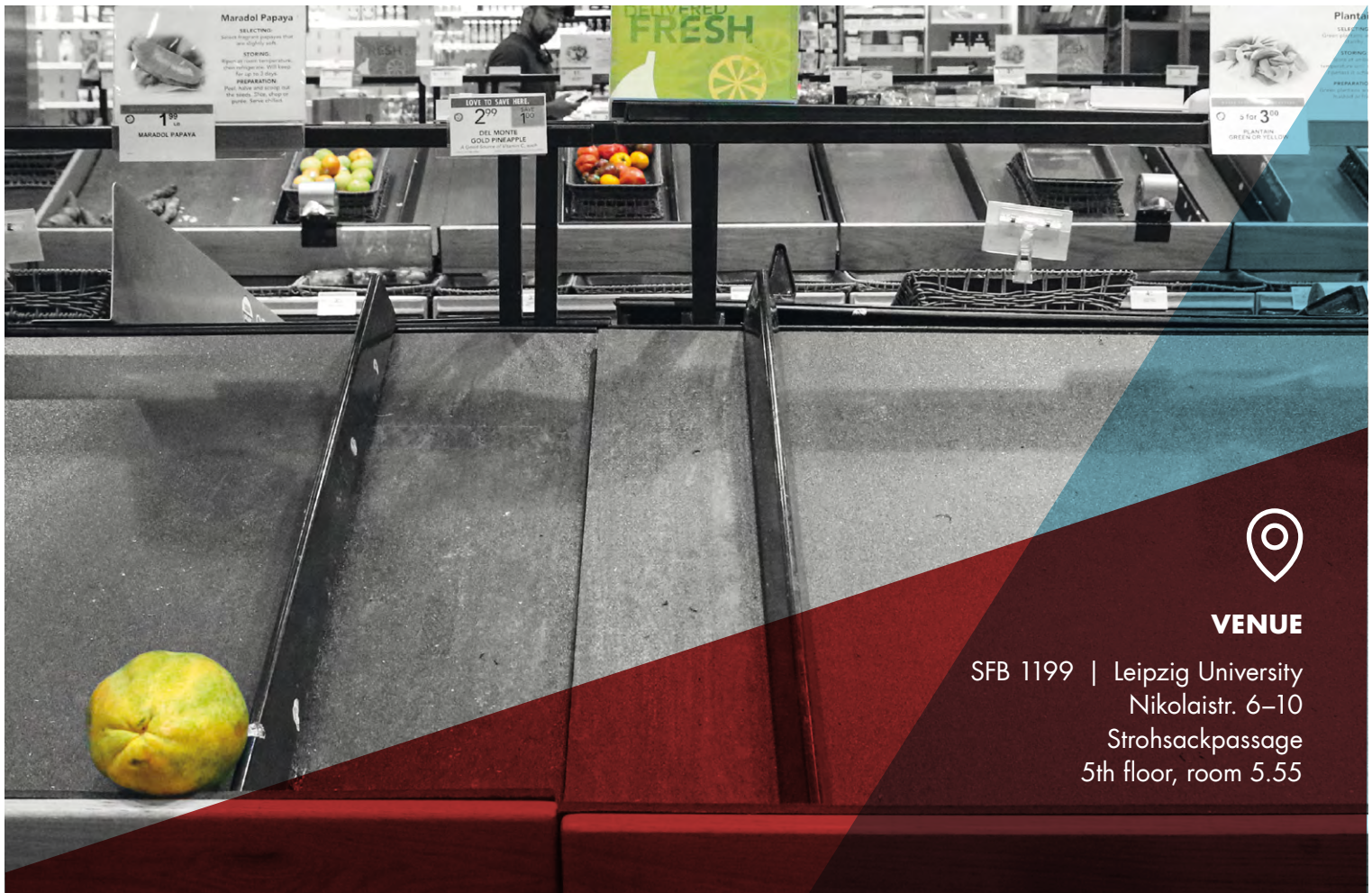


The Food System in the (Post-) Pandemic World:

Disruptions, Vulnerability,
Resilience, and Alternative



VENUE

SFB 1199 | Leipzig University
Nikolaistr. 6–10
Strohsackpassage
5th floor, room 5.55

The mini-conference is also financially supported by Academics in Solidarity (at Freie Universität Berlin, sponsored by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research), and within the framework of the Philipp Schwartz Initiative of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, funded by the Federal Foreign Office and private foundations. The conference presents the opinions of different scholars and does not necessarily reflect the views of these institutions.

Wednesday, 19 October 2022

4.30–5.00 pm

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION [HYBRID]

Conference organizing team

RC 40'S TRADITION OF MINI-CONFERENCES

Steven Wolf, RC 40 President

5.00–7.00 pm

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION [HYBRID]

The food system in the (post-)pandemic world: grassroots and social movements' perspectives

Panelists:

Serenity Hill, Open Food Network Australia

Gilberta Jiménez, AMISMAXAJ – Asociación de mujeres indígenas Xinkas de Santa María Xalapán, Jalapá (Guatemala)

Marte Olsen, Reko-ringen Norge (Norway)

Attila Szocs, European Coordination Via Campesina (Europe) & Eco-Ruralis (Romania)

Ceyhan Temürcü, TADYA – Tahtacıörencik Village Ecological Living Collective (Turkey)

Moderator: Sarah Ruth Sippel

7.00 pm

Dinner

Thursday, 20 October 2022

9.00–9.15 am

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Conference organizing team

9.15–10.15 am

THE PANDEMIC AND FOOD (IN)SECURITY

Carlos Ernesto Ayala Duran

Determinants of food insecurity in Mexico: A 2021 snapshot

Kennedy Manduna

Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on South African food security: Time to consider a paradigmatic turn for building back better

Sarah Bowen, Annie Hardison-Moody

The right to food? Experiences of and responses to food insecurity in the United States

Chair: Moritz Dolinga

10.15–10.30 am

Coffee break

10.30–11.50 am

THE PANDEMIC AND MIGRANT LABOUR

[Nikolai Siimes](#)

Post-pandemic human and more-than-human labour relations in Aotearoa New Zealand's wine industry: An STS framing

[Hilde Bjørkhaug, Jostein Brobakk](#)

Vulnerable and unjust: How Covid-19 revealed the true nature of the Norwegian agricultural model

[Johannes Itai Bhanye](#)

Associational life and belonging among migrants during the Covid-19 pandemic: An ethnographic study among Malawian farm laborers in Zimbabwe

Chair: Bruce Muirhead

11.50 am–12.15 pm

Tea break

12.15–13.15 pm

SUPPLY CHAINS DURING THE PANDEMIC

[Sohini Bhattacharjee](#)

From the farmer to the consumer: Building proximity and organic farmers of Delhi NCR [Zoom]

[Sonja Ganseforth](#)

Pandemic tides: Japanese small-scale fisheries under Covid-19

[Mehmet Fatih Tatari, Orkun Doğan](#)

(Non-)regulating the food system during the pandemic: COVID-19 and İstanbul's fresh fruit and vegetable

Chair: Hilde Bjørkhaug

13.15–2.30 pm

Lunch Break

2.30–3.30 pm

SUPPLY CHAINS DURING THE PANDEMIC (CONT.)

[Bruce Muirhead](#), [Jodey Nurse](#)

“Don’t go big, and don’t go home”: Canada’s dynamic supply management model and the resiliency of smallness

[Franziska Czernik](#), [Amelie Bernzen](#), [Anika Trebbin](#)

The effect of Covid-19 on food waste generation along the value chain. A review and selected findings from the food service sector

[Francisco Garrido Garza](#)

The role of digital platforms in market formation for short food supply chains in (post-)pandemic times

Chair: Hilde Bjørkhaug

3.30–4.00 pm

Coffee Break

4.00–5.00 pm

STATE RESPONSES TO COVID-19

[Arifin Bustanul](#)

The Indonesian rice system in the (post-)pandemic: Improving the resilience [Zoom]

[Ayşe Kaşıkırık](#)

Access to food, a fundamental human right: rethinking the city-food relationship in the Covid-19 crisis through 30 metropolitans

[Mustafa Koç](#), [Hülya Koç](#), [Metin Özüğurlu](#), [Sonay Bayramoğlu](#)

Local government initiatives for food security and resilient food system merging out of the Covid-19 crisis

Chair: Atakan Büke

5.00–5.30 pm

FIRST DAY WRAP-UP AND OPEN DISCUSSION

Chair: Atakan Büke

7.00 pm

Dinner

Friday, 21 October 2022

9.00–10.00 am

COVID-19 AND ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS

[Camille Freeman](#)

The potential for ethical and sustainable consumption: Lessons learned from Covid-19 on alternative and local food systems in Australia

[Valerio Colosio](#), [Esra Demirkol Colosio](#)

Turkish 2022 food price crisis, small holder producers and solidarity economy. An assessment of resilience and transformation in the Ankara region

[José Duarte Ribeiro](#)

Food sovereignty and rural social movements in the 21st century Turkey

Chair: Sarah Ruth Sippel

10.00–10.15 am

Tea break

10.15–11.15 am

COVID-19 AND ALTERNATIVE FOOD NETWORKS (CONT.)

[Larissa da Silva Araujo](#)

Solidarity and Reciprocity amongst Kayambi agroecological producers during COVID-19 [Zoom]

[Thalita Kalix Garcia](#), [Lea Zentgraf](#)

Food movements, solidarity and new digital repertoires in (post-)pandemic times

[Mariana Hase Ueta](#), [Jordan Oelke](#)

Promissory Proteins: Securitizing Meat Futures in Germany

Chair: Sarah Ruth Sippel

11.15–11.45 am

Coffee break

11.45–12.45 pm

COVID-19 AND SOCIAL, LOCAL, & INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS

[Sheila Manka](#)

Indigenous food as a means of communication: The case of Mankon, Cameroon

[Yıldız Atasoy](#)

Small-scale village farmers, farming imaginaries, and enrichment-value creation in Ankara, Turkey

[Eduardo Erazo Acosta](#)

The power of the ancestral philosophy of *Alli kawsay* (Buen Vivir) in the indigenous movements of Colombia

Chair: José Duarte Ribeiro

12.45–2.00 pm

Lunch Break

2.00–3.20 pm

THE PANDEMIC, FOOD SYSTEMS AND TRANSFORMATION

Sarah Ruth Sippel

Methodological reflections: Implications of the pandemic for doing field research

Atakan Büke

A critique of the mainstreamization of the agri-food system perspective in and through the COVID-19 Pandemic

Steven Wolf

Institutional stability and change: Critical analysis of resilience of agrifood systems

Bruno Azevedo Prado, Claudia Job Schmitt

Mapping controversies on the future of food systems transformation

Chair: Mustafa Koç

3.20–4.00 pm

Coffee Break & discussion of publication plans

4.00–5.30 pm

FINAL ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: RC 40 MOVING FORWARD [HYBRID]

Panelists:

Steven Wolf, RC 40 President

Hilde Bjørkhaug, RC 40 Secretary

Allison Loconto, RC 40 Board Member and Editor of The International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food (IJSAF)

Sheila Manka, RC 40 Regional Representative – Africa

Cynthia Gharios, RC 40 Regional Representative – Middle East

Moderator: Atakan Büke

ABSTRACTS

► Carlos Ernesto Ayala Duran (Fundación Naturaleza)

Determinants of food insecurity in Mexico: A 2021 snapshot

Food security (FS) exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life. During the COVID-19 pandemic, households all around the world have faced increasingly challenging conditions to meet their dietary needs. Within Latin America, populated countries as Mexico have faced limitations in agricultural inputs and capital access for food production. The present text aims to identify determinants of food insecurity in México. To do so, the 2021 Americas Barometer database is employed, as this instrument is a nation-wide representative source of information. Information was collected between March 26th and July 11th 2021. A total of 2998 observations are used. For the implementation, a question measuring access to food was used, namely: Have you run out of food in the last three months? Independent variables include demographic characteristics widely used in food insecurity studies (gender, age, education, employment, income, civil status, household size, race and area). Estimation was based on a binary logistic regression. Among determinant variables, sub strata of occupation and income were significant. Overall, the greater the income lead to smaller chances of facing food insecurity. Moreover, household size presented a significant and positive effect to food insecurity. Social policies, targeting these populations, should be priority as food insecurity relates to several public health issues.

► Kennedy Manduna (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

Implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on South African food security: Time to consider a paradigmatic turn for building back better

This desk-research study explores the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on South Africa's food security. There is a yearning scholarly lacuna in this nascent area. The COVID-19 pandemic, like the current Russia-Ukraine war, has disrupted international trade- causing severe disruptions to global food security. The WHO Report (2021) shows that the COVID-19 lockdown-induced global economic slowdown added 132 million more undernourished people in 2020. In Africa, where the number of undernourished people surpassed 250 million following the pandemic, the food insecurity crisis many African countries had been experiencing, thanks to climate change, perennial droughts and conflict, worsened. Statistics South Africa reported that due to the COVID-19 pandemic-induced lockdowns, over 38.5% of the South Africans faced moderate to severe food insecurity challenges in 2020. Anger over structural inequalities was cited as the major cause of the pandemic-induced selective food insecurity challenges. Thus, by significantly affecting trade flows of food commodities in South Africa, the pandemic-induced lockdowns worsened food shortages and fueled runaway food inflation in the country, potentially causing food riots reminiscent of those that preceded the 1789 French Revolution and the 2011 Jasmine Revolution in France and Tunisia, respectively. A case in point here is the 09-18 July 2021 protests (aka Zuma riots or Zuma unrest), which started as demonstrations against former president Jacob Zuma's arrest and mainly saw food shops looted in KwaZulu Natal and Gauteng provinces. These food riots demonstrated that the government's COVID-19 social support programmes are inconsequential in addressing the pandemic-induced food insecurity crisis. Therefore, the pandemic puts South Africa significantly off track to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2, i.e. Zero Hunger target by 2030. Therefore, against this background of the pandemic-induced food security crisis, I suggest South Africa adopt an effective Food Insecurity Crisis Contingency Plan for sustainable food security and sovereignty.

► Sarah Bowen & Annie Hardison-Moody (North Carolina State University)

The right to food? Experiences of and responses to food insecurity in the United States

Food insecurity rose dramatically during the pandemic. In the United States, rates of food insecurity doubled in the early months of the pandemic, tripling among families with children. The unparalleled increase reflects the inadequacies of the U.S. welfare system. The social safety net available to poor families was severely cut in the mid-1990s, and public benefits are increasingly cumbersome to get and keep. The pandemic made these inadequacies even clearer. At the same time, the government responded to the crisis in unprecedented ways, expanding the size and scope of welfare programs, including food assistance programs. Based on a qualitative study conducted in five U.S. states, this project aims to understand people's experiences of food insecurity during the pandemic and their visions of how states should respond to crises. We conducted two waves of semi-structured interviews and photo elicitation with 128 poor and working-class families in rural and urban counties in five states. Our study focuses on caregivers of school-age children. Governmental programs were the most critical food resource for most people, but barriers to accessing these programs remained. Emergency food programs helped fill in the gaps, but these, too, were often inadequate, inaccessible, or stigmatizing. Drawing on an asset-based framework, we highlight families' narratives around how they would respond if they were in charge of local government programs or organizations. Participants offered creative solutions that drew on the notion of food as a human right and centered dignity and well-being as important elements of a rights-based approach to food. At the same time, some participants also expressed assumptions about those who deserved help and those who did not. Our study offers insight into people's perceptions of how governmental and community groups should respond to crises and how these perceptions are shaped by people's lived experiences and social context.

► **Nikolai Siimes (University of Auckland)**

**Post-pandemic human and more-than-human labour relations in Aotearoa New Zealand's wine industry:
An STS framing**

The Covid-19 pandemic has caused widespread disruptions across global agri-food systems. This paper speaks to the disruption of international labour flows as a result of government restrictions from 2020–2022 in the New Zealand (NZ) wine industry. In particular, how the closing of international borders halted the Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) scheme. This paper uses a mixed method approach to answer 3 research questions: 1) What is NZ's RSE scheme and how is it important to the NZ wine industry? 2) Why did NZ wine businesses struggle to replace RSE labour with local labour when Covid-19 disruptions occurred? 3) What future directions are NZ wine actors and authorities pursuing in light of these Covid-19 exacerbated labour issues? This research involved desk based document review (trade media and industry reports), auto-ethnography (reporting from working from NZ wineries during the pandemic), and interview data (15 semi-structured interviews on NZ wine production). This data is contextualised with sociology of labour, STS, and agri-food scholarship. While Covid-19 did not solely cause the industry's labour woes, it has compounded them. The industry faces unique challenges in that their labour demands are highly seasonal with short term temporary contracts, and require relatively poor working conditions (long hours, rural locations, highly physical, health and safety risks). A particular focus of this paper is on the future role of the RSE scheme to NZ organisations and Pacific communities. The RSE scheme provides significant temporary labour to wine producers during peak periods. This research asks what sociologists and policy makers can learn about Global South to Global North temporary labour flows more generally from NZ's situation. Further, what are the ethics of positioning technology (that increases mechanisation and automation) as the solution to these labour issues, and what implications for the climate crisis does this have?

► **Hilde Bjørkhaug (Norwegian University of Science and Technology)
& Jostein Brobakk (Ruralis: Institute for Rural and Regional Research)**

Vulnerable and unjust: How Covid-19 revealed the true nature of the Norwegian agricultural model

When Covid-19 hit Norway, the farmers were ready to start preparations for a new growing season. It quickly became clear that Norwegian agriculture is highly dependent on foreign seasonal labour to get the plants in the soil and harvest the crop after a growing season. Several topics emerged on the agenda: 1) Structural changes – how fast had agriculture changed from family farming to farming based on managing foreign labour 2) Food security – how should farmers be able to grow the food that society expects and needs, should they hire Norwegians that had lost jobs due to the pandemic? 3) Framework conditions – why is it impossible to sustain Norwegian agriculture without hiring cheap labour? In Norway, food security is linked to both natural disadvantages due to location and topography and to how food production has adapted to industrial methods and dependency on the import of feed concentrates and high consumption of energy and fertilizers to produce a meat-rich diet for an affluent population. At the same time, there are major challenges associated with high wages in society and low output in agriculture. That has enabled an adjustment to cheaper hired labour from abroad. While Covid-19 was helpful to identify weaknesses in the Norwegian model, this paper investigates whether the weaknesses are reversible or permanent, or if they are of such a nature that changes of both structural and cultural nature are required. This paper uses the Norwegian agricultural model as a case and asks critical questions about sustainability in the wake of what was revealed when the world was hit by a pandemic, the ad-hoc and longer-term political measures that were implemented, and about resilience in a future affected by climate change and war bringing great uncertainties concerning both functionality and justice of the global food system.

► **Johannes Itai Bhanye (University of the Free State)**

**Associational life and belonging among migrants during the Covid-19 pandemic:
An ethnographic study among Malawian farm laborers in Zimbabwe**

Epidemics are no longer a thing of the past. Today cities all over the world are beset by these diseases. As part of containing the diseases lockdowns which put a moratorium on human mobility and associational life have become a dominant measure. Yet these mobilities and associational life are the lifeblood of migrant and diaspora belonging. It is only through associations that migrants survive in foreign lands where they have unresolved citizenship. It becomes curious to understand how it is that migrants do to continue living in the absence of these associations. This is the purpose of this paper, to investigate new forms of belonging among migrants which dynamise life in the context of Covid-19 mandatory lockdowns. The paper is based on convivial and digital ethnographic fieldwork carried out at Lydiate squatter settlement in Zimbabwe where Malawian migrants make a living through providing farm labor on Zimbabwean farms. The findings reveal that, the Covid-19 pandemic has altered livelihoods, food security and everyday life dramatically for migrants in Lydiate who survived through providing agricultural labor in the nearby agricultural plots. Agricultural employers feared being infected by Covid-19 virus through migrant employees coming from the crowded squatter settlement – Lydiate. The study also tried to answer the question, how do migrants negotiate the Covid-19 mobility and associational bans impacting on their livelihoods. The study demonstrates that migrants restructure their associational life, by adopting new forms of belonging so that life continues. This I termed 'informal sociality and belonging', meaning there are things that people on the margins do, to further their sociality even when they are restricted. I recommend that bans on associational life as a pandemic containment measure should be accompanied by social safety nets and cushioning allowances to sustain the lives of vulnerable migrants in the peripheries.

► [Sohini Bhattacharjee \(Jawaharlal Nehru University\)](#)

From the farmer to the consumer: Building proximity and organic farmers of Delhi NCR

The COVID-19 pandemic shone light on the already glaring shortcomings of our elongated conventional food system. There are those who are seeking to address the complexity and distance introduced into the food system as a result of the multitude of intermediaries between the food producer and the end-consumer. Among them are organic farmers who are exploring the direct-to-consumer model to reduce the degree of separation from the end-consumer, especially with those located in the urban areas. This paper is focused on this section of organic farmers located in Delhi NCR (National Capital Region) in India. Drawing on data collected through semi-structured interviews with organic farmers in this region, the paper will seek to explore how they were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The advantages and challenges of relying on direct-marketing will be highlighted in the backdrop of a pandemic wherein social distancing was made a government mandate worldwide. The focus of the paper will lie on two aspects- logistical issues and relational aspect. Logistical issues will analyze if and how the pandemic affected the organic farmers' ability to market and distribute their organic produce through direct-to-consumer marketing. Additionally, the relational aspect will seek to understand if producer-consumer networks were affected during this period by looking at how interactions between the organic farmers and their end-consumer might have altered as a consequence of the pandemic. By doing so, the paper will critically engage with the possibilities and deficiencies of establishing alternative food networks based on direct marketing for the future of food relations.

► [Sonja Ganseforth \(German Institute for Japanese Studies\)](#)

Pandemic tides: Japanese small-scale fisheries under Covid-19

The Covid-19 pandemic has had grave implications for small-scale fishers around the world, especially with regard to disruptions in the marketing, processing, and transport of seafood, and on the livelihoods of coastal communities (Bennett et al. 2020). This contribution analyzes the situation in Japan. Japanese coastal fisheries have been in a state of crisis for over two decades, and the total number of fishers has halved in this time span. A major reason for this exodus lies in the waning profitability of coastal fisheries caused by stagnating producer prices, rising input costs, and shrinking marine resources. Different from most countries around the world, seafood consumption is in decline in Japan, and the dominance of importers, wholesale traders, and retail chains in the seafood market is depressing prices for most products. This paper draws on findings from a nation-wide survey among Japanese coastal fishers conducted in late 2021, against the background of longer-term ethnographic field research in fishing villages. The findings indicate that the disruption of supply chains and the collapse of demand for seafood from restaurants and the food industry with the novel coronavirus pandemic has exacerbated already existing problems in seafood value chains in Japan. However, a minority of innovative fishing businesses and seafood traders has been able to grasp this opportunity to establish profitable new sales channels using digital technologies, such as direct marketing via SNS or online auctions (Sugimoto et al. 2022). New forms of direct producer – consumer connections have been a growing yet still marginal trend for some years now, but similar to governmental revitalization programs relying on the entrepreneurial know-how of individual businesses, it is questionable whether the majority of (aging) small-scale businesses will be able to partake. Instead, a more collaborative approach to establishing viable new networks holds some promise for revalorizing locally-produced seafood.

► [Mehmet Fatih Tatari \(University of California, Davis\)](#)

[& Orkun Doğan \(Yerküre Local Studies Scientific Research Cooperative\)](#)

(Non-)regulating the food system during the pandemic: COVID-19 and İstanbul's fresh fruit and vegetable

This research examines the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Istanbul fresh fruit and vegetable provision systems between March and September 2020. In line with global trends, the measures taken within the scope of the pandemic were expected to cause disruptions in various provision channels. Apart from the logistic problems experienced in the first couple of weeks of the pandemic, we observed that there was no severe crisis in the fresh fruit and vegetable provision systems of Istanbul in 2020. Based on quantitative analyses of the trade realized in the two biggest warehouses of Istanbul and 32 semi-structured interviews with different actors operating in the supply chains, this presentation focuses on how the characteristics of the provision systems in Istanbul both affected and were affected by the pandemic management. Our study has three main findings: 1) Pandemic management in Turkey is a form of “regulation by not regulating” of the fresh fruit and vegetable provision systems. 2) A crucial characteristic that we call “transitivity” between different intermediary roles and provision channels is a major factor in the resilience of the provision systems. 3) The effects of the prominent trends in food consumption practices during the pandemic period point out three tendencies in the provision systems: the strengthening of supermarkets, acceleration of the use of digital technologies, and growing interest in alternative food networks such as consumer cooperatives. (This article has two more co-authors: Atakan Büke and Orkun Doğan. They gave me consent to present our collaborative work in the conference.)

► **Bruce Muirhead (University of Waterloo) & Jodey Nurse (McGill University)**
“Don’t go big, and don’t go home”: Canada’s dynamic supply management model and the resiliency of smallness

The conference theme solicits papers on what could be interpreted as the viability of “smallness” in agriculture. That concept flies in the face of advice to agricultural producers of the past more than 60 years of “go big or go home.” In the global north, that mantra has guided policy in Australia, the European Union, the US and, to some extent, Canada. It has also reflected a capitalist ethic that has turned out to be suspect and fragile as the Covid pandemic has disrupted food supply chains. Our contribution will explore two sectors, dairy and eggs, where Canadian government policy has consciously reinforced small farms at the expense of bigness. This has been the result of the country’s implementation of the supply management (SM) model, a quota-based system that includes import controls and farmer pricing mechanisms. Our research will demonstrate how SM has contributed historically and presently to rural sustainability and dynamism in ways that are not seen in the comparator countries listed above. SM also contributes to rural resiliency given the changing (and challenging) environments in which agriculture takes place, a fact that will be brought out by our paper. Importantly, farmers are guaranteed a living wage through annual negotiations with stakeholders that allow them to invest in both their farms and in the local community. Our paper is based on archival research, producer magazines and interviews with farmers in our target sectors.

► **Franziska Czernik, Amelie Bernzen (University of Vechta, Germany) & Anika Trebbin (Thünen Institute)**
The effect of Covid-19 on food waste generation along the value chain. A review and selected findings from the food service sector

The emerging literature on Food Waste and Food Loss (FWFL) has identified it as one of the most pressing global challenges today. In addition to economic, social, and ethical issues, global FWFL creates high environmental costs, primarily because energy and resources invested in food production and processing are wasted. In 2011, the FAO estimated that between one third and half of all food produced for human consumption is either lost or wasted each year. A number of studies over the past two years has investigated the ways in which the Covid-19 pandemic and related measures such as lockdowns have impacted the generation of FWFL in different parts of the world. However, the vast majority of these studies has focused on the household level, while the effect at other stages of the value chain is understudied. The hospitality (food service) industry has been hit particularly hard by various regulatory measures, highlighting its vulnerability to external disruptions. For instance, the uncertainties related to customers can lead to higher shares of food waste, being problematic overall as food waste generated at the end of the value chain is considered particularly harmful to the environment. That said, the food service sector offers great potential for food waste reduction even regardless of the pandemic. In Australia, for example, 95% of FW from the service sector ends up in landfills. Before this background, this paper aims first to provide an overview of current research on the effects of Covid-19 on FWFL. Secondly, we offer preliminary (anecdotal) insights from our own empirical studies on FWFL generation in the food service sector. In doing so, we are also interested in the ways in which the restaurateurs were triggered by Covid-19 to foster innovations to FWFL reduction measures.

► **Francisco Garrido Garza (French Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment)**
The role of digital platforms in market formation for short food supply chains in (post-)pandemic times

In the last two decades, short food supply chains (SFSCs) have been receiving increasing attention in European policy (e.g., the Farm to Fork initiative of the EU Green Deal). This is due in particular to the growing awareness regarding the unsustainability of the global food system, but amplified by the breaks in the food supply caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We know from the literature on Alternative Agri-food Networks (AAFNs) that the transformative potential of SFSC-based markets is typically limited to niches. Thus, in order for SFSCs to deliver on a promise to “build back better,” there is a need to understand how SFSCs can generalise beyond their current niches. Innovation scholars suggest that market formation is a key driver of generalization, and provides an entrance point to understanding the scaling of SFSCs. Yet to date, studies of market formation (according to whose rules?) in innovation processes and studies of AAFNs, have not been mobilized to understand how SFSCs can move beyond their current niches. Based on data collected from 695 SFSCs in 26 EU countries in 2021 and 2022, we contribute to the AAFN literature by asking: what is the role of market infrastructures in shaping the generalization of SFSCs beyond their original niches? We hypothesize that digital platforms (social media, e-commerce applications, etc.) play a fundamental role in the generalization of post-COVID-19 SFSCs. Our analysis characterizes the functions and uses of digital platforms, which we then use to identify advantages and vulnerabilities of this market infrastructure for generalization of SFSCs. While digital tools are used in SFSCs to inspire trust, openness and change in scale, we find that other elements of market infrastructures (e.g., labels, social control, common definitions, organizational forms) cannot be ignored if the generalization process is to maintain the values that inspired the innovation.

► **Arifin Bustanul (University of Lampung)**
The Indonesian rice system in the (post-)pandemic: Improving the resilience

This paper examines the consequences of Covid-19 pandemic on the Indonesian rice economy and offers policy responses on improving the resilience of rice system and food system in general. A data series of rice productivity and sustainability is analyzed to present the performance of rice economy amid disparities across regions. A price stabilization analysis of rice and other strategic foods before, during, and after the peak of Pandemic is also employed to reveal the disruptions, vulnerability and resilience of the food value chains. The first year of Covid-19 pandemic has caused “ruralization” phenomena in the Indonesian food system, where agricultural labor in rural area has increased significantly, similar to what happened during the Asian Financial Crisis in 1998. A significant number of urban laborers has returned to rural

areas to work in the agricultural sector as the industry and service sectors in urban areas have collapsed. After two years of pandemic, the domestic price of rice has shown relative stability compared to other strategic foods, and compared to global market prices. The long-term relationship among farmers, collector traders, rice millers, Bulog and large-scale traders has contributed to such price stability, rather than solely the government program of price stabilization. Such food system resilience should provide momentum to improve intensification practices and adopt sustainability principles of across Java and other producing centers. Technological innovation in rice production system such as high-yielding varieties, balanced fertilizer, integrated pest management and other components of good agricultural practices could have higher impact on productivity than land expansion or food estates development. Indonesia should develop climate-smart, modern biotechnology, precision agriculture, digitization of value chains, and more. Therefore, policy changes that address human capital investment and institutional arrangements in the Indonesian rice system can contribute considerably to alternatives of coping mechanisms and evidence-based solutions beyond the pandemic.

► **Ayşe Kaşıkırık (Istanbul University)**

Access to food, a fundamental human right: rethinking the city-food relationship in the Covid-19 crisis through 30 metropolitans

Access to adequate food is a fundamental human right for a sustainable, equitable and inclusive world where no one is left behind. Access to food for everyone, especially low-income and vulnerable groups, should be guaranteed. With the “End Hunger” goal, which is the second of the United Nations’ 2030 Sustainable Global Goals, countries have committed to ending hunger, achieving food security and good nutrition, and supporting sustainable agriculture. Central and local governments have important duties and responsibilities in achieving this goal. Local governments, as the closest public institution to people’s daily life experiences, are among the critical actors in ensuring Access to food, ensuring food security and good nutrition. The aim of the study is to analyze the food management and agricultural policies of 30 metropolitan municipalities, which have 78% of Turkey’s population, with a comparative perspective. For this purpose, the 2020–2024 Strategic Plans and 2020 Annual Reports of metropolitan municipalities were scanned with the focus of Access to food, food security and sustainable agriculture. In addition, concrete suggestions have been presented for cities to feed themselves and increase their resilience in the face of global crises such as Covid-19.

► **Mustafa Koç (Toronto Metropolitan University), Hülya Koç (Dokuz Eylül University), Metin Özügürlü & Sonay Bayramoğlu (Ankara University)**

Local government initiatives for food security and resilient food system merging out of the Covid-19 crisis

Covid-19 has demonstrated the strengths and vulnerabilities of the food system. The impacts of the emergency measures on various social categories, geographies and segments of the food system have been differing. Still, the most vulnerable and marginalised groups, such as the poor, racialised minorities, migrant workers, precarious labourers in the food chain, and refugees, had the worst experiences. People living in the cities and had to rely on national and global supply chains also faced food shortages and food price inflation. Focusing on public health priorities, various levels of governments identified rising food insecurity as a supply chain problem. They were slow in responding to the needs of the most marginalised population segments. However, local governments working closely with civil society organisations took steps to deal with the concerns about rising food insecurity. This paper examines the role of local government action against food insecurity and attempts to create a resilient food system. We will focus on case studies from Canada and Turkey, two OECD member countries with differing economic and social profiles, and examine the role of local government-led initiatives in coping with food insecurity during the Covid-19 pandemic between 2020 and 2022. While it is too early to speculate if these measures are band-aid solutions or have potential transformative impacts for a just and resilient food system, we will also compare policies aiming to address structural issues and have long term objectives.

► **Camille Freeman (University of Queensland)**

The potential for ethical and sustainable consumption: Lessons learned from Covid-19 on alternative and local food systems in Australia

The COVID-19 pandemic has had immense impact on global and national food supply systems. Alternative and Local Food Systems (ALFS) were challenged to adapt, revealing a host of new problems and a range of solutions. Demand for foods from ALFS – via direct-to-consumer purchases, food-box schemes, and solidarity purchasing groups – quickly spiked, accompanied by an unprecedented increase in new customers. What might this tell us about the power of consumption during times of crises to prompt sustainable food system transitions that are more lasting? This paper focuses on how ALFS responded in the first 6-months of the crisis. It will draw on datasets which capture real-time responses from food actors who were responding to community needs and changing regulations at a time of immense pressure. Combining this secondary data with theories on ethical consumption and ecological citizenship, this paper highlights the innovations and adaptations that emerged during this period in the Australian alternative food landscape and examines how these responses influenced consumer intentions to participate in ALFS and sustainable practices.

► **Valerio Colosio (Independent Researcher) & Esra Demirkol Colosio (Çankırı Karatekin University)**
Turkish 2022 food price crisis, small holder producers and solidarity economy. An assessment of resilience and transformation in the Ankara region

The COVID-19 crisis and the Russia-Ukraine war, coupled with the unorthodox economic policies of the Turkish government and the related devaluation of Turkish lira, impacted in a very heavy way on the food chain in Turkey between 2020 and 2022. In 2022, food price inflation achieved an 89.10% on yearly basis, the most evident impact of the variety of issues, from the lack of cheap labor due to the COVID-19 crisis to the increased costs of input and transports caused by the inflation. This crisis builds on a transformation of Turkish agriculture, with a growing focus on export-oriented crops, a preeminence of big corporations over small and medium producers and an increased vulnerability on the internal supply of basic staple. Meanwhile, in the last decade, a growing network of solidarity economy association is implementing alternative practices and creating space of resistance to the neoliberal transformation of rural economy. How is the 2020–2022 crisis in the food chain impacted on these realities? Is solidarity economy proving resilient and offering an alternative to the commodification of food and exposure to market vagaries created by neoliberal reforms? This paper explores the transformations at the intersection between the 2020–2022 crisis and the practices related to solidarity economy through the assessment of solidarity-economy cooperatives in the region of Ankara. By exploring and comparing these realities and their reactions to the 2020 – 2022 crisis, the paper assesses if and how small networks of independent actors in the food chain are capable to resist and reshape the food policies during the crisis.

► **José Duarte Ribeiro (Middle East Technical University)**
Food sovereignty and rural social movements in the 21st century Turkey

In Turkey's rural areas, the neoliberal transformation of agriculture which started in the 1980s, has been catalysed since the beginning of the 21st century by the governing party's, stance of an extractivist and commodified countryside. But it is also precisely the moment in which a growing protest culture among the peasants shows its first attempts at wide organisation, through Çiftçi-Sen (Farmer's Union), established in 2004 as a confederation of different product-based unions but in 2020 refunded as a single union. The paper intends to demonstrate how recent rural social movements representing peasant farmers, resist in the Turkish countryside while employing food sovereignty as a political program, promoting agroecological practices as a labour and knowledge-intensive farming discipline, constituting an unprecedented potential to activate farmer's political agency. But it also questions the capacity of said rural social movement for collaborations with civil society organizations to change the landscape of food production and consumption as well as alliances with local municipalities to rethink public policies for local food. Empirically based on semi-structured qualitative interviews with leaders and members of Çiftçi-Sen, the paper maps the political program of the movement, largely based on the principles of food sovereignty, and thus ideologically and organizationally influenced by the conceptual body of the world's biggest social movement, La Via Campesina (LVC). Findings point to an emergence of a rural world as a field of contested common senses, where livelihoods and ecological concerns are reconfiguring rural struggles in Turkey and that may constitute a continuous counterhegemonic understanding against the dominant extractivist, rent-seeking and commodified Turkish countryside, building up new societal values of production-consumption.

► **Larissa da Silva Araujo (Institute des Hautes Études Internationales et du Développement)**
Solidarity and Reciprocity amongst Kayambi agroecological producers during COVID-19

In many places, the lockdowns that governments imposed during the first months of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in harshening food security for urban residents. The World Food Programme (2020) envisioned a famine of “biblical proportions” would affect at least 30 countries. In the rural areas of the Cayambe canton, north of Ecuador, the lockdowns had different side effects. In a first moment, Kayambi people living in indigenous communities had difficulties accessing different types of foods and producers would not be able to release their produce in their weekly fairs, a trend of food surplus accumulation that happened worldwide (de Wit 2020). Later, community residents and the Cayambe municipality organized communitarian fairs, decentralizing even more the local market. This paper will show the different forms of solidarity and reciprocity that emerged during the pandemic amongst consumers and producers from Kayambi communities. Based on interviews and ethnographic fieldwork amongst agroecological producers in 2020 and 2021, I describe their challenges for guaranteeing food security and their strategies for accessing a diverse diet and for generating new local markets for agroecological production. In dialogue with Altieri and Nicholls (2020), we expand on the relevance of agroecology to reconstructing agriculture in the post-covid. We show that when capitalist structures fail to guarantee peoples' food security, other economic principles becomes more evident in daily life practices.

► **Thalita Kalix Garcia (Universitat Rovira i Virgili) & Lea Zentgraf (Freie Universität Berlin)**
Food movements, solidarity and new digital repertoires in (post-)pandemic times

If the Covid-19 pandemic showed how vulnerable the global food system is, solidarity and new resilient repertoires of action also showed us how to overcome the multiple dimensions of this crisis. Food movements played a major role in these strategies and acts of resistance, creating innovative alternatives to provide more food security and sovereignty around the globe. In Germany, the pandemic affected and still affects agri-food relations in diverse and ambivalent ways. Specific food is not available for a certain period, food prices are rising, and some people have no access to good or enough food – these effects reveal the preexisting and now reinforced power hierarchies and inter-sectional inequalities in our food system. However, there were also positive effects for some people who suddenly had more time to prepare home-cooked and healthy food, enjoyed food consumption and preparation with family and friends differently, and more frequently during restricted periods or lockdowns. Without a doubt, digital communication was a significant tool to connect people to share food, help each

other with food supplies, and exchange experience and ideas on where to find healthy food and how to prepare it. Social media became a virtual platform for agri-food relations. Further, it nurtured social mobilization and innovation around food alternatives during and in a (post-) pandemic world. Two relevant actors in the German food mobilization are the protest campaign *Wir haben es satt!* [We are fed up!] and the food movement Slow Food. Both showed very innovative digital and hybrid action repertoires, e.g., Instagram campaigns, digital talks and tastings, and hybrid protest marches, which shall be presented during the ISA RC40 Conference. Moreover, they also built webs of solidarity with other actors to foster a coalition of food movements and initiatives which fight for a socio-ecological transformation of the food system.

► **Mariana Hase Ueta, Jordan Oelke (Protein Matters, Technische Universität Dresden)**
Promissory Proteins: Securitizing Meat Futures in Germany

The conventional meat industry in Germany has increasingly been criticized for not meeting the various standards for the environment, ethics, and food/public safety. The COVID-19 pandemic shed light on the dangerous conditions for workers and animals often found in factory farms, which gave concerned citizens a platform to draw connections between industrial animal agriculture and zoonosis. As a result, alternative forms of protein production are being rolled out and supported by the German government and meat moguls in an attempt to reposition their roles and responsibilities in constructing future meat imaginaries. Cellular Agriculture (also known as lab-cultured meat) and Bio-meat (organic), are two responses of the meat industry, claiming their innovations and restructuring, respectively, will supply safer, more sustainable, and more ethical food systems. Although these case studies may present solutions to one or more of the present issues, they also come with new challenges and uncertainties. In the proposed paper, we combine discourse analysis and interviews with persons of interest in the industry to see how these new emerging actors are shaping securitization narratives around meat culture in the aftermath of zoonotic events, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. In doing so, cell-ag and bio-meat also contribute to consolidating the conventional meat industry as a threat. These promissory proteins bring to life new micro and macro entanglements, as they reconfigure global supply chains of livestock and meat, and invite us to rethink geographies of viral and dietary proteins.

► **Sheila Manka (North West University)**
Indigenous food as a means of communication: The case of Mankon, Cameroon

Food is an indispensable item for all human beings, and a means of survival. Through food, people are able to create different identities and qualify how they view themselves vis à vis other people. In most African societies, food functions go beyond its consumptive use. There are several other meanings attached to food, depending on the occasion. Food is also a tool to foster communication among people, and provides access to coded messages and forms of interaction that are not obvious to the external observer. However, there is paucity of studies in the field thus, the rationale for this study to examine the symbolic and communicative use of food in understanding African cultures. The aim of this paper is to examine the coded messages embedded in certain foods in relation to specific social or cultural events. A qualitative research approach was adopted, and in-depth interviews used to collect data from 30 participants from the Mankon ethnic group in Cameroon. The findings revealed that the consumption of food is attached to particular cultural meanings and is symbolic to different cultural and social events. Particular food choices are symbolic, and represented at different social or cultural events, such as weddings, funerals, naming ceremonies and other social rituals. Thus, food on its own can be treated as a coded message which carries information.

► **Yıldız Atasoy (Simon Fraser University)**
Small-scale village farmers, farming imaginaries, and enrichment-value creation in Ankara-Turkey

How are we understand the continuing importance of small-scale village farmers in a country like Turkey under a continuing process of industrialization and commodification in agriculture? There are two sides to this question: one concerns land-use reconfiguration for commercial purposes, contraction of small-scale farmlands and village resources, and de-peasantization and de-agrarianization tendencies; the other relates to the absence of significant grassroots-based agroecological movements for reorganizing agriculture. Using official documents, statistics, ethnographic information, and in-depth interviews, the paper examines this question through the empirical illustration of the small town of Güdül (Ankara-Turkey). It shows that farmers uphold their presence and create an enrichment value for their labour and food collaboratively with consumers within fluid, trust-based everyday social networks. Invoked by farmers' farming imaginaries, enrichment-value creation comprises flexibly shared assessments and evaluative judgments of capitalist expansion into local village farming within the state-led developmentalist fold.

► **Eduardo Erazo Acosta (University Nariño)**
The power of the ancestral philosophy of *Alli kawsay* (Buen Vivir) in the indigenous movements of Colombia

The purpose of this research is to present the urgency of listening to indigenous epistemologies of *Sumak Kawsay* (in *kichwa* language: *Buen vivir*-Good Living) and also to accompany the care/defense of the biodiversity-rich indigenous territories of the Andean region. As a research question: How is the anthropocene affecting the indigenous territories and with it the threats of the epistemologies of the *Sumak Kawsay*/*Buen vivir*? This ethnographic research has been carried in the last 7 years, in Republics of Colombia and Ecuador, in Indigenous Regional Council of Cauca CRIC, and The Indigenous Confederation of Ecuador CONAIE. Theoretical references: epistemology of indigenous communities, indigenous intellectuals. The anthropocene affects considerably the species of flora and fauna, the glaciers, water reserves, páramos understood as places where the water is born for the species. With it the territories Pan Amazonas region of native communities are strongly affected in their cosmivision to know. Due to its high impact in high mountain areas, climate change affects the melting of glaciers, strong

droughts, seasonal changes for food production, water shortages and with this the displacement of animals and indigenous people and with it affects their traditions and cosmovisions due to geographical relocation and spatial - socio-cultural changes. Ethnographic work is used: interviews, participant observation, and documentary analysis. Key to comment how from the epistemologies, their spirituality's, indigenous cosmovision, the elders (grandparents and grandmothers) announce that if there is no respect for the species on earth comes catastrophe, which from modern science is already evident. Results: This is considered from the Decolonial theory as an alternative to development or alternative development, based on the epistemological basis of the indigenous movement, the basis of current governments/states. Without a doubt the Sumak Kawsay is difficult to implement or live in praxis in the midst of individualistic societies with accelerated urban growth or in societies structured in fossil fuels, in addition to the radical reactionary anti-movement indigenous right that watches over environmental care. The Sumak Kawsay is part of the alternatives to the development taken care of from the indigenous cosmovision the dimensions: cosmovision, solidary economies, own right, own health, own education as alternatives with strong spiritual base of respect to the mother earth. The Sumak Kawsay as an epistemology of respect for life, is linked to "The Rights of Nature" already included in articles 70 to 74 of the Political Constitution of the Republic of Ecuador in 2008. In the midst of the great destruction by mining and resource extraction at a global level, indigenous communities are more affected because it is precisely in territories//species where there is mineral wealth that great mining increases, putting at greater risk the animal and plant species that live in indigenous territories, as well as the ancestral knowledge/indigenous worldview is threatened. In this way, when indigenous communities defend Mother Nature (Pachamama) politically, they also take care of the biological chain in terms of wealth and biodiversity or geostrategic areas, life reserves at a global level.

► Sarah Ruth Sippel (Universität Münster)

Methodological reflections: Implications of the pandemic for doing field research

Tba

► Atakan Büke (Leipzig University)

A critique of the mainstreamization of the agri-food system perspective in and through the COVID-19 Pandemic

Alongside the disruptions and socio-ecological inequalities it has brought forward at the global level, the COVID-19 pandemic has also intensified the growing tendency to consider agri-food relations in terms of their 'systemic' character. We argue that this scope-wise mainstreaming (i.e., increasing attention on the socio-ecological constitution of the agri-food system in its 'totality') in popular discourses as well as in agri-food scholarship and policymaking goes hand in hand with a content-wise mainstreamization of the agri-food system perspective (i.e., incorporation of the radical content of the critical agri-food studies to mainstream liberal/institutionalist approaches through the 'agri-food system' discourse itself). By echoing the critiques of mainstream rural sociology and the works of institutions like OECD and FAO during the 1970s and early 1980s by the pioneers of what we now call critical agri-food studies, we claim that here the analysis turns out to be a "book-keeping approach" accompanied by a "shallow empiricism", which produces nothing but an "endless description" and "ultimately meaningless" so-called 'data-based' "tabulations" of the systemic aspects of the agri-food relations. In such frameworks, the focus remains on questions like "what the drivers of the agri-food system are, and in what ways do they interact with each other", and it is followed by an apparently analytical question of "how to eliminate the imbalances and barriers in front of a 'rational', 'harmonized' organization of the agri-food system". Once the immanent capitalist contradictions and tensions are transformed into imbalances among the drivers and components of the agri-food system, there remains only one little step to formulate the underlying causes of the current agri-food system problems, at best, as a lack of awareness, inadequate infrastructure and institutional capacity, absence of a comprehensive legislative framework and/or a coherent holistic governance; and at worst, as the restricted and/or inadequate development of the free-market itself.

► Steven A. Wolf (Cornell University)

Institutional stability and change: Critical analysis of resilience of agrifood systems

Questions of stability and restructuring lie at the core of debates surrounding sustainable transitions and the well-established critiques of corporate, neoliberal agrifood systems. In this paper I present a co-evolutionary model of social and material relations to clarify relationships between the emergence of new knowledge and values, institutional change, social regulation, and socio-material dynamics in agrifood systems. Through a critical analysis of "digital agriculture", a commitment to increasing the centrality of data collection, integration, analysis, and application in agrifood systems, I identify mechanisms of systems resilience and systems restructuring. Digital agriculture predates the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet, the dual crises of public health and economic disruption are being mobilized to advance imagined futures in which robotics, controlled-environment (greenhouse and vertical) agriculture, and data services will displace traditional actors, practices, and relations in agrifood systems. While these innovation dynamics can be interpreted as a deepening of existing commitments to productivism, it is also possible to understand digitization applied to agriculture as a powerful vector for system restructuring. The co-evolutionary model presented in the paper supports analysis of these contrasting interpretations of the contemporary moment. More generally, the analysis opens up debates regarding theories of change/resilience that structure elements of the sociology of agriculture and food.

- ▶ Bruno Azevedo Prado (Federal Rural University of Rio de Janeiro)
& Claudia Job Schmitt (Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul)

Mapping controversies on the future of food systems transformation

Climate change and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to sparking the debate on the need for the transformation of food systems, considering just and sustainable dimensions. In fact, many strands of the Anthropocene debate are rooted in a conceptual landscape similar to that of critical readings of the impacts of the pandemic on food systems, with emphasis on the disconnection between agriculture, food and the local environment caused by the modernization and industrialization of agriculture. In this paper, we aim at mapping controversies around the future of food and agriculture transformations in the context of climate change and, more recently, the emergence of the covid-19 pandemic. The starting point for this mapping proposal consists of documents and studies by civil society (e.g., “A Long Food Movement: Transforming Food Systems by 2045” by IPES-Food and ETC Group), scientific commissions (e.g., “Food in the Anthropocene: the EAT–Lancet Commission on healthy diets from sustainable food systems” and others) and global policymaking agencies (e.g., FAO, UN). These documents diagnose crises, boundaries and tipping points and, especially, propose, under different guises, calls for action including the array of actors, institutions, rules, practices and movements involved in the production, processing, distribution, and consumption of food products. We discuss opposing approaches to food futures based on dystopic views and progressive ones. We conclude by drawing on the concept of sociotechnical imaginaries to analyze dimensions of temporalities (deadlines and urgency), envisioned scales for action, and governance structures proposed.



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VENUE

Universität Leipzig
SFB 1199

Strohsackpassage | Nikolaistr. 6–10/5th floor | 04109 Leipzig
Phone: (+49)/341/973 77 58
e-mail: sfb1199@uni-leipzig.de
web: research.uni-leipzig.de/sfb119

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