confex

SPACES OF POSSIBILITY

**communities and places
in times of social and
environmental uncertainty**

7 -11 june 2021

WELCOME

Dear Reader,

The confex 'Spaces of Possibility' puts the spotlights on resilience and resourcefulness of communities and sprouts from the Marie Skłodowska Curie (MSCA) Innovative Training Network RECOMS. The confex merges an online conference and an offline exhibition into an innovative, interactive event that brings together researchers, practitioners, artists and policy-makers from across the world for an inspiring exchange of experiences on community-driven transformations.

The conference gives a platform to compelling stories about communities and their environments, thus showcasing their transformative power and the struggles they encounter. What is more, the exhibition engages with the communities near the Thurn and Taxis park in Brussels and grasps the seeds for local transformations.

Join us at the confex to explore community-driven transformations! Let's celebrate the power of co-creative methods! We wish you an inspiring confex.

The RECOMS consortium

CONFEX ORGANISERS

The confex 'Spaces of Possibility' merges a conference and an exhibition into a singular, interactive event.

The confex is organized by the RECOMS project, financed by the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No 765389. The RECOMS consortium comprises BOKU (Austria), Coventry University (UK), ILVO (Belgium), Rachel Carson Centre – LMU (Germany), Rijkswaterstaat (Netherlands) and University of Groningen (Netherlands). RECOMS beneficiaries are Bavarian Forest National Park (Germany), Green City Experience (Germany), PeergrouP (UK) and Shared Assets (UK).
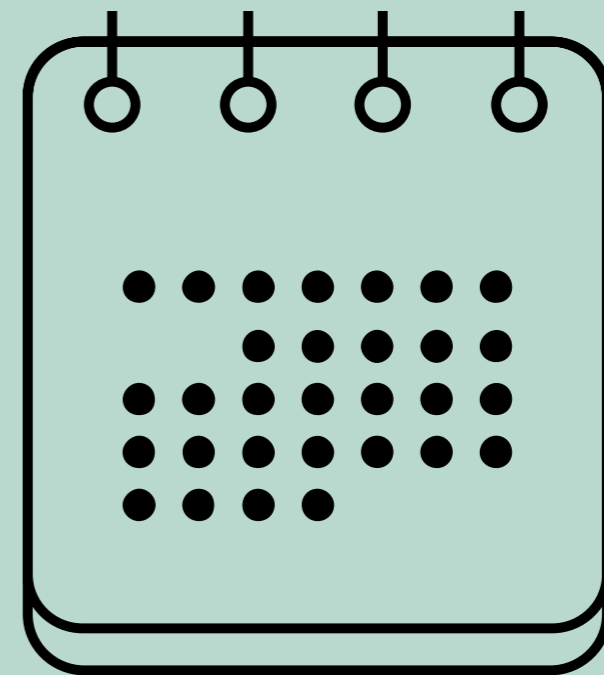
The conference is organized by Jeroen De Waegemaeker (ILVO), Alex Franklin (Coventry University), and Sara Smaal (ILVO/Ghent University) with the assistance of the other members of the scientific committee, Joost Dessein (Ghent University), Viola Hakkarainen (LUKE), Elke Rogge (ILVO), Katriina Soini (LUKE).

The exhibition is curated by Sofia De la Rosa Solano (University of Groningen), Jeroen De Waegemaeker (ILVO), Alex Franklin (Coventry University), Viola Hakkarainen (LUKE), Imogen Humphris (University of Groningen) and Nohemi Ramirez Aranda (ILVO/Ghent University), and is designed by Björn Bracke, Roos Gellynck and Daphné Roels (OMGEVING). The exhibition is accommodated and supported by Parckfarm.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

monday 7th of june 2021 CET: UTC +1

Time					
9.30 - 10.20	**Welcome to the confex Spaces of Possibility** by Alex Franklin (project leader RECOMS, Coventry University) **Keynote lecture - Co-Creation and Just Transformations:** **What Can Co-Creative Methods Contribute to Sustainability Research – And Why It Matters** by Juliet Carpenter (Oxford Brookes University) **Debate about co-creative research methods** with Juliet Carpenter and Alex Franklin				
10.20 - 10.30	**Short coffee break**				
10.30 - 12.00	**Session 1 – "Did you hear me?"** **Power and justice in urban food governance** Chair: Stephen Leitheiser Evaluating urban food policy implementation by considering food initiatives as living indicators: A case study in Groningen (Sara Smaal, Joost Dessein, Barend Wind and Elke Rogge) Food justice as a theoretical framework for studying urban gardening in Germany (Julija Bakunowitsch)	**Session 2 – "We are so sorry."** **The shadow side of good intentions** Chair: Ruben Vezzoni Could the path to sustained inequality be paved with good socio-environmental intentions? (Scott Fontaine) Gender Sensitivity in Local NGOs Peacebuilding Initiatives in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region (Abosede Omowumi Babatunde) A theoretical framework of visions and identities in the smart city (Sara Zaman)	**Workshop 1- Nantes Futurable Science fiction games as a research tool to draw collective measures related to climate change** **Organizers: Claire Planchat, Joachim Muller, Alice Mounissamy and Eve Barlier**	**Roundtable 1 - the researcher as political mediator: co-creation processes in transdisciplinary and trans-sectoral research** **Organizers: Agnese Cretella and Cordula Scherer**	**Workshop 2 - Let art lead your way! Introducing art into research processes** **Organizer: Dinanda Luttikhedde, Kei Yan Leung and Maria Radulescu**
12.00 - 13.00	**Lunch break** [with optional access to virtual lunch break informal meet-&-greet/ chat rooms]				
13.00 -14.30	**Session 3 – "Never eat alone!"** **Food related networks and movements** Chair: Sara Smaal Developing Living Systems for Agroecological Organising and Movement-Building (Alice Taherzadeh and Ama Crowe) Pass the salt, please. Exploring worldwide city-to-city networks on food (Amber Steyaert, Joost Dessein and Eline D'haene) Radical Imagination in Times of Crisis: Rural Visions of Food, Territory, and Autonomy in the Aftermath of Unnatural Disasters (Lucas Sebastián Worsdell)	**Session 4 – "Change the system, not the climate."** **The power of orientation, education and civic activity** Chair: Sergio Ruiz Cayuela Orientation, Community, and Urban Climate Justice (Gerald Taylor Aiken) Hacking climate education methodologies within narrow policy frames (Justus Wachs) Tending Seeds of Civic Activity: The Tragedy of the State/Market Dilemma and the Promise of the Commons (Stephen Leitheiser)	**Workshop 3 The Pre-Pasteurian Sensations of Fermentation** **Organizers: Mai Abbas and Sevgi Mutlu Sirakova**	**World café 1 Operationalizing reflexivity for just sustainability transformations** **Organiser: Viola Hakkarainen**	
14.30 - 14.50	**Storytelling - Festive opening of the online coffee break rooms with storytelling**				
14.50 - 15.30	**Extended coffee break in the online coffee break rooms**				

Tuesday 8th of june 2021 CET: UTC +1

9.30 - 10.20	**Welcome to the confex Spaces of Possibility** by Jeroen De Waegemaeker (ILVO) **Keynote lecture - "Reading for social justice" in food and farming policies** by Moya Kneafsey (Coventry University) **Keynote lecture – From System Thinking to research-scape. Rethinking ILVO researchers' home base as a space of possibility** by Elke Rogge (ILVO)		
10.20 - 10.30	**Short coffee break**		
10.30 - 12.00	**Session 5 – "Let's grow together!"** **Community food growing & alternative food practices** Chair: Mai Abbas Everyday sustainable practices and coping strategies, in relation to food production and consumption (Magdalena Popławska) Stable Schools in Community Supported Agriculture (Marius Rommel, Alina Reinartz and Irene Antoni-Komar) Urban Crofts - Reappropriating Commons for Community Food Growing in Scotland (Evie Murray and Justus Wachs)	**Session 6 – "Who's our client?"** **Just design in urban and rural contexts** Chair: Maria Radulescu Architectural Design Justice: the civic engagement of an all men's homeless shelter in co-creation of their home. (Rosaura Noemy Hernandez Romero and Burak Pak) Co-habitation in the valley of the Eure. A cartographic and design exploration into animal-inclusive design strategies and non-human agency. (Björn Bracke) Mapping cultural ecosystem services through the online PPGIS tool "My Green Place". The case of the Woluwe river. (Nohemi Ramirez Aranda)	**Workshop 4 - PAR and the Transformative power of local - indigenous wisdom** **Organizers: Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas**	**Workshop 5a - Designing Creative Methods: Combining the Pragmatic and the Enchanting in Research and Community Engagement Practices** **Organizers: Kelli Rose Pearson and Anke de Vrieze** Note: this session will be repeated on Wednesday afternoon.
12.00 - 13.00	**Lunch break** [with optional access to virtual lunch break informal meet-&-greet/ chat rooms]		
13.00 -14.30	**Session 7 – "Stronger together."** **Participatory approaches to (farming) innovation** Chair: Kei Yan Leung Q methodology among smallholders: Challenges and best practices of a participatory approach (Juan Carlo Intriago Zambrano, Jan-Carel Diehl and Maurits W. Ertsen) Socio-material bricolage: co-design of institutions by materialities and society in Turkey (Adnan Mirhanoğlu, Maarten Loopmans, Gül Ozerol, Pieter Van Den Broeck and Jaime Hoogesteger)	**Session 8 – "More-than-talking."** **The power of art and visuals in collaborative research** Chair: Viola Hakkarainen Talking methods, talking about methods: more-than-talking techniques in the Methods for Change project (Laura Pottinger, Amy Barron, Ulrike Ehgartner, Sarah Marie Hall and Alison Browne) Co-constructing situated knowledge for the circular reconversion of industry parks (Ellen Verbiest, Julie Marin, Bruno De Meulder and Andrew Vande Moere)	**Workshop 6- Alternative and local food systems (ALFS) in a post-COVID World** **Organizers: Gusztáv Nemes, High Chris and Éva Orbán**	**World café 2 - How to build common ground? The role of knowledge commons** **Organiser: Ana Margarida Esteves, Amelie Krug and Robert Hall**
14.30 - 15.30	**Long coffee break in the online coffee break rooms and première of the MooC Care-full scholarship**		

Wednesday 9th of jun2021 CET: UTC +1

Time				
9.30 - 10.20	**Keynote 4 – Collect. Curate. Reflect? An exhibition as leverage to rethink.**			
10.20 - 10.30	**Short coffee break**			

10.30 - 12.00

Session 9 – "We have a dream!"
Rural aspirations
Chair: Zhanna Baimukhamedova

Towards Representative Resilience: The Power of Culture to Foster Local Resource Representation (Scott Davis)

The Production of a Developmental Rural Space: A Rural Development Programme in China (Tian Tian)

The relations between farmers' land tenure security and agriculture production. An assessment in the perspective of smallholder (Uwacu Alban Singirankabo and Maurits Willem Ertsen)

How do farmers experience art? A case study of Echigo-Tsumari Art Field, Japan (Kei Yan Leung and Line Marie Thorsen)

Session 10 – "This land is our land."
Reclaiming urban spaces
Chair: Talitta Reitz

Grey-backed Mining Bees, Citizen Movements and the Future of Friche Josaphat: Plan Bee Josaphat (Jolein Bergers, Bruno Notteboom and Viviana d'Auria)

Breathing new futures in polluted environments (Taranto, Italy) (Maaret Jokela-Pansini and Elisabeth Militz)

Covid-19 in vulnerable neighbourhoods; maintaining and supporting social resilience during physical distancing (Sander van Lanen, Simon Allemeersch, Evelyne Deceur, Klasien Horstman, Mare Knibbe, Griet Roets and Ceren Sezer)

Workshop 7 - Balancing roles and capacities in co-creating spaces of peer-to-peer learning

Organizers: Alice Taherzadeh and Katie Hastings

Workshop 8 - Building an Agroecological City

Organizer: Kate Swade, Kim Graham and Mark Walton

12.00 - 13.00 **Lunch break**
[with optional access to virtual lunch break informal meet-&-greet/ chat rooms]

13.00 -14.30

Session 11 – "Learning across borders."
Case studies in transdisciplinary, participatory and transnational research
Chair: Scott Davis

Towards a Critical Sustainability Science? Participation of Disadvantaged Actors & Power Relations in Transdisciplinary Research (Agathe Osinski)

Reenchantment of terraced landscapes - global movement - local initiatives (Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas)

Session 12 – "This is who we are."
The power of culture and collective identity
Chair: Jingjing Guo

Bicycle Cities: racing towards sustainable mobility (Talitta Reitz)

Sustainability transformations in ecovillage communities (Ciska Ulug)

Creating (Virtual) Cultures of Sustainability?: Towards the University "Ecovillage" (Olea Morris)

Kaleidoscope - Posters and Lightning talks
Chair: Ika Darnhofer

A pattern language for urban commons (Aimee Felstead)

Living Labs: a creative and collaborative planning approach (Maria Alina Radulescu)

Food Smart Dublin: an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable seafood (Agnese Cretella, Cordula Scherer)

Dewilding King's Meads reserve (Dave Willis)

Rendering research gently: attending to bodies, slowness and reciprocity through gentle methodologies (Laura Pottinger)

Creative tension between co-optation and resistance: myth or reality? Insights from urban gardeners' experience in Rome (Chiara Certomà, Paolo Giaccaria)

Closer to the road (Claire Chevallier)

The wicked road to a sustainable economy (Ruben Vezzoni)

Campfire 1 – Between Academia and the Self: Research as an educational process

Organiser: Zhanna Baimukhamedova and Sergio Ruiz Cayuela

Workshop 5b - Designing Creative Methods: Combining the Pragmatic and the Enchanting in Research and Community Engagement Practices

Organiser: Kelli Rose Pearson and Anke de Vrieze

Note: this session is a repeat of the session on Tuesday morning.

Time				
14.30 - 14.50	**Premiere: RECOMS Educational Films**			
14.50 - 15.30	**Long coffee break in the online coffee break rooms**			

Thursday 10th of june 2021 CET: UTC +1

10.30 - 12.30   **Social justice, citizen empowerment and stakeholder engagement in urban food strategies: Policy roundtable & launch of the RE-ADJUSTool**

Organizers: Sara Smaal & Elke Rogge

[Learn more about this event and register here: **https://forms.gle/cHok5UvFFhu1EebM6**]

Friday 11th of june 2021 CET: UTC +1

10.00 - 13.00   **Connecting people through care-full scholarship: a co-creative workshop**

Organizers: Angela Moriggi, Jingjing Guo, Scott Davis and Alex Franklin

[Learn more about this event and register here: **https://forms.gle/qoJQ5teH1XDzctfv9**]

WHAT ARE 'SPACES OF POSSIBILITY'?
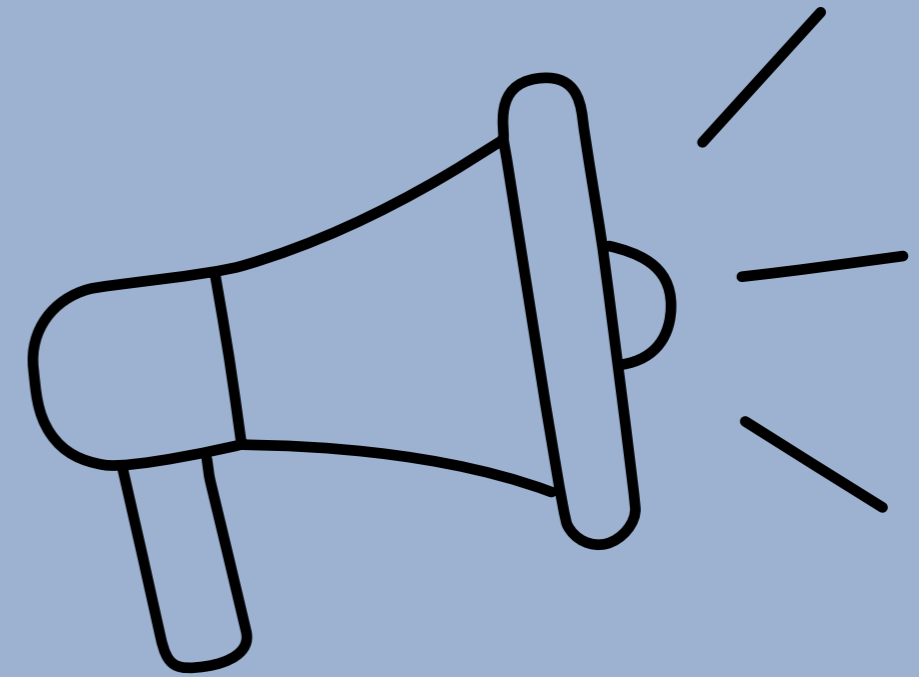
Recent global events show the urgent need for transforming our collective relationship with the environment that supports and enables our existence on this planet. Now more than ever, changes are needed in the ways we live, interact, connect and think about the world, including other humans and nature.

The diverse places and communities, which we all are part of, are the platforms on which many of these transformative actions are being shaped and established. We inhabit places that are formed of interconnected webs of cultural practices, social networks, local ecosystems, values, beliefs, knowledge systems, and historical pathways that have led to this current point. In these diverse and dynamic spaces, we see the growth of various seeds of ideas and initiatives that can help us respond to environmental uncertainty. They form 'Spaces of Possibility' from which ways forward emerge through adaptation and transformations of our daily practices.

The confex explores these 'Spaces of Possibility' via four lenses on community-driven transformations:
1. systems and structures
2. representation and justice
3. material places and embodied practices,
4. sustainability research as co-creative practice.

SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURES

Individuals and community-based organisations have often demonstrated that they have the capacity to generate bottom-up transformational solutions. By supporting the local knowledge of inhabitants, they can find new ways of doing things and enable socio-environmental transformation to take root in the neighbourhood. However, gaining the means and support to enact these solutions frequently requires engagement with larger systems and structures, whether it's to obtain permission from the local municipality to convert a vacant plot into a community garden, or to gain more access to resources.

As the large-scale systems, which govern the flow of resources, can be slow to change, those attempting to bring new ways of working into their neighbourhoods are often in confrontation with them. Because our daily lives are governed by existing organisations and structures, the adoption of transformative perspectives takes place incrementally.

How can we negotiate with existing systems to access the resources needed to enact change?

How far should we go in pairing back our transformative aspirations in order to do this?

REPRESENTATION AND JUSTICE

For long, development has been guided by the idea that we can build a more egalitarian society through technological advancement. Even though technology has allowed magnificent advancements, in the last century inequality has deepened as never before in history. Nowadays, a minimal number of people accumulate vast fortunes, at the cost of increasing extreme poverty and environmental degradation. In this context, justice and representation become powerful tools to build the road towards socio-environmental equality.

Justice allows people to recognise and understand the disparities between individuals and the different starting points of communities. It also highlights the need for including both humans and non-humans in the quest for fairness.

Representation asks specifically for the voices that are not being heard in decision-making. Furthermore, it creates the need for different and inclusive narratives that challenge universal schemes of 'one size fits all' for both human and non-human alike.

Representation and justice gaining increasing importance, when talking about achieving sustainable futures, however, there are difficulties. Some of the democratic systems that we have tasked to implement justice and representation are not sufficient to answer the challenges that we face.

Therefore, in this section we set out to explore questions such as: Does 'justice' mean the same to everyone? Who is being left behind by the mechanisms we have now? How can inclusion of different voices contribute to justice? How do we increase the diversity of views drawn upon to shape decision-making and action?

MATERIAL PLACES AND EMBODIED PRACTICES

The discussions around equality, fairness, environment and society are set in large and unfamiliar contexts. However, in our practice as social researchers we encounter daily the personal and smallscale routines of adaptation. This section aims to highlight the 'hidden gems' that can be found, and the materiality of the struggles that exist among the communities with which we work.

For many years, socio-environmental struggles around the world have been represented by arrays of images that showcase extreme events and remote locations, placing distant communities and flooded catastrophes in our imaginaries. However, the spaces where daily life meets adaptation to socio-environmental uncertainty are far more familiar. Parks, streets, urban waterways, conservation areas, farms and many other everyday spaces around us inform our approach, to make you reflect on the materiality of living in these times.

At last, we do not want to leave out the individual scale of this confex. Reflecting about our bodies allows us to think about the way consumption culture changes our actions, thoughts, diets, health, dress and routines. The imprints of living in these places and time are amongst the most tactile and personal ways in which we can find the spaces of possibilities around us.

For this theme, we want to discuss questions such as: How does socio-environmental transformation happen in the farm or the park? How do I use my body as a tool for change?

SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH AS CO-CREATIVE PRACTICE

Enabling others, and ourselves, to become better at thinking differently about how to achieve environmental justice, rather than focus on highlighting injustices alone, is arguably crucial to making a positive difference in the world. The starting point of this theme is the proposition that conceptualising sustainability research as being dependent upon 'co-creative' research practice has the potential to help stimulate and sustain, but also continuously hold to account, this much-needed process of transformation. Notably, the term 'co-creative' is embedded here upon an understanding of both creativity and knowledge as being fundamentally distributed and relational.

However, what does it actually mean to think of research as a co-creative practice and of researchers as co-creative practitioners? How to nurture transdisciplinary forms of co-creative research practice, and how to become skilled in co-creative research participation? And, why might attending to the (inherent) co-creativity of research practice matter?

In seeking contributions that address these (and other related) questions, our aims are: to encourage reflection and debate on the co-presence of collaboration and creativity within research; to support researchers in peer-to-peer learning aimed at nurturing, but also managing and responding to the effects, and affects, of co-creativity within their research; and to better understand the role and potential of such co-creative research practice in furthering transformative sustainability science research agendas.

Clearly, such aims are underpinned by a number of assumptions, including in particular, that creativity and collaboration do and 'should' go hand-in-hand in the design and practicing of sustainability science research. It is worth emphasizing, however, that despite such assumptions, what is sought through this theme is not (or at least, not only) an uncritical sharing of celebratory accounts. Rather, an intentional nurturing of co-creative methods and approaches can be argued to hold as much potential to be mutually rewarding for all involved, as it does to prove highly problematic. It is in recognition of this 'problematic' that the need for extended critical reflection by a community of action-orientated researchers, and in turn the aims of this theme, were originally derived.

CONFERENCE
KEYNOTES
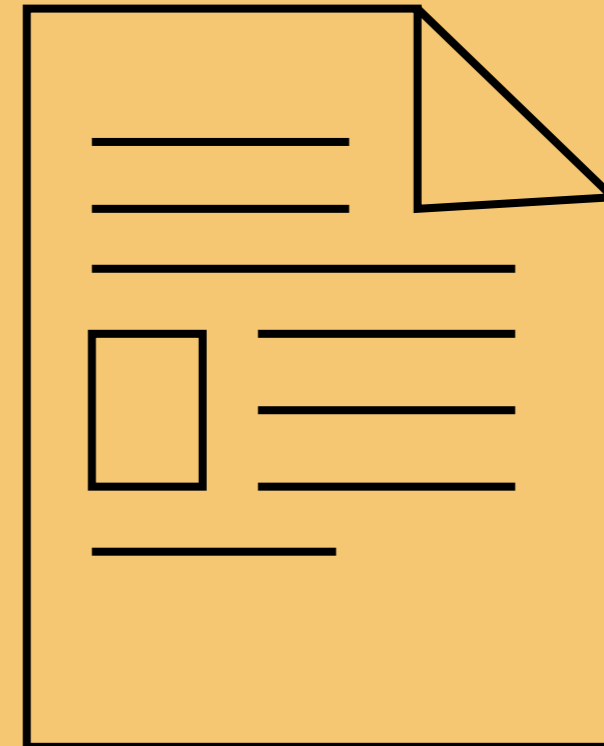
CO-CREATION AND JUST TRANSFORMATIONS: WHAT CAN CO-CREATIVE METHODS CONTRIBUTE TO SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH – AND WHY IT MATTERS

Juliet Carpenter
Oxford Brookes University

Mon, Jun 7th; 09:30 - 10:20

One of the key challenges of the 21st century relates to sustainability and how to achieve a just transition to more sustainable futures. Researchers have a crucial role to play in supporting this transformation, not least by offering alternative ways of understanding issues of sustainability, and by working towards creating more just and sustainable places. One such alternative approach is through the method of Co-Creation (Carpenter et al, 2020; Horvath and Carpenter, 2020), bringing together researchers, residents, artists and urban stakeholders in creative practice, to co-create new knowledge and understanding of sustainability, which can feed into transformative societal thinking.

In this keynote presentation, I will provide a critical reflection on the application of co-creative methods in social sustainability research. Drawing on empirical research in Vancouver and Rio de Janeiro, I will demonstrate that, by using participatory visual methods to explore sustainability issues with communities, this co-creative approach has the potential to engage directly with local residents and stakeholders, to forefront their daily realities, and to work towards collaborative knowledge production of their situated experiences, potentially leading ultimately to transformative thinking and behaviour.

However, I will argue that there are also limitations to such a co-creative approach, particularly in relation to the power imbalances that are inherently embedded in research relationships. The examples bring into sharp focus the ethical dimensions and challenges of using participatory creative research methods as a tool for engaging with local communities, where fundamental differences have to be negotiated, and power hierarchies addressed. Nevertheless, despite these limitations, I suggest participatory creative methods can contribute to giving a voice to communities in co-creative research, and so contribute to our understanding of how to build more socially sustainable futures.

Carpenter J, Horvath C, Spencer B (2020) 'Co-Creation as an agonistic practice in the favela of Santa Marta, Rio de Janeiro', Urban Studies, p1-18, Open Access

Horvath C and Carpenter J (eds) (2020) 'Co-Creation in Theory and Practice: Exploring Creativity in the Global North and South', Bristol: Policy Press

Who is Juliet Carpenter?

Dr Juliet Carpenter is a Senior Research Fellow at Oxford Brookes University, with research interests at the intersection of urban geography, planning, urban sociology and political science. The focus of her work is on urban social sustainability, in particular related to urban policy and social inequalities, examining the extent to which urban planning and policy decisions can contribute to more just and sustainable neighbourhoods and cities.

Since 2017, Juliet has been involved in the EU H2020 funded 'Co-Creation' project, which pioneered an innovative approach to Co-Creation, bringing together artists, residents, researchers and policy-makers to co-create new knowledge on marginalised neighbourhoods. She is particularly interested in the potential of arts-based methods and creative practice in urban planning, researching in a range of countries, from France and the UK in a European context, to the international settings of Canada and Brazil. She has published extensively in both academic and practitioner-based journals, and has co-edited three books, most recently in 2020 with the book Co-Creation in Theory and Practice: Exploring Creativity in the Global North and South (Policy Press). From July 1st 2021, she will be joining Oxford University, at the Global Centre on Healthcare and Urbanisation.

'READING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE' IN FOOD AND FARMING POLICIES

Moya Kneafsey
Coventry University

Tue, Jun 8th; 09:30 - 10:20

Activists and scholars have long argued that without social justice, the goal of securing a fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food system will remain a distant dream. Movements for food justice and food sovereignty have developed many visionary projects to articulate the injustices in food systems, and to experiment with practical, community-led and place-based solutions to these. Yet the extent to which these initiatives are acknowledged, supported or encouraged by food and farming policies at different scales remains questionable. Drawing from Maughan et al (2020), this short talk introduces a framework to help 'read for social justice' in order to analyse the extent to which policy documents engage with social justice issues. It argues that without the participation of those most negatively affected by dynamics in food systems, the possibilities of achieving food justice will remain limited.

Maughan, C., Anderson, C. and Kneafsey, M. (2020) A five-point framework for reading for social justice: A case study of food and farming policy discourse in the context of Brexit Britain', *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* 9(3): 281-300.

Who is Moya Kneafsey?

Moya Kneafsey is Professor of Human Geography, Food and Local Development at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience at Coventry University. Her research has concentrated primarily on 'alternative' food networks, short food supply chains, community-led food systems and more recently, food justice. Her latest publication is Geographies of Food: An Introduction. She is joint co-ordinator of the RECOMS project and leads a multi-actor consortium on Collaborative Agri-Food Chains: Driving Innovation in Territorial Food Systems. She is also co-working on FOOdiVERSE, examining how diversity in diets, supply chains and governance contributes to more organic and sustainable food systems.

FROM SYSTEM THINKING TO RESEARCH-SCAPE. RETHINKING ILVO RESEARCHERS' HOME BASE AS A SPACE OF POSSIBILITY

Elke Rogge
ILVO

Tue, Jun 8th; 09:30 - 10:20

Over the last decade it became increasingly clear that agricultural research and innovation need to address ever more complex socio-scientific problems such as globalisation, climate change, and scarcity of resources. To be able to tackle these challenges agricultural innovation has made a shift from a linear transfer of knowledge and innovation to a system of knowledge sharing. In this system it is widely understood that agricultural research and innovation need to mobilize a growing range of stakeholders with multiple perspectives in order to provide innovative, sustainable solutions. In order to do this we need a systems approach to apply holistic system thinking since it allows multilevel, multiscale and multi-actor approaches to understand the dynamics of the agrifood system and its interdependencies with other systems.

At Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO) Systems Thinking was first applied to individual research projects. Today it is quiet common within ILVO to employ systems thinking when developing a research vision on heavily debated subjects (agriculture and climate change, nitrogen deposition, agricultural preservation policies, the future of life stock breeding etc…). Three key elements in this approach are to think cyclically, to always imagine the bigger picture and to include various perspectives. Having experienced the strength of this approach we decided to also employ it for imagining the future of our own research infrastructure and accompanying agricultural land. This allowed us to conceive our 'home base' as a space of possibility.

With this contribution we will illustrate how we used a systems thinking approach to build a 'research-scape' that makes linkages between high-tech research, biodiversity, water management, heritage and recreation. By doing so we are actively engaged in community building and we are shaping our own space of possibility!

Who is Elke Rogge?

Elke Rogge is scientific director of the Social Sciences Unit at Flanders Research Institute for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (ILVO). Her research mainly focuses on territorial governance and participation within spatial planning processes in rural areas. The last couple of years she also coordinated several research projects on the (possible) role of agriculture in peri-urban areas and the governance of (local) food networks and rural development. From the very start Elke has been involved in the set-up of a research-scape at ILVO and, up to today, she contributes to its creation.

EXHIBITION
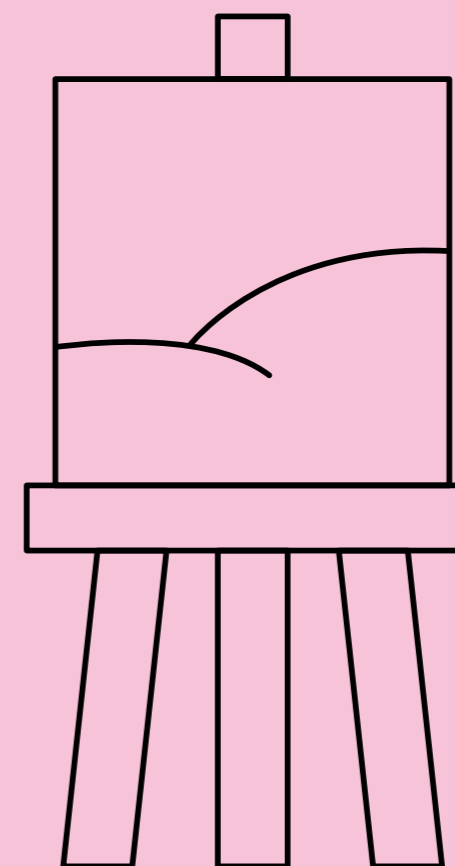
COLLECT. CURATE. REFLECT?
AN EXHIBITION AS LEVERAGE TO
RETHINK.

🕐 Wed, Jun 9th; 09:30 - 10:20

exhibition with discussants
Nina Möllers (Biotopia), Sofia De la Rosa (University of Groningen),
Imogen Humphris (University of Groningen), Roos Gellynck
(OMGEVING)

moderated by Jeroen De Waegemaeker (ILVO)

While academics and practitioners share their experiences of communities and environments in transformation in the online conference 'Spaces of Possibility', the exhibition 'Spaces of Possibility' targets the local inhabitants of Brussels. It takes place from 7th to 11th of June 2021 in Brussels, Belgium. The exhibition is located in the greenhouse Parckfarm of the park Thurn & Taxis, which is the home base of a local NGO that organizes many community-building activities such as a communal garden and cooking workshops. This non-academic counterpart to the conference aims to engage with it's visitors, to inspire them and to spark a debate about transformations. During the keynote debate the audience gets a virtual tour of the exhibition and learns about the scope and design of the exhibition. The exhibition 'Spaces of Possibility' serves as a case study to discuss the added value of exhibitions in research processes and in day-to-day community building.

Who is Nina Möllers?

Nina Möllers is the head of BIOTOPIA Lab and the events' department at BIOTOPIA - Naturkundemuseum Bayern in Munich. From 2009 to 2018, she was researcher and exhibition curator at the Deutsches Museum, where she curated the first large exhibition on the Anthropocene. Her main focus of research is cultural studies, Anthropocene and environmental studies, and museum studies. Nina Möllers holds a Ph.D. in History and has studied in Tübingen, Trier, Nashville and Palo Alto, CA. She is editor and author of a number of books and articles in German and English, f.ex. Materializing the Medium: Staging the Age of Humans in the Exhibition Space. In: *Zeitschrift für Medien- und Kulturforschung.* FOCUS Mediocene. 9/1 (2018), 85-101;Cur(at)ing the Planet: How to Exhibit the Anthropocene and Why. In: *Anthropocene. Envisioning the Future of the Age of Humans,* RCC Perspectives 3 (2013), ed. Helmuth Trischler, 57-66. and *Objects in Motion: Globalizing Technology.* Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution Scholarly Press, 2016 (with B. Dewalt); *Past and Present Energy Societies. How Energy Connects Politics, Technologies and Cultures.* Bielefeld: transcript, 2012 (with K. Zachmann).

Who is Sofia De La Rosa?

Sofia De la Rose is trained as an environmental historian and has a MA in Latin American Studies. Her research interests lie in society's vital relationship with water and how it is mediated by the different interactions, technologies and imaginaries around water. She currently is a PhD student at the University of Groningen where she studies how urban post-industrial cities with an extended network of waterways evolved, comparing the cases of Coventry (UK) and Rotterdam (NL). Sofia is a co-curator of the exhibition 'Spaces of Possibility'.

Who is Imogen Humphris?

Formally trained in architecture, Imogen Humphris explores the bottom up emergence of resilience in urban contexts and the responsive role of designers. Over the last 10 years her work has become increasingly focused on civic initiatives, both formal and informal, acting as a participant, community planning facilitator and researcher. She currently is a PhD student at the University of Groningen where she researches the transformational impact created by experimental civic initiatives working within the context of the post-industrial city. Imogen is a co-curator of the exhibition 'Spaces of Possibility'.

Who is Roos Gellynck?

Roos Gellynck is trained as an interior architect and scenographer. She is a space creator, graphic designer and professional dreamer and currently teaches a course on urban inclusion at KU Leuven. Together with her colleagues of the Antwerp-based design office OMGEVING, Roos designed the exhibition 'Spaces of Possibility' (7th until 11th of June, Brussels), which is part of this confex and the Recoms project.

Who is Jeroen De Waegemaeker?

Jeroen De Waegemaeker is trained as an architect, engineer and spatial planner. In his doctoral research 'Climate-proof through Design' he explored the pivotal role of open spaces, and farmland in particular, in adapting peri-urban areas to climate change. Currently Jeroen is involved at ILVO in various research projects in the field of spatial planning, climate adaptation and agricultural innovation. Jeroen has coordinated the development process of the exhibition 'Spaces of Possibility'.

CONFERENCE
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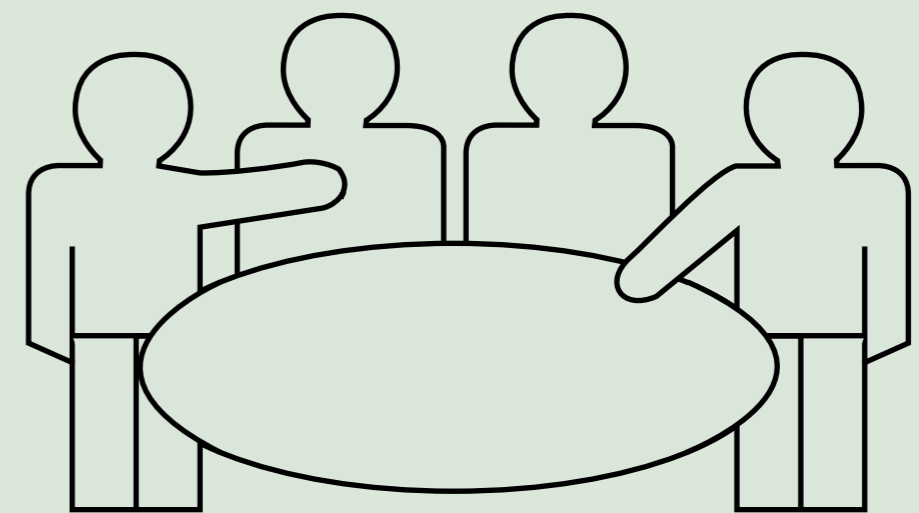
1 'DID YOU HEAR ME?'

POWER AND JUSTICE IN URBAN FOOD GOVERNANCE

🕐 Mon, Jun 7th; 10:30 - 12:00

Session Chair: Stephen Leitheiser
University of Groningen

Evaluating urban food policy implementation by considering food initiatives as living indicators: A case study in Groningen

Sara Smaal, Joost Dessein, Barend Wind and Elke Rogge
ILVO, Ghent University and University of Groningen

An urban food strategy is often considered and celebrated as the end product of a participatory governance process, but it also marks the start of an ongoing commitment to facilitate and support projects, measures and initiatives that contribute to the policy goals the city has set out to achieve. Our in-depth case study reflects on the implementation trajectories of a number of food policies and programmes in Groningen, a medium-sized city in the north of the Netherlands. We focus in particular on the city's food policy goals directed towards creating social added value, e.g. related to improving access to food and land, community cohesion, employment opportunities, public health and knowledge exchange in the urban food system. The work builds on the framework of the RE-ADJUSTool (REflecting on and ADvancing Justice in Urban food Strategies Tool, in development, see Smaal et al., 2020). For our data-collection (pre-pandemic), we have facilitated a two-part focus group with three municipal food policy coordinators and conducted semi-structured interviews with 45 place-based social enterprises, NGOs and citizen initiatives that attempt to create a more humane, inclusive and fair food system from the bottom up. In the results section, we critically analyse the participants' experiences with, understandings of and positions towards pursuing more socially just urban food systems and the role of the municipality in this respect. In the discussion and conclusion sections, we reflect on how cities can cultivate resourcefulness (MacKinnon & Derickson, 2013) in urban food policy implementation by viewing and learning from the dissensus-driven practices of social food initiatives as living indicators (Kaika, 2017).

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Food justice as a theoretical framework for studying urban gardening in Germany

Julija Bakunowitsch

TU Dortmund

The purpose of this contribution is to elaborate on the theoretical concept of food justice in relation to urban gardening within German socio-economic context. Even though urban gardening is a popular practice in German cities, only few scholars investigate the connection of urban gardening activities with questions of justice. My presentation provides a foundation of relevant theoretical dimensions for studying and operationalizing food justice in the German urban gardening context.

After years of attention in mass media, academia and urban governance, urban gardening – understood as social practices related to food cultivation in (semi-) public urban areas – proved to be far more than a trend. It is associated with positive socio-cultural and socio-economic effects on, for example, social inclusion or urban development. In times of socio-ecological uncertainty places like community gardens enable the practicing of transformative socio-material relations, thus providing 'spaces of possibility'. However, critical scholarship emphasizes ambiguous processes counteracting progressive features, for example when urban gardening simultaneously contributes to neoliberal development or gentrification. Nevertheless, questions of justice are rarely asked. An exception to this is the food justice approach.

As there is no universal definition of justice, there are many different concepts of what justice means to be found. Here, I start from the perspective of social justice, which is at the core of the food justice conceptualization. In a nutshell, measures can be understood as serving social justice, when the most vulnerable members of society profit. Food justice originates in the North American activist and academic context. Asking questions about structural inequalities in local food systems, food justice scholarship investigates unequal access and consumption patterns of nutritious food. A major realm of research focuses on urban gardening as a possible place-based contribution to more food justice, starting from the normative assumption that 'good' food should be available to everyone.

Given that a low social status is positively correlated to malnutrition in Germany, food is a dimension of urban inequality. Therefore, understanding and embracing the food justice approach can be a step towards asking and answering more critical food justice questions, such as: Who gets to decide? How is (food) justice understood in different forms of urban gardening? And what role does urban gardening play for vulnerable groups? This kind of knowledge can help the academic community to be more reflective on the phenomenon of urban gardening as well as contribute to a more just planning of gardening projects.

2 'WE ARE SO SORRY.'
THE SHADOW SIDE OF GOOD INTENTIONS

Mon, Jun 7th; 10:30 - 12:00

Session Chair: Ruben Vezzoni

LUKE and University of Helsinki

Could the path to sustained inequality be paved with good socio-environmental intentions?

Scott Fontaine
UCLouvain

Grassroots innovation, nor the 'local' space, exist in vitro. Rather, they evolve in complex socio-political systems. I will explore how the focus on local action can play a key role in ignoring broader dynamics and how, therefore, it might explain unforeseen consequences of actions brought by good intentions such as the reproduction – or even the strengthening – of problematic aspects of society that were meant to be fought by the very same actions.

Drawing on the first results of a doctoral research in French-speaking Belgium, this oral presentation will shed light on a key question related to bottom up socio-environmental actions: could positive local effects overshadow negative impacts on a larger scale?

To illustrate my point, I will elaborate on the development of two grassroots organizations in a small town located in the peri-urban area of Brussels.

First, I'll explore the frame resonances between socio-political local stakes (such as inter-municipal competition for the attraction of high revenues households), some determinants of the socio-demographic dynamics in the analysis area (such as the idealization of acquiring a suburban house in the residential pathways of households), and the importance of the local scape and public space in grassroots mobilization. Then, I'll describe how while participatory local development tools can have positive internal effects on democracy and socio-environmental innovation, they can also fortify socio-economic borders and therefore, paradoxically, reduce access to these developments to a larger part of the population in the long-run. This will allow me to highlight the importance of resources available in the place where grassroots innovations grow in order to situate them within a wider framework of socio-spatial segregation and urban sprawl. Access to resources has a price which is not always paid by those who benefit from it. Thus, this contribution invites reflection on access to spaces, from different levels of power and different scales of change and power. A precaution that seems all the more necessary for preventing our transformational initiatives to reproduce the problematics aspects of the systems we are struggling with.

Gender Sensitivity in Local NGOs Peacebuilding Initiatives in Nigeria's Niger Delta Region

Abosede Omowumi Babatunde
University of Ilorin

This study interrogates the level of gender inclusiveness in the peacebuilding efforts of local NGOs working in the environmentally ravaged and volatile Nigeria's Niger Delta. The local NGOs have been at the forefront of efforts to provide succor to the impoverished local people. The local people have been confronting adverse impacts of oil-related activities of multinational corporations, with little oil benefit accruing to them. Studies on the roles of civil society organizations in peacebuilding in the Niger Delta have focused limited attention on the peacebuilding intervention programmes of local NGOs in the Niger Delta. There is even less attention to how the intervention activities of NGOs have impacted on the vulnerable groups, particularly local women who are marginalized because of a complex set of social, cultural and political factors. This study focuses on how local NGOs peacebuilding activities intersect with gender sensitivity in oil communities in the Niger Delta. Gender sensitivity in this context denotes the consideration by local NGOs of how their intervention strategies take existing sensitivities and grievances of both men and women into account, in order to ensure gender equality, and inclusiveness in their peacebuilding programmes. This study examines the extent to which local NGOs address gender concerns in their peacebuilding activities in oil communities. This has implications for effective peacebuilding in the volatile region in the long run. The core question is, to what extent has the peacebuilding activities of local NGOs impacts women in the Niger Delta? Drawing on fieldwork in selected oil communities in Rivers, Bayelsa and Delta states, the study argues that the peacebuilding activities of local NGOs have largely not been gender sensitive as a result of social, cultural and political dynamics in oil communities that shaped gendered power relations. This study demonstrates that local NGOs capacity to positively impacts women is constrained by interlocking social, cultural and political issues that need to be critically analyzed, understood and addressed in the quest for effective civil engagements and peacebuilding in the volatile region. The study reveals the socio-cultural and political dynamics linked to the local NGOs relations with the Nigerian state, oil multinationals and local elites, impacts on the gender dimension of their peacebuilding interventions in the Niger Delta. The study unpacks the implication of the lack of gender sensitivity in local peacebuilding activities for peace and security in the Niger Delta region.

A theoretical framework of visions and identities in the smart city

Sara Zaman
University of Helsinki

In modern urban environments, it has become nearly impossible to operate without leaving digital footprints, as the technologies that are basic to everyday life become further embedded in that life (West, 2019). Smart technology has undoubtedly affected how urban residents interact with each other and their environment, for example, by increasing empowerment in green space management and shared knowledge about infections during the COVID-19 pandemic (Martin et al., 2020; Nitoslawski et al., 2019). Yet a recent global survey of experts in urban planning and ecology suggests wide concern that while robotics and artificial intelligence have the potential to increase the availability of green spaces for vulnerable groups, the pace of technological change can have long-term consequences for the ways the economies and societies operate, which are not fully understood (Goddard et al., 2021). Justice issues related to the digital divide, allocative harms, and algorithmic biases accelerate the potential for subjective increases or decreases in human-nature interactions (Galaz et al., 2021; Goddard et al., 2021). Other concerns range from concrete concepts like invasion of privacy (West, 2019; Zuboff, 2019), up to the more abstract loss of the 'right to the future tense' (Zuboff, 2019, p. 328). As the city of Helsinki increasingly focuses on sustainable smart city initiatives, concurrent research suggests that smart urbanism is at a crossroads, where developers must decide how smart technology either hinders or aids urban justice initiatives (Rossi, 2016).

The first phase of this PhD research asks: how does the city of Helsinki shape the discourse around smart city development, including conceptualizations of an individual's role in the local economy, their agency in smart city development, and their relationships with their urban surroundings? This research will use Foucauldian Discourse Analysis (FDA) to identify which discourses are elevated, and which are silenced, through discourse on the social media platform Twitter (Sam, 2019). This presentation will focus on the development of a theoretical framework that begins to put together a stakeholder map displaying visions, perceptions, and realities of relationships between participants in the smart city and their urban environment. Through my research, I will contribute justice-oriented perspectives to discussions on smart city development that prioritize how technology mediates interactions among and between society and the environment.

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3 'NEVER EAT ALONE!'
FOOD RELATED NETWORKS AND MOVEMENTS

Mon, Jun 7th; 13:00 - 14:30

Session Chair: Sara Smaal
ILVO - Ghent University

Developing Living Systems for Agroecological Organising and Movement-Building

Alice Taherzadeh and Ama Crowe
Cardiff University

The agroecology movement in the UK is still young but rapidly growing and complexifying. The movement is made up of landworkers, activists, organisations, academics and others who are fighting together for a better food and farming system centred on justice and sustainability. In recent years, a concerted effort has been made to improve systems of organising and strengthen networks to increase the impact of agroecology in transforming the food system. This involves addressing systems of decision-making, resource and information flow, conflict engagement, feedback, and support as well as interrogating power dynamics across all of these systems. Changes can be observed at various levels from farms and projects to organisations, farming unions, and at the level of the movement. To understand this, it is important to not just look at the academic literature on social movements but also draw from contemporary knowledge produced by activist collectives and organisations through trainings, blogs, podcasts, webinars and more. As part of the research project Resisting Learning Growing (RLG), an action learning group of activist-farmers and food activists was formed to investigate the role of movement organising and learning processes in amplifying agroecology. The group all attended a training course called Living Systems for Thriving Groups led by an activist training and facilitation cooperative and then met regularly to explore how these concepts related to the agroecology movement. Over several months they held discussion sessions which resulted in co-created blogs and podcasts which shared their learnings with the wider movement. This presentation begins by outlining the theory behind living systems as an approach and by contextualizing the agroecology movement. The findings from the research on organising systems in the agroecology movement are then presented along with a reflection on using action learning groups as a method and as a key process within a participatory action research project. This presentation argues that paying attention to the systems that we organize by is crucial for all groups and networks. Making these explicit and developing the structures and processes within these systems not only increases the impact of our work towards a sustainable future but also highlights and addresses issues of power and justice so that it is equitable and accessible.

Pass the salt, please. Exploring worldwide city-to-city networks on food

Amber Steyaert, Joost Dessein and Eline D'haene
Ghent University

Policy actors at the city level are increasingly engaged in food policy initiatives aimed at creating more sustainable food systems. In stark contrast to national work on food systems, these local initiatives are very often characterized by participatory approaches. As a result, we have witnessed the appearance of new urban governance structures where food system actors coordinate and collaborate on actions, within a common normative framework. The initiatives that exist as a result are often framed within a bigger conviction of civilians 'taking back control' over the food system. While these initiatives are valuable, their individual impact on the food system remains limited. To achieve food system transitions, up – and out scaling is necessary. One of the instruments to realise this scaling could be city-to-city (C2C) networks. The last few years, many cities have gotten engaged in networks where they share experiences and struggles with peers. The most famous one is the MUFPP network. Others include the CITYFOOD network (RUAF Global Partnership), Food for Cities (FAO) and the C40 Food Systems network. Besides these international networks, many local policy actors are also involved in regional and national city food networks. While these networks are increasingly popular, there is a notable lack of research on C2C learning in the context of local food systems. Very few is known about how these networks are organized, how members engage in these networks and how they can contribute to the transition toward more sustainable food systems. By conducting a quantitative questionnaire in which members and facilitators of these networks are heard, we will create an overview of different types of C2C networks on local food systems and different ways a city can participate in these networks. The identified types contribute to the existing literature on city-to-city learning and will be a foundation for further research on the contribution of those networks in the context of local food systems. Additionally, they will help policymakers to choose a network that fits their needs and network facilitators with the organization of these network. While this research focuses on local food systems, the results can be of interest to everyone who is enthusiastic about the possibilities of city-to-city learning.

Radical Imagination in Times of Crisis: Rural Visions of Food, Territory, and Autonomy in the Aftermath of Unnatural Disasters

Lucas Sebastián Worsdell
Asika

This presentation shall discuss how food producers, processors, and distributors, who support local rural agroecological food systems, imagine food, territory, and autonomy, in the face of crisis. Unravelling the overlaps between two case studies, Puerto Rico and the Netherlands, this thesis seeks to uncover how these actors understand the 'unnatural' nature of crisis, contribute to the resilience of rural communities in the present, and envision visions of food systems transformation. Both, Hurricane Maria and the coronavirus's effects were amplified by preconditioned vulnerabilities which are strikingly similar, yet manifest themselves with subtle differences in both cases. The prefigurative politics of agroecological movements in both territories allow for these places to carve out resilient local food networks, that build autonomy and resist the global food system to counter crisis, environmental degradation, and alienation. In both cases, farmer-driven networks foster relationships that are fundamental to sharing knowledge and practices in ways that support community resilience and potential for food sovereignty. Radical imaginations of the past, present, and future, offers fertile ground for food producers, processors, and distributors, to transform their food system. However, significant challenges remain for these practices, networks and movements to effectively drive the collective imagination to transform the food system as a whole, creating spaces beyond the control of capitalism and the state, free of the restrictions of land, food, and nature commodification, to allow for the continuing activation of worlds. Methods in both countries varied, from participant observation and building long term relationship with farmers to quick, semi-structured interviews with food sellers. Therefore the results also reveals the different roles research has depending on the context in which it is enacted, creating different embodied experiences of each territory which is visible within the data collected.

4 'CHANGE THE SYSTEM, NOT THE CLIMATE!'

THE POWER OF ORIENTATION, EDUCATION AND CIVIC ACTIVITY

Mon, Jun 7th; 13:00 - 14:30

Session Chair: Sergio Ruiz Cayuela
Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich

Orientation, Community, and Urban Climate Justice

Gerald Taylor Aiken
LISER

This presentation analyses the importance of 'orientation' in grassroots community-based movements for urban climate justice. I take up the question of community because it's my contention that togetherness, and specifically community, is crucial to finding a way to live well in an ecologically damaged world. However, the forms that community takes is a beguiling notion. Community, at times concurrently, is used in a wide array of meanings, both progressively and regressively. Community can be used as a carapace, to exclude difference and to produce a homogenous, exclusive sense of belonging. Community, concurrently, can be used with a sense of porosity, a heterogenous and amorphous feeling of belonging which is defined not by identity but by an orientation, and a desire to pursue certain tasks. I want to hold onto this difference in this presentation by analysing the ways in which community can be put to use pursuing different tasks, or orientations. Specifically, I see the translation of community action into community policy as a moment where certain aspects of community which are often latent, pre-reflective, invisible, can be grasped and understood. It is in the tracing and analysing of how community transforms that this presentation focuses its analytical lens. In this talk, I will examine what happens when community - and community's orientations - is translated from a mode of action to a form of policy. To that end, I rely on extensive ethnographic work with urban eco-community movements in Edinburgh and Luxembourg, and also the policies that they regularly rub up against.

Hacking climate education methodologies within narrow policy frames

Justus Wachs
Earth in Common

Scotland's Climate Challenge Fund focuses on implementing legislation through supporting community-led initiatives and organizations that work with people to reduce their carbon emissions. Over the past years, this fund has enabled a plethora of community groups across Scotland to build networks and inspire individuals and communities to take climate action. At the same time, from the perspective of one of these funded projects (Croft Carbon College), the endeavour is situated within a narrow government-supported policy environment that does not encourage questions that more fundamentally challenge underlying notions of capitalist political economies.

We want to present how we ran repeated iterations of a 7-week intro to climate change course navigating these tensions. The course was initially conceived to fit neatly into the proposed frame – participants were given an introduction to climate knowledge and science before learning the most emitting behaviours and possible lifestyle changes in the field of food, waste and consumption, energy, active travel and water. Each segment collected quantitative before-after data to measure a reduction in people's lifestyle emissions.
When I (the presenter) inherited the facilitation of this course, I was aware that it still needed to deliver the required quantitative data. At the same time, the reliance on one-directional learning, and exclusive focus on lifestyle changes, disagreed with more critical questions I wanted to discuss with participants. Through several iterations of this course over two years, I navigated this tension in several ways. I retained the overall structure of the different 'aspects' of emissions, but tried to contextualize behaviours within values, political structures and cultures that co-create them; tried to tease out how capitalist economies relate to cultures and values that shape climate change; and tried to centre moral-political concerns such as climate justice, and climate narratives from the Global South. Furthermore, I tried to create a collaborative space that continuously enabled participants to interrogate and question the ideas themselves.

I want to use this presentation to extract some central learnings from this process. I first want to use it as a tale OP. As Andy Stirling, the director of the STEPS centre points out (2021), methodologies can be 'hacked' in this way and become 'Trojan horses' that use narrow spaces subversively for emancipatory ends. At the same time, I want to discuss the tensions, advantages and disadvantages of a positioned critical practitioner aiming to facilitate a space for knowledge co-creation.

Tending Seeds of Civic Activity: The Tragedy of the State/Market Dilemma and the Promise of the Commons

Stephen Leitheiser
University of Groningen

Since it was published in 1968, Garret Hardin's seminal essay, The Tragedy of the Commons, has not only had a strong influence on policy debates about natural resource management. It has also been a go-to rebuttal and proof for those skeptical of popular democracy, self-governance and the commons. Hardin's prescription of privatizing the commons into a market, or subjecting them to the external rule of an administrative state bureaucracy, continue to be largely viewed as the only legitimate options for governing natural resources and service delivery. While these prescriptions certainly did not originate from Hardin, his tragedy provides an exemplary illustration of the ways of thinking and acting that have, ironically, themselves led to socio-ecological ruin in the commons. I call this the Tragedy of the State/Market Dilemma, and argue that it has not only contributed to the erosion of civic capacities for managing the commons. It has also been instrumental in the degradation of the commons qua natural environment. Recognizing this tragedy offers an opportunity to explore the vast diversity of governance alternatives – e.g. mutualism, commoning – that exist in practice. I aim to provoke a discussion of how the seeds of the commons and civic activity can be nurtured by public policy and scientists. The goal is to promote a centrifugal expansion – away from the center – of democratic principles into more de-centralized and localized institutions of control and self-determination.

5 'LET'S GROW TOGETHER.'

COMMUNITY FOOD GROWING & ALTERNATIVE FOOD PRACTICES.

Tue, Jun 8[h]; 10:30 - 12:00

Session Chair: Mai Abbas
Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich

Everyday sustainable practices and coping strategies, in relation to food production and consumption

Magdalena Popławska
Adam Mickiewicz University

In the context of Polish agriculture, the 1990s are described by scholars as a period marked by a rapid growth in unemployment and emergence of areas of poverty and social exclusion. As the state decided to 'withdraw' from the agriculture, food production was becoming unprofitable, in the context of policies existing in other countries (Sadura et al. 2017, Wilkin 2018). As noted by Piotr Binder, the strategies chosen by rural residents to cope with the new reality often included the use of forest resources, cultivation of family or allotment gardens, and small-scale farming. It was common to prepare home-made preserves and accumulate resources. Allotment or home gardens were also used for cultivation of fruit and vegetables in urban areas. Such coping strategies were, in part, consistent with the concept of 'quiet sustainability' (Smith and Jehlička 2013). In the post-socialist reality, they appear as 'local know-how', and concern both food producers and consumers (Kopczyńska 2020).

The aim of this paper is to conduct a critical analysis of producer-consumer relations in Poland, developing within the framework of so-called 'quality turn' (Goodman 2003), and to position it in the context of everyday sustainable practices. The 'quality turn' refers to post-productive models and is associated with Alternative Food Networks (AFN). The AFNs include new projects drawing on examples from Western Europe and the United States: food cooperatives or community supported agriculture. It is also worth noting the models arising from traditional food chains of Central and Eastern Europe, such as farmers' markets or allotment gardens. The analysis will be based on a literature review, as well as documented activities resulting from the author's personal involvement in the food-related initiatives.

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Stable Schools in Community Supported Agriculture

Marius Rommel, Alina Reinartz and Irene Antoni-Komar
University of Siegen

The study is based on a co-creative approach between interdisciplinary research and agricultural practice. The stable-school-method provides collaborative advice among actors from different CSA-farms and is transdisciplinary supported in the start-up phase by researchers as well as the German CSA-Network (www.solidarische-landwirtschaft.org). The concept is based on the concept of Farmer Field Schools (FFS) (van den Berg, Phillips, Dicke, & Fredrix, 2020) for the self-empowerment of farmers in the Global South and has been tested in the Global North, especially in the context of animal welfare (Henriksen, Anneberg, Sørensen, & Møller, 2015; Ivemeyer et al., 2015; March, Brinkmann, & Winckler, 2014). The leading interest of our research is to apply and adapt this method to the case of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). In a pilot setting conducting three CSA-Stable-Schools, each containing a maximum of five CSAs, we collectively mapped, prioritized, and developed solutions to CSA-related problems on a topic-by-topic basis.

Within the movement of Alternative Food Networks (AFN) (Sage, Kropp, & Antoni-Komar, 2020) one prominent model particularly suitable is that of Community supported agriculture (CSA) (Barbera & Dagnes, 2016) 'as it embodies all the features considered for more sustainable food systems: it is solidarity-based, equitable, ecologically sound, and healthy. But most importantly, the CSA has demonstrated for now that it is resilient in times of crisis and not only provides food but nurtures communities and cares for the vulnerable people' (Mert-Cakal & Miele, 2020, p. 16). The steadily growing number of CSAs worldwide (Féodoroff, Parot, & Schneider, 2021) is an indicator of a promising development in the emergence of sustainable local food systems. Contrary to the accelerating concentration processes in agriculture, CSA embodies a decentralized, small-scale and relationship-oriented economic principle that builds upon trust between producers and consumers. Beyond anonymous external supply and transnational value creation schemes, CSA opens the perspective of producing local sustainable food that serves all people involved. The CSA-principle is based on a producer-consumer-cooperation outside market structures. It is obvious that this unique, transformative type of enterprise (Kropp, Antoni-Komar, & Sage, 2020) is also confronted with questions of economic and social stability and resilience (Opitz et al., 2019). Our studies indicate an organizational trilemma entailing a continuous balancing between economic viability and social cohesion while maintaining the self-set transformative goals (Paech, Sperling, & Rommel, 2020).

The stable schools co-creative approach aims at elaborating the possibilities of this transdisciplinary method, to point out limitations and to derive necessary support needs in order to achieve an institutionalization of CSA-Stable-Schools in the meaning of transformative economics.

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Urban Crofts - Reappropriating Commons for Community Food Growing in Scotland

Evie Murray and Justus Wachs
Earth in Common

Earth in Common is an environmental charity in Leith, Scotland, a part of Scotland's capital experiencing historic and contemporary deprivation and social exclusion. The charity started in 2013 as a grassroots movement of Leithers reclaiming a 2.5-acre space of common good land to establish Scotland's first 'Urban Croft'. Deeply rooted in Scottish tradition, this project aims to enable locals to grow food communally, thereby making healthy local food and nature connection accessible within the city.

Over the past years, the charity has grown to offer small communal plots to its 120+ members, establish a market garden and a farmer's market to sell local produce and give other local ethical business a commercial outlet, provide environmental education, skills and training to local youth and adults, run a café and farm shop, and more. Further, we have engaged in national food policy debates and international solidarity work in food sovereignty. As a next step, we aim to work with other Scottish communities to enable them to reclaim derelict urban green space and start similar urban Crofts. As a movement of politically allied urban growing projects, we think these connected communities could start building a real alternative to agro-industrial food monopolies.

In this time, the maintenance of the land has seen continuous contestation with local municipalities. After years of struggle and negotiation, we secured a 25-year lease, enabling us to plan with some long-term vision for the first time. Furthermore, the state of a run-down pavilion building on the site has been the centre of debates with the local council for some years.

Central to this debate is the legal interpretation of common good land. Legislators are rightfully careful to monitor activity on common good land to prevent private business operations alienating the land from the common good. At the same time, the building on our land is in total disrepair, which significantly hinders us from completing our operations, and makes storage of tools, amenities such as toilets, and more, dangerous and wasteful. We have been campaigning to be allowed to repair the building to enable us to continue our not-for-profit community work on the land.

In this talk, we want to address these two issues. Firstly, we want to present how our work on Leith Croft could contribute to a connected movement of local people across Scotland reclaiming urban green space to tackle food poverty and climate change. Secondly, we want to discuss contemporary interpretations of the commons, and what role common land can play in an international context of community climate and food sovereignty activism. Everything we've learned in this near decade, all the celebrations, small victories and mistakes, should form a basis for a rich discussion around these topics.

6 'WHO'S OUR CLIENT?'
JUST DESIGN IN URBAN AND RURAL CONTEXTS

🕐 Tue, Jun 8ʰ; 10:30 - 12:00

Session Chair: Maria Radulescu
Rijkswaterstaat, University of Groningen

Architectural Design Justice: the civic engagement of an all men's homeless shelter in co-creation of their home.

Rosaura Noemy Hernandez Romero and Burak Pak
KU Leuven

In light of the many apocalyptic disparities, and the rising levels of inequality the world has experienced in the past year, designers question their role and the contribution of their practices towards social justice. Many design practitioners have begun to adopt the ethics of care, a feminist perspective with political practices guided by collective survival of all living and non-living bodies (Fitz & Krasny, 2019). Soon after, the activist perspective of Design justice introduced an approach to design that is led by marginalised communities, aiming to explicitly challenge, rather than reproduce, structural inequalities (Costanza-Chock 2020). The aim of this research is to extend Constanza-Chock's (2020) theory of Design Justice to Architectural Design, and to add the political lens of Nancy Fraser's (2009) 3R's, recognition, representation, redistribution. In this way the project strives to construct a new working framework that amplifies and communicates the narratives of vulnerable groups as a mode of altered practice. Prioritising and shifting advantages to those who are currently systematically oppressed. The exploring research questions being; What is architectural design justice? And How can architects alter their practices to enable recognition and representation of vulnerable people and redistribute spatial justice?

As an action research method, the working framework is currently being tested through the architectural transformation project of Foyer Bodegem, a homeless shelter for men in the centre of Brussels, and so this presentation will bring to light the co-creative outcomes of the project and highlight the critical spatial agency of the designers, designer-students, citizens and interfaces for enabling architectural design justice.

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Co-habitation in the valley of the Eure. A cartographic and design exploration into animal-inclusive design strategies and non-human agency.

Björn Bracke
KU Leuven and Ecole Nationale Superieur de Paysage Versailles

Biodiversity is being eroded by humans at a rate unprecedented in history. Human occupation of land for urbanisation and agriculture has been identified as the most important underlying trend, driving the destruction and degradation of nature. In the context of the environmental crisis, a growing number of influential philosophers and environmentalist, organized around the discourse on philosophical post-humanism, argue to rethink radically the deeply humanistic modes for working in and engaging with the social, political and ecological realities. The post-humanism and related perspectives in social theory, philosophy and environmental humanities offer new perspectives discussing the complex relationships between human and non-humans. Planning and design practice is historically undergirded by an ontological exceptionalism of humans. The humanistic modes of planners and designers are deeply rooted in the way we analyse, represent and intervene in the landscape. Using the results of a student exercise of the first master landscape design at the Ecole Nationale de Paysage in Versailles, new methods and tools for landscape designers to include non-human agency are discussed. In the spring 2021 the students are working 4 months on a cartographic and design exploration for co-habitation. Subject of the exercise is the valley of the Eure in the southwest of Paris. The Eure is a non-navigable river of 229 km, crossing the cities of Chartres and Dreux, and joining the Seine near Pont-de-l'Arche. The Eure basin is characterized by a large number of ponds and wetlands, privatization of the river bed for recreation or housing, cultural heritage elements, and large-scale agriculture. The studio starts from the conviction that landscape design practice should not only serve human interest, but consider animals (non-humans) and humans as equivalent. This leads to interesting forms of representation, conditions and modus operandi to reconsider questions of agency as propelled by posthuman and more-than-human ontologies in relation to landscape design.

Mapping cultural ecosystem services through the online PPGIS tool 'My Green Place'. The case of the Woluwe river.

Nohemi Ramirez Aranda
ILVO and Ghent University

Years of Belgium's liberal approach to sprawl have led to almost half of its land being built upon. Even more concerning is the hardening rate of 6 hectares per day, which if not addressed could deplete the country of green open space (GOS) by 2050. This loss would critically impact food security, climate adaptation and mitigation actions, energy transitions, and people's wellbeing. Aside from its economic and ecological values, GOS provides multiple social benefits critical to ensure the quality of life of people. However, these social values are often disregarded in spatial planning since development prioritizes 'exchange value' over 'use value.' In the last two decades, major advancements in technology have created opportunities for communities to use Public Participatory GIS (PPGIS) as bottom-up tools to reach 'the silent majority' and give them a say in shaping their environment in a way that includes their interest. This study uses an online PPGIS tool to map the social values that GOS in the municipalities across the Woluwe river provide to people and their further inclusion into planning and policy. The Woluwe is a blue/green network that has had a critical role in developing the municipalities across it since the XVIII century. However, in the 1930s, a large portion of the Woluwe River was hardened, which, in addition to the changes in the industry around it, contributed largely to its further pollution and degradation. This is most notorious on its Flemish side, where big underground sections combined with detrimental land uses around it have fostered its abandonment.

On the contrary, in its Brussels section, the Woluwe is mostly above ground, and efforts to revitalize the green areas in the vicinity have made it a vibrant green/blue artery. In January 2021, a Flemish initiative to address the blue/green networks of the Woluwe was initiated. It aims to revitalize the Woluwe so a blue/green network across regions can be created. Our aim is that given the early stage of this initiative, our study's results can feed the area's vision and future interventions. This would mean that social values and the communities' necessities around it would be accounted for, thus providing a balance between the exchange value and use-value given to the Woluwe and its surroundings.

7 'STRONGER TOGETHER.'
PARTICIPATORY APPROACHES TO (FARMING) INNOVATION

Tue, Jun 8ᵗʰ; 13:00 - 14:30

Session Chair: Kei Yan Leung
BOKU

Q methodology among smallholders: Challenges and best practices of a participatory approach

Juan Carlo Intriago Zambrano, Jan-Carel Diehl and Maurits W. Ertsen
TU Delft

Smallholder farming is a backbone of millions of livelihoods in the Global South. It provides up to 80% of the food demanded in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia while scarcely occupying 12% of the global farmland. About 1.5 billion deeply poor households - especially those located in rural areas - depend directly on smallholder agriculture. Stimulating its sustainable intensification is thus of utmost importance in the fulfilment of SDG 2: Zero Hunger and SDG 1: No poverty. Despite decades of (top-down) scientific research, technology transfer and international aid, effective development of this sector remains a summit hard to reach. Profound heterogeneity of smallholder farming systems exacerbates the challenges of this endeavor. Their intricate differences does not only make a single, ultimate development model impractical/impossible, but ignoring them leads us to biases that result in leaving the most disadvantaged out.

We argue that well facilitated participatory research is a sounder way to understand, and hence to act. First, it enables a bottom-up, co-creative process of mutual generation of knowledge together with relevant stakeholders. Second, it gives voice to the (generally) voiceless, therefore turning into a more inclusive and empowering exercise. We resorted to Q-methodology - a powerful qualiquantological participatory method - to explore smallholder adoption of sustainable irrigation technologies in Nepal and Indonesia. We interviewed 19 farmers and 24 experts about the uptake of a hydro-powered water pump commercially known as the Barsha pump. Through this research technique, we found three different viewpoints that placed themselves beyond typical social constructs of smallholder farming (e.g. country, land size). This deeper understanding may become an enabler for a more context-sensitive transfer of farming technology. On the flipside, the implementation of Q methodology in low-resource (rural) settings still poses a number of underreported challenges that are worth discussing, especially in light of big shocks such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. We therefore raise questions such as, which good practices facilitate the application of Q methodology in low-resource settings? How to empower local researchers with a method that remains 'property' of developed countries? How to democratize the tools to allow people to learn better about themselves?

Socio-material bricolage: co-design of institutions by materialities and society in Turkey

Adnan Mirhanoğlu, Maarten Loopmans, Gül Ozerol, Pieter Van Den Broeck and Jaime Hoogesteger
KU Leuven, University of Twente and Wageningen University

Drip irrigation is often considered as a compound technological solution for diverse problems in agriculture. It is being promoted to increase water use efficiency and crop productivity as a means to 'save' water. However, unintended consequences of implementation are often ignored and little attention has been paid to the socio-material processes that play around the implementation of drip irrigation in community managed systems. Based on data collected through an ethnographic research on the introduction of drip irrigation in Ağlasun, a rural town in south-west of Turkey, the aim of this paper is to examine the socio-material effects in irrigation systems. We investigate how the switch from surface irrigation to drip irrigation influences institutional arrangements, materialities and people's practices. Although critical institutionalism scholarships offer a deep understanding on how actors affect and being affected by institutions, specifically through the concept of institutional bricolage, the agency of materialities and how materialities shape and are shaped by both institutions and people's behaviour have been less examined. We propose socio-material bricolage to bridge between actors, institutions and materialities. The concept of socio-material bricolage focuses on how both actors and materialities shape instititutions and in turn shaped by them through various feedback mechanisms. We argue that analyzing the agency of actors and materialities in the same system will enhance institutional analysis and offer a deeper understanding of the relations between institutions, actors and materialities. Our findings demonstrate that the change in irrigation type in Aglasun reshapes the irrigation infrastructure which transforms institutional arrangements of cleaning and maintenance of irrigation canals, water distributional rules and environmental values of society.

8 'MORE-THAN-TALKING.'

*THE POWER OF ART AND VISUALS IN COLLABORATIVE
RESEARCH*

Tue, Jun 8ʰ; 13:00 - 14:30

Session Chair: Viola Hakkarainen

LUKE

Talking methods, talking about methods: more-than-talking techniques in the Methods for Change project

Laura Pottinger, Amy Barron, Ulrike Ehgartner, Sarah Marie Hall and Alison Browne
University of Manchester

Social scientists continue to develop novel qualitative methodologies, experimenting with collaborative and creative techniques for understanding and transforming social, political, economic and environmental worlds. This paper focuses on 'talking' or interview-based methods, noting their wide application across the social sciences including human geography, and identifying potential spaces for innovation in this field. We bring literature on talking methods together with writing on researcher praxis (the process of 'researching researchers') to make the case for doing more-than-talk when researching social science methods. To do this, we reflect critically on data and experiences from the Methods for Change project, which explores how social sciences methods, through their practice, can foster tangible change across a range of sectors. Making methods themselves the object of research, this project involved online interviews with social scientists from a diverse range of disciplines about their methodological approaches, with the aim of creating collaboratively written 'how-to' guides aimed at audiences beyond academia. We highlight three more-than-talking creative techniques adopted within the project: 1) object interviewing; 2) methods as animals; and 3) how-to instructions; which bring elements of handling, showing, imagining, and metaphor into conversation with traditional semi-structured interviews. We discuss the conceptual underpinnings, practical applications and obstacles encountered with each technique, including our own reflections on playing with creative methods in a context where face-to-face research was restricted. As such, we aim to make a distinct contribution to theorising how social scientists talk about methods and how talking methods may be extended. To conclude, we discuss the value gained from talking creatively about methods and identify further opportunities for communicating and amplifying the potential uses of social sciences methodologies in industry, policy, public and charity sectors.

Co-constructing situated knowledge for the circular reconversion of industry parks

Ellen Verbiest, Julie Marin, Bruno De Meulder and Andrew Vande Moere
KU Leuven

Circularity transition of industry parks is increasingly subject of policy innovations, urban strategies, and research and development agendas. Although knowledge on the circular reconversion of the built environment is rapidly growing, a disconnect between large scale institutional frameworks and small scale real-time dynamics exists.

Regional strategic policies often project generic visions. Local companies and communities in turn encounter legislative barriers and are often unfamiliar with existing supralocal planning instruments.

This research uses visualization as a means to co-construct situated knowledge that reveals the potential for the circular reconversion of industry parks by connecting site-specific knowledge and bottom-up dynamics to supralocal visions. It explores ways to visualize and ultimately integrate different visions, projections and agendas within the context of circular reconversion of the built environment of industry parks.

Through socio-spatial visual research, interpretative mapping and semi-structured interviews with stakeholders three spatial scale levels were graphically integrated as the starting point for a co-creation process. Two industry parks in Flanders, Kortrijk and Haasrode, were identified as case studies.
(1) On the macro scale both industry parks appear similar. The regional policy agendas on the redevelopment of both industry parks were outlined. (2) On the meso scale of the industry parks, different projected visions on circular reconversion were collected and visualized. (3) On the micro scale, socio-economic company development data (origin, employment, acquisitions, mention of circularity on website…) and spatial dynamics were studied.

The article identifies a number of disconnects between current socio-spatial dynamics on the local level and supralocal visions projected upon both industry parks. The visualizations provide important insight in the potential for future reconversion based on current site-specific dynamics.

By interpreting the industry park's built environment as a socio-economic and socio-spatial complex system of actors and stakeholders on multiple scale levels, a rich locally grounded image of the potential for circular reconversion appears that is used as an evolving basis for co-creation with a myriad of stakeholders.

9 'WE HAVE A DREAM!'
RURAL ASPIRATIONS

Wed, Jun 9th; 10:30 - 12:00

Session Chair: Zhanna Baimukhamedova
Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich

Towards Representative Resilience: The Power of Culture to Foster Local Resource Representation

Scott Davis
University of Groningen

Within the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, community resilience policy is set to grow in popularity as an approach to prepare communities for local impacts of forecasted environmental uncertainty. The consequence of this approach is that communities are frequently asked to take more responsibility for their local places. This is under the assumption that community resilience is an empowering process that puts communities in charge of their key resources and utilises their local knowledge to better prepare for the future effects of environmental change.

This paper questions this normative assumption which is often implicitly present in community resilience literature and policy documents by questioning whether it is fair to devolve responsibility over local resources to the community level without also devolving representative power or democratising structures in which decisions on key local resources (e.g. land, water, biota) are made. As an antidote to this problem, this paper introduces the concept of representative resilience and investigates strategies that can begin to motivate people to want to secure representational influence over the future of key local resources – what this paper considers the first step towards representative resilience.

The central question we address is whether local resilience projects that utilise cultural methods could serve an additional purpose of motivating people to pursue greater influence over key local resources such as land. To do this we use John Gaventa's (2006) power cube as a conceptual framework to examine local power relations. This framework provides a theoretical lens to redefine a resilient community as one that has representational influence over the future their own key local resources.

The paper takes a case study approach and draws upon the activities of a local resilience project in the Scottish Highlands that utilises traditional land practices and local cultural history to provide land sustainability education. The case is analysed through a series of observations and in depth semi-structured interviews with project volunteers. The analysis reveals emerging links between power, culture and land representation that could foster new forms of local resilience. A form of invisible power termed as 'cultural refusal' emerged from the results that increased the motivation of participants to influence the future of local land. However, perceptions of systemic barriers such as insecure land tenancies and democratic deficits stymied the potential of this raised motivation. Motivating forms of representative resilience is urgently required to ensure local representation over key resources to contribute to fairer resilient futures.

The Production of a Developmental Rural Space: A Rural Development Programme in China

Tian Tian
Ghent University

Rural development thinking and practices are always evolving with practical problems and theoretical challenges. This paper seeks to extend the discussion of what is signified in the connotation of rural development and how was a developmental village constructed in the context of rural China from a new and systematic perspective. Lefebvre's theory of the production of space enables us to observe and explain rural development through the perspective of space, which is a means of production, a relation and a power, containing a conceptual triad and the trajectory of abstraction. The actor-oriented approach is adopted in the case study from a village where undergoes rapid changes. The objective of development in this village shifted from subsistence agriculture to commercial fruit production, until the rural wellbeing tourism program was launched to achieve the production and consumption of the entire rural space. Through this case study in the field that spread out across three years, it is discussed that rural development in China is inseparable from the market economy which bases on modernization and monetization and prioritises exchange value over use-value. Both the Spatio-temporal restructuring of the means of spatial production and the reproduction of the relations of spatial production are two dynamics of constructing developmental rural space. Hence, the production of developmental space could transcend local scenes to realise spatial reproduction in broader time and space. Even the spatial characteristics of homogeneous and abstraction are completely exposed and expanded through power and capital in the rural development programme, we could expect a new space from the resilience of everyday life.

The relations between farmers' land tenure security and agriculture production. An assessment in the perspective of smallholder

Uwacu Alban Singirankabo and Maurits W Ertsen
TU Delft

Using a data set constructed from four research sites in Rwanda over the course of three distant agriculture years, this contribution empirically assesses the relations between land tenure security and smallholder farms' crop production. We argue that the broad assumption of secure land tenure improving farm-level harvest is not found to prevail in smallholder farms of rural Rwanda. We defined a land tenure security index based on plausible threats as conveyed by smallholder farmers at each research site. Our findings indicate that the harvest of main crops did not statistically correlate nor show differences of the mean within the land tenure security index levels in all the four research sites. On the other hand, factors mainly related to the ongoing crop intensification program, though seemingly threatening the perceived tenure security, contributed to the increase of small farms' harvest. This national agricultural policy program reduces participation of farmers on decisions over land use and their farming activities, and as such threats to land tenure security. However, this change did not affect farmers' satisfaction of the state program, most of them claiming that in the end what matters most is that their harvest of main crops continues to increase. Therefore, in Rwanda, a new wave of agriculture strategizing contributes to the increase of the small farms' harvest of main crops, with farmers recognizing those benefits. Land tenure security has not appeared as a major factor in increasing harvests. This opens up new questions on how agrarian policy-making can support (or not) socio-environmental transformations in farming.

How do farmers experience art? A case study of Echigo-Tsumari Art Field, Japan

Kei Yan Leung and Line Marie Thorse
BOKU

Arts-led initiatives are now commonplace in revitalizing rural communities. These artistic activities take a variety of forms – from informal, amateur arts to professional artist practices. On the one side, scholars from social sciences have recognized the social and economic gains associated with art in rural communities. On the other side, arts and cultural studies scholars have generously examined the role and development of art in rural revitalization. However, in this research, the significance of art is mainly discussed from either a somewhat instrumental, especially economic and quantitative perspective, e.g. increasing employment, tourism incomes and investment. Or, it is mostly centred on discussions of benefits for the 'artworld'. In comparison to these worthwhile studies, relatively few studies have centred on what rural art does in practice in relations to the ongoing, everyday life of rural residents. That is, how farmers themselves perceive and relate to art in rural communities. In this presentation, I use the case study of Echigo-Tsumari Art Field (ETAF) in Japan to explore how agroecological farmers relate to artworks in farming landscapes, and the artworks triggers reflections on nature-cultural relations and the farmers' connections to nature.

10 'THIS LAND IS OUR LAND.'
RECLAIMING URBAN SPACES

🕑 Wed, Jun 9th; 10:30 - 12:00

Session Chair: Talitta Reitz
Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich

Grey-backed Mining Bees, Citizen Movements and the Future of Friche Josaphat: Plan Bee Josaphat

Jolein Bergers, Bruno Notteboom and Viviana d'Auria
KU Leuven

The Friche Josaphat is a biodiverse wasteland in the twentieth century belt around Brussels, which is home to over 120 observed wild bee species. This wild bee hotspot is under threat as the Brussels Capital Region plans to realize a new urban district on this site. Nature associations and citizen movements have been contesting the regional development plans for being devoid of public participation and ignorant of spontaneous ecological processes which have occured on site.

From November 2020 onwards, citizen movements have collectively drafted a manifesto offering alternative design scenarios for the future Friche Josaphat. According to these groups, these scenarios should be more successful in reconciling the need for social housing with their concern to protect the biodiversity. During discussions with politicians from regional and municipal authorities, the manifesto and its scenarios are being mobilized.

Through the development of a 'Plan Bee Josaphat', we specifically want to advocate for mining bees which are currently living at Friche Josaphat. Knowing these bees were observed in large numbers on the site, the absence around the discussion table was at least remarkable. Building on the knowledges of naturalist and citizens, we started to voice the spatial needs of mining bees, and design briefs communicating their needs to designers and politicians. Furthermore, we also explored the entangledness of the mining bee's and our lifeworlds, with the objective of strengthening the relationship between both worlds.

This way, we want to challenge the more established practice of urban design with knowledges and methodologies stemming from the growing field of more-than-human research in a real-life setting.

Breathing new futures in polluted environments (Taranto, Italy)

Maaret Jokela-Pansini and Elisabeth Militz
University of Oxford

This article analyses young people's practices aiming at building new futures in Taranto, Southern Italy, a city hosting one of the largest and most polluting steel factories in Europe. We regard young people's everyday practices (e.g. taking care of animals, engaging in cultural activities or teaching children) in relation to environmental pollution through the notion of breathing to highlight the practices' embodied, entangled and emotional dimensions. We construct 'breathing futures' as a theoretical approach to view how young people are both immersed in the factory's pollution and shape futures in polluted environments. The study weaves together geographic and anthropological scholarship about lived experiences in highly polluted areas. It uses affective storytelling and draws on eight months of ethnographic fieldwork in Taranto. The study contributes to understanding residents' embodied realities and sheds light on the activities they create to imagine and live new futures in polluted environments.

Covid-19 in vulnerable neighbourhoods; maintaining and supporting social resilience during physical distancing

Sander van Lanen, Simon Allemeersch, Evelyne Deceur, Klasien Horstman, Mare Knibbe, Griet Roets and Ceren Sezer
University of Groningen

Almost a year has passed since the introduction of physical distancing measures in European countries. Since then, the efforts to control the spread of the coronavirus and to enable a slow return to a 'new normal' have transformed everyday life for urban citizens around Europe. The negative consequences of the pandemic and these measures are distributed unequally, with particular effects for economically, socially and medically vulnerable neighbourhoods. Physical distancing measures limit the opening or functioning of public facilities, which are essential vehicles for resilience, social networks, informal social exchange, care, assistance and participation. Nonetheless, the past year has also seen creative and innovative initiatives aiming to sustain and expand vital social networks and supportive activities. The transformation of everyday life thus reshuffled the activities in social neighbourhood spaces.

In this project, we assess how Covid-19's spatial transformations mediate resilience and participation in vulnerable neighbourhoods. Our goal is to provide input and advise on the organisation of social spaces to sustain and support resilience. In particular, we look at the impact of the corona-measures on the physical and social spaces in vulnerable neighbourhoods in the cities of Aachen (DE), Ghent (BE), Groningen (NL), and Maastricht (NL). In these neighbourhoods, we employed focus groups and interviews with inhabitants, social professionals, and policymakers. These discussed the transformation of public and private spaces. This includes their negative and positive experiences of resilience, the different roles of inhabitants and institutional stakeholders in supporting resilience, and their experiences of organising neighbourhood activities in the corona pandemic context. A comparative analysis of these qualitative data reveals differences and similarities between different urban and national contexts.

This presentation will highlight critical issues for communities and institutional actors to support and maintain social resilience during and after the Covid-19 pandemic. Preliminary analysis reveals that neighbourhood resilience can be sustained by goal-based projects, supporting and consolidating newly emerging networks, and re-evaluating urban spaces. Key challenges include how to maintain energy and motivation amidst continuous uncertainty multiple vulnerabilities.

11 'LEARNING ACROSS BORDERS'

CASE STUDIES IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY, PARTICIPATORY AND TRANSNATIONAL RESEARCH

Wed, Jun 9th; 13:00 - 14:30

Session Chair: Scott Davis
University of Groningen

Towards a Critical Sustainability Science? Participation of Disadvantaged Actors & Power Relations in Transdisciplinary Research

Agathe Osinski
KU Leuven

This paper presents the results of a meta-analysis conducted on 40 case studies of transdisciplinary research. First, it groups the cases according to the sustainability conception that is adopted in the project, distinguishing between approaches to sustainability that consider environmental protection alone, approaches that seek to find a balance between economic growth and environmental protection, and those which seek to integrate the social, environmental and economic aspects of sustainability. Next, the paper explores the extent to which the conception of sustainability adopted in the transdisciplinary project influences a series of process features in the projects. In particular, we focus on the extent to which the projects allowed for the participation of disadvantaged groups, the degree to which they accounted for and attempted to mitigate power differentials between participants, their embeddedness in longer-term dynamics and the heterogeneity of the actors piloting the projects. We also discuss the effects of these on the social learning and empowerment generated among participants. The paper finds that among the selected case studies, those with an integrated approach to sustainability more often included disadvantaged groups and acknowledged power differentials, applying a range of tools to mitigate these. Moreover, these cases also more often reported generating empowerment and social learning.

Reenchantment of terraced landscapes - global movement - local initiatives

Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas
Coventry University and International Terraced Landscapes Alliance

In this presentation we will highlight the growing awareness about the potentials of terraced landscapes as 'spaces of possibility' for a paradigm shift emerging in ten years of ITLA (International Terraced Landscapes Alliance) by reviewing the main achievements of a rich and multidimensional exchange of experiences during four World Congresses in China (2010), Peru (2014), Italy (2016) and Canary Islands-Madeira (2019). The diverse actors: farmers, activists, and intellectuals who participated in these events interacted at different levels of human encounters, engaged in fruitful conversations and listening to people from terraced communities. We will convey the main conceptual elements surfacing the process of rethinking agriculture achieved from the IVth World Congress deliberations in La Gomera. They are inspired in the idea of reenchantment (Berman 1981), which is essentially recuperating the experience of being part of nature and creating forms of Buen Vivir - Wellbeing (Gudynas 2011). In terms of terraced landscapes it means that farmers regain their dignity based on their right to choose new directions for the future and decide on what type of agriculture, crops and forms of knowledge will enable them a long-lasting, sustainable world and peaceful social life (Anderson, 2020; Pimbert, 2018; Giraldo, Rosset 2018).

We will describe strategies and practical examples of initiatives in different mountainous regions that illustrate ways of reenchantment of terraced landscapes entailing future visions of wellbeing and a culture of joy to live. And we close with an outlook of the future deliberations of the next ITLA Congress (2023) in Bhutan about decolonising the perception of and projection for the future of terraced landscapes.

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12 'THIS IS WHO WE ARE.'

THE POWER OF CULTURE AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITY

Session Chair: : Jingjing Guo
BOKU

Wed, Jun 9th; 13:00 - 14:30

Bicycle Cities: racing towards sustainable mobility

Talitta Reitz
Rachel Carson Center and LMU Munich

This thesis explores the historical processes through which cycling cultures have emerged in Portland, United States and Munich, Germany. It infers how cycling practices, groups and events have developed and transformed urbanization since bicycles reached these cities in the late nineteenth century. Such an analysis matters because empirical cases and a plethora of research in the social sciences have pointed to a striking conclusion: cycling cultures are the stronger motivators for utility cycling; more so than infrastructure. In other words, citizens are more prone to cycle regularly if people in their family or social circles are cyclists themselves – or, if education performs a similar encouraging and capacitating role.

Over the last three decades, many metropolises world-wide started a 'race' to become bicycle-friendly. Within this broad context, the adoption of a sustainable mobility concept has become a common municipal practice. While distinct visions point to a certain plurality of solutions, most sustainable mobility concepts have presented quite comparable and thus unoriginal programs: expanding bicycle infrastructure, promoting campaigns and inaugurating bicycle-share systems. The problem with such standardized, unspecific plans is that they do not align with the aforementioned scholarship finding: it is more effective to promote bicycle-friendly communities. But cycling cultures do not emerge overnight. Hence, it is essential to understand them.

Portland and Munich, among other American and European cities are precursors of urban cycling. In addition to uncovering their cycling history, a comparison of cities of similar background and geographical features can identify commonalities and differences, and create a framework to understand how cycling cultures emerge and evolve. Methodologically, the study relies on narrative, archival research and first-hand accounts of cycling explorations. Beyond global trends and ready-made 'good practices packages', this thesis argues for a contextual - historical - examination as a more sensitive approach for municipalities. The insights of this comparative study can help citizens and authorities to better understand their own cycling backgrounds, which, as a result, can diversify strategies for bicycle plans. Therefore, the research encourages out-of-the-box thinking for cycling activists, planners and decision-makers. And it proposes different meanings and paths for bicycle cities.

Sustainability transformations in ecovillage communities

Ciska Ulug
University of Groningen

Ecovillages are collective projects that attempt to integrate sustainability principles into daily community life, while also striving to be demonstration projects for mainstream society. As spaces of experimentation, they can provide valuable insights into sustainability transformations. Through a shared set of values and interpersonal connections, ecovillages possess what could be termed collective identities, which provide a platform for enacting their ideals. However, many ecovillage residents question how to best enhance their role as models, resources centers, and pieces of a greater movement toward sustainability transformations, while simultaneously preserving their unique community and identity. In relation to the above, this paper asks: what can collective identity in ecovillage communities teach us about transformations to sustainability? Sustainability transformations, while conceptualized to encompass objective (behaviors) and subjective (values) dimensions, lack core literature highlighting interactions between these spheres. Using ethnographic data and in-depth interviews from three ecovillages in the United States, this paper reveals the value in collective identity for both objective and subjective dimensions of transformations and highlights challenges for ecovillages towards sustainability transformations.

Creating (Virtual) Cultures of Sustainability?: Towards the University 'Ecovillage'

Olea Morris
Central European University

This talk focuses on the role of place in fostering sustainable community, and explores the possibilities of cultivating virtual spaces for furthering sustainability education and activism in an age of global pandemics. Cultivating a shared sense of place has long been understood as a vital part of collective organization and community building. However, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has posed a significant challenge to the ways we inhabit and care for communal spaces, and resulted in a transformation in patterns of community organization and communication. With these considerations in mind, an event series was designed by and for students of the Central European University (CEU) to answer the provocation: is it possible to foster a culture of sustainability remotely? The result was a participatory workshop series drawing on a collage of art-based and auto-ethnographic methodologies, inviting community members to build virtual connections while engaging in localized, place-based sustainability practices.

This project was developed in response to the emergent tension between the urgent need for collective action to crises like climate change, and the impossibility of gathering in familiar, physical ways. The CEU student community is an interesting space for understanding this tension because it has been uniquely affected by two concurrent challenges - the establishment of a main campus across national borders, and ongoing lockdowns instigated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This series of workshops was developed with the dual goal of both fostering a distributed student community as well as responding to student need to gain familiarity with methods (e.g. participatory mapping, photovoice) and platforms (Twitter, Discord) for their own research, which increasingly must 'go virtual'. The final product of the workshop series, a collaboratively produced multimedia art piece, serves as an object for collective reflection and identification of further avenues for mutual aid and knowledge formation within the student community. Overall, this presentation explores the potential of fostering the development of sustainable communities in unconventional ways, including the potential for combining environmental arts and humanities-based methodologies with the 'virtual training module' medium.

KALEIDOSCOPE: POSTERS AND LIGHTNING TALKS

Wed, Jun 9th; 13:00 - 14:30

Session Chair: Ika Darnhofer
BOKU

A pattern language for urban commons (poster)

Aimee Felstead
University of Sheffield

A renewed community-led housing movement in the UK presents new ideas for how communities can collectively transform everyday residential spaces. Urban cohousing is a type of community-led housing that demonstrates alternative solutions for living together through participatory resource sharing. Shared landscapes are a prominent feature within cohousing designed to afford and encourage social interaction and collective stewardship. Despite the documented benefits of community participation in shared landscapes, the routine mechanisms for their success are yet to be succinctly identified, theorised and made readily available to residential communities. Cohousing, therefore, presents an opportunity to pinpoint human-scale 'patterns' of socio-environmental adaption in a residential context. Further to this, these findings empirically substantiate the emerging concept of urban commons-community managed shared resources within the city.

This poster visually presents patterns of urban commoning identified within four UK cohousing cases to answer the question 'What enables residents' collective participation in cohousing landscapes as urban commons?' Together these patterns are linked together to form a language that acts as a collaborative tool between resident groups and design practitioners. The purpose of the pattern language is to succinctly document and communicate the types of spaces, social dynamics and governance models that work in cohousing landscapes. This requires particular attention to the interaction between top-down and bottom-up processes in urban commons, including the role of design professionals and the agency of residents in the design and adaption of place.

The pattern language for urban commons aims to avoid the need for residential communities to 'reinvent the wheel' by sharing well-established solutions from existing cohousing communities. This advances current knowledge by identifying 'what works' in implementing and sustaining resident participation in shared landscapes and sharing them with new cohousing communities. It is anticipated that the pattern language will be tested through follow-up workshops to understand its potential as a collaborative tool for enabling residential urban commons that bridge a top-down and bottom-up approaches. Further to this, the pattern language displays broader themes that provides a foundation for building on emerging urban commons theory.

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Living Labs: a creative and collaborative planning approach
(poster)

Maria Alina Radulescu
Rijkswaterstaat and University of Groningen

Communities around the world, at all scales of settlement, are facing an increasing number of 'wicked problems', many of which are spatial issues. Therefore, high expectations are placed on the role of planning in addressing them. However, such complex challenges cannot be solved with the traditional, sectoral planning approaches, or by planners and decision-makers alone; they require the cross-sectoral and cross-societal understanding and collaboration of various kinds of stakeholders located on different levels and sectors, and having varied interests and values. Consequently, in the search for new approaches and tools that favour experimentation, flexibility and collaboration, planners and decision-makers are turning their attention towards the private sector, where Living Labs have been extensively used in open innovation and user-oriented innovation. The growing number of studies about Living Labs expose the trend of considering them as a 'magic recipe' for experimentation and development of innovative and creative solutions for 'wicked problems'; however, Living Labs have only recently started being seen as a planning approach, and their application poses many practical and operationalization challenges. For this reason, the presentation shows the main ingredients of a Living Lab way of working in the planning field and highlights a set of recommendations which can be useful when using a Living Lab as a planning method. The presentation concludes by highlighting that despite the challenges they pose, Living Labs represent a relevant and growing practice in spatial planning, especially because they provide a conducive way for connecting local-scale and larger-scale planning issues and solutions.

Food Smart Dublin: an interdisciplinary approach to sustainable seafood (poster)

Agnese Cretella and Cordula Scherer
Trinity College Dublin

Food Smart Dublin is an Irish Research Council funded project under the COALESCE scheme hosted by the Trinity Centre for Environmental Humanities in Trinity College, Dublin since 2019. It aims to promote sustainable seafood consumption by building on the Irish coastal cultural heritage while engaging with innovative chefs and educationalists. The project encourages human consumption towards more sustainable seafood from lower down the food chain by tapping into local marine resources and rediscovering forgotten Irish seafood recipes.

Dewilding King's Meads reserve (lightning talk)

Dave Willis
Hertfordshire and Middlesex Wildlife Trust

Introduction to the complex conversations prompted by the restoration of a wetland heavily used by local populations in towns just north of London, UK. As the language regarding our interaction with 'wild spaces' enters new understandings, this is an insight into the start of a 3 year project. At its heart is grappling with how to frame and promote an ancientbj floodplain meadow, rich in species and historical interest, to altered communities perhaps jaded by typical conservation narratives. Crossed by viaduct, canal, railway and heavily used by people since the time of the Romans, can nature have an appeal in such a space in the era of venerated wilderness and insistent appeals to a pre-anthropogenic landscape's benefits.

Rendering research gently: attending to bodies, slowness and reciprocity through gentle methodologies (lightning talk)

Laura Pottinger
University of Manchester

Though feminist scholars have long advocated reflexivity in geographical research, the multifaceted practices of care, tenderness, and sharing that gently shape (and take shape within) research encounters are often tidied out of academic accounts. This paper draws on ethnographic fieldwork exploring gardeners' everyday activities and activisms with seeds and plants and brings this together with recent writing on gentle, humble, quiet and slow qualities in research. It foregrounds moments of embodied gentleness in research into human-plant relationships, asking what a gentle methodological approach might look, and importantly, feel like. Considering moments that are quiet and tender in research encounters, I argue gentleness is a necessary, if under-acknowledged dimension of interpersonal and more-than-human research. I suggest that gentle methodologies ask researchers to attend to bodies, slowness and reciprocity, and they can enable researchers to attune to small-scale, mundane and non-verbal detail. As such, they hold particular utility for exposing and theorising overlooked forms of care-full political and environmental action, which, though light-touch are nonetheless significant. A 'manifesto for a gentle research methodology', developed as part of the Methods for Change project is shared as an example of how research methods can be communicated (gently) beyond academia.

Creative tension between co-optation and resistance: myth or reality? Insights from urban gardeners' experience in Rome (lightning talk)

Chiara Certomà and Paolo Giaccaria
University of Turin

As a result of long theoretical elaborations and practical experimentation in the social innovation domain, we are today confronting a polarized debate between the entrepreneurial and activism-oriented reading of the phenomenon.

Recent research in critical geography and urban studies confirms a renewed interest in how political agency is exerted in SI practices, with fierce discussions on whether these are functional to the reproduction of 'capitalocentric' rationality, embedded within the neoliberal urban agenda, or they are rather manifestations of critical, transformative and emancipatory social activism.

Closer to the road (lightning talk)

Claire Chevallier
KU Leuven

We travel to Digboué, a coastal village in southwestern Côte d'Ivoire. It lies on the margins of the biggest development project ever implemented in the country, San Pedro, a city built from scratch in the late 1960s to disenclave and develop the region's rich plantation, forestry, and mining resources. It was to be a cutting-edge city that would bring the entire region into the fold of modernity whereby investment in infrastructure would generate material progress and enhanced well-being. Today, San Pedro is the world's main harbor for cocoa exports.

Digboué's inhabitants waited for development to reach them but by the mid-1990s, felt left out of the space of modernity. Their village, nestled between the ocean and the laguna, remained isolated and they maintained their traditional lifestyle cultivating subsistence crops and fishing. The chief figured development had not reached them because there was no road connecting them to the city center. The conviction in the direct link between roads and economic growth remains firmly anchored in the Ivoirian imaginary and summed up in the oft-heard adage 'roads precede development.' As such, a road is more than a technical element that enables transport and therefore connection and exchange; it materializes change and progress, the opportunity for new futures.

The chief took a drastic measure: he moved the village closer to the city center along the main road out of San Pedro. A significant infrastructural undertaking, it was a spatial fix. Moving the village near the road would place it on the path of a new way of life, urban and modern. But life in Digboué has still not changed. Although they now live close to the road, none of the villagers have found employment in factories or at the harbor. They still rely on subsistence agriculture and fishing and the chief describes his new village by what it lacks. They have no electricity, running water, or sanitation nor is there a school. The road directly connects them to the city but they live without any of the amenities of urban life. What was an extraordinary effort at adaptation has not resulted in the intended consequences. The inhabitants of Digboué, who still feel a strong connection to their land by the ocean, live in a state of indeterminacy; they are suspended between the vision of modernity the move inspired and the continuity of village life.

The wicked road to a sustainable economy (lightning talk)

Rubén Vezzoni
LUKE and University of Helsinki

During this Lightning talk I discuss the stratified complexity of a sustainable economy and how to attain it. I take as a starting point questions such as: can the global economy be decarbonised? Who needs to be involved? Would it be enough to decarbonise? What institutions and technical arrangements can be used? Speculative answers to these questions immediately reveal the absence of a clear-cut simple solution for the transition to an ecologically sound economy. In literature this is called a 'wicked problem', as most of public policy problems. Unlike previous social missions, such as landing humans on the moon, the ecological transition cannot rely solely on resolving a specific set of technical problems. Technology can be helpful, but it has two major limitations: for (i) it is fundamentally uncertain, as we only know what is available today (t), while the technological possibility frontier exponentially expands at any t+n at the power of n; and (ii) sustainability is not only a technical problem, as the first and second laws of thermodynamic remind us of the limits of productivity improvements. So what else is needed besides uncertain and limited technological progress? In addition, the ecological transition may require engaging with society-wide collective intelligence. Society is a network of interacting agents. The ruling institutions of society emerge from the prevailing type of interactions, may they be competitive or cooperative. The global economy is now largely characterised by competitive markets. Markets, as a technical tool, can serve the ecological transition. At the same time, however, they are not a neutral device. For example, they can serve cooperative efforts inter- and intra-societies, or they can provide a paradigm of competitive expansion. Nowadays, the latter is the prevailing form. Their adoption, therefore, implies specific social and political consequences. These outcomes can be clarified by introducing qualifiers to the market, asking:
- What is produced – which governs the direction of the economy.
- Who is producing and for whom – which determines winners and losers of the ecological transition.
- Where is the production – which explains the geography of the new economy.
- At what pace (i.e. when) is produced – which explains the speed of the transition and the throughput (i.e. output/time) of the new economy.

The wicked problem of the transition to an ecologically sound economy needs governance of fundamental societal arrangements, including markets and their several qualifications.

CAMPFIRE 1:

BETWEEN ACADEMIA AND THE SELF: RESEARCH AS AN EDUCATIONAL PROCESS

Wed, Jun 9th; 13:00 - 14:30

Zhanna Baimukhamedova
Sergio Ruiz Cayuela
Rachel Carson Center, LMU Munich

Whilst in academia, one is often expected to produce, massively. Articles, book chapters, grant applications, applications for any other sort of recognition and/or funding options --- life as a researcher seems to oscillate between scouting for possibilities to disseminate results of own academic inquiry and writing sprees when a keyboard becomes one's most faithful companion. In such a context, research or fieldwork itself might resemble pure data collection --- extraction of necessary primary material in order to fuel incessant output production, required to keep one's academic self visible, up-to-date, and, ultimately, employable. And while all these considerations have long been discussed, disputed, and reprimanded, a process of being a researcher offers innumerable insights --- both about academia and one's own self in it.

This storytelling session seeks to invite the participants to reflect on their experiences doing research not only as presumably impartial researchers but as people, laden with own stories, struggles, and aspirations. It is about skills, too --- how one navigates academia, what one's goal is and how they fit it in the overall frame of institutionalized scientific inquiry. In a way it is an attempt to see the 'human' side of a research process: how one goes about collecting, processing, and presenting data while acknowledging their unique personhood, and what effect this kind of awareness has on the whole process. Where do we, as researchers, stand? What are our commitments to ourselves and others? How the skillset we acquire can be applied to the world outside of academia --- and should/can it? These are some questions we will be reflecting upon during the session.

To make sure the session provides enough time and space for everyone to speak, it is limited to five participants who in a timely manner will be asked to conceptualize their contribution by reflecting on their experiences. One's reflections do not have to be written, but is advisable to take a few minutes to organize one's thoughts to make sure other participants will have time to share experiences, too. Each will have five minutes to speak up and once everyone finishes, we will discuss.
emerging urban commons theory.

PREMIERE
RECOMS EDUCATIONAL FILMS

Wed, Jun 9th; 12:00 - 13:00
(Lunch Breakroom)

RECOMS

Short description

A tomato, a teenage girl, and a Japanese elder: what do they have in common? We believe simple characters of everyday life can change the way you perceive and interact with your community and environment. With three educational short stories, we invite you to reflect on your relationships with food, with civic participation, and with the place where you live. Do you find it pleasant to grow your own food or to prepare a healthy meal? Do you have or wish you had access to nature and parks in your daily city life? What are the most meaningful places you have ever been to and how did they impact the way you see yourself? In this session, not only do we start a reflection about such personal and important topics, but we offer an inspiring visual experience. We showcase how animation can be a powerful method for communicating academic research and for sparking meaningful conversations. Transformation takes place at all levels and at all times. It is a journey full of ups and downs, which requires collaboration, practice, patience, reflection, and knowledge. If you are looking for a transformational journey yourself, bring your popcorn and join the premiere of RECOMS educational films, and see why and how our main actors transformed! The event will consist of three short education film clips:

'Our Park, Our City' shows how the teenage Ana manages to save a condemned neighborhood park. This passionate citizen learns that she cannot sit still and let her beloved park - so important to her friends, family, and neighbors - simply disappear. She decides to fight for it!

'Magical Tomato' tells the story of a young child Sara, who has a sedentary lifestyle and a preference for junk food. One day, after getting sick, Sara starts to rethink her choices and decides to change her lifestyle. With the help of a Magical Tomato, she starts to learn about the origins of food, its meanings, and values.

'Finding life' portrays the story of a young photojournalist from Tokyo. In her journey through a rural village, Isuka starts to feel like she belongs, even in an unfamiliar and different place. This transformation teaches her how to re-connect to her own home and life in Tokyo, in the process of documenting life and practices in the countryside in Japan.

WORKSHOPS

1. NANTES FUTURABLE

SCIENCE FICTION GAMES AS A RESEARCH TOOL TO DRAW COLLECTIVE MEASURES RELATED TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Claire Planchat, Joachim Muller Alice Mounissamy and Eve Barlier

Mon, Jun 7th; 10:30 - 12:00

register

Nantes Futurable Association and

UMR Territoires

Why not use science fiction as a research tool ? Our contribution is based on a reproducible workshop developed by both researchers, practitioners and artists in the aim to play with science-fiction (SF) games and explore common issues of adaptation to climate change and ecological transition. From 2018 to now, the research agenda is to help civil society supported by local authorities to implement Territorial Climate-Air-Energy Plans of Nantes (France) metropolitan area. The workshop conduct is structured by the 'Territory game', a scientific process created and developed in France and several other countries from twenty years by UMR Territoire team. Nantes Futurable association had reintroduced Science-fiction such as role-playing games, futuristic cartographies and cartoons drawn in live by artists during the workshop.

Science-fiction games objective is to put into perspective scientific knowledge and the realities of the territories, and thus facilitate the transfer of this knowledge in an emergency context related to climate change. The workshop calls for individual awareness and the development of collective measures to mitigate and adapt to climate impacts, while creating and having fun.

2. LET ART LEAD YOUR WAY!

INTRODUCING ART INTO RESEARCH PROCESSES

Dinanda Luttikhedde, Kei Yan Leung and Maria Radulescu

Mon, Jun 7th; 10:30 - 12:00

register

Peergroup, BOKU, Rijkswaterstaat

and University of Groningen

Art, participation, mental health and well-being are inextricably linked. More and more artists are interested in the purifying and edifying effects of participatory art. For example, art is known to have to increase people's well-being since it grounds ourselves and connects us to others. The role of an artist is multifaceted and exceeds the boundaries of the private sphere. Contrary to the popular (of) image of the artist as a tormented sole working in his/her secluded studio, participatory artists work one to one, with a group, a (residential) community or even employees of organizations or companies.

Theatre is a particularly promising tool to explore difficult subjects as it is able to confront large groups of people with different perspectives. Theatre challenges it's audience both cognitively and emotionally, and provides it with new, relevant information that can lead to a new dialogue. The workshop introduces some inspiring examples of the Peergroup theatre company based in Drenthe, the Netherlands. For the past 20 years this group of artists has successfully experimented with theatre productions on the borderline between art and research into the resilience of communities. In this workshop participants will become acquainted with an art-led approach case study. Via plenary and breakout sessions, they will investigate how this approach can be used in their own research. Participants are invited to submit a case that will be discussed. Inspiration for an innovative research process is ensured!

3. THE PRE-PASTEURIAN SENSATIONS OF FERMENTATION

Mai Abbas and Sevgi Mutlu Sirakova   Mon, Jun 7th; 13:00 - 14:30
Rachel Carson Center   **register**

The goal of this workshop is to explore how people are engaging with microbes and further multispecies relations in their daily food practices. Fermentation as a multispecies process where invisible elements of 'terroir' (Paxson 2008;2010) become sensible is a good place to start this exploration (Katz 2012; Flachs and Orkin 2019; Hey 2019).

In this workshop, we invite participants to describe and share three favorite traditional fermented products. The foodstuffs or some visuals will be used to describe their production and consumption processes and related sensorial experiences. Our focus will be on multispecies stories of each process told by multisensorial aspects of them.

Additionally, participants are expected to share some sensorial-related terms/idioms in their own languages for the production and consumption process of these local fermented foodstuffs. We believe that such vernacular terms/idioms hold hidden multispecies stories. Here, these stories are like surviving legends that 'lead us into different spiritual and moral realms' (Le Guin 1994) of multispecies life that needs to be told and used as a starter to keep fermenting such relations.

By exploring the multilingual and multicultural expressions we would like to invite participants to ferment and think together to further reflect on;

- How are/were people engaging with multispecies relations?
- How are/were these multispecies aspects perceived and sensed in fermentation practices?
- How can these stories be told/shared in different media?

'Coming back from the silence.' an interview with Ursula Le Guin by Jonathan White, https://www.swarthmore.edu/Humanities/pschmid1/engl5H/leguin.interv.html (accessed May 7, 2021).

Flachs, Andrew, and Joseph D. Orkin. 'Fermentation and the Ethnobiology of Microbial Entanglement.' *Ethnobiology Letters* 10.1 (2019): 35-39.

Hey, Maya. 'Fermenting Communications: Fermentation Praxis as Interspecies Communication.' *Public* 30.59 (2019): 149-157.

Katz, Sandor Ellix. *The art of fermentation: an in-depth exploration of essential concepts and processes from around the world.* Chelsea green publishing, 2012.

Paxson, Heather. 'Post-pasteurian cultures: The microbiopolitics of raw-milk cheese in the United States.' *Cultural anthropology* 23.1 (2008): 15-47.

Paxson, Heather. 'Locating value in artisan cheese: reverse engineering terroir for new-world landscapes.' *American Anthropologist* 112.3 (2010): 444-457.

4. PAR AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF LOCAL *INDIGENOUS WISDOM*

Timmi Tillmann and Maruja Salas   Tue, Jun 8th; 10:30 - 12:00
Coventry University and   **register**
International Terraced Landscapes Alliance

This workshop deals with transdisciplinary methods for the empowerment of local initiatives in the creation of democratic spaces for the co-existence of local wisdom aiming for cognitive justice. We will present and discuss the application of Participatory Action Research in mountainous communities in Asia, Europe and Latin America and reflect about the destiny of biocultural diversity and sustainability. Agriculture as a transformative human action shapes the knowledge of groups of mountain people living and producing in terraced landscapes. We will elaborate on perceptions, concepts, values and visions supported by the concept of biocultural diversity.

The workshop uses the VIPP methods for this workshop combining short inputs, group work, visualised plenary discussions, generating collective ideas and strategic outcomes for a more democratic people centered methodology.

5. DESIGNING CREATIVE METHODS

COMBINING THE PRAGMATIC AND THE ENCHANTING IN RESEARCH AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PRACTICES

**Kelli Rose Pearson and
Anke de Vrieze**

Tue, Jun 8th; 10:30 - 12:00
Wed, Jun 9th; 13:00 - 14:30

Re.imaginary and

**register for Tuesday
or Wednesday**

Wageningen University

A humanistic turn in sustainability which draws from the arts and humanities, as well as from psychology and cognitive sciences, could be described as entering a phase of 'exuberant experimentation.' It is in this spirit that this session addresses the question: How can we design and operationalize creative methods that can be used in both community engagement and in research?

During the session, we will explore how creative methods can be used to: 1) engage diverse people with different styles of learning and participating, 2) flatten hierarchies, encouraging all voices in the room (and sometimes outside the room!) to be heard and valued, and 3) evoke cognitive frames that open new perspectives and new 'spaces of possibility'.

Inspired by Steven Tyler of Aerosmith's 'Dare to Suck' method for creativity, we will start by designing methods that are totally inappropriate for the chosen target groups. Then, using a game format as a way to spark the design of methods, we identify different types of intelligence, creative modalities (somatic, visual, auditory, etc.), marginalized stakeholders (human and other-than-human), and different transformative mindsets (regenerative sustainability, ecological self, uncertainty, radical diversity, or complexity, for example). Finally, we will pitch the methods in small groups and use peer-to-peer feedback to fine tune methods for future beta testing in the field.

6. ALTERNATIVE AND LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS (ALFS) IN A POST-COVID WORLD

**Gusztáv Nemes, High Chris
and Éva Orbán**

Tue, Jun 8th; 13:00 - 14:30
register

Centre for Economic and Regional Studies

The COVID-19 outbreak stands out from previous global crises due to the rapidity of its spread and its all-encompassing disruption of supply chains. The agri-food system, in particular, has been impacted from production to consumption both locally and globally. From a sustainability transition perspective, it is important to examine how the innovations and coping strategies adopted by food system actors might facilitate – or hinder – the transition towards more sustainable food chains. Despite its global impact, the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will likely to affect transition pathways in different ways based on the territorial economic and cultural context. While most research has analysed the impact of the pandemic on mainstream food systems, we invite participants for this workshop to explore how alternative and local food systems (ALFS) responded during the first year of the Covid-19 crisis and what might be the long term effects for resilience and sustainability.

We attempt to explore:
1. the innovations and adaptations implemented within ALFS in different countries, territorial economic and cultural contexts;
2. how these innovations and adaptations are creating or supporting a transition in food production and consumption systems;
3. how the combination of social and technological innovation, greater citizen involvement, and the increase in the interest of policy-makers and large retailers in these systems are enabling ALFS to scale up and leading new actors to adopt more sustainable practices.

We invite experts, food-chain actors, producers and consumers for this exciting exploration, to share experiences and beliefs and think together about the future. We plan to organize either a word-café workshop, or a workshop based on visual methods, depending on the available timeframe and facilities of the event.

The session will be divided to 3 times 30 minutes:

- We start with 4 pecha kucha presentations (7 min each) exploring our topic, including two researchers, an agricultural extension expert and an advisor, from Europe and the US.
- The second 30 minutes is a brain storming session, using MIRO and Mentimeeter. We will ask participants to put examples of good and/or failed practices, innovations, projects, on the whiteboard (www links, photos, short descriptions). With facilitation, some of these could also be shortly presented along certain sub-topics (e.g. successful versus failing attempts, etc.) (If possible, we make breakout rooms for that, if not, plenary will do.)
- The last 30 min. is a round table discussion, where the speakers in front of the audience explore/discuss our topic, helped by the moderator.

We provide an output available for the participants in the form of the presentations, the MIRO board (including the gathered examples), and the notes of the final discussion.

7. BALANCING ROLES AND CAPACITIES IN CO-CREATING SPACES OF PEER-TO-PEER LEARNING

Alice Taherzadeh and Katie Hastings   Wed, Jun 9th; 10:30 - 12:00
Cardiff University   **register**

In recent years, co-creative and transdisciplinary research practices have become increasingly recognized as crucial processes in achieving equitable and place-based sustainability transformations and have become both more widespread and accepted within academia. The antecedents of these practices are the more long-standing traditions of critical pedagogy and Participatory Action Research (PAR). These main tenets of these approaches involve creating spaces for horizontal learning and collaborative inquiry with the aim of decentring or even removing the teacher/technician/researcher in the process of knowledge generation and meaning making. However, care must be taken with to recognise the various imbalances in power, skills, and capacities that shape collaborative work. This is particularly true when balancing the responsibilities of any paid and coordinating members of a group with those who are not.

These issues can be difficult to navigate when we often only hear and share polished accounts of participatory action research and peer-to-peer learning excluding the messy processes, doubts, ethical dilemmas, and failures. Even in the field of agroecology where the terms 'farmer-to-farmer' and 'farmer-led' are increasingly used, reporting tends to be celebratory and miss out details of the challenges faced when trying to co-create spaces of collective inquiry between farmers, researchers, and organisations.

In this workshop we aim to collectively unpack some of these challenges by drawing on experiences of the session participants. We begin by briefly presenting the intertwined practices of participatory action research and farmer to farmer learning in the research project Resisting, Learning, Growing. We introduce this from our two perspectives: Alice, a PhD activist-researcher attempting to carry out a PAR project exploring farmer-to-farmer learning and Katie, a grower, activist, and paid coordinator of a Welsh heritage grain network. In working together to develop farmer to farmer learning we have encountered many challenges along the way and asked a number of questions, such as: What are the implications for power and decision-making when one person is in a paid coordination role? Is there value in holding a space for peer-to-peer learning when others do not have capacity for it? How can organising and decision-making processes be made accessible? How can we manage different capacities and accessibilities for online interaction and fluctuations in participation?

The main section of this workshop will focus on creating a space for researchers and organisers to deliberate over these issues and share both successful and challenging experiences from their own work through a series of reflective and collaborative exercises.

8. BUILDING AN AGROECOLOGICAL CITY

**Kate Swade, Kim Graham
and Mark Walton**

Wed, Jun 9th; 10:30 - 12:00

register

Shared Assets

Since 2018, Shared Assets has been involved in the Urbanising in Place project with partners from four cities across the world (Rosario in Argentina, Riga in Latvia, London in the UK, and Brussels in Belgium). This project has explored how farming and food growing practices on the metropolitan fringe, threatened by ever-expanding urbanisation, may be reimagined and reconfigured within what we call 'agroecological urbanism': a model of urbanisation which places food, urban metabolic cycles and an ethics of land stewardship, equality and solidarity at its core. Through this work we have developed 8 'building blocks' or concepts which might be used to help build an agroecological city. At this workshop we will present and discuss these building blocks with participants, then explore the extent to which each Building Block could be applicable in their own cities, and what might need to change to enable the development of urban agroecology where they are.

ROUNDTABLES, CAFES AND STORYTELLING
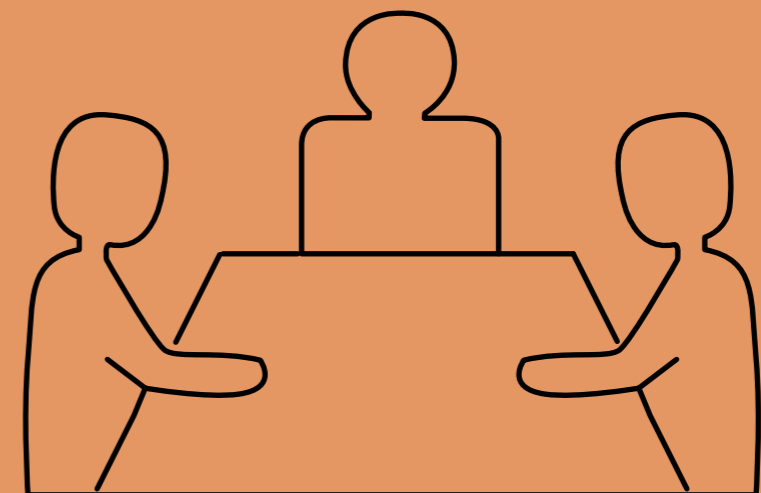
ROUNDTABLE 1

THE RESEARCHER AS POLITICAL MEDIATOR: CO-CREATION PROCESSES IN TRANSDISCIPLINARY AND TRANS-SECTORAL RESEARCH

Agnese Cretella and Cordula Scherer　　　Mon, Jun 7th; 10:30 - 12:00

Trinity College Dublin

Transdisciplinarity should be the starting point for researchers aiming to make sustainability research truly impactful. We argue that trans-sectoral, transcultural and transgenerational dimensions are as equally important in co-creation processes. When these dimensions are ignored, research projects can easily shift from co-creation to 'creation' with a top-down attitude. In fact, researchers working in sustainability research are often challenged when navigating different perspectives on the same issue, having to wear different hats in order to listen to and incorporate these perspectives in co-creation processes.

In this roundtable discussion, we want to share our experience of our own journey with the Food Smart Dublin project while having others share theirs. We used a trans-sectoral approach between academia, industry and the public to co-create knowledge flow with the aim to encourage a behavioural shift from eating high trophic level seafood (tuna, salmon, cod - the tigers and lions of the sea) to lower trophic and more sustainable local seafood (molluscs, non-target species) by unearthing historical recipes and reconnecting Dublin's society to their tangible and intangible coastal cultural heritage.

The academic team consisted of STEM and AHSS researchers acting as knowledge providers in the sense of doing the groundwork, research into archival and environmental humanities as well as food and culinary history, while also developing and carrying out surveys on people's behaviour toward seafood. The industry partner acted as the innovator being a trained chef and fishmonger; they had the 'hands-on' knowledge and reimagined the recipes to suit the modern pallet. The NGO partner was the agent of change being a youth and environmental education centre. They recruited young people and facilitated interactive workshops on sustainable seafood developed in close collaboration with the knowledge providers and the innovator.

Now, at the end of the project, we want to reflect on obstacles and connecting nodes of our co-creation process and invite other researchers, educationalists and knowledge providers to share their experience of transdisciplinary and trans-sectoral work. We want to hear from those who may have had to become political mediators, but also advocates, lobbyists and educators in their 'trans' approach research. We also want to reflect on why policymakers seem uncomfortable with co-creation approaches and often do not support projects with concrete institutional change - or with funding. Furthermore, we encourage others to share their thoughts on what will have to change to make research projects more fluid and attractive for policymakers to achieve truly impactful sustainability change.

The invited speakers of this roundtable discussion are:

Dr. Carl Walter Matthias Kaiser is Professor at the Centre for the Study of the Sciences and Humanities at the University of Bergen, Norway. Matthias's areas of expertise and research interests include: philosophy of science, ethics of science, food ethics, technology assessment and science-for-policy.

Dr. Denis 'Jaromil'Rojo is an Ethical hacker with almost 20 years of expertise in software development. Denis is also the founder of the nonprofit organisation Dyne.org a Think & Do Tank acting in support of artists, creatives and engaged citizens in the digital age with tools, practices and narratives for community empowerment.

Dr. Francesca Forno is Associate Professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento, Italy. Francesca's main interests include sustainable consumption and sustainable community movement organizations with a special focus on the spread of market-based forms of action for citizens' participation and mobilisation.

Elaine Nevin is the National Director (Chief Executive Officer) of ECO-UNESCO. Elaine holds a BA in Geography and Political Science and an MA and a Higher Diploma in Education. She has worked in the field of environmental education since 1995 and has headed up a range of projects in ECO-UNESCO including the Young Environmentalist Awards programme; Youth for Sustainable Development. She believes that empowering, educating and engaging young people is an essential component to achieving sustainable development.

Dr. Monika Rut is a cultural entrepreneur and interdisciplinary scholar based at the Department of Geography of Trinity College Dublin, where she is affiliated with the ERC project SHARECITY. She is interested in how digital technologies are transforming socio-economic, political, and cultural relations. Her background is in political science and environmental and cultural economics. Monika's research interests include sharing cities, economy 4.0, new institutions, self-organizing society and sustainable development.

WORLD CAFÉ 1

OPERATIONALIZING REFLEXIVITY FOR JUST SUSTAINABILITY TRANSFORMATIONS

Viola Hakkaraine

LUKE

Mon, Jun 7th; 13:00 - 14:30

register

Reflexivity is increasingly advocated as means to navigate and balance unequal power dynamics through confronting, interrelating and integrating different epistemic cultures, values or goals in collaborative knowledge production (see e.g. Schäpke et al. 2018). Reflexivity includes the notions of being able to identify own normative and epistemic perspectives and connecting them to collaborative action as well as the capacity to respond to changes of complex and dynamic natural systems in an adaptive manner (van der Molen 2018). However, there is a critical gap in implementing this reflexivity and hardly any tangible evidence on how reflexivity can be facilitated at different phases of a research project that mobilizes collaborative research modes such as co-creation or co-production of knowledge aiming to transform the Earth's system to a more sustainable one.

In this World Café session, we explore framings and methods to enhance reflexivity in collaborative knowledge production. We invite participants to share and discuss about their experiences, exchange the best practices and find new insights into better ways of implementing collaborative research modes. By together 'reflecting reflexivity', we aim to deepen our understanding on how to operationalize reflexivity at individual and group levels and as towards one's environment and action within complex science-society-policy interactions.

Schäpke, N., Stelzer, F., Caniglia, G., Bergmann, M., Wanner, M., Singer-Brodowski, M., … Lang, D. J. (2018). Jointly experimenting for transformation?: Shaping real-world laboratories by comparing them. *Gaia*, 27, 85–96.

Van der Molen, F., 2018. How knowledge enables governance : The coproduction of environmental governance capacity. *Environmental Science and Policy*, 87, 18–25.

STORYTELLING

FESTIVE OPENING OF THE ONLINE COFFEE BREAK ROOMS

Mon, Jun 7th; 14:30 - 14:50

At the end of each day, participants are invited to share a coffee and further discuss community-led transformations in an informal setting. We open the parallel coffee break-out rooms festively via storytelling. Three presenters tell their story about 'Spaces of Possibility' in one coffee break-out rooms.

Visual storytelling along the Vogelzangbeek stream: weaving worldmaking practices of nature associations and great reed warblers

Jolein Bergers, Bruno Notteboom and Viviana d'Auria
KU Leuven

For the past decades, planning and design agencies in the Brussels Region have aimed to protect and improve urban natures through the development of 'green' or 'ecological' networks. Through the development of these networks architects and planners have been seeking to connect spatially fragmented urban natures in order to improve species mobility.

However, analysis and observations feeding the design of these networks fail to integrate the spatial needs of other-than-human beings, as well as the complex relationships between citizens and nature, in their design processes. Data feeding planning and design processes tends to be very scientific and abstract, reducing the complexity of entangled human-nature interactions.

In this contribition, we will explore visual storytelling as a method to engage with more complex understandings of a segment of the network, the Vogelzangbeek valley, and challenge more technical understandings of developing nature. By focusing on the world-making practices of the members of a nature association as well as those of a great reed warbler, we will investigate more complex understandings of creating more-than-human worlds.

Through combining multiple video recordings on different scales (from microscopic to aerial view) and following different actors (human as well as other-than-human ones), we want to develop a caleidoscopic and 'more-than-human' representation of the network. The goal is to mobilize this visual storytelling in design discussions, as multiple projects are currently being planned along the Vogelzangbeek stream.

Through this contribution, we wish to engage with, as well as challenge, the third topic of the conference, 'material places and embodied practices'. Through this visual narration we want to expand our technical understanding of developing networks to a more-than-human one, whilst being aware that we will always be limited to our human senses, tools and methods to engage with these more-than-human worlds.

Why I can (not) talk about environmental justice in the context of rural china

Jingjing Guo
BOKU

In this presentation I trouble 'environmental justice' through engaging autoethnographically with my embodied encounters with two interlinking worlds: the socionatural world of the aging Chinese peasants in their everyday life, and that of the discourses and policies in China's rural development. In the latter, accelerated is the building of the Ecological Civilization – a technoscientific vision of a societal progress towards a 'good life' for all humans in harmony with nature, through which ecological health, social equality and economic growth mutually propel one another. The vision both discursively and materially re-draws socionatural boundaries across the nation, and re-casts the rural people, ecologies and their everyday entanglements. These two worlds and their constituencies relationally, albeit in asymmetric power relations, negotiate the meanings of 'environment', 'justice' and 'environmental justice'. Then there is the 'I' - a novice female researcher with a Chinese urban upbringing, one who has been afforded to live in central Europe for more than a decade, and now desk- and institutionally-based in Vienna through EU funding. As I continue to cross these worlds in the course of my PhD research that explores the socionatural significance of care by the aging peasants for issues of social and environmental justice in rural China, I am unceasingly confronted by the othernesses in me in relation to the worlds of which I have either never been an active participant or ceased to be one for a decade. I become increasingly troubled by whether the justice claims I wanted to make for the aging Chinese peasants and the other 'natural' beings came from a self-righteous 'correctness' that matters little to their own concerns, particularly as they seem to readily subscribe to, if not wholeheartedly welcome, a future in which their peasantry is cleared away for a modernized Ecological Civilization. My commitment to practicing feminist political ecology insists that I answer to my own positionality, to explicit the silencing effects of my own critiques and claims: on whose behalf I am doing so, for whose vision of social and environmental justice? To this, I answer through reflexively engaging the 'I' and its otherness in my encounters with the other worlds in China's rural development, to trouble the notion of 'environmental justice' in two senses: what is the 'environmental', and whose 'justice' is it. In so doing, I speculate what 'environmental justice' might mean in rural China - a speculation which will invite more questions than it can answer.

Participatory development of Green Infrastructure - From boundary concept to collective action

Francis Turkelboom, Jasmien Smets, Saskia Wanner, Geert De Blust and Wim Verheyden
INBO

Flanders (Belgium) is one of the most densely populated regions in Europe. Intensive land use, widespread suburbanization, inadequate environmental qualities, and fragmentation deteriorate living conditions and put pressure on species and natural habitats. In the past, several governmental initiatives were launched to establish a coherent ecological network to improve the situation. Despite the set objectives, only a little progress was made in the field. Therefore, to establish green infrastructure, a new approach was developed that moves away from previous top-down and an ecological-based strategy. By making use of Green Infrastructure as a boundary concept, interpretation was given through an open and participatory process. The core of this approach is the identification of i) shared objectives (framed as ecosystem services or other objectives/services), ii) the selection of appropriate green infrastructure elements to support these objectives, and iii) the co-design of a green infrastructure taking into account the local socio-ecological realm. The approach combined (policy) document analysis, on-line questionnaire, joint field visit, and participatory workshops. By applying the methodology in 3 concrete projects in urban and rural contexts (city centre of Mechelen, valley outside Landen, and railway infrastructure at Dilbeek), we learned that establishing strong coalitions of stakeholders, obtaining and sharing reliable knowledge of the systems, and co-learning are key to an effective realization of green infrastructure.

WORLD CAFÉ 2
HOW TO BUILD COMMON GROUND? THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE COMMONS

Ana Margarida Esteves, Amelie Krug and Robert Hall
ECOLISE, ISCTE-IUL and IACCHOS

Tue, Jun 8th; 13:00 - 14:30
**register**

Community-led initiatives are important actors for societal and behavioral transformation towards sustainability and regeneration. Understanding the real needs of community-led initiatives is thus crucial for enhancing their potential of being impactful change makers with regards to achieving a broad set of societal goals, such as climate change mitigation and adaptation, conservation of biodiversity, poverty reduction, social inclusion, well-being and resilience. This world café is targeted at collaboratively working towards turning the real needs of community-led initiatives for climate change and sustainability into policy and to creating knowledge commons, that both online and analogue address the real needs of communities.

Three breakout sessions will provide spaces to reflect upon the following three questions:

1. How do we create a knowledge commons about the real needs of community-led initiatives, such as the need to improve their capacity to mobilize at the grassroots level, to develop relevant technical competences, as well as to mobilize support from public institutions (EU institutions, state level; regional and municipal administrations), the market (enterprises) and civil society (e.g. NGOs, philanthropies, political parties, social movements, labor unions etc.)?

2. What type of knowledge is needed for community-led initiatives to influence policy-making in a way that removes obstacles to the development of community-led initiatives or make resources available to them?

3. How could policy support the mobilization of the wider public to support or get involved in community-led initiatives?

POLICY ROUNDTABLE AND LAUNCH OF THE RE-ADJUSTOOL
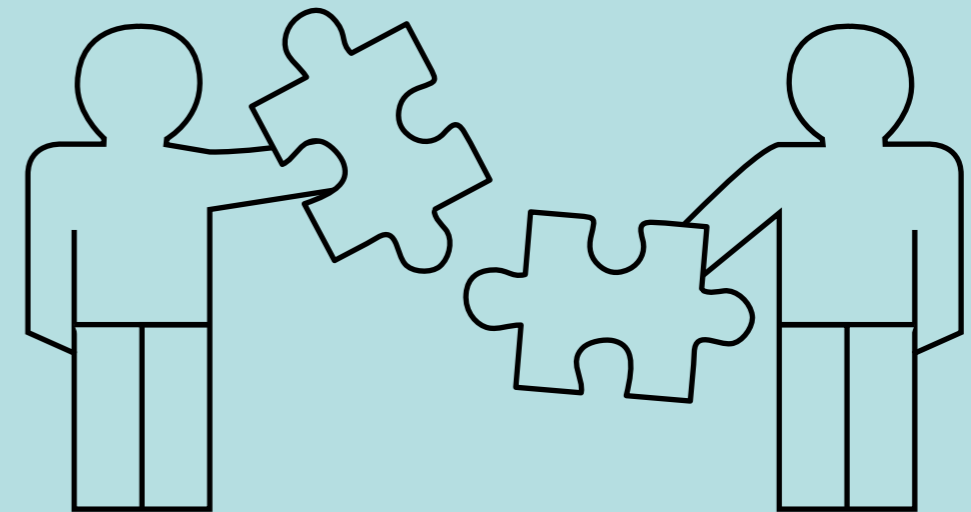
Réka Livits - Visualive

SOCIAL JUSTICE, CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT IN URBAN FOOD STRATEGIES

Sara Smaal and Elke Rogge　　　　Thu, Jun 10th; 10:30 - 12:30
**ILVO and Ghent University**

Are you concerned about food insecurity, access to land and resources for farmers and food initiatives and skewed power dynamics in our food system? Do you have ideas and examples of how to tackle such challenges in your city or region? Are you involved in or do you want to set up a food partnership, strategy or policy council? And would you like to engage more people and organisations to create a sense of urgency, community and shared ownership?

Then let's exchange views, lessons, techniques, frustrations, best practices and recommendations! Join us at this policy roundtable to hear from others who face and are working to resolve similar sets of challenges, and to get a first glimpse of the **RE-ADJUSTool (REflecting on & ADvancing Justice in Urban food Strategies Tool)**. This engagement toolkit is designed to enable policy-makers, practitioners and citizens to jointly unpack, discuss and integrate social justice within their specific economic, cultural and political food governance contexts. Learn about the tool's features and functionalities, let us know what you think and help spread the word!

The roundtable will include representatives (researchers, policy-makers & practitioners) from several H2020 projects and inter-municipal networks around food. They will offer short reflections on how social justice, stakeholder engagement and citizen empowerment are being approached in a range of different food partnerships, policies and projects, and share their thoughts on the RE-ADJUSTool and other participatory methods. The audience will have the opportunity to interact via the chat and Mentimeter.

For more information about this side event of Spaces of Possibility, visit this page. To attend this event, please register here before June 7th.

CARE-FULL SCHOLARSHIP MOOC
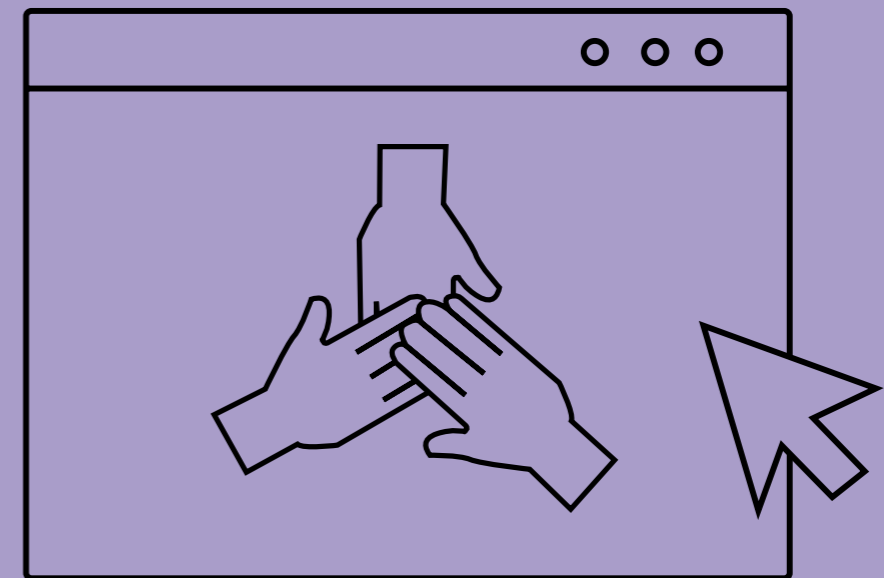
CONNECTING PEOPLE THROUGH CARE-FULL SCHOLARSHIP
A CO-CREATIVE WORKSHOP

Angela Moriggi, Jingjing Guo, Scott Davis and Alex Franklin

University of Padova, BOKU, University of Groningen and Coventry University

Fri, Jun 11ᵗʰ; 10:00 - 13:00

What is care-full scholarship and how can we teach and learn together about it? This 3-hour workshop is a co-creative attempt to gather insights, reflections, and suggestions around the topic of care-full scholarship. In particular, this includes sharing views and experiences on the ways and extent to which care-full scholarship is in evidence through the various fields, practices and approaches of sustainability scientists (including in their research, teaching, advocacy, outreach etc), but also, about how it might be more formally nurtured and enabled through the establishment of a dedicated online community of learning.

While we may be fully engaged with our work, how many times have we taken the time, for example, to ask ourselves: 'What, why, and how are we doing research? How do the things we deeply care about influence our teaching practice? In which ways can caring and care ethics help us to 'change the way we understand ourselves and our interaction with the Earth' (Moriggi et al 2020) and prompt us to alternative modes of scholarship?' Driven by the desire to explore these questions, in this workshop we will harvest ideas that will feed into the design and content of a connectivist-inspired MOOC (Massive Online Open Course) on care-full scholarship. The MOOC, which is being developed as part of the H2020 RECOMS project, will be launched in early 2022.

After a short introduction about the preliminary design and rationale of the MOOC (including the use of Theory U as guiding framework), the facilitators will guide you through a number of interactive exercises. We will explore concepts and practices around care-full scholarship, touch upon issues of situatedness, justice, and more-than-human worlds, and explore different modalities of connectivist-inspired learning. Join us!

Moriggi A., Soini K., Franklin A., Dirk R. 2020. A care-based approach to transformative change: ethically-informed practices, relational response-ability, and emotional awareness. *Ethics, Policy and Environment,* 23:3, 281-298. DOI:https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/21550085.2020.1848186

To attend this event, please register here before June 7th.

EXHIBITION 'SPACES OF POSSIBILITY'
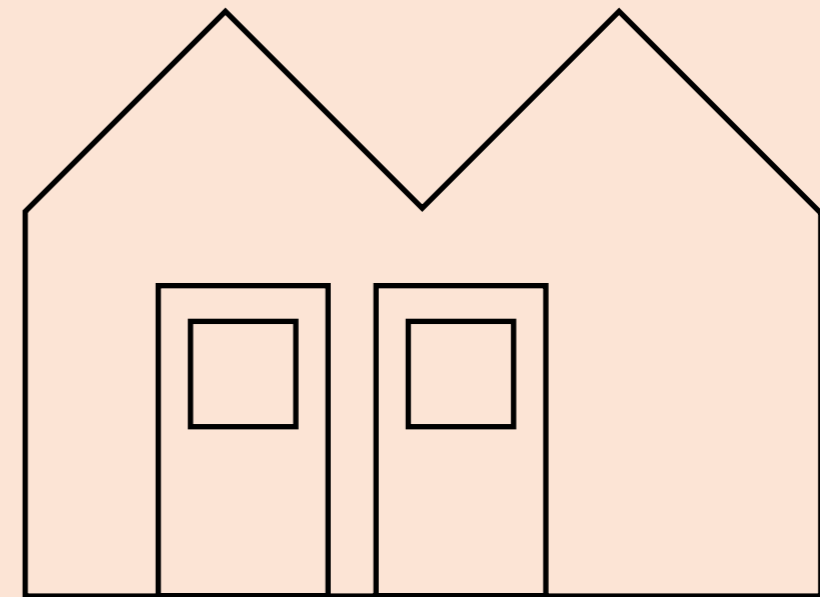
EXHIBITION 'SPACES OF POSSIBILITY'

RECOMS   Mon, Jun 7th - Thu, Jun 12th

RECOMS

Five objects co-created and curated by the RECOMS fellows, explore the people's transformational relationship with their environment. In this exhibition, we highlight communities across Europe, America and Asia and their unique challenges and efforts to achieve more just and sustainable futures.

The exhibition is organized under three main themes, converging with the themes of the Conference, and which all offer a lens to examine 'Spaces of Possibility'. These themes are systems and structures, representation and justice, and material places and embodied practices. Through the stories and objects, we offer glimpses of both achievements and losses, and embrace what we have, while underlining what is still needed. The content presented in this exhibition can only paint a fraction of the picture, the rest exists in the visitor. What is their history and future? What is their 'Space of Possibility'?

Through the medium of art and interactive emersion, we invite all visitors to reflect on questions such as: Whose voices and views shape environmental decision-making? How do we increase diversity of perspectives in decision-making and in taking action towards sustainability? What does transformation mean for you in your neighbourhood? How do I initiate change?

Join us in this reflective space for an intracultural, intradisciplinary and intragenerational interactive experience!

confex

SPACES OF POSSIBILITY