Dear fellow CAFS members,

I can't believe the summer is nearly over. This time of year always seems to be filled with harvesting and processing veggies from the garden, squeezing in as many trips as possible to the neighbourhood pool with my kids before it closes for the season, and completing writing projects before the fall semester begins. I hope all of you have had a restful and productive summer. I particularly enjoy summer because it is when I feel most like my academic life and personal projects come together in my vegetable garden.

The work of the CAFS executive slows down over the summer, and will begin to gear up once again as the fall semester is underway. I want to take this opportunity again to thank everyone who put so much work into organizing this year's conference, as it really was a great success. Over the last couple of months—since our very successful annual meeting at the University of Ottawa, we have put together a great group of CAFS members to contribute to our conference organizing for 2016.

If you don't already know, 2016 will be the first year since our formation that the annual meeting will not be held in conjunction with the Congress of Social Sciences and Humanities. Instead, we will hold a joint conference with the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) and the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS) at the University of Toronto Scarborough. The ASFS and AFHVS are two US-based academic associations that have organized their meetings jointly for many years. I attended two of their meetings in the past and have found them to be enormously stimulating and enjoyable. I am very much looking forward to the networking opportunities our joint meeting will surely provide. On that note, if you would like to be involved in conference organizing, especially if you live in Toronto, and have not yet put your name forward, please contact me.

This newsletter is a reminder to me of just how dynamic CAFS is, and the diversity of scholarship represented by our membership. The newsletter begins with a summary of events held at our annual meeting, followed by a reflective French-language commentary on CAFS conference participation by Luna Bégin, a student at UQAM. This is followed by descriptions of numerous recent and upcoming publications by our membership. I always greatly enjoy reading these because they highlight the diversity and impact of CAFS members’ scholarship.

We also have brief summaries of numerous food studies research projects, some written in English and some in French, that are on-going or near completion. Within these, there are some requests for participation by CAFS members, so I encourage you to read these carefully and spend a few minutes making a contribution. There is also a call for papers for a special issue in the journal Sustainability and a member’s award announcement. Finally, there are announcements of upcoming events, specifically two conferences that are both happening in Montreal this fall.

Once again I encourage you to contact me if you have suggestions or concerns about the directions our association is taking, and especially if you want to make a contribution to the work we take on. I invite you to read and share this newsletter since it is full of interesting commentary and announcements.

Rachel Engler-Stringer
CAFS President
University of Saskatchewan
rachel.engler-stringer@usask.ca
By Christopher Yordy

With the third crop of cherry tomatoes coming in from the garden, we are in the midst of high summer here in Ottawa. Already early harvest is upon us as produce from the Foster Family Farm and other local CSAs is bursting out over the city. With fruitage season in full swing, it is probably a good time to look back upon the CAFS conference events at the end of May and take stock of our metaphorical ‘spring plantings’ of 2015.

Our conference this year had a record number of attendees with 184 people as paying members and more if you count people floating in from other associations. Delegates had a chance to reflect on ‘Capital Ideas,’ but also many problematic aspects of the Congress theme. We chose the title: “Capital Ideas: Nourishing Debates, Minds and Bodies” in order to demonstrate our critical standpoint on what it means to be meeting in the National Capital Region. Ottawa has historically been a seat of power, but it is important to recognize that not all powershifts originate here.

A diversity of approaches expanding the scope of food studies were explored this year with a brand new “What if...” Symposium. Participants joining plenary events and sessions were encouraged to think about how to reach out to the humanities at Congress where there is an opportunity to meet with associations such as the Folklore Studies Association of Canada and many others, extending conversations to include both theory and practice.

The diversity of approaches was visible right from the opening plenary in which both scientific nutrition studies and ethnographic approaches to food in the North were explored with Dr. Michael Robidoux. The research team from the Indigenous Health Research Group at Université d’Ottawa discussed how the ratio of consumption of ‘local country food’ to non-local food could have an impact on disease reduction, but also mentioned the hazards of toxic metals that have been found in some wild foods. For more information about their work, visit their website.

Next up was Dr. Jim Daschuk’s keynote lecture, which offered a look, not only at Canadian colonial history, but also launched a critique of the ‘state’ concept. With rich archeological evidence and images, Dr. Daschuk recalled how an ancient city “Cahokia” rose above the plains of the mid-west at the time of the medieval warm period. If these lost cities were major trading hubs, why was it that they were never recognized as the heart of an ancient state configuration? Acknowledging the decline of the state (or multiple states) that occurred after the medieval warm period allows for an understanding of the perfect storm that happened before the first European settlers arrived, and dismantles previous arguments based on a rigid physical determinism. Dr. Daschuk showed how the establishment of a new overinscribing and overpowering colonial state in Canada ignored these previous realities. Acknowledging the political tensions of pre-Columbian state entities restores a proper contextual view of the agential dynamics operating when Europeans arrived in North America.

Photo credit: David Szanto. Sourced from http://twitter.com/dszanto
Also among our esteemed keynote speakers this year was Dr. Alice Julier, whose vision on the sociology and sociability of food gave insight about how food studies debates are progressing in the US. Educating the next generation of food studies scholars through experiential learning is of tremendous importance. She also offered a reminder not to get caught up in the details of using shortcuts when cooking at home. Rather it is important to seize upon opportunities for the ‘together-ness’ of sharing a meal. Though many of the internships on offer at Chatham University literally make us drool here in Canada where there are more distant linkages between social justice and extension education courses, it is exciting to envision the possibilities. Her lecture gave an inspiring look at where the field of food studies might be going in the US, teaching about the preservation of everything from DIY dairy products to farm culture in an era in which extension education systems are losing touch with human values.

As for the Canadian political context, thanks to the dynamic mobilizing efforts of Food Secure Canada, featured in a workshop session with Diana Bronson at CAFS, conference participants were challenged to maintain food systems at the heart of election issues, to write op-eds, and take action. CAFS served as an inspiring jumping off place for all of us who are considering what a national food policy would look like, and the planks of creating this policy. For more information about the ongoing campaigns and how you can be involved, please visit the FSC website.

One final highlight I will mention is the CAFS joint session with the Canadian Association for Studies in Cooperation. Not only did we have a packed house with people crammed in this second-floor space to the rafters, but the food was excellent! The West End Well brought sandwiches, salads, and other delights from their Hintonburg location. I think we were all swept away by the images of Canadian cooperatives and the immense diversity of experiences across Canada as Abra Brynne, Hannah Renglich and Denyse Guy gave us insights from an operations perspective.

I wish very much that I could go into more detail about the fantastic CAFS presentations, posters and artwork in addition to the high points mentioned here. Unfortunately, I have already rambled on a little. Suffice to say that the flowering of ideas at the conference was palpable. Next year promises already rambled on a little. Suffice to say that the flowering of ideas at the conference was palpable. Next year promises to be even bigger at the joint meetings of the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society (AFHVS), the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), and the Canadian Association of Food Studies (CAFS) in Scarborough.

We hope you are already marking your calendar for June 22-26, 2016!

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**Commentary / Commentaire**

**Vivre le colloque de l’ACÉA : impacts sur le parcours d’une jeune chercheuse**

**Participating at CAFS’ conference: impacts on a young researcher’s professional path**

Par Luna Bégin

Étudiante aux cycles supérieurs en sociologie au Québec, ma première expérience au colloque de l’ACÉA fut déterminante. Lors de la journée préconference, la présentation sur les différents parcours de trois chercheurs ainsi que sur des stratégies concrètes pour l’obtention d’un emploi, que ce soit dans le milieu académique ou professionnel, m’ont été particulièrement utiles. En effet, si ces types de questionnements se trouvent souvent dans les corridors des universités, ils ne sont que rarement discutés de manière explicite lors de situations plus formelles. Pourtant, ce sont des enjeux considérables, et ce, tant pour l’avenir de la recherche que pour celui de ceux et celles qui souhaitent en faire une carrière. Le partage de ces expériences de vie et surtout des apprentissages auxquels elles ont mené, m’ont personnellement, et ce, malgré mon habituelle timidité, donné l’élan et la confiance d’aller à la rencontre d’autres chercheurs pour peu à peu essayer de me monter un réseau. « Réseauter », pourrait-on penser, « cela relève de l’évidence! » Or, lorsqu’on a le nez collé dans les livres et que nos efforts sont axés d’abord et avant tout sur la performance académique, certaines choses relevant du sens commun, du « gros bon sens » comme on dit au Québec, sont si facilement perdues de vue.

Préparée et motivée à m’ouvrir davantage aux autres, j’ai donc pu prendre mon envol et profiter des occasions qui se sont présentées lors du colloque. J’ai notamment rencontré des chercheurs chevronnés dans mon propre champ et constaté le peu de communication existant entre les recherches québécoises francophones et celles du Canada anglophone. Mon bilinguisme, habilité que je tenais pour banal devint un atout significatif : émergera l’opportunité et, par ce faire, le projet de travailler à un meilleur dialogue entre les recherches francophones et anglophones sur l’alimentation au Canada. En plus, la diversité des objets de recherches et les contrastes entre disciplines quant à leurs manières d’approcher ces mêmes objets ont eu comme impact sur ma propre pensée la mise en perspective de mon approche et de ma conceptualisation. Par mon rapport à l’autre, j’en suis venue à une identification plus forte avec la sociologie. Par ma présence au colloque de l’ACÉA, j’ai fait un pas de plus pour devenir sociologue.

Candidate à la maîtrise en sociologie à l’UQAM et boursière CRSH, Luna Bégin s’intéresse aux perceptions de la cuisine domestique contemporaine au Québec.
Contribution to Scaling Up investigated innovative social economies in British Columbia and Alberta and discovered that achieving a social good through collective, grassroots enterprise resulted in a sustainable way of satisfying human needs that was also, by extension, environmentally responsible. Whether they were examining attainable and affordable housing initiatives, co-operative approaches to the provision of social services, local credit unions, farmers’ markets, or community-owned power companies, the contributors found social economies providing solutions based on reciprocity and an understanding of how many parts function within the whole—an understanding that is essential to sustainability. In these locally defined and controlled, democratically operated organizations we see possibilities for a more human economy that is capable of transforming the very social and technical systems that make our current way of life unsustainable. As these case studies illustrate, organizations that are capable of harnessing the power of a social economy generally demonstrate a commitment to three outcomes: greater social justice, financial self-sufficiency, and environmental sustainability. Within the matrix of these three allied principles lie new strategic directions for the politics of sustainability.


This chapter reviews key scholarship on childhood, food, and subjectivity. Popular debates about children and food produce a series of young subjects that are invested with collective hopes and fears, such as the idealized “organic child” (Cairns, Johnston & MacKendrick, 2013), or the pathologized fast food addict (Bugge, 2011). As these young subjects circulate throughout media and policy rhetoric, they provide the discursive context in which young people forge subjectivities through everyday food practices – whether in negotiating meal preferences with family members, or trading snacks within the school dining room. The concept of the “foodscape” is used to situate children's subjectivities within particular food spaces, relations, and practices.

Drawing upon research from Europe and North America, the chapter explores three key sites within children and young people’s foodscape: family food, school food, and fast food. Just as the restaurant “kids menu” specifies a designated array of items from which the young consumer can choose, children’s foodscape serve up a range of available subject positions – subject positions that are relationally constituted and morally evaluated. In keeping with this section’s thematic focus on representation, the chapter explores the interplay between the construction of the young subject within dominant food discourse, and the formation of young people’s subjectivities within everyday food practices.
Depuis une quarantaine d’années, les restaurants «Apportez votre vin» (AVV) sont devenus de plus en plus populaires à Montréal, au Québec et même à l’étranger. Pourtant, jusqu’à récemment, aucune étude universitaire n’a été faite sur ce phénomène. Je travaille depuis 2013 avec Alan Nash (PhD en géographie, Université Concordia) et Anaïs Detolle (doctorante en anthropologie, Université Concordia) sur un chapitre de l’ouvrage pancanadien Conversations in Food Studies à ce sujet.


C’est sur le terrain que nous avons appris que l’AVV au Canada est né dans le quartier montréalais du Plateau-Mont-Royal. En 1974, un restaurateur grec ne possédant pas de permis d’alcool a décidé de faire concurrence aux établissements «licenciés» en permettant à ses clients d’apporter du vin et de la bière achetés à l’extérieur. La pratique s’est étendue à plusieurs restaurants avoisinants, surtout sur la rue Prince-Arthur et l’avenue Duluth. À l’époque, on demandait aux clients de cacher les bouteilles sous la table, car la légalité de cette pratique n’était pas encore établie. L’apportez-votre-vin sera donc une invention populaire (et non institutionnelle) faisant partie de l’héritage culturel du «Plateau».

L’invention de l’AVV est intimement reliée à l’évolution de ce quartier qui s’embourgeoise, et qui devient une destination touristique. Au début, l’AVV permettait à une clientèle de classe moyenne d’éviter le coût très élevé de l’alcool dans les restaurants. Il devint alors un nouveau type d’espace public. Notre recherche suggère que l’on associe à l’AVV une ambiance plus informelle et domestique que le restaurant classique. La pratique d’emmener sa bouteille au lieu de la sélectionner sur un menu transforme la relation entre le restaurateur et son client, ainsi qu’entre convives.


Robert Jennings (B.A. en études urbaines à l’université Concordia, candidat à la maîtrise en études urbaines à l’INRS), coauteur du chapitre avec Alan Nash et Anaïs Detolle.


L’objectif de ce chapitre récemment paru dans la 5e édition de l’ouvrage Resources and Environmental Management...
est de faire comprendre que l'agriculture est essentielle pour le bien-être de la société humaine. Ceci demande qu'on reconnaissait la complexité de l'agriculture en termes de différents systèmes de production agricole, en termes de systèmes socioéconomiques de l'agriculture, les marchés alimentaires alternatifs, la gamme complète des fonctions appuyées par l'agriculture (ses terres et activités), y compris les services écosystémiques. En même temps, il faut bien comprendre aussi la complexité des forces multiples qui ont un impact différentiel sur les environnements décisionnels des agriculteurs dans les différents systèmes socioéconomiques de productions agricoles; évidemment ce chapitre discute des conflits, des opportunités et des incertitudes associées avec ces différentes forces ou stresseurs. Le raisonnement dans ce chapitre est que la gestion des terres agricoles, y compris l'aménagement des zones agricoles, peut faire du progrès important seulement quand cette complexité est totalement comprise et intégrée dans les stratégies de gestion. Ceci veut aussi dire que la gestion des terres et activités agricoles doit reconnaître et intégrer le fait qu'il existe des intérêts multiples légitimes impliqués dans les terres et activités agricoles, y compris la production alimentaire, et que la gestion et la planification des terres et activités agricoles a besoin d'intégrer des processus de co-construction de l'intervention collective. De nombreux exemples de territoires agricoles canadiens sont utilisés pour illustrer le raisonnement.

**Journal Articles / Articles**

**Bousbaine, A. D. and Bryant, C. R. 2015. The Integration of Action Research and Traditional Field Research to Provide Sustainable Solutions to Maintaining Periurban Agriculture. Geographical Research.**

Maintaining periurban agriculture and prime periurban farmland has become a leitmotif in land use planning and management around many cities in North America and Western Europe since the 1960s. This article focuses on the changing perspectives associated with these planning and management initiatives as well as changing research approaches. Initially, periurban farmland was often seen by planners as a land reserve for urban development. Subsequently, concern was expressed about maintaining the prime agricultural land resource via farmland protection programmes, especially in North America in the 1960s and 1970s. Early research into periurban agriculture involved statistical analyses of farmland losses and changing agricultural production systems, and farmer interviews to identify pressures and opportunities facing periurban agriculture. Gradually, it became clear that maintaining farmland resources and farm activities required more than just ‘protecting’ them from urbanization. Two types of initiatives developed: 1/ the construction of agricultural development plans to ensure sustainable farm development, e.g. in Quebec since 2008, in France since the mid-1970s and more recently in Wallonia (Belgium) in 2014; and 2/ a change in the research approach to support periurban agricultural sustainability. While still using interviews with farmers and other actors, more important is the emergence of action research to provide support to farmers, their neighbours, elected officials and professionals in developing agricultural development plans, with the aim of achieving a better integration of periurban agriculture into the regional urban system. This article develops this reasoning using research in Canada, France, and principally Belgium to illustrate the argument. This article is waiting to be published in a special issue on rural action research.


Important pressures still increase the vulnerability of periurban farming despite initiatives to protect agricultural land and activities since the mid-1960s in several jurisdictions in the USA and Canada. Often, farmland is still removed from agricultural reserves for the 'good of society' (e.g. creating industrial parks). In 2008, an action research project was initiated to attempt to reduce agricultural vulnerability in several periurban and rural areas near Montreal by emphasizing the importance of the appropriation of the value of these farmlands by non-
farm citizens and actors. The action research roles involved accompanying the farmers, facilitating meetings, mobilizing non-farm actors, and informing farmers of possibilities when asked to do so. In this article, one specific project is analyzed in Senneville (in the west of Montreal Island). While the project was initiated by the farmers to guarantee their long-term future, they also sought to involve other, mostly non-agricultural, actors. In a colloquium, a collective vision for the project was constructed, integrating other functions of farmland such as conservation and leisure activities. Many meetings were organized over a three-year period and formal presentations were made to the municipality. The project is ongoing, including new farm operations and the reinforcement of local markets for marketing mainly organic produce. The area is now an integral part of an emerging ‘green belt’ of the Montreal agglomeration and is already part of a ‘green coalition’ of both urban and peri-urban actors (farmers and non-farmers), and an emerging food system movement which represents a more holistic approach to food production. This article is waiting to be published in a special issue on rural action research.


DNA barcoding technology is championed as superior to current species identification methods because of its expert-authenticated verification system and accuracy. Despite the general consensus that DNA barcoding is a valuable innovation for authenticating food products vulnerable to substitution, this paper explores some of the challenges to the formal adoption of barcoding into multi-level policy. It discusses the scope of the problem of mislabelling and substitution in fish value chains, how barcoding is currently used in the public and private sectors, and some recommendations for further implementation. It also includes a discussion of the status of DNA barcoding in the United States and in Canada's food safety surveillance systems to combat fraud, mislabelling and species substitution in fish value chains. http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0306919215000585


Animals have encountered cruelty and suffering throughout the ages. This persists today, particularly, in factory farms, animal laboratories, and even in the name of sports or amusement. However, since the second half of the twentieth century, there have been growing concerns for animal welfare and the protection of animal rights within the discourse of environmentalism, developed mainly in the West. Nevertheless, a recently developed Islamic Ecological Paradigm (IEP) rooted in the classical Islamic traditions contests the Western monopoly of modern environmentalism, suggesting that there is much in Islamic traditions dealing with environmental issues including non-human animal species. IEP asserts that several centuries ago Islamic traditions significantly focused on and strongly advocated for animal welfare and animal rights. This article explores and examines animal rights within the broader spectrum of Islamic environmentalism or Islamic eco-ethic. While the philosophical roots of IEP concerning animal rights date far back in seventh century, it can potentially make both ethical and educational contributions to the twenty-first century environmentalism and animal rights movements.


This special issue provides an integrated overview and analysis of some of the most important changes that have taken place in the food system landscape over the past decade. The articles are deliberately short and accessible, and seek not only to take stock and make sense of recent changes, but also to map out potential future research directions. The articles originate from presentations at a symposium held in Waterloo in September 2014, where the authors congregated to discuss and debate these volatile, critically important topics. The whole issue is publicly available through the Canadian Food Studies Journal.

This issue of CFS/RCEA starts from the premise that the breadth, scale and speed of the changes on the global food landscape are forcing a major rethink of how we conceptualize problems and solutions to the production and distribution of food, and the persistence of hunger. These changes are also prompting more debate concerning critical issues related to the equitable access to and control over food and food producing resources such as land, seeds, and of course, decision-making power. Research on global food issues is rapidly evolving and groundbreaking conceptual and empirical work is taking place at both the grassroots level and in academic arenas.

This special issue is unique in that it shares insights and experience of academics with those of social movement activists and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). It is vital to incorporate insights of those working on the ground who are often much closer to the daily realities of those most affected by changes in the global food economy. We believe that this knowledge integration and synthesis is crucial to
reshaping global food studies and informing future local, national and international deliberations on food policies. We hope that students will engage with the articles in this special issue by raising more questions and debating how best to effect change in food systems.

Raj Patel and Frances Moore Lappé had this to say about the special edition:

“That it is possible to have a journal entitled Canadian Food Studies, and that this journal should produce a special issue populated by so many different, and thoughtful, critiques of the global food system is testament to the work of many of the scholars whose names appear in the table of contents. It is particularly pleasing that today’s food studies A-list has produced a collection that is so directly useful to, and nurturing of, a future generation of scholars. Today’s frontiers of enquiry—from finance to the contours of a 21st century right to food—are excitingly different from those a generation ago, and every paper in the collection crackles with good ideas.”

-Raj Patel, author of Stuffed and Starved and, The Value of Nothing

“In my 45 years of striving to understand and address the roots of hunger, I found the “Mapping the Global Food Landscape” workshop to be uniquely helpful in several ways. It gathered specialists across a wide range of disciplines, yet never lost focus. It was truly interactive, while allowing presenters opportunity to share the complexity of their work. The vision and reality of the gathering enabled participants to understand hunger’s causes and solutions from a systems point of view. Participants brought together insights into the impact of finance, trade and genetic technology and wove these into fresh analysis of the movement toward food as a human right and “food sovereignty” as an expression of an earth-based ethic of self-determination arising in diverse cultures.

The volume of work gathered here holds, therefore, especially powerful potential for enabling scholars and advocates alike to evolve a needed systems understanding of the hunger crisis and its solutions.”

-Frances Moore Lappé, Small Planet Institute Author of EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think to Create the World We Want, and Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for A Small Diet.

What is “good” food, and how might it contribute to what we might think of as a “good” life? Cuizine: The Journal of Canadian Food Cultures, (6)1.

Cuizine: The Journal of Canadian Food Cultures is delighted to announce the launch of its latest issue, 6.1. Since its inception this journal has engaged with the diversity of food cultures. It began with a focus on the multiple food cultures within Canada but soon moved to see this as a model for broader exploration of comparative food cultures. We are consequently delighted to offer two complementary issues this year, which bring together contributions addressing this pressing question. In this issue of Cuizine you will hear answers from a wide variety of individuals in very different walks of life. Yet all contributors agree that place matters, and that sometimes, foods are “good” because they do the work of creating the story and sense of place, or of imagining or recreating place.

Que représente la notion de « bonne chair » ou celle de « bonne bouffe » ? Cuizine: revue des cultures culinaires au Canada, 6(1).

Cuizine: Revue des cultures culinaires au Canada est ravie d’annoncer le lancement de son dernier numéro, C’est quoi la bonne bouffe? Perspectives de nos voisins et amis. Dès sa conception, Cuizine s’est voulu un forum pour traiter de la grande diversité des cultures alimentaires et culinaires. Plus particulièrement, l’accent initial a été mis sur les cultures culinaires canadiennes. Depuis, ce cadre a été élargi afin d’explorer et de comparer d’autres cultures culinaires qui pourraient avoir un lien avec ou un impact sur le contexte canadien. Cette année, nous sommes donc ravis de vous offrir deux numéros complémentaires qui, en ayant recours à des études internationales et locales, adressent cette problématique. Dans ce premier numéro (6.1), les articles proposés ont été rédigés par des individus ayant des formations et des vécus très différents. Vous noterez certainement, comme nous l’avons fait, qu’il y a des recoupements forts intéressants parmi ces exemples variés.
Feeding the people of the planet puts a lot of stress on the environment. Farming takes more than 40% of land and half the world’s available freshwater. We may need to raise productivity by 70% by 2050. The simplest way to grow more food is to use more land, but it would come with a major environmental cost. Climate change, too, is putting a lot of strain on our food supply. The challenges and dilemmas we are facing today include how to grow more using less in a sustainable manner; how to optimise the entire food value chain reducing the carbon footprint from field to fork; protect the environment and support biological diversity; better the lives of rural populations; and contribute to the growth of the world economy.

Recent Podcast / Baladodiffusion

Kate Cairns was interviewed on Slate’s parenting podcast, “Mom and Dad are Fighting”, about her research on the “organic child.” This research was originally published in a Journal of Consumer Culture article coauthored with Josée Johnston and Norah MacKendrick, and is further developed in Kate and Josée’s upcoming book, Food and Femininity (out this fall with Bloomsbury). Listen to Kate starting at 14:05.
An Emerging Northern Ontario Food Hub: A Study in Social Innovation in the Food Movement

Un pôle alimentaire en émergence au Nord de l'Ontario : Une étude en innovation sociale dans le mouvement en alimentation saine et locale

By Connie Nelson

Nelson, Stroink and Karen Kerk have recently completed a research study that explores how social innovation in ten selected local food initiatives is building a connected and resilient food hub across the vast expanse of Northern Ontario (802,378 km).

We observed that social processes in each of these case studies occur through and are shaped by the resources of their local environments and emerge in place-specific settings. These deep interactions that exist between food initiatives and their resources and attributes shape the nature of the social innovations that self-organize. This diversity is an essential characteristic of social innovation and resilience of the northern local food hub. The self-organizing, place-based and diverse nature of these innovative case studies builds novelty and potential for buoyant resistance to ensure constant adaptations in and evolving to an ever-changing environment. It appears that that these case studies collectively are emerging as a connected and resilient Northern Ontario food hub. This food hub establishes a viable alternative local food movement where more emphasis is placed on accessing food closer to home, animal and soil health are essential priorities, and people have more say about the origins of their food.

The adjacent figure illustrates five key characteristics of these case studies.

Nelson, C.H. Director, Food Security Research Network, Lakehead University cnelson@lakeheadu.ca
Stroink, M. Chair, Department of Psychology, Lakehead University mstroink@lakeheadu.ca

This research was made possible through generous funding from the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, with additional support Food Security Research Network and Lakehead University.

Seedmap.org/USC Canada

By Genevieve Grossenbacher

We don’t know about you but we, the Seedmap.org team, had a wonderful time at the Canadian Association of Food Studies’ conference in Ottawa at the end of May, where we had the opportunity of meeting many of you!

In case we haven’t met, let us explain: As an online portal on seeds, biodiversity and food, featuring over 400 case studies, Seedmap.org is a powerful tool for food researchers to showcase their work, share knowledge and influence policies and practices in food and agriculture. Currently funded by the International Development Research Center, Oxfam-Novib, and Hivos, Seedmap.org is managed by USC Canada in partnership with ETC Group, and editors around the globe. For more information, check out our poster attached, go to seedmap.org or feel free to contact us: seedmap@usc-canada.org.

TAKE OUR QUICK SURVEY--Help us make Seedmap.org even more useful to CAFS’ researchers!
Seedmap.org is expanding and we’re working hard to turn our map into an open source platform where more people can be involved with content creation and the writing of case studies. We’re also hoping to make some changes to our platform to better serve you. To do so, we need you! We would greatly appreciate if you could take a few minutes to fill out our short online survey to give us your quick and external feedback regarding seedmap.org.

Before filing out the survey, you might find it useful to take a virtual tour of the map and/or take 2 minutes to browse seedmap.org. We really appreciate your time and feedback and in the meantime, we wish you a great summer! For more information contact - genevieve@usc-canada.org

Community First! Impacts of Community Engagement: Community Food Security Hub - Some thoughts on Future Action Areas
Community First! Impacts de l’engagement de la communauté: Carrefour de sécurité alimentaire communautaire - Quelques pensées sur des pistes d’actions futures
By Lauren Kepkiewicz

Thank you to everyone who attended our session, From Learning to Action: Reflecting on Three Years of Building Community-Campus Partnerships and Effecting Change, at the CAFS conference this past May! We are grateful for the ideas, suggestions, and contributions towards the future of the Community Food Security Hub.

During the session we asked participants for feedback on three possible action areas highlighted by our community and academic partners. These areas include: addressing institutional barriers that hinder community-campus partnerships; creating forums to connect community organizations and researchers; and developing accessible tools for building relationships between campuses and communities. During the session, we asked what was needed within these three areas, whether they reflected people’s experiences, and how they might be put into action.

Speaking about institutional barriers, participants agreed that working with universities can be challenging due to hard-to-navigate bureaucracies, funding structures that privilege academics, and university timelines that are often out of sync with those of community organizations. Session participants suggested the need to create formalized protocols and/or evaluation processes that hold universities accountable to the communities they work with. Participants also suggested the need to include a line item for “community impact” within academic grants, and to institutionalize “community” as part of the peer-review process.

During the discussion about better connecting academics and community organizations, the group agreed that developing brokerage models are important but that they must be context-specific. Questions were raised about the scale these models should operate on with suggestions that they may work better at bioregional or local levels. Questions were also raised about the kinds of infrastructure necessary to build and maintain relationships as well as ensure accountability.
Feedback about the tools needed to build partnerships include guidelines on how to write honorariums for community members into grants as well as providing MOU templates and sample ethics forms for academic and community partners to work from. Session participants also talked about the necessity of educating faculty and students about how to develop meaningful relationships with community partners rather than merely using the language of partnership to forward careers and legitimize research.

In addition to these points, conversations revolved around the need to think about broader relationships between communities and universities – including maintenance staff and food workers as well as institutional procurement policies. Session participants also highlighted the need to disrupt the university as a techno-bureaucratic institution that often acts to silence and delegitimize Indigenous knowledges.

With this feedback in mind, we are currently planning the next phase of the CFS Hub. Please let us know if you have further ideas on how to ensure community needs are met within community-campus partnerships. Email thoughts and questions to Charles Levkoe (clevkoe@wlu.ca).

**Agricultural Land Use Planning in Canada**

La planification du territoire agricole au Canada

By David Connell

Launched in 2013, the Agricultural Land Use Planning in Canada project aims to formulate policy recommendations to help protect farmland and promote farming as the highest and best use of these lands. The study focusses on identifying principles and beneficial practices.

Our work to date has revealed four principles that we believe can be used to guide land use planning: maximise the stability of the legislative framework for protecting farmland; integrate public priorities across jurisdictions; minimise uncertainty of terms and conditions; and, after taking care of the first three principles, accommodate flexibility. We used these four principles as criteria to evaluate the strength of legislative frameworks that govern agricultural land use planning in our case study sites. Final reports for each of the following sites are now available:

- Corporation of Delta, BC
- City of Kelowna, BC
- Rocky View County, AB
- County of Grande Prairie No. 1, AB
- Municipality of Central Huron, ON
- Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON
- MRC de Roussillon, QC
- MRC du Haut-Richelieu, QC

Work continues on additional case study sites in Nova Scotia and Manitoba. Case study reports are also available for a complementary project completed in northern British Columbia:

- Cariboo Regional District
- Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
- Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
- Regional District of Kitimat-Stikine
- Peace River Regional District
- State of Agricultural Land Use Planning in Northern British Columbia

The results of these projects show a range of outcomes. Canada has provinces (Ontario and Quebec) with very strong legislative frameworks for farmland protection and provinces with very weak frameworks (e.g., Alberta). The case study sites also reveal a range of outcomes, from very strong to very weak. For each case study site, we also examined the influence of issues, interests, and institutions associated with food sovereignty, farmland preservation, and global competitiveness. As expected, farmland preservation has a significant influence on agricultural land use policy. We also see evidence of food sovereignty having a strong
influence. Global competitiveness appears to have the least influence, even in sites with agricultural sectors that are highly connected with international markets.

For the upcoming year we will complete comparative analyses of the case studies in order to better understand critical differences among provincial frameworks and planning practices that lead to the wide variation among local legislative frameworks. We will also conduct regional workshops to share the results of the case studies and engage planning professionals and farmland organisations in discussions about beneficial practices. The project will culminate with a national forum on farmland protection in Canada.

For copies of the reports and more information, please visit the project website, or contact David J. Connell at 250-960-5835 or david.connell@unbc.ca.

The national project is funded by an Insight Grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. Funding for the provincial project is provided by the Northern Agriculture Research Initiative, a program of the Omineca Beetle Action Coalition and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition, and by the Real Estate Foundation of British Columbia Partnering Fund.

Comment favoriser la transition à l’agriculture biologique

How to foster the transition to organic agriculture

Par Luc Belzile

Le Canada importe la majeure partie des produits biologiques que les canadiens consomment. En 2013, l’organisme Canada Organic Trade Association (COTA) rapportait que 44 % des produits biologiques consommés par les Canadiens étaient produits, transformés ou emballés au Canada. Au Québec, les experts s’entendent à dire que seuls 30 % des produits biologiques consommés sont produits au Québec (sans égard aux produits transformés ou emballés). Dans ce contexte, les intervenants du milieu biologique québécois soutiennent que l’offre de produits biologiques domestique augmente, et à cette fin, que davantage d’agriculteurs fassent la transition à l’agriculture biologique (AB). Ces intervenants ont donc établi comme priorité de recherche de mieux connaître les facteurs qui favorisent cette transition. C’est ce que nous avons étudié dans un projet de recherche à l’Institut de recherche et de développement en agroenvironnement (IRDA) et il en ressort des résultats fort intéressants. Le projet était composé d’une étude qualitative ainsi que d’une étude quantitative dont voici quelques faits marquants.

Au départ, l’étude qualitative fait ressortir que les convictions personnelles de l’agriculteur ou de l’agricultrice jouent un rôle essentiel dans sa propension à faire une transition à l’AB. Cette caractéristique est propre aux innovateurs de l’AB, soit ceux qui l’adoptent avec peu de soutien externe. Par la suite, il se produira un effet-réseau. Cet effet se mesure par différents mécanismes mais essentiellement, cela signifie que ce qui influence le plus un producteur conventionnel à faire la transition à l’AB, c’est un producteur biologique qui a déjà accompli cette transition.

Il est reconnu que l’AB est un mode de production exigeant en main-d’œuvre. Les résultats de l’étude quantitative ont démontré que la probabilité de transition est plus grande lorsque l’entreprise dispose de main-d’œuvre non-familiale, en plus de la main-d’œuvre familiale. Lorsque seule la main-d’œuvre familiale est présente, il y a moins de chance que l’entreprise adopte l’AB. Ce résultat est ressorti pour l’ensemble des productions agricoles, mais plus particulièrement pour les productions laitière, maraîchère ainsi que les productions animales destinées à la production de viande. Car contrairement à ce que l’on retrouve généralement dans la littérature, nous avons effectué notre étude quantitative sur l’agriculture en général de même que sur cinq productions agricoles spécifiques, soit l’acériculture et les grandes cultures, en plus des trois nommées précédemment.

En production maraîchère par exemple, il a été possible de déterminer que la probabilité de transition augmente considérablement lorsque l’exploitant principal de l’entreprise est une jeune femme. Il est intéressant de noter que parallèlement à ce résultat, plusieurs études sur les caractéristiques des consommateurs de produits biologiques ont montré que les femmes, mères de jeunes enfants, sont plus enclines à acheter ces produits.
Les résultats de ce projet de recherche devraient aider les intervenants du milieu à développer des outils pour favoriser l'adoption et la transition à l'AB. Ainsi, l'offre de produits biologiques pourrait être stimulée. Pour ceux qui voudraient en savoir davantage sur les résultats de cette étude, le rapport complet et une fiche-synthèse seront mis en ligne au courant du mois de septembre sur le site de l'IRDA. Vous pouvez en être informé en vous abonnant à l'Agrosolution Express.

Hochelaga’Table: Un portrait alimentaire des jeunes du quartier Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

Hochelaga’Table: The foodscape of youths living in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve

Par Hochelaga’ Table

À l’été et l’automne 2014, 50 jeunes du quartier Hochelaga-Maisonneuve à Montréal participent au développement d’une charte alimentaire locale qui reflète leur rapport à l’alimentation et à la ville. Faisant appel à la créativité et à l’engagement de ces jeunes, la démarche proposée leur permet d’être sensibilisés à l’importance des choix alimentaires sur leur bien-être et sur leur rôle entant qu’acteur du système alimentaire.

Cette démarche leur permet de contribuer au développement d’environnements alimentaires urbains sains et équitables. Cette initiative s’inscrit en complémentarité avec le travail mené par le Comité de concertation en alimentation de La table de quartier Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (LTQHM), qui vise à créer un point d’accès alimentaire dans le quartier.

Explorez l’univers alimentaire de ces jeunes à travers le site Hochelagatable en visitant les ressources qu’ils utilisent ou qu’ils proposent, ce qu’ils mangent, les recettes qu’ils cuisinent. Écoutez également ce qu’ils ont à dire sur l’alimentation et sur leur quartier.

Croqu’Plaisir | Projet montréalien en saines habitudes de vie - volet services de garde. Promouvoir les aliments sains et locaux dans les services de garde de la Montérégie - 2012-2014

La initiative s’inscrit en complémentarité avec le travail mené par le Comité de concertation en alimentation de La table de quartier Hochelaga-Maisonneuve (LTQHM), qui vise à créer un point d’accès alimentaire dans le quartier. Piloté par les trois Conférences régionales des élus de la Montérégie (agglomération de Longueuil, Vallée-du-Haut-St-Laurent et Montérégie Est), projet a été implanté par deux partenaires de réalisation : le Regroupement des centres de la petite enfance de la Montérégie (RCPEM) et Équiterre.

Le projet a été conçu en fonction des trois objectifs qui ont constitué les trois volets du projet :

1) Formations en saine alimentation – RCPEM. À l’intention des responsables de l’alimentation, des éducatrices en service de garde, des RSG en milieu familial et des parents, neuf modules de formation ont été développés par Enextenso, adaptés et offerts par le RCPEM afin de sensibiliser les milieux de garde de la Montérégie aux fondements d’une saine alimentation en petite enfance et de les outiller à mettre en œuvre ces principes.

2) Accompagnement personnalisé des responsables de l’alimentation et analyse des menus – RCPEM. Afin de...
Dear Colleagues,

Our planet is undergoing radical environmental and social changes. Sustainability has now been put into question by, for example, our consumption patterns, loss of biodiversity, depletion of resources, and exploitative power relations. With apparent ecological and social limits to globalization and development, current levels of consumption are known to be unsustainable, inequitable, and inaccessible to the majority of humans. Understanding and achieving sustainability is a crucial matter at a time when our planet is in peril—environmentally, economically, socially, and politically. Since its official inception in the 1970s, environmental sociology has provided a powerful lens to understanding the challenges, possibilities, and modes of sustainability.

This Special Issue of Sustainability will provide an environmental sociology approach to understanding and achieving the widely used notion of “Sustainability.” The Special Issue will focus on, among other topics, the inherent discursive formations of environmental sociology, conceptual tools and paradoxes, competing theories and practices, and their complex implications on our society at large.

We invite papers that will specifically focus on how Sustainable Development has been understood through different theoretical lenses in environmental sociology, such as ecological modernization, policy/reformist sustainable development, and critical structural approaches (such as the treadmill of production, ecological Marxism, metabolic rift theory, etc.). Also, review papers and original manuscripts may draw on how sustainable development has been practiced in, or by, various stakeholders, such as states, corporations, and local communities, for various ends, through the use of specific case studies, showing, for example, the discursive shifts, dynamic formations, and diverse contours of sustainable development.

The range of relevant topics includes:

- Environmental sociology as a field of inquiry for sustainability
- Historical context of sustainable development in environmental sociology
- Nature-society relationship in environmental sociology
- Theories/approaches to sustainability discourse in environmental sociology
- Environmentalism/environmental movements for sustainability
- Empirical cases (such as climate change, biodiversity, food, certification, etc.) through the lens of environmental sociology

For more information, click [here](#).
Dr. Md Saidul Islam, Assistant Professor of Sociology at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, has received the prestigious Early Investigator Award from the Canadian Sociological Association (CSA) for 2015. The award was presented at the CSA’s annual banquet in the University of Ottawa, on July 3, 2015. The award honors sociologists who have made significant research contributions within the first ten years since the completion of the PhD. It recognizes research demonstrating high quality, theoretical rigor and/or methodological innovation, and significance to the field.

The awards committee had this to say in presenting the award to Dr. Islam:

“Dr. Islam, a Canadian Sociologist, received his PhD from York University in 2008, and joined Nanyang Technological University the next year. His research productivity has been absolutely outstanding, with two sole-authored books (and another under contract), 14 peer reviewed journal articles (including a co-authored publication in Science, one of the most influential publications across disciplines and article in top environmental sociology journals), and 18 books and commissioned papers. Of course we do not adjudicate the Early Investigator Award on the crude metric of productivity alone – the importance of one’s contributions and quality of one’s research are crucial. In this respect, Dr. Islam is also a standout. His research bridges the sociology of development, globalization, and the environment, making important contributions to each.

Dr. Islam’s first book, published by Routledge, Development, Power and the Environment: Neoliberal Paradox in the Age of Vulnerability present seven case studies of the critical global sustainability challenges such as food regimes, climate change, and disaster vulnerability, offering a new framework of a “double risk” Society for the global South. Offering a trenchant critique of the neoliberal paradox and development as historical project of power, it concludes by presenting alternative pathways to sustainable development. His second book, published by the University of Toronto Press, Confronting the Blue Revolution: Industrial Aquaculture and Sustainability in the Global South, is a fascinating study of the global shrimp commodity chain linking sites in the global South (Bangladesh, Malaysia, China, and Indonesia) to the global North. Drawing on extensive fieldwork, it draws out the critical role of new forms of neoliberal environmental governance in shaping (in part through silence and omissions) not only environmental change, but also labour patterns and gender relations. It is first rate work that will no doubt have a lasting impact on his field, and that has important implications for all of us as citizens and consumers.”

Quelle place pour l’agriculture urbaine… commerciale?
What is the place of commercial urban agriculture?
Par Jean-Philippe Vermette

L’agriculture urbaine a le vent dans les voiles! En effet, depuis quelques années, nous assistons à la multiplication d’émissions de télévision nous apprenant les rudiments du métier d’agriculteurs urbains tout en nous montrant de beaux grands jardins sur les toits, tous plus inspirants les uns que les autres.

À travers cette multitude de déclinaisons d’une agriculture dite urbaine, se développe des projets commerciaux dont l’intérêt premier, comme nous pouvons nous en douter, est de faire de l’argent. L’idée de faire de l’argent n’est pas « mauvaise en soi », mais il importe de se questionner sur les dynamiques économiques agroalimentaires urbaines, périurbaines et régionales pour bien comprendre le phénomène.

Si certains se réjouiront de la diminution du kilométrage alimentaire, d’autres se désoleront des conséquences sur la production maraîchère en périphérie des villes. Car soyons clairs, ce phénomène en émergence affectera essentiellement la filière maraîchère, plus particulièrement la filière maraîchère biologique, qui utilise la ville comme principale lieu de distribution et de mise en marché de leur production.

Dans ce contexte, sommes-nous entrain de reprendre ce vieil adage qui propose de déshabiller Jean pour habiller Pierre? Et si tel est le cas, que pouvons-nous faire?

Une première piste de solution serait probablement de reconnaître collectivement le phénomène. Pour mettre un peu de lumière sur la question, le Laboratoire sur l’agriculture urbaine de l’Université du Québec à Montréal a organisé,
Closing Remarks

En conclusion

Thanks to everyone that made contributions to the Summer 2015 edition. The CAFS/ACÉA newsletter is published three times annually. We look forward to more great content from the food studies community for the Fall/Winter 2015 issue.

Also, this will be Jenelle's final issue as editor of the CAFS/ACÉA newsletter. Joëlle Rondeau will be taking the lead on the upcoming issues. If you are interested in getting involved and offering support as an editor or a translator, email us! Please also send any comments, questions, concerns or future submissions to newsletter@foodstudies.ca, join the CAFS Facebook page and follow CAFS on Twitter!

Editors:
Jenelle Regnier-Davies & Joëlle Rondeau

Upcoming events

Du Changement au menu/Changing the Menu | Conférence nationale sur l'alimentation scolaire.
National School Food Conference.
Montréal, du 12 au 14 novembre 2015

Du changement au menu, la toute première conférence sur l'alimentation en milieu scolaire, vous convie à Montréal du 12 au 14 novembre prochain.

La conférence a pour objectif de renforcer les activités permettant d'augmenter la quantité d'aliments sains, locaux et durables dans les assiettes des jeunes en milieu scolaire. L'événement, d'une durée de trois jours, comprendra des visites terrain de projets québécois inspirants, des conférenciers de marque, des présentations et ateliers sur des sujets de pointe ainsi que plusieurs occasions de réseautage.

Un large éventail de participants de partout au pays est attendu à ce rassemblement, incluant des membres du domaine de la santé, de l'éducation, des services alimentaires, de l'agriculture, des loisirs, de la recherche et des politiques publiques.

Inscrivez-vous dès maintenant et profitez encore des tarifs préférentiels!

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