

Sociology of Food Provisioning and Place-based Development

Period 5, Academic Year 2013-2014

Contact person

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Sociology of Food Provisioning and Place-based Development (RSO-31806)

Language	English
Credits	6 ECTS
Period	5 (2013-2014), Weeks 28 – 33 (and Monday of week 34)
Time and venue	Monday 10.30 – 12.15 (C81) Wednesday 08.30 – 12.15 (C84) Friday 08.30 – 10.15 (C79)
Exam	May 8 th 2014; 13.30 – 16.30 hrs; C82
Re-exam	August 5 th 2014; 08.30 – 11.30 hrs; C68
Contact person	Han Wiskerke; han.wiskerke@wur.nl ; 0317-482679
Lecturer(s)	Han Wiskerke, Ina Horlings
Examiner(s)	Han Wiskerke, Ina Horlings
Secretariat	Sociology and Anthropology of Development (SADE) sade.secretariaat@wur.nl Building 201 (Leeuwenborch), room 3052 0317-482075 / 484507

Profile of the course

The course aims to provide a theoretical, empirical and methodological understanding of place-based development processes, with an emphasis on agro-food, rural and regional dynamics in urbanizing societies. It builds upon several BSc and MSc courses (see courses mentioned above under 'assumed prerequisite knowledge').

This course will, on the one hand, deepen and integrate themes and topics as well as theoretical concepts and perspectives of these courses, and on the other hand elaborate on topics (empirically and theoretically) such as socio-spatial differentiation processes, place-based development paths, alternative food geographies, sustainable place-shaping, place branding, food citizenship, food movements and urban food provisioning. By presenting and discussing recently completed and current research projects a wide range of research methodologies will be introduced.

As such this course acquaints students with the most important scientific theoretical perspectives and paradigms of agro-food dynamics and rural and regional transformation processes and their social, political and academic context. In doing so the course presents a comprehensive framework for a thorough analysis of the heterogeneous and multidimensional character of socio-spatial transformation processes. Within that framework the on-going scientific and policy debates about food provisioning and place-based development fall into place.

In addition to a thorough and in-depth elaboration of these debates, food provisioning and place-based development practices will be analysed. This is among others achieved through research presentations by PhD students, analysis of case studies from current and recently completed research projects, movies and excursions. As a result students come to understand the methodological questions and need of trans-disciplinarity to deal with the multiple facets of food provisioning and place-based development dynamics.

Assumed prerequisite knowledge

This course builds on several courses that are mandatory in the Sociology of Development specialisation within the Bachelor and Master of International Development Studies (BIN/MID). These courses are:

- Sociology of Farming and Rural Life (RSO-30806),
- Sociological Theories of Rural Transformation (RDS-30306),
- Globalisation and Sustainability of Food Production and Consumption (ENP-31806),
- Sociology in Development: Towards a Critical Perspective (RDS-32806).

If you have not followed and completed any of these courses it may be difficult to participate in this course.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. understand past and current academic debates about food provisioning dynamics and place-based development processes and their changing social and political context;
2. analyse the multi-actor, multi-level and multi-aspect dynamics of food provisioning and place-based development;
3. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical concepts and perspectives to grasp and understand the complexity of food provisioning and place-based development;
4. identify methods for carrying out scientific research about food provisioning and place-based development dynamics;
5. apply methods and findings of recently completed and current national and international research projects in the design of a research proposal;
6. draft a first outline of a research proposal on one of the topics of the course.

Course materials and resources

- Scientific articles, working papers, conference proceedings, book chapters, videos and other study material available through blackboard
- Power-point presentations
- Lecture notes

Educational (=teaching and learning) activities

- Lectures (learning outcomes 1-4)
- Debates in class (learning outcomes 1-3)
- Self-study (learning outcomes 1-6)
- Field trips (learning outcome 2)
- Group assignment (learning outcomes 4-6)

Assessment strategy

The course will be concluded with two forms of final assessment:

1. A written exam (75% of the final mark), which consists of essay like questions about the literature and the lecture materials. The examination consists of 6 open questions, one for every weekly theme, of which 5 have to be answered (each questions counts for 20% of the total written exam grade). The questions are divided in weighed sub-questions. The questions address the learning outcomes 1-4.
2. A research proposal (group assignment that counts for 25% of the final mark) on one of the course topics. The proposal should be maximum 10 A-4, line spacing 1, and font 11. The precise requirements for the proposal will be explained during the first week. The assignment addresses learning outcomes 4-6 in applying literature, methods and

concepts in a research proposal. Draft versions can be discussed with the lecturers upon request of the students.

In the table below a detailed assessment strategy is presented, specifying what is being assessed, how and by whom.

Learning outcome	Form of assessment		Examiners*
	Exam**	Proposal***	
To understand past and current academic debates about agro-food, rural and regional development processes and their changing social and political context	X		HW; IH
To analyze the multi-actor, multi-level and multi-aspect dynamics of food provisioning and place-based development	X		HW; IH
To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical concepts and perspectives to grasp and understand the complexity of food provisioning and place-based development	X		HW; IH
To identify methods for carrying out scientific research about food provisioning and place-based development dynamics	X	X	HW; IH
To apply methods and findings of recently completed and on-going research projects in the design of a research proposal		X	HW; IH
To prepare a first outline of a research proposal		X	HW; IH
<i>Contribution to final mark</i>	75%	25%	
<i>Threshold mark to pass the course</i>	5.5	5.5	

* HW = Han Wiskerke; IH = Ina Horlings

** Dictionaries are allowed at the exam but no course texts, lecture slides or lecture notes.

*** The deadline for submitting the final version of the proposal is Friday 9th May 2014 at 18.00 hrs. Submission by e-mail to han.wiskerke@wur.nl. The mark for the proposal will remain valid for 1 year.

The principal themes of the content

The course is based upon two of the main research themes of the Rural Sociology Group:

1. The sociology of food provisioning;
2. The sociology of place-based development.

Being based on these main research themes implies that this course provides an up-to-date insight into current theoretical debates and research findings. These are mainly derived from recently completed and current international collaborative research programmes such as PUREFOOD (<http://purefoodnetwork.eu/>), FOODLINKS (<http://www.foodlinkscommunity.net/>), SUPURBFOOD (<http://supurbfood.eu/>) and DERREG (<http://www.derreg.eu/>). Within and linked to these programmes the Rural Sociology Group has approximately 30 ongoing PhD projects. Several PhD candidates will give a guest lecture to present their projects (theoretical approach, research methods, results).

The first week of the course is entitled “Socio-spatial differentiation processes and development paths” and will outline the theoretical and societal context and background of food provisioning and place-based development. Key issues are *diversity* in development patterns and *dynamics* in time.

The second week of the course is entitled “Placeless and place-based food” and links the main themes of the course by questioning the importance (or irrelevance) of place in food provisioning practices and food quality characteristics and why and how the *significance of place in food* has changed during the past decades.

The third (*A relational approach to place-based development*) and fourth week (*Food citizenship, food democracy and food movements*) of the course focus on the role of *agency and ‘new’ actors* in food provisioning and place-based development.

The fifth (*Place-based strategies and practices*) and sixth week (*Urban food provisioning strategies and practices*) cover emerging practices and future strategies in the context of current socio-political challenges: how to sustainably develop rural and city-regions and how to sustainably feed cities in a rapidly urbanizing society?

More information about the themes, contents of lectures and mandatory literature can be found in the detailed course schedule on the next pages.

Course schedule

Week 28 (March 17th – 21st): Socio-spatial differentiation processes and development paths

Development of places has historically been based on economic indicators and dominated by economic concerns such as regional growth disparities, income and employment. In the globally oriented, growth-first and competitiveness model, places are described as 'winners and losers'. The hegemonic forces of modernization and globalization have led to an erosion of local culture and a homogenization of spaces as a result of market forces, technology development and the role of the state. However, actors at the firm, local, community and sub-national level reproduce and transform places by their meaningful conduct, either intentionally or unintentionally. Regions, places and spaces are not passive meeting places, or just repositories of combinations of ecologies, economies and communities; they are active and dynamic players and orchestrators in shaping and managing these spheres.

In this week the following topics will be discussed: How do processes of homogenization and regional differentiation processes unfold, which different regional development paths can be distinguished; how and to what extent do exogenous and endogenous factors influence this, how are various sorts of socio-economic networks formed, reproduced and transformed, what are the specific characteristics of various networks?

Monday 17 March 2014 (C81) – Han Wiskerke

10.30 – 11.15 Introduction to the course

11.30 – 12.15 Socio-spatial transition and differentiation processes

Murdoch, J., (2006). Networking rurality: emergent complexities in the countryside. In: P. Cloke, T. Marsden and P.H. Mooney (Eds.), *Handbook of Rural Studies*, Sage, London, pp. 171–184.

Coenen, L., P. Benneworth & B. Truffer (2012) Toward a spatial perspective on sustainability transitions, *Research Policy* 41 (6): 968–979

Wednesday 19 March 2014 (C84) – Ina Horlings

10.30 – 11.15 Theories on regional development

11.30 – 12.15 Territorial development paths: bio- and eco-economic development.

Marsden, T. (2012) Sustainable place-making for sustainability science: the contested case of agri-food and urban–rural relations, *Sustainability Science*, published online 15-9-2012

Bristow, G. (2010) Regional resilience: theoretical and empirical perspectives. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 3-10.

Friday 21 March 2014 (C79) – Han Wiskerke & Ina Horlings

08.30 – 09.15 Reflection on literature and lectures

09.30 – 10.15 Regional differentiation illustrated by DERREG documentaries followed by debate (<http://www.youtube.com/user/derregfilms?feature=watch>).

Week 29 (March 24th-28th): Placeless and place-based food

Through standardization and industrialization of food production and processing and globalization of food trade, food has become disconnected from its socio-cultural and physical place. This industrial globalized food system has brought many benefits to consumers (in particular to urban dwellers in the global North): food is usually constantly available at relatively low prices and many food products have a year round supply. However, these benefits have also come at a cost: depleting natural resources (e.g. fossil fuel, phosphate, water, fertile soil, (agro)biodiversity), consumers' distrust in agro-industrial food, environmental pollution, and rising prevalence of obesity and malnutrition. As a response to the problems associated with the agro-industrial logic an alternative paradigm is emerging, generally labeled as an alternative food geography. This alternative food geography is characterized by re-connecting producers and consumers and by re-embedding food (and its quality characteristics) in its socio-cultural and physical place. This week will focus on the emergence of the alternative food geography, in particular on its place-based expressions and dynamics.

Monday 24 March 2013 (C81) – Han Wiskerke

10.30 – 12.15 Food and place: on places lost and places regained

Kneafsey, M. (2010). The region in food – important or irrelevant? *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society* Vol. 3, pp. 177-190

Wiskerke, J.S.C. (2009). On places lost and places regained: reflections on the alternative food geography and sustainable regional development, *International Planning Studies* 14: 369-387.

Wednesday 26 March 2013 (C84) – Han Wiskerke

09.30 – 11.15 Embedding food in place and place in food

11.30 – 12.15 Comparing local and global systems of food provisioning: methodological challenges of the GLAMUR project (guest lecture Henk Oostindie)

Bowen, S. (2011). The importance of place: re-territorialising embeddedness, *Sociologia Ruralis* 51: 325-348

Moragues-Faus, A.M. & R. Sonnino (2012). Embedding Quality in the Agro-food System: The Dynamics and Implications of Place-Making Strategies in the Olive Oil Sector of Alto Palancia, Spain. *Sociologia Ruralis*, 52: 215–234.

Friday 28 March 2013 (C79) – Han Wiskerke

08.30 – 09.15 Reflection on literature and lectures

09.30 – 10.15 Place-based food provisioning. Two movies followed by debate.

Week 30 (March 31st – April 4th): A relational approach to place-based development

In literature the concepts of space, place, region and territory are amply debated. We can make a distinction between territorial and relational approaches. A relational approach sees “*places as the differentiated outcomes of an interacting set of unbound ecological, political-economic and socio-cultural processes*”. Places are constructed through ever changing social relations, which often stretch out far beyond that particular place. While the hegemony of the modernization and globalisation perspective did result in homogenization and standardisation, affecting places, it is the territorial differentiation of globalisation that brings place once again to the fore. Places are relevant as: 1) spaces endowed with meaning and value. 2) arenas of debates, power struggles and negotiations 3) Places for the more effective intervention of private, public and civic policies and actions. Tensions and negotiations are taking place between perceived personal notions of their place and conceived formal institutional notions of place. In this week the following questions will be discussed:

- How can place (-shaping), territory and region be conceptualized?
 - How is agency expressed and how do people shape places even as they engage in trans-local networks?
 - How can diverse economies contribute to sustainable place-shaping and a repositioning of economy?
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Monday 31 March 2014 (C81) – Ina Horlings

10.30 – 11.15 Place, territory and sustainable place-shaping

11.30 – 12.15 The role of agency: social movements and leadership

Paasi, A. (2010) Regions are social constructs, but who or what ‘constructs’ them? Agency in question. Commentary, *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 42, 2296-2301.

Kenis, A. & E. Mathijs (2014) (De)politicising the local: The case of the Transition Towns movement in Flanders (Belgium), *Journal of Rural Studies* 34: 172-183.

Roep, D., Wellbrock, W., & L.G. Horlings (forthcoming). Raising self-efficacy and resilience: collaborative leadership in the Westerkwartier, in: M. Woods, B. Nienaber, J. McDonagh (Eds.), *Globalization and Europe's rural regions*. Ashgate, Surrey.

Wednesday 2 April 2014 (C84) – Ina Horlings

10.30 – 12.15 Community development and diverse economies

Gibson-Graham J.K. (2008) Diverse economies; Performative Practices for ‘Other Worlds’. *Human Geography*, 32: 613-632.

Ballamingie, P. & S.M.L. Walker (2013) A Field of dreams: just food's proposal to create a community food and sustainable agriculture hub in Ottawa, Ontario, *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, Published online on 14 April 2013.

Franklin, A. and Marsden, T.K. (2014) (Dis)connected communities and sustainable place-making, *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability*, Published online: 24 Jan 2014.

Friday 4 April 2014 (C79) – Ina Horlings

08.30 – 09.15 Reflection on literature and lectures

09.30 – 10.15 Place-based community development. Video and debate.

Week 31 (April 7th – 11th) : Food citizenship, food democracy and food movements

In the past decade many new forms of consumer-producer cooperation in food networks have been documented under headings such as 'Alternative Food Networks' (AFNs) and 'Short Food Supply Chains' (SFSCs). Many of these initiatives can be characterized as attempts to build re-connections between rural producers and urban consumers. While research initially mainly focused on farmer driven forms of direct selling, farmer's markets and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA), recently the spectrum of AFN studies has been widened with different types of consumer/citizen driven initiatives such as food coops, consumer purchasing groups, school and community gardens, adoption schemes and landshares. With the growing trend of urban gardening and 'grow it yourself' initiatives, the distinction between producer and consumer becomes increasingly obsolete and is replaced by a more fluid continuum of co-producership in which citizens are more actively involved in the provisioning of their food. In these 'civic food networks' new relationships to food are constructed that go beyond a mere economic transaction between consumers and producers. These new forms of 'food citizenship' are perceived as important incubators for societal change and may provide important building blocks for transitions to sustainable food systems. In this week different examples of food citizenship will be presented and studies on civic food networks will be discussed with the aim to analyze to what extent experiences across the globe are part of a wider movement for 'food democracy' in which citizens regain control over the ways in which food is produced and consumed.

Monday 7 April 2014 (C81) – Han Wiskerke

10.30 – 12.15 On (post-) neoliberalism and food movements

Alkon, A.H. & T.M. Mares (2012) Food sovereignty in US food movements: radical visions and neoliberal constraints, *Agriculture and Human Values* 29: 347-359

Marsden, T.K. & G. Bristow (2013) Replacing neoliberalism: theoretical implications of the rise of local food movements, *Local Environment* 18 (5): 636-641

Wednesday 9 April 2014 (C84) – Han Wiskerke

09.30 – 11.15 Civic food networks

11.30 – 12.15 Interaction rituals in a Calabrian Gruppo di Acquisto Solidale (Simona d'Amico)

Brunori, G., Rossi, A. and Guidi, F. (2012), On the New Social Relations around and beyond Food. Analysing Consumers' Role and Action in Gruppi di Acquisto Solidale, *Sociologia Ruralis* 52: 1–30

Renting, H., M. Schermer & A. Rossi (2012) Building Food Democracy: Exploring Civic Food Networks and Newly Emerging Forms of Food Citizenship, *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 19 (3), pages 289-307

Friday 11 April 2014 (C79) – Han Wiskerke

08.30 – 09.15 Reflection on literature and lectures

09.30 – 10.15 Video about food movements, agroecology, and the future of food.

Week 32 (April 14th – 18th): Place-based development strategies and practices

Although places are fluid and relational, seeds of sustainable transitions are rooted and unfolding in places -actually in innovative place-shaping practices. Sustainable place-shaping can be seen as a way to build capacities of people to reflect on and to renegotiate the conditions for their engagement in places by:

- a re-appreciation of places; Practices on sustainable place-shaping are influenced by wider communities, cultural notions, values, natural assets, technology and historical patterns. Images of places are culturally and institutionally differentiated throughout Europe.
- a re-grounding of daily lived practices in ecological and cultural place-based assets and resources, place qualities and identities.
- a repositioning towards markets considering alternative economies. This includes the conditions of enhancing quality of life in places by developing social economy, social services, alternative products and markets based on social and territorial capital.

In this week the following questions will be discussed:

- how to utilize the full potential of European regions for place-based development;
 - how people's appreciation of places and sense of place can enhance participation.
 - how the quality of life in regions can be analysed using the Rural Web as a heuristic device.
 - how governance strategies can be based on place qualities and identities.
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Monday 14 April 2014 (C81) – Ina Horlings

10.30 – 11.15 Re-grounding of practices in regional assets and resources

11.30 – 12.15 Place branding

García Domínguez, M.D., Swagemakers, P., Horlings, L. & Fernández, X.S. (2013) Place branding and endogenous rural development. The case of the River Minho in the borderland of Portugal and Spain, *Place branding and public Diplomacy*, 9: 124–140.

Pederson, S.B. (2004) Place branding: Giving the region of Øresund a competitive edge. *Journal of Urban Technology* 11(1): 77-95.

Wednesday 16 April 2013 (C84) – Ina Horlings

10.30 – 12.15 Rural regional strategies in Europe (ETUDE project)

Broekhuizen, R. en Oostindie, H. (2010) National Landscape Laag-Holland; rural web dynamics in a metropolitan landscape. In: Milone, P. and Ventura, F. (2010) *Networking the rural; The future of green regions in Europe*, pages 92-108.

Horlings, I. and Marsden, T. (2014) Exploring the 'New Rural Paradigm' in Europe: eco-economic strategies as a counterforce to the global competitiveness agenda. *Journal for Urban and Regional Studies*, 21(1): 4–20.

Thursday 17 April 2013

08.30 – 13.00 Gastronomic excursion to rural estate Rhederoord

Week 33 (April 21st – 25th): Urban food provisioning strategies and practices

Since 2007 more people live in urban than in rural areas. It is expected that the current world population of 7 billion will grow to (at least) 9 billion by 2050, of which 6.5 billion will be living in urban areas. Feeding cities arguably has a greater social and physical impact on us and our planet than anything else we do. Yet, for a long time food has been a stranger to the field of urban policy and planning. This is first of all due to the fact that many urban residents, especially in most Western countries, are taking food for granted. A second reason for food being a stranger to urban planning has been the rapid industrialisation of food production and processing and growing geographical distance between the place of production and the place of consumption. Although this radical restructuring of the urban food provision system has resulted in the disconnection of producers and consumers and the territorial disembedding of food, the “thereness” of food in cities for the majority of urban residents has not changed. Third, food is often considered not to be part of the urban public domain. This is rooted in the historical process of urbanisation, which led to certain issues being defined as essentially urban and other issues as essentially rural. Food and agriculture are generally considered to be typical rural issues. Hence, food research and policy is characterized by a rural bias. In this week we will therefore shift our focus to the city through an urban focus on food research and policy.

Monday 21 April 2014

No lecture (Easter Monday)

Wednesday 23 April 2014 (C84) – Han Wiskerke

- 09.30 – 10.15 Nourishing the city: the urban food question
- 10.30 – 11.15 Sustainable (peri-)urban food provisioning: current research (SUPURBFOOD)
- 11.30 – 12.15 Social dynamics and benefits of urban agriculture (Esther Veen – guest lecture)

Barthel, Stephan, John Parker and Henrik Ernstson (2013) Food and Green Space in Cities: A Resilience Lens on Gardens and Urban Environmental Movements, *Urban studies*

Carey, Joy (2013) Urban and Community Food Strategies. The Case of Bristol, *International Planning Studies* 18 (1): 111-128

Morgan, K.J. and R. Sonnino (2010) The Urban Foodscape: World Cities and the New Food Equation. *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*, 3: 209-224

Veen, E., P. Derkzen & J.S.C. Wiskerke (2012). Motivations, Reflexivity and Food Provisioning in Alternative Food Networks: Case Studies in Two Medium-sized Towns in the Netherlands, *International Journal of Sociology of Agriculture and Food* 19 (3): 365-382

Friday 25 April 2013 (C79) – Han Wiskerke

- 08.30 – 09.15 Reflection on literature and lectures
- 09.30 – 10.15 Video and debate

Week 34 (April 28th): Presentations of Group assignments

Monday 28 April 2014 (C81) – Han Wiskerke and Ina Horlings

- 08.30 – 10.00 Presentation of group assignments
- 10.00 – 10.15 Evaluation of the course