

# Sociology of Food Provisioning and Place-based Development

Period 5, Academic Year 2014-2015



**Language** English

**Credits** 6 ECTS

**Period** 5 2013-2014, Weeks 28 -33

**Time and venue** Monday 10.30 – 12.15 (C84)

Wednesday 09.30 – 12.15 (C84)

Friday 08.30 – 10.15 (C84)

**Exam** May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015; 8.30 – 11.30 hrs; C0071

**Re-exam** August 10<sup>th</sup> 2015; 08.30 – 11.30 hrs; 1001

**Contact person** Han Wiskerke  
[han.wiskerke@wur.nl](mailto: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.secretariaat@wur.nl](mailto: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 food provisioning and rural and territorial dynamics in urbanizing societies. It builds upon several BSc and MSc courses (see courses mentioned above under 'assumed prerequisite knowledge') of the BSc and MSc program in International Development Studies.

This course will, on the one hand, deepen and integrate themes and theoretical concepts and perspectives of these courses, and on the other hand elaborate on emerging topics and concepts such as place-based and placeless food, resilient places, food citizenship, food sovereignty, place branding and development paths, alternative food geographies, sustainable place-shaping, place branding, food citizenship, and city-region food systems. 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 food provisioning and place-based development 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 PhD research presentations, 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 question 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 A4, 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 ongoing 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 May 4<sup>th</sup> 2015 at 18.00 hrs.

Submission by e-mail to [han.wiskerke@wur.nl](mailto:han.wiskerke@wur.nl).

*The marks for the proposal and for the written exam will remain valid for 1 year.*

## The principal themes of the content

The course is based upon recently completed and ongoing research activities within two of the main research domains of the Rural Sociology Group:

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

Being based on recently completed and ongoing research projects implies that this course provides an up-to-date insight into current theoretical debates and research findings. These are mainly derived from international collaborative research programmes<sup>1</sup>, carried out by multi-disciplinary research teams in different countries inside and outside Europe. Within and linked to these programmes the Rural Sociology Group has approximately 30 ongoing PhD projects<sup>2</sup>. Some of these projects will also feature during this course.

<sup>1</sup> See <http://ruralsociologywageningen.nl/our-projects/> for an overview of research projects.

<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Social-Sciences/Rural-Sociology-Group/Research/PhD-Research.htm> for an overview of PhD projects in progress

The course is divided into four main themes:

1. *Food, place and resilience (week 1)*. In the first week of the course we will outline the theoretical and societal context and background of patterns of food provisioning and territorial development by questioning the importance (or irrelevance) of place in food provisioning practices and territorial development and if, why and how the significance of place has changed during the past decades. Key issues are *diversity* in development patterns, *dynamics* in time, *placeless and place-based* food provisioning and territorial development, and the *resilience* of places.
2. *Food, place and citizenship (weeks 2 & 3)*. In the second and third week of the course the focus will be on the role of civil society in food provisioning and place-based development. After decades of state-led development after World War II, followed by a wave of neo-liberalism that commenced in the 1980s, we are now witnessing a large variety of citizen-led food provisioning and local development initiatives. The dynamics of these initiatives will be discussed and we will critically assess to what extent these initiatives and movements embody new forms of citizenship and democracy. Key topics are *food citizenship, food democracy, food sovereignty, community development* and *do-it-yourself democracy*.
3. *Food & place identities and strategies (weeks 3 & 5)*. In the fourth and fifth week of the course we will examine the identities of food and places (and the significance of food for the identity of a place) and the strategies developed by different stakeholders (SMEs, local authorities, civil society organisations) to protect and valorise these identities. Key issues are *food quality, geographical indications* and *place branding*.
4. *Resilient city region food systems (week 6)*. In the last week of the course the focus will be on city region food systems, i.e. the ways in which urban and rural areas are linked by the ecological, social and economic aspects of food provisioning processes. This interdependence has expressed itself in an ongoing reorganization of rural spaces to serve the requirements of urban food consumption, at the expense of equitable and sustainable development – ultimately to the disbenefit of urban, as much as rural communities. Through the concept of city region food systems we will explore how the linkages between urban centres and their surrounding rural areas can be made more resilient and more effective in delivering a range of public goods. Key issues are *urban-rural linkages, city-region food systems, resilience* and *public goods*.

## Course schedule and literature

### Week 1 (March 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>): Food, place and resilience

#### **Monday 16 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

10.30 – 11.15 Introduction to the course

11.30 – 12.15 Placeless and place-based food

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

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

#### **Wednesday 18 March 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings**

09.30 – 11.15 Place and resilience

11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)

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 20 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke & Ina Horlings**

08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial

### Week 2 (March 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>): Food, Place and Citizenship (1)

#### **Monday 23 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

10.30 – 12.15 Civic food networks

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): 289-307

#### **Wednesday 25 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

09.30 – 11.15 Food sovereignty

11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)

McMichael, P. (2014). Historicizing food sovereignty. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 41 (6): 933-957.

Trauger, A. (2014). Toward a political geography of food sovereignty: transforming territory, exchange and power in the liberal sovereign state. *Journal of Peasant Studies* 41 (6): 1131-1152.

#### **Friday 27 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial

### **Week 3 (March 30<sup>th</sup> – April 3<sup>rd</sup>): Food, Place and Citizenship (2)**

#### **Monday 30 March 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings**

10.30 – 12.15 Citizenship initiatives (do-it yourself democracy)

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

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.

#### **Wednesday 1 April 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings**

09.30 – 11.15 Community development

11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)

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.

#### **Thursday 2 April: Excursion???**

#### **Friday 3 April 2015 (C84) – Good Friday (no classes)**

### **Week 4 (April 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>): Food & place: identities and strategies (1)**

#### **Monday 6 April 2015: Easter Monday (no lectures)**

#### **Wednesday 8 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

09.30 – 11.15 Food quality and territorial development

11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)

Conneely, R., & Mahon, M. (2015). Protected geographical indications: Institutional roles in food systems governance and rural development. *Geoforum* 60: 14-21.

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 10 April 2015 (C79) – Han Wiskerke**

08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial

## **Week 5 (April 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>): Food & place: identities and strategies (2)**

### **Monday 13 April 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings**

10.30 – 12.15 Place branding and endogenous development

García Dominguez, 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.

Dessein, J. (2015) Neo-endogenous regional development, co-production and territorialisation. The case of saffron cultivation in Morocco. In: Dessein, J., Battaglini E. and Horlings L. (Eds.) *Culture and Territorialisation. Theory and Practice*, Routledge Studies in Culture and Sustainable Development, Routledge Studies in Culture and Sustainable Development, London, Routledge; in press.

### **Wednesday 15 April 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings or guest lecture of Mechtilde Donner (PhD)**

09.30 – 11.15 Place based food products

11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)

Stilling Blichfeldt, B. and Henrik Halkier, H. (2013) Mussels, Tourism and Community Development: A Case Study of Place Branding Through Food Festivals in Rural North Jutland, Denmark. *European Planning Studies*, 22 (8), 1587-1603.

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 16 April 2015**

08.30 – 12.30 Excursion

### **Friday 17 April 2015**

08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial

## **Week 6 (April 20<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>): Resilient city-region food systems**

### **Monday 20 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

10.30 – 12.15 A city-region perspective on food systems

Wiskerke, J.S.C. (2015) Urban food systems, In: H. de Zeeuw & P. Drechsel (eds) *Cities, Food and Agriculture; towards resilient urban food systems*, Earthscan, London (in press)

Morgan, K. (2014). Nourishing the city: The rise of the urban food question in the Global North. *Urban Studies*, 0042098014534902.

### **Wednesday 22 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

09.30 – 11.15 Toward resilient city-region food systems

11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)

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*, pp. 1-18

Crush, J., Hovorka, A., & Tevera, D. (2011). Food security in Southern African cities: The place of urban agriculture. *Progress in Development Studies* 11 (4): 285-305.

### **Friday 24 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**

08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial