapoj¹, Steven R. McGreevy², Natapol Thongplew³, Motoki Akitsu⁴, Joost Vervoort⁵, Astrid Mangnus⁵, Kazuhiko Ota², Christoph D. D. Rupprecht², Norie Tamura², Maximillian Spiegelberg², Mai Kobayashi², Sittidaj Pongkijvorasin⁶, Suwit Wibulpolprasert⁷

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Abstract

Re-considering how policies influence consumer practices is vital to ensure sustainable consumption. Conventional approaches to policy development have been criticized that they center too much on trying to change individual attitudes, behavior, and choices, while ignoring the influence of social structures. Coinciding with this effort to prioritize practices, there are also demands for policy development to be more participatory, anticipatory, and imaginative. This research reports on the operationalisation of practice-oriented policy development process to reflect on how such processes compare with conventional policy development work.

The work centered on three food-related social practices-- food purchasing, eating out, and home cooking-- in Bangkok, Thailand. Each practice has significant sustainability implications for everyday life in highly-populated urban centers. A multi-phase process of interlinked workshops-- visioning, scenario evaluation, and transition workshops-- were designed to incorporate role-play and narrative elements to elicit transformative knowledge on how practices are embedded in everyday life. Participants selected promising practice scenarios from the year 2050 and developed three categories of interventions needed to realize the practice scenarios: 1) policy and regulation, 2) education and engagement and 3) research and technology.

Practice-oriented participatory policy development poses a number of challenges: not all practices may be amenable to the process and the integrative elements of social practices (materials, competencies, meanings) don't easily translate into siloed governmental structures. Beyond policy implications, the experimental workshop spaces promoted social learning, knowledge sharing, and collective action. Narrative-styled scenarios and incorporating drama are powerful to illustrate possible futures and embedded participants into future everyday lives.

Reimagining Informal Food Practices: Sustainability Lessons from the European East

Petr JEHLIČKA
Czech Academy of Sciences, Czech Republic

After two decades at the Department of Geography at the Open University, UK, **Petr JEHLIČKA** recently moved to his native Czechia. He is Senior Researcher at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague. His research is located in agro-food studies and revolves around everyday environmentalism and sustainable food consumption at the intersection of formal and informal food economies. More recently he has explored these topics in relation to the geopolitics of knowledge production. Petr has co-edited three special issues; the current one on rethinking food systems from the margins. His work was published in the *Journal of Rural Studies*, *Sociologia Ruralis*, *Geoforum* and *Local Environment*, among others.

Abstract

There is an incongruity between the “European East’s” growing role in the global food regime and its virtual absence from international academic communications on possibilities of a more sustainable food system. The centrality of the food system in damaging planetary ecosystems demands diversification of our thinking about the food system’s sustainability in two ways. First, by including approaches that go beyond market-based ethical consumption. Second, by drawing on knowledge from contexts outside the “Western core” in which the hegemonic concept of sustainability originated. Deploying J. K. Gibson-Graham’s (2008) concept of reading for difference the talk reframes East European household food practices (growing, sharing, foraging) as everyday sustainability and highlights this scholarship’s contribution to the efforts to reimagine a more inclusive and sustainable global food system. Epistemologically, this agenda is inspired by postcolonial calls to “decentre the West” and by recent efforts to “put the European East back on the map of knowledge production” (Müller 2018). To support this goal empirically, the talk opens with a string of headline figures demonstrating the extent, stability and - largely unintended but actual - sustainability of East European everyday food practices. The talk then considers the reasons for marginalization of this knowledge in international debates before making a case for the need to reverse the trend of using the European East as a testing ground for concepts and theories developed in the West. Instead, the talk proposes that the European East should be read as a place producing novel and internationally relevant knowledge.

Consumption and Everyday Life: How Prescriptions Inform Our Understanding of Healthy and Sustainable Food

Marlyne SAHAKIAN
University of Geneva, Switzerland

As Assistant Professor of Sociology (University of Geneva), **Marlyne SAHAKIAN** brings a sociological lens to consumption studies and sustainability. Her research interest is in understanding everyday practices in relation to environmental promotion, social equity and social change. She is a co-founder of SCORAI Europe, a network for sustainable consumption research and action, and a member of ENOUGH, a network focused on sufficiency.

Abstract

How and what we eat is tied up with historically situated habits and socio-cultural processes, that can be difficult to change. And yet, food consumption is one of the high environmental impact categories in Europe – particularly when it comes to meat and dairy products. Based on a study of food consumption in Switzerland, which prides itself on the image of the happy cow in Alpine pastures as part of its national identity, this contribution sets out to uncover the different and competing prescriptions around 'healthy and sustainable diets' and how these play out in practice. Food, at the level of an individual consumer or household, has to do with habits and social relations, but on a more macro level, with systems of provision, mobility, and more generally the rhythms that organize everyday life. Meat consumption in particular places an emphasis on the emotions that are tied up with certain prescriptions, whether inciting 'low' and 'no' meat consumption, or the promotion of meat consumption. In addition to discussing these more qualitative approaches to food, the impacts of Swiss diets are also presented, based on a life cycle assessment that considered both environmental and human health impacts. To conclude, these different reflections are brought together to then discuss how future diets might be imagined, towards the wellbeing of both people and planet.

Love thy Robber: Exploring the Informal Food Economy of Unattended Food Stands

KOBAYASHI Mai

Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan

KOBAYASHI Mai is a project researcher at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. She received her PhD in Environmental Studies in 2016 and her MA in Environmental Management in 2012 from Kyoto University Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, in Kyoto Japan. Her field work, thus far, has focused on new-entry farmer communities around Kyoto, and rural farming communities in Bhutan. Her interests stem from her experience working with several NGOs, non-profits and farming communities around the world that are dedicated to expanding the possibilities of small-scale diversified food production systems. Her interests are in processes and expressions of de- and re-peasantization in a post development context.

Abstract

Informal food activities exist all around us. They are characterized by non-formalized human and financial resource structures, and their lack of trackable or registered activity with the state. As opposed to formal food systems, which primarily relates to food as a commodity, the informal food system places more emphasis on food as process of co-production, or food as commons. In an attempt to deepen our understandings of the informal food system, this presentation explores the presence and practice of unattended food stands found in Japan. How do they exist and why might they exist in such abundance? What roles might they be serving in society beyond providing us with an alternative space to sell and obtain food? And what potentials do they provide in our ability to imagine new and enhanced relationship spaces around food to enhance food sovereignty and societal wellbeing.

Legumes' Role Post-COVID-19: Reorienting the Focus of Policy on Legume-based Food and Feed System

Bálint BALÁZS

Environmental Social Science Research Group, Hungary

Bálint BALÁZS, sociologist-historian with PhD in Environmental Sciences. Senior Research Fellow and Managing Director of the Environmental Social Science Research Group (ESSRG Ltd), Hungary, Budapest. He has international research experience in EU projects in the field of sustainable and local food systems, the transition to sustainability and policy analysis, as well as public engagement, science-policy dialogues, citizen science, cooperative research, and participatory action research. He is leading the Policy Work Package of the TRUE project - TRansition paths to sUstainable legume-based systems in Europe, <https://www.true-project.eu/>, and acts as a board member of the European Sociological Association, Environment & Society network (RN12).

Abstract

Despite the well-documented benefits provided by legume-supported value chains, the production and consumption in Europe are low. In contrast, their demand as feed is high, the adaptation of a phenomenon termed “the legume paradox”. The topic of legumes is largely underrepresented in agricultural and food policy debates. Besides, the production, processing, marketing and consumption of legumes are hindered by a range of factors in Europe. The COVID-19 systemic shock accelerated science, policy, societal and business actors’ attention to some degree towards these vulnerabilities of our food systems and the acute need to enhance food system resilience. Still, changing business practices, state interventions and bottom-up initiatives shape the production and consumption of legumes in Europe in a way that keeps legumes locked-in at multiple levels of the food systems. The presentation will discuss the hindering factors and using the results of a policy Delphi study; besides some opportunities for reorienting towards coherent policies of more sustainable, post-growth legume-based food and feed systems will be presented. Results are based on the TRUE project that fosters collaboration among multiple stakeholders to implement ‘legume-supported transition paths’ to help realise more-sustainable food- and feed-systems (TRansition paths to sUstainable legume-based systems in Europe - <https://www.true-project.eu/>, received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No. 727973).

Kyoto Organic Action (KOA): A Cooperative Attempt to Establish an Independent Distribution System for Local Organic Produce

SUZUKI Kentaro
Kyoto Organic Action, Japan

SUZUKI Kentaro Born in Yokohama, 1977. Spent 8 years of childhood in North America (Toronto & New Jersey). Studied Aesthetics and Art history in Doshisha University, and travelled around Asia for 2 years in search of Buddhist wisdom. Went through an apprenticeship under a Buddha sculptor in Kyoto for 3 years, and moved to a rural village to learn about the country life and the traditional ways of life. Started a subscription-based vegetable delivery business in 2014 to spread the importance of connecting to the earth through food and agriculture.

Abstract

KOA started in 2017 as an attempt to streamline the collection of local organic produce by sharing a truck and an online platform. Our members consist of farmers, distributors and small scale vegetable shop owners. We first started out by mapping out the organic farms located around the Kyoto area, and asked the farmers for their cooperation to collect the harvested vegetables according to the schedule of the truck that now runs 4 times a week. Our system is made so that the farmers can update their list of vegetables every week, and receive orders from multiple buyers through email. Through this cooperative project, both farmers and buyers noticed fundamental problems around organic agriculture in Japan, and we established a council to discuss these matters that range from agricultural techniques, business management, community building, and so on. We are in our 4th year, and entering a turning point where we need to reach out to the public to enhance the local production and distribution of ecological and ethical food and agriculture.

Realizing Gender Justice through Agroecology – Lessons from Women’s Collective Farming Efforts in India

Ashlesha KHADSE
Amrita Bhoomi Agroecology Center, India

Ashlesha KHADSE is part of the Amrita Bhoomi Center – a farmer’s agroecology and political education school in Karnataka, India. She has been associated with Indian farmers movements as well as La via Campesina, the global peasants movement since 2009. Ashlesha completed her Master’s of Science from El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR) in Chiapas, Mexico, where her research focused on the role of farmers organizations in scaling up agroecology.

Abstract

The talk will highlight women’s collective agroecology efforts in India. While agroecology has grown significantly as a practice, movement and in policy globally, its gender impacts have not been addressed adequately. Women activists have questioned agroecology’s ability to address gender injustices. This talk will draw lessons from womens group farming efforts in India to help us think about how agroecology can be more responsive to women farmers rights.

Climbing Mount Improbable: The Beginnings of a Post-growth Food Narrative in the UK

Chris SMAJE
“A Small Farm Future”, England

Chris SMAJE is a small-scale farmer and agrarian writer in Somerset, southwest England. He is the author of *A Small Farm Future: Making the Case for a Society Built Around Local Economies, Self-Provisioning, Agricultural Diversity and a Shared Earth* (Chelsea Green, 2020). Previously, he taught sociology at the University of Surrey. He is a current director of the Ecological Land Co-operative, a founder member of the Land Workers' Alliance, and blogs at www.smallfarmfuture.org.uk.

Abstract

In this talk, I give a brief overview of emerging food alternatives in the UK, sketched against the unpromising background of the country's highly urbanized, food-import dependent, large-scale and fossil energy intensive food and farming system. My focus will be primarily upon the changing economic and cultural realities – not least in the context of Brexit, the Covid-19 pandemic and political devolution – that are starting to change national conversations about landownership, farming styles and scales, and local food system resilience. I will discuss the opportunities for post-growth food production geared to local livelihoods that are beginning to emerge in this new political and cultural space, focusing particularly on the possibilities for shifting from an agricultural towards a more horticultural mindset.

Keynote Address

Food Journeys: Encounters that Engender Empathy across Difference

Michael CAROLAN
Colorado State University, USA

Michael CAROLAN is a Professor of Sociology and Associate Dean of Research and Faculty Development at Colorado State University. Other appointments include: Distinguished Fulbright Research Chair, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Canada; Visiting Professor, Ruralis Research Institute, Trondheim, Norway; and Research Affiliate, Centre for Sustainability, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand. He has published over 250 peer review articles and more than a dozen books. Additionally, he regularly writes pieces for public audiences. These pieces have appeared in such outlets as *The Conversation*, Bloomberg, *Mental Floss*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Seattle Post*, *Popular Science*, *The Smithsonian Magazine*, *Salon*, and *New Food Economy*.

Abstract

What data would change the mind of a bigot or a climate change denier to make them think otherwise? We must come to terms with the overwhelming empirical evidence concerning how cultural and political beliefs filter the facts we choose to see and acknowledge. Traditional liberal political theories continue to advance the idea that good old-fashioned, well-reasoned talk holds the potential to solve any social ill. How can that be if we hear only what we want?

Strategies out of today's social and political crisis need to be informed by such realizations—that we cannot change what people *think* about the world without first targeting how they *feel* about it. This is where food enters the picture; it holds the potential to create opening where people are sufficiently disarmed to have experiences with others, or about others, whom they otherwise would not thanks to those aforementioned cognitive filters.

Drawing from more than a dozen case studies, my lecture outlines the thesis of a forthcoming book with Stanford University Press. In it, experiments are discussed that I conducted, using food as a mediator, that profoundly changed how people thought about the world and their place within it. I reflect on those findings and ponder the role that food could play in a world ravaged by incivility, hate, and the growth of xenophobia and authoritarian populism.

Willingly Sliding down the Slope: Narratives and Games for a more Sustainable Food Culture

Ilan CHABAY

Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Germany

Ilan CHABAY is Head of Strategic Science Initiatives and Scientific Project Leader of the Global Sustainability Strategy Forum and the KLASICA (Knowledge, Learning, and Societal Change Alliance) at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies, Potsdam Germany and Adjunct Professor at Arizona State University, USA. Between his first career in laser physics research and his current third career in social science, he was associate director of the Exploratorium Science Museum, San Francisco, and for 18 years founder and president of a company that designed and produced interactive exhibitions and games for 230 museums around the world, including Disney, Smithsonian, and NASA.

Abstract

Changing lifestyles to improve local and global sustainable well-being is essential, notoriously difficult, and urgently needed, including for achieving food sufficiency with less waste. There are decades of research showing that the deficit model of supplying ever more information and rationales for change is woefully ineffective in motivating change. We need affective and generative approaches to stimulate and catalyze collective behavior change toward just and equitable sustainable futures. Narratives are a fundamental way to effect change, for example, by embedding them in narrative-driven games to facilitate learning and dialogues.

A key to the affective impact of narratives is what David Maggs calls the “algebra of the protagonist.” The algebra denotes the dynamic balance in tension between a) what the protagonist wants, b) needs in order to achieve what is wanted, c) a confounding belief that blocks the protagonist from achieving the need, and d) the origin of the confounding belief. Through witnessing and understanding the meaning of the algebra and its possible resolution for the protagonist, we become meaningfully engaged by the narrative.

Developing narrative-driven games in which the players enact the role (and algebra) of a protagonist opens an avenue for raising players’ awareness and stimulates their questions about their choices in the context of the game. Crafting the scene, plot, and other characters that introduces appropriate complexity leads to both internal and external tensions for the protagonist/player. The game then can stimulate and facilitate constructive mutual learning dialogues among diverse stakeholders in the context of sustainable food consumption and production.

The Cultural Dimensions of Sustainable Agriculture

Daniel NILES and ABE Ken-ichi
Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Japan

Daniel NILES is a human-environmental geographer at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto. His research examines how different forms of traditional environmental knowledge remain sensible through time, and the continuing relevance of these longstanding fields of experience in the Anthropocene. He has served as Visiting Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin; Visiting Researcher at the Department of Anthropology, University of California, Berkeley; and as consultant in agricultural heritage for the FAO. Recent publications include “The charcoal forest: sensing the agencies of nature” in *Forms of Experienced Environments* (Cambridge Scholars Press, 2020), “Science and the experience of nature” (with N. Tachimoto, in *Nature Sustainability*, 2018), “Agricultural Heritage and Conservation Beyond the Anthropocene” in the *Oxford Handbook of Heritage Studies* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

ABE Ken-ichi is a professor at RIHN. His areas of specialization are Asian area studies and environmental anthropology. Based on extensive fieldwork in tropical forests, he has written and edited a number of books, including “Extreme Conflicts and Tropical Forests” (2007, Springer), and “Good Earths: Regional and Historical Insights into China's Environment” (2009, Kyoto University Press). He has also collaborated with UNESCO on the “Water and Culture” subtheme of the World Water Forum and, as a member of the GIAHS Scientific Committee, contributed to the design of the FAO's GIAHS program. abek@chikyu.ac.jp

Abstract

This paper focuses on the cultural dimensions of agricultural sustainability. We pay special attention to the cultural field in part because much sustainability research has a distinctly modernist bias. Especially when discussion turns to traditional agricultural contexts, the techno-metabolic systems of other times and places appear less complex, less sophisticated, and less relevant to contemporary challenges. This bias is especially significant in the cultural realm, as the human practices, beliefs, languages, gestures, and so on, associated with traditional agricultural contexts are not only considered antiquated, they are emptied of their ecological significance. Drawing on our research in areas designated by the UN FAO as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems, we explore the important but elusive ways in which the ‘*ecological*’ becomes ‘*cultural*’, as this process seems essential in long-standing agricultural heritage zones—humankind’s best examples of sustainable agriculture.

Subsistence Agriculture in the US: Reconnecting to Work, Nature and Community

Ashley COLBY
Rizoma Field School, Uruguay

Ashley COLBY, PhD is interested in the myriad creative ways in which people are innovating in face of the failures of late capitalism and ecological disaster. She is based in Uruguay, where she has recently founded Rizoma Field School for experiential learning in sustainability.

Abstract

To date, researchers interested in alternative food networks have often overlooked the somewhat hidden, unorganized population of household food producers. *Subsistence Agriculture in the US* fills this gap in the existing literature by examining the lived experiences of people taking part in subsistence food production. Over the course of the book, Colby draws on accounts from a broad and diverse network of people who are hunting, fishing, gardening, keeping livestock and gathering and looks in depth at the way in which these practical actions have transformed their relationship to labor and land. She also explores the broader implications of this pro-environmental activity for social change and sustainable futures.

With a combination of rigorous academic investigation and engagement with pressing social issues, this book will be of great interest to scholars of sustainable consumption, environmental sociology and social movements.

Pahom and the Everlasting Plate – Stories as Bearers of Alternative Food Visions

Rajat CHAUDHURI
Fiction-writer and Activist

Rajat CHAUDHURI is a bilingual writer, activist and editor. His most recent novel *The Butterfly Effect* has been listed twice by Book Riot, US as a 'Fifty must read eco-disasters in fiction' and among 'Ten works of environmental literature from around the world'. He has been a Charles Wallace Writing Fellow, University of Chichester, UK and a Hawthornden Castle Fellow, Scotland. Chaudhuri is an environment columnist for the New Indian Express and he has been a contributor to the UNDP Human Development Report. He is currently working on a climate change video game and a co-edited volume on multispecies cities. Twitter: @rajatchaudhuri www.rajatchaudhuri.net

Abstract

The dominant practices, beliefs, production methods and consumption systems for food tend to be pegged on consumerism, wastage, industrial farming and intensive agriculture, all of which are damaging for the environment. I examine how this dominance can be challenged and alternative ecologically-conscious worldviews of food sufficiency foregrounded by employing the vehicle of storytelling in various contexts.

I begin by discussing the character of the peasant farmer Pahom in Tolstoy's *How Much Land Does a Man Need*, a tale about the perils of greed and by implication, the importance of frugal living. Next I dwell on the appeal and easier recall of stories compared to facts and data. This is followed by a focus on the necessity and desirable impact of ecological fiction in the Anthropocene as evinced in the work of several researchers. A few signposts of alternative food cultures are examined through examples of scarcity led dietary innovation (Bengal Famine 1943), conservation of climate-resilient landraces of rice (Debal Deb), ecologically conscious eateries (Edible Archives) and repurposing of leftovers.

I now introduce tools for writing convincing stories, applying this mechanics in fashioning basic plots using the previous examples as starting points. This framing of an eco-fiction plot about an alternative food pathway, based on a real (or imaginary) character(s) and real (or speculative) settings, coupled with the understanding of the importance and efficacy of such narratives, demonstrate how effective stories can be fashioned which challenge dominant worldviews and posit alternatives for the production and consumption of food.

CHAIRS & RAPPORTEURS

*alphabetical order

Hein MALLEE is a social scientist with a Ph.D. from Leiden University, the Netherlands. His work was initially concerned with migration and related policies in China, but as he started working in international development, he became involved in projects on rural development, natural resources management and poverty alleviation both in China and in Southeast Asia. The dominant theme in this was local people's involvement in and rights to resources. He has been a Professor at RIHN since March 2013 and a Deputy Director-General since April 2018. He is also the Director of the Regional Center for Future Earth in Asia.

Steven R. MCGREEVY is an associate professor at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature and has a background in agriculture and rural sustainable development from Kyoto University (Ph.D. 2012). He researches novel approaches to regional revitalization, sustainable agrifood and energy transitions, and the relinking of patterns of food consumption and production through policy and practice. He leads the FEAST project (Lifeworlds of Sustainable Food Consumption and Production: Agrifood Systems in Transition), which maps food systems, analyzes patterns of food consumption, food-related social practices and their socio-cultural meanings, and takes a transdisciplinary approach to explore the realities and potential for sustainable agrifood transition at sites in Asia. srmcgreevy@chikyu.ac.jp

Christoph D. D. RUPPRECHT is a geographer and Senior Researcher with the FEAST Project at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. He received his PhD in urban geography, planning and ecology from Griffith University in 2015. His work focuses on more-than-human and degrowth approaches to sustainability, in particular around issues of urban planning and design, food, and agriculture. Recent endeavors include combining speculative literature such as solarpunk and gaming with sustainability studies to envision desirable futures. His latest major paper "*Multispecies Sustainability*" redefines sustainability to recognize the interdependence of living beings and their wellbeing, expanding the concept to non-human species and their needs.

SATO Yo-Ichiro is a Professor at Faculty of Letters of Kyoto Prefectural University (KPU), and is the President of Society of Japanese-Food Studies. He was graduated from Faculty of Agronomy, Kyoto University in 1977, and got Dr. of Agronomy in 1986. He has worked at National Institute of Genetics (NIG), Shizuoka University, Research Institute for Humanity and Nature (RIHN), and, as Executive Director of National Institutes for Humanities (NIHU). He has been studying origin of rice and crop cultivation, and more recently studying on food culture as a global environmental problem.

Max SPIEGELBERG has been engaging in questions of sustainability, environment, and humanity across boundaries of disciplines, cultures, and skills in various positions and countries for 20 years now. Following his PhD in Global Environmental Studies at Kyoto University he joined in 2017 the FEAST project at the Research Institute for Humanity & Nature. Max' interest lies with integrated and participatory approaches and science-policy-civil society interfaces. With these angles his current topics of engagement are beekeepers and honeybees, informal/urban/civic food, and future food with a degrowth/post-development angle. In Twitter he can be found under @PricklyLash.

TACHIKAWA Masashi is a professor in sociology at the Nagoya University, Japan. His research interests are mainly related to; (1) development of local food policy in various countries, (2) re-commoning of local food issues in the aftermath of 3.11 disaster, (3) regulatory and societal impacts of emerging life science technologies, such as gene editing. His major academic fields are sociology of agriculture and food, science/technology & society, rural sociology. He has been a member of the WG2 of the FEAST project since the initial stage.

TAMURA Norie is a social scientist working on agriculture, forestry, and fishery in Japan. She received her Ph.D. in agriculture from Kyoto University in 2007 and has over ten years of experience as a consultant in forestry, fishery and rural development. In 2016, she transferred to the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature where she started working as a Senior Researcher and sub-leader of the FEAST Project. Her research interests include local and small-scale agricultural practices, wild food practices, and the transition of seafood consumption in Japan.

YASUNARI Tetsuzo is Director-General of the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. He received his D.Sc. in Meteorology & Climatology from Kyoto University in 1981. He is a distinguished scientist in the fields of meteorology, climatology, and global environmental system studies. He formerly served as a member of the Joint Scientific Committee of WCRP, and later served as a member of the International Science Committee for Future Earth. Currently, he is Chairman of the Future Earth National Committee under Science Council of Japan, and is a member of Future Earth Advisory Committee since March, 2018. He is a fellow of JpGU (Japan Geoscience Union). He has published more than 300 scientific papers and books. yasunari@chikyu.ac.jp

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