

Mobilizing food systems transformation: Enhancing capabilities in Research, Education and Practice

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Stream 1: Food systems science for food systems transformation

Food system transformation is not just a science problem: Rethinking knowledge across different actors of the food supply chain (keynote)

Speaker: Viachaslau Filimonau (University of Surrey)

Description:

This session challenges the assumption that food system transformation is primarily a matter of producing scientific knowledge. Drawing on examples from across the food supply chain, the session argues that different actors, most notably farmers, food manufacturers, retailers, chefs and consumers, rely on distinct forms of knowledge shaped not only by 'pure' science, but also by practice, aesthetics, emotion and culture. The session introduces the concept of 'epistemic misalignment' to explain why sustainability science may fail to resonate meaningfully across these actor groups. It also explores the potential role of arts and creative practices in re-establishing resonance between food and its actors, thereby re-connecting scientific knowledge with lived experiences and sustainability action.

Session 1.1: Challenges of contributing with research-based advice to policy making for Food Systems transformation (workshop)

Convenors: Niels Halberg (Aarhus University), Pasi Rikkonen (LUKE), Loredana Rhazzali (IRCEM)

Description:

Research-based advice to policymakers and civil servants is a key precondition for policies to enhance FS transformation and many researchers and projects seek to contribute e.g. by providing policy briefs. Effective policy advice for FS transformation requires a Food Systems approach that emphasises coherence across knowledge domains and understanding of different stakeholders and actors needs and positions. The transition from traditional science policy interfaces (SPI) towards more inclusive science policy society interfaces (SPSI) comes with challenges such as transparency, research integrity and maintaining a food system perspective. This interactive workshop will bring together researchers, civil servants and stakeholders to exchange experiences and co-develop draft SPSI guidelines, building on existing international

concepts, previous food system mapping approaches and insights from the FutureFoodS survey and webinar series.

Session 1.2: Internalization of externalities tools: trade-offs and synergies (workshop)

Convenors: Scarlett Wang (Wageningen University & Research), Trang Nguyen (Wageningen University & Research), Bobby Tsvetkov (Wageningen University & Research)

Description:

This session introduces the concept of externalities and true cost accounting for food systems research and explores existing decision-making tools for internalization of externalities. Following an explanation of their mechanisms, the session brings together diverse perspectives from food system stakeholders in an interactive workshop to foster mutual learning and joint reflection on the opportunities and challenges of implementing these tools in practice.

Session 1.3: Seeing power in food systems (paper session)

Convenors: Saher Hasnain (Roskilde University), Trang Nguyen (Wageningen University & Research), Bobby Tsvetkov (Wageningen University & Research)

Description:

From questions of knowledge production to the sites where power operates, and finally to the challenge of designing governance that can handle this complexity, this session brings together five contributions that develop critical approaches for making power relations visible in food systems.

Presentations:

1. *A reimagined inclusive knowledge and innovation system for food.* Stine Rosenlund Hansen (Roskilde University) and Saher Hasnain (Roskilde University)
2. *Digitalising EU Food Systems Governance: Surveillance Capitalism, Farmer Agency, and the Politics of Data.* Aziz Omar (Aarhus University (Alma mater))
3. *Investigating power asymmetries in agri-food systems: Insights from soy and coffee value chains in Brazil.* Johanna Jacobi (ETH Zürich)
4. *Unequal Food Access: Women's Lived Experiences of Negotiating Everyday Inequalities in Rural Bihar, India.* Shriya Bajaj (University of Sheffield)

5. *Regulating sustainability claims in the Canadian food system: Organizational perspectives from industry and public consultations.* Olivier Boiral (Université Laval)

Session 1.4: Seeing change: Participatory visual methods for food systems research (workshop)

Convenors: Michaela Lo (University of Kent), Christopher Turner (University of Greenwich)

Description:

This workshop provides an introduction to participatory visual methods and its application in food systems research and practice across diverse contexts and areas of inquiry. Speakers will share their experiences, reflecting on both the opportunities and challenges of these methods and how they can foster transformative dialogue, challenge dominant narratives, and support more sustainable, healthy food systems. This workshop is aimed at researchers, practitioners, and policymakers interested in integrating participatory, transdisciplinary, and arts-based approaches into food systems research.

Session 1.5: Designing and measuring transformation (paper session)

Convenors: Saher Hasnain (Roskilde University), Trang Nguyen (Wageningen University & Research), Bobby Tsvetkov (Wageningen University & Research)

Description:

From planetary to granular format, this session brings together contributions that develop, test, and apply assessment tools and design frameworks across different levels of the food system, with each paper moving toward a slightly more specific scale.

Presentations:

1. *Leveraging National Action Motives to Legitimize Germany's Transition towards the Planetary Health Diet 2.0.* Lea Kliem (German Environmental Agency)
2. *Breaking the consumption cycle: barriers and enablers for regulatory policies to shift dietary patterns.* Anne Charlotte Bunge (Uppsala University)
3. *How Can Agrifood Companies Transition Toward Sustainable Business Models? Barriers and Enablers of TCA and True Price.* Elisa Quaranta (Cotutelle between: Alma Mater Studiorum University of Bologna and the University of Helsinki)

4. *Multi-criteria assessment and multi-actor collaboration to navigate the design of future food supply chains.* Mehran Rad (RISE Research Institutes of Sweden)

Stream 2: Transformative actions- learning from best and 'worst' practices

Harvesting lessons from global case studies of food system transformation (keynote)

Speaker: Stella Nordhagen (Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition - GAIN)

Description:

How can we move from ambitious pathways and goals for food system transformation to on-the-ground action? And what can we learn from the process of doing so? The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition and Wageningen Social and Economic Research are collaborating to take on this question through a set of over 30 global case studies on food system transformation in practice, and this presentation will provide emerging insights from that work on both the science of studying food system transformation and what we can say about the processes that help bring it about.

Session 2.1: Plant-based transformation pathways (workshop)

Convenors: Bente Svane Nielsen (SEGES Innovation), Michael Søgaard Jørgensen (Aalborg University)

Description:

This workshop will present key findings from the PlantsGoGlobal project, uncovering strategies and experiences for transitioning from animal-based to plant-based food systems from Denmark, The Netherlands, and Sweden. The workshop will highlight real-world examples of food system transformation, sharing both successful approaches and lessons learned along the way, and how such experiences can be mapped and analysed. The interactive part will focus on co-creating and adapting global insights to the local contexts of the workshop participants.

Session 2.2: Sustainable animal production as part of broader food system transformation (roundtable)

Convenor: Roxana Maria Triboi (LE:NOTRE Institute / AESOP Sustainable Food Planning Group)

Description:

As many discussions remain focused on technical fixes rather than systemic change, this session explores practical, place-based alternatives to intensive livestock production, and the governance levers that can support their scaling and long-term viability. It connects empirical case studies with actionable insights for strengthening food security, rural livelihoods, and socio-ecological resilience.

Presentations:

1. *Agroecology and Historical Agrarian Cooperativism: Intercooperation Pathways for Territorial Food System Transitions in Catalonia.* Rosa Binimelis (Arran de terra SCCL)
2. *From evidence to action: Exploring science-policy-society impact pathways in the protein transition.* Océane Duluins (UC Louvain)
3. *Conceptualizing sustainable niche of livestock in food systems.* Iryna Herzon (University of Helsinki)

Session 2.3: Between ambition and reality: Understanding obstacles to food system transformation (paper session)

Convenors: Dalia Mattioni (University of Pisa), Efrat Gommeh (Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam), Justyna Kufel-Gajda (IRWiR PAN)

Description:

Through diverse case studies, this session explores the gap between transformative ambitions and the realities of food system change. It will explore different entry points to potential wider food system transformation, ranging from urban food governance mechanisms to public sector catering, while also reflecting on the practical, political, and epistemic challenges that emerge when aspirations are put into practice.

Presentations:

1. *Transforming the Public Plate: Practice-based Approaches from Germany.* Laura Natalie Berkenberg (Speiseräume - Urban Food Concepts GmbH)

2. *Naturalised architectures of absence: How epistemic mechanisms systematically exclude relational perspectives in (food system transformation) science.* Reinhard Rebernik (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
3. *“We are beautiful”: creating political and societal traction through Food Policy Councils in 12 European cities.* Rachel Reckinger (University of Luxembourg)
4. *Impacting food system transformation for healthier, sustainable and just outcomes: stakeholder and knowledge generator perspectives.* Rachel Headings (TABLE/ Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)

Session 2.4: Do we have all the necessary elements for transformation through innovation? (workshop)

Convenor: Martin Köchy (German Agricultural Research Alliance)

Description:

This workshop will present a practical framework of innovation elements, including directionality, experimentation, demand articulation, policy learning and coordination across actors, networks, and institutions. Five presenters will share transformation projects at various scale, identifying existing or missing innovation elements. Interactive discussions and break-out groups will give participants the opportunity to suggest improvements or relate to other projects.

Presentations:

1. *Exploring shared cultural meanings of “Eating Well”.* Tanja Niemi (University of Jyväskylä)
2. *Building Transformative Capacity in Food Systems: Lessons from the Future Farm Lab using an Innovation Elements Framework.* Pamela Pokorny (EIT Food)
3. *Transforming the knowledge and innovation system for food system transformation: lessons from a knowledge brokering experiment ‘FOSTER’.* Reinhard Rebernik (Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam)
4. *Enablers and Barriers of Regional Food Systems Governance in Québec, Canada: Insights from a Three-Year Participatory Study.* Laurence Guillaumie (Université Laval)
5. *Measuring urban food system governance for sustainability: comparative insights from 12 European cities using the MUFPP framework.* Laura Fernández-Casal (CARTIF Technological Centre)

Session 2.5: Food System Science for Food System Transformation: the case of the territorial labs (panel)

Convenors: Patricia Homs (University of Barcelona), Ana Moragues-Faus (University of Barcelona)

Description:

This panel explores the role of territorial labs as transdisciplinary spaces for advancing Food System Transformation from a territorial perspective. Drawing on experiences from Riga, Catalonia and Poland, the session will highlight key challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned, while reflecting on conceptual and practical connections between Food System Science, Food System Transformation, and territorial approaches.

Presentations:

1. *Territorialising food systems science for food system transformation.* Ana Moragues-Faus (University of Barcelona)
2. *How could FSS intervention support scaling of local food solutions and local FOKIS? Tālis Tisenkopfs, Miks Braslins and Stanislavs Seiko (Baltic Studies Centre)*
3. *FSS in scaling agroecological initiatives and networks in Catalonia.* Patricia Homs and Ana Moragues-Faus (University of Barcelona)
4. *Designing transformation pathways: the Polish Food Systems Lab as a national platform for FSS.* Pawel Chmieliński, Justyna Kufel-Gajda, Aleksandra Pawłowska, Barbara Wieliczko, Julia Tsybulsa, Aleksandr Pyl (IRWIR PAN)
5. *Learning Beyond Boundaries: Exchanging International Knowledge Towards Regional Food Systems Governance.* Ferne Edwards, Christopher Yap, Rebecca Wells (Centre for Food Policy, City St. George's, University of London)

Advancing the food systems science network: activities for consolidating the network (plenary session)

Facilitated by the FoSSNet project (WUR, EIT Food)

Description:

During this session you will be part of the official launch of the Network for Food Systems Transformation Research! The FoSSNet team will share the network's mission and vision and plans for the future. This is followed by an interactive workshop in which we will further mobilise and consolidate the network. Through co-development of both the content and the governance based on identified key-themes all conference participants can be involved in shaping the future of Food System Science.

Stream 3: Advancing food systems literacy

Food system literacy: An essential skill to navigate food system complexity (keynote)

Speaker: Saher Hasnain (Roskilde University)

Description:

Food systems science produces critical evidence, but transformation requires people across the whole system to understand how the system works and what the consequences of their actions are. This keynote makes the case for embedding food systems literacy at every stage of learning and professional development, from schools through higher education to the workplace. It distinguishes between food systems awareness and food systems literacy, and argues that while not everyone needs to be food systems literate, those shaping system-level outcomes need to be working alongside people who are.

Session 3.1: Methods to build food system literacy into schools - Immersive actions to support the children as actors for food systems transformative change (workshop)

Convenors: John Ingram (University of Oxford), Codrin Vasiliu (Academia Română, Filiala Iași)

Description:

This session focuses on strengthening food system literacy in schools to support healthier, more informed choices. It aims to develop a common framework for a community of practice, promoting participatory approaches that enhance children's understanding of food systems. The session will review existing initiatives and explore ways to improve coordination of food system literacy in schools, concluding with a workshop-style discussion on future directions.

Presentations:

1. *Deliberating future diets through a serious game Planetary plate puzzle.* Iryna Herzon (University of Helsinki)
2. *Food systems, misinformation, and social media as a commercial determinant of health.* Susan T Jackson (Heidelberg Institute of Global Health)

3. *Using gamification and educational activities focused on UK-grown beans to build food system literacy in primary school settings.* Charlotte Hardman (University of Liverpool)

Session 3.2: Networking food systems literacy across HEIs - Teaching for food system transformation: Building a FOOD 2030 Higher Education Network (workshop)

Convenor: Eduardo Urias (Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam), József Slezák (Democracy Institute, Central European University)

Description:

Food systems literacy is gaining traction in higher education, but what it means in practice varies widely and the institutional conditions that allow it to take root remain poorly understood. This session brings together four short pitches moving from conceptual to institutional terrain, examining what food systems literacy includes and excludes and how it can be operationalised across universities and programmes. Participants engage in active listening, capturing teaching patterns, institutional conditions, and the functioning of candidate networks. A chair-led plenary clusters these insights on the walls, producing the direct inputs for the co-design workshop in Session 3.2 continued.

Presentations:

1. *Advancing Food Systems Literacy and Research-to-Impact Pathways in Doctoral Education: Insights from the Global Food Venture Programme.* Simona Grande (Università di Torino, EIT Food)
2. *Food systems literacy beyond the human: how mapping practices marginalise animals and how to make them visible.* Louise Whatford (Royal Veterinary College)
3. *Networked Pedagogies for Food Systems Literacy: Lessons from the IFSTAL Programme.* Annabel de Frece (SOAS)
4. *Embedding food systems literacy in EU Knowledge and Innovation governance: from conceptual framework to operational practice.* Valentina Guerrieri (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)

Session 3.2 (continued): Networking food systems literacy across HEIs - Teaching for food system transformation: Building a FOOD 2030 Higher Education Network (workshop)

Convenors: Eduardo Urias (Athena Institute, VU Amsterdam), Paul Milbourne (Cardiff University)

Description:

Building on Session 3.2 (Part 1), this hands-on workshop translates its outputs into a working design for a pan-European higher education network. Teaching in food systems has not kept pace with research, and where good practice exists it often depends on individual motivation or short-lived project funding. This session responds to that gap. Participants shape network priorities, define year-one actions, and identify who will carry them forward. The session closes with a confirmed follow-up date and a sign-up for continued involvement, with the ambition of building durable coordination infrastructure for food systems education across European higher education institutions. This session connects to CLEVERFOOD, FoodPATHS, FoodCLIC, and FoSSNet.

Session 3.3: Closing gaps in food system literacy and competencies in the workplace – Developing food system literacy and practice amongst professionals beyond academia (workshop)

Convenors: Rosina Borrelli (University of Oxford), John Ingram (University of Oxford)

Description:

This interactive session explores how food systems literacy is developed and applied in professional contexts beyond academia. It will examine how different environments shape the capabilities needed for food systems transformation. The session will co-produce a cross-sector framework outlining enabling conditions, capability gaps, and practical pathways to strengthen and iterate food systems literacy in workplace settings. Contributions are welcomed from employability and pedagogy researchers, HR and recruitment professionals, and practitioners from business, government, and civil society. The session will also explore interest in future collaboration across these communities.

Presentations:

1. *Gender, Labour and Care: Building Food Systems Literacy Through Contemporary Art*. Jana Kukaine (Riga Stradina University)
2. *Beyond Students: Building Staff Capacity for Food Systems Transformation Through Interdisciplinary Teaching Abstract*. Valentina Guerrieri (Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford)
3. *Reimagining chefs as key actors of change in food systems transformation towards circularity*. Viachaslau Filimonau (University of Surrey)