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## **Editorial**



Dear EurSafe Members,

Contact

The theme this September is Social Justice and Food: Expanding our Circles and Envisioning New Frontiers. Professor Korthals (Wageningen University), Dr Van Dommelen (University of Alaska Anchorage), and Dr Hanna Schösler (VU University) inspire us to rehabilitate our "culture of the table" so that we may truly eat more ethically and be responsive to the planet and our communities. Dr. Schösler raises a poignant question in her essay below. What are the moral costs of our increasing appetite for meat and who is bearing them? She astutely points to a moral failing that occurs when we typically consider who should count from farm-to-fork. Dr Van Dommelen offers us a fascinating look into his inspired classroom. He challenges us to think innovatively about how education and community partnerships can be employed to ignite passion among our young to care about people, places and the planet, both locally and globally. Finally, Professor Korthals invites us to consider how technology can be made more ethical so that a more equitable form of food technology can emerge. Thinking pragmatically may hold the key to better self-governance and community empowerment. A more thoroughgoing analysis of our relationship to biotechnology and food can be found in his latest offspring Genomics, Obesity and the Struggle over Responsibility (Springer, 2011).

As is customary, information about conferences, calls for papers, board statements, and notes about recent publications may be found in the pages to follow.

The next issue will be on *Food Market & Consumption Ethics*, edited by Tassos Michalopoulos (<u>ta\_michal@yahoo.com</u>). Please send all contributions by November 15, 2011.

Enjoy! Raymond Anthony, issue-editor



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## **Thematic Section**

# Social Justice and Food: Expanding our Circles and Envisioning New Frontiers

Dr Hanna Schösler, VU University, The Netherlands

# 'It's only fair to question the hunger for meat

The high consumption of animal based proteins, especially meat, has been identified as one of the most relevant topics to be addressed if Western consumers are to shift towards a more sustainable diet (Leitzmann, 2003; Pimentel & Pimentel, 2003; Reijnders & Soret, 2003; Stehfest et al., 2009; Steinfeld et al., 2006). The scale and intensity of animal production generates an increasing proportion of global environmental pressure, including climate change. It has been estimated that a global transition towards low-meat diets, which are also desirable for health reasons, may reduce the costs of climate change mitigation by as much as 50% in 2050 (Stehfest et al, 2009). Unfortunately, the large impact of the livestock sector on climate change is regularly overlooked. In this article I develop some thoughts about how this short sightedness might be relieved by appealing more strongly to people's universal moral intuitions.

Our focus is here on the choices of consumers in affluent countries, where meat consumption has been stabilizing on high levels. The Netherlands for example consume roughly 87kg (meat with bones) per capita per year and the United States consume roughly 120kg. In comparison, African countries consume on average 16kg. The main goal in the countries with high consumption levels needs to be an overall reduction of animal protein intake and the (partial) substitution with plant proteins (Aiking, 2011; Gerbens-Leenes, Nonhebel, & Krol, 2010; Smil, 2002). In the Netherlands, for example people consume roughly 70% more protein than health recommendations suggest (PBL, 2010). Therefore, also an overall shift from quantity to quality meat seems advisable, meaning the shift from a cheap mass produced product, which is still the dominant paradigm, to a more carefully produced product, based on an ecologically integrated approach.

However, due to the wide availability and overall popularity of meat that influence food patterns, affluent countries may have to undergo a profound societal transition to achieve this goal. Although the need for substitution has been advocated by some scientists and media, awareness among consumers is still lacking. When Western consumers think of the relationship between sustainability and food, what comes to their minds is the avoidance of packaging and trying to bring their re-usable shopping bags. It seems difficult for consumers to consider the environment in a useful way when buying their foods. While the European livestock sector is heavily dependent on the import of soy as feed (PBL, 2010) from countries like Brazil and Argentina, the relationship between one's daily chicken or pork and the loss of nature elsewhere, is complicated and not transparent for many consumers.

The current supermarket culture is partly to blame for this situation. It has evolved to eliminate awareness of what products are actually made of, where they come from and how they have been produced. Affluent societies afford themselves the cheap luxury of closing their eyes for the often-unappetizing reality of the meat industry, in particular. The food industry has amplified the trend towards convenience, which has increased the amount of processing that



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products undergo as well the amount of ingredients. Also, meat has undergone transformations that have made its animal origin less recognizable (De France, etc). More generally, the link between food and nature (including animals) has become much less evident and it is not surprising that consumers are not inclined to act on their moral intuitions when they buy their food in the supermarket. As these are cultural developments that are extremely difficult to change, consumers need to be motivated otherwise to make more responsible choices. As long as more systemic changes fail to appear, labeling is one of the tools to reach consumers at the moment of choice that can breach the widening gap between production and consumption. It has been argued that labels serve to connect a new ethical idea, namely consumer autonomy, with the time-old desire to elaborate a personal moral identity.

The notion of food sustainability appeals to our morality. Next to the more instrumental question if there is enough food for everyone, it tries to answer to the question if we treat nature in the right way (Bramwell, 1989). Underlying this understanding is also the ambition to abandon the dualism between nature and land used for agricultural purposes. For example, organic-dynamic farming illustrates efforts to harmonize and merge the two. Much of the Western discourse on food sustainability is currently directed at the first question regarding food security and it ignores the more difficult morally charged second question of how to treat nature. The success of labels that certify organic production, fair trade or regional produce, however, indicates, that consumers increasingly respond to an appeal to their moral inclinations with regards to food choice. A good example comes from the Netherlands: Albert Heijn, the biggest supermarket chain, recently introduced a new label called 'puur en eerlijk' ("pure and honest") that gathers all the above labels under one umbrella and makes it easier for a large group of consumers to make more responsible choices. This label in fact directly aims to appeal to some of the five universal moral intuitions that have been suggested in the literature (Haidt, 2007), such as wanting to be loyal to peers, showing respect towards authority, trying to undo unfair distributions, trying to avert harm from others and wanting to preserve purity of the body. While one should keep in mind that not every culture responds equally to these moral intuitions, it is easy to see how all of them are closely related to the consumption, sharing and distribution of food.

The first paragraph of this article discussed meat (and animal-derived protein) consumption as one of the main issues regarding food sustainability. It discussed the need for change and the partial substitution of meat in affluent Western diets. While reports such as those of the FAO (2006) have concentrated attention on the environmental problems of the worldwide growing hunger for meat, there has been relatively little attention to the consequences for vulnerable populations in developing countries. These are affected in various ways. To name just a few, smallholders and pastoralists are marginalized in the competition for scarce land, water and other natural resources and the rising demand for feed has increased the price that the general population has to pay for their food. While price increases have little effect in developed countries that spend a marginal amount of their incomes on food, it has severe impact among poorer populations that still spend the majority of their income on their food. While the US spend as little as 6% (USDA), most developing countries still spend some 50-75%.

In Western countries labelling of meat products has been focusing on animal welfare and organic production. While these topics are certainly valid and contribute to increased transparency and awareness, it might be however that we have a much more powerful



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Dr Hanna Schösler, Institute for Environmental Studies, VU University, The Netherlands hanna.schosler@ivm.vu.nl

Dr Dorn Van Dommelen, University of Alaska Anchorage, USA argument in store. While people care a lot about animals and nature, they usually care even more about other people that possibly suffer the consequences of their meat consumption. In principle, people have been found to be sensitive to averting harm from others and they want to be fair towards other people. As we saw above, the issue of fairness is becoming increasingly relevant when considering the global effects of meat consumption. Therefore, consumers in affluent countries could be sensitized to the fact that eating less meat would be fair towards people in other parts of the world, who are increasingly suffering the effects of the Western diet on natural resources. Labels can be one possible way to do this. While we certainly do not underestimate the complexity of determining when a piece of meat could be labelled as fair, tools such as the environmental footprint could illuminate at what point we start to literally eat the food off somebody else's plate. In potential efforts of government, industry or other societal actors to influence meat consumption patterns in affluent countries, it may be extremely helpful to highlight the issue of fairness. This could strengthen awareness for the fact that the consumption of meat is harmful to vulnerable populations elsewhere and that meat from local production, ideally based on farming principles that strive to close natural resource cycles, can be considered more fair.

# Choice and Change: Personal and University Lessons from the Food Movement

For most people interested in issues of food security, both in our own local communities and globally, there is a clear link, on an individual level, between the problem and the solution. My first forays into the food movement took place nearly three decades ago when I first read Francis Moore Lappe's Diet For a Small Planet. As a young, recent college graduate, I did then what many young people are doing today: I changed my food habits in an effort to feed myself better, but, more importantly, to try to make a difference in global social justice issues revolving around food and agriculture.

Since the mid 80s I have, together, with my wife and family, continued to make efforts to transform global agricultural through our food habits: We have belonged to and even founded food coops, purchased organic foods and belonged to CSAs, gardened, learned to harvest wild, local foods, and generally experimented with alternative diets that aimed to change the world. I'll admit that some of these attempts were overly idealistic and not a little bit naïve, and that my ideas about food and agriculture have shifted dramatically over thirty years. But, I think what has been most important is that we have always remained engaged in trying to make a difference through our food.

We don't, however, harbor a belief that these sorts of personal choices, alone, can make any sort of broad societal shift in producing a food system that is both good for the environment and socially fair. It is clear that agriculture is becoming increasingly dominated by large-scale corporate interests, not only in the Global North but, increasingly in the Global South, as well. In fact, the last decade has cast grave doubts in my mind about the chances for the development of an equitable system of agriculture, especially as movements, like the organic foods movement, become co-opted and small-scale



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producers (like our Amish acquaintances), have been pressured to become a part of an integrated food chain (and adopt GMO seeds, by the way) with little room to choose more traditional and sustainable forms of agriculture. As a consequence, we have become more and more interested in efforts that aim to promote food sovereignty, both domestically and abroad.

One organization that we have chosen to support is Heifer International. Most people know of Heifer International, through their holiday season "gift catalogs" that allow donors to "purchase" an animal and "give" that donation as an alternative holiday gift. Fewer people know that Heifer International, like Oxfam, Bothar, and others, are advocating for food sovereignty, both locally and globally, as they engage in agricultural development projects in the Global South, and in North America and Europe. In fact, Heifer's most recent efforts in the United States are focused on helping poor farmers in the Mississippi Delta and Appalachia through agricultural projects that help to link those farmers to local "foodsheds" so as to improve the incomes of the farmers while more sustainable and sovereign food systems are established regionally.

These sorts of efforts, it seems to me, are the most likely to produce the sorts of results I would like to see, because they seek to engender structural changes in the way that agriculture and food consumption work. Indeed, perhaps one of the most optimistic elements of these sorts of projects is that they offer the opportunity to link individual consumption choices to real, working agricultural systems. If I travel back to late 80s when our young family was in the throes of changing our food habits, one of the great barriers was, of course, that we really had very limited options as to what sorts of food we could purchase. And, even if we were able to buy organic produce or pick local blueberries to preserve — which we did — our purchases' ability to impact food systems to produce sustainability and social justice were quite limited. We were eating and purchasing our food, along with our co-op sisters and brothers, in a fairly insular manner, unlinked to an organized agricultural movement.

This tide, however, seems to be changing, both as a result of consumer and producer choices, and as efforts are being made to link these two groups together in a meaningful manner. But these changes are most likely to have lasting impacts, in my opinion, as food movements become intergenerational. If every generation needs to find their own Francis Moore Lappe (think, here, Michael Pollan) and begin the process from scratch, it is unlikely that long-term changes will take place. Luckily, I do not think that this will occur. It seems to me that a significant change has taken place in the food and agriculture discourse and that more changes are afoot.

One way that I have sought to create a culture of change to help ensure the success of these changes is through my introductory course on global issues, taught at the University of Alaska Anchorage. In this course on "world regional geography" I have embedded the themes of food security and sovereignty in much of the lecture material and linked many of the issues I address to these themes. But what has had the most powerful impact in my course has been a "service-learning" requirement that students teach others about what an organization, like Heifer International, is doing to improve food security around the world. (Students may choose several NGOs, about which they must organize a project, but most choose Heifer International because it is emphasized in my course.) This project has the effect of helping students to understand the linkage between personal choices, be that a personal food choice or



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a philanthropic choice, and the sorts of actions necessary to impact systemic changes.

Another profound impact of service-learning is that, if employed properly, it asks students to reflect on their own choices and the ethical issues inherent in their choices and their impacts on the world. Heifer International serves as an interesting organization in this respect as the organization has laid out a suite of values that they consider important in each of their projects and in their donors' impacts. These "Heifer Cornerstones", which include such values as gender equity, full participation, and "sharing and caring", provide students with an immediate set of values to consider, confront, and debate. If a student decides to teach others about this organization, she must contemplate her own values and whether or not she can support the work of such an organization. If, in fact, she can, such a project can help her to clarify her own values and to identify the sorts of organizations she wishes to support. This might, in the long-run lead to important personal changes and action, including, but not limited to volunteerism, changing consumer patterns, or even future philanthropy.

Anecdotally, I think that it does. On my campus a group of students that have passed through my course have gone on to form a Heifer International Club and to participate in the Sustainability Club. These students are now leaders in the effort that established a garden on campus and have held a number of successful education campaigns and fundraising efforts to support organizations that both promote food sovereignty and are working to eradicate hunger. Some recent graduates have even made the choice to pursue internships and/or careers in which, they believe, they can more effectively impact the issues they care about. They are making the link between individual choice and systemic change and see themselves as a part of the solution in a way that would have been inconceivable to me 26 years

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Prof Michiel Korthals, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

# Framing Micronutrient Malnutrition and its Ethical Impacts

What is the result of current strategies against micronutrient malnutrition?

Micronutrient malnutrition is a problem of lack of minerals and vitamins. It causes premature death, hampers normal bodily and mental functioning. More than two billion people suffer from this type of malnutrition. Current biofortification strategies can in the short term reduce the number of malnutritioned people but fail often in the long term because they frame the problem of micronutrient deficiency in terms of health and not in terms of both food and health. The two strategies that have been tried since the seventies, namely, supplementation (Mayer 2008) and biofortification (Clugston 2008) have had to deal with funding challenges. However, since the FAO conference in 1992, the number of people facing malnutrition has not been reduced. There are more fundamental reasons for the apparent failure to reduce not acute but structural micronutrient malnutrition. When food is medicalised, i.e., when micronutrient malnutrition is framed as a health problem, correspondingly, only health solutions are considered. This myopic view, however, ignores



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other ensuing problems which are located in the fields of physiology, agriculture, sustainability, and consumer and farmer acceptance.

On the physiological side, research shows that single solutions (supplementing or fortifying crops with one or two micronutrients) do not solve the problem of malnutrition because very often micronutrients increase or decrease each other's bioavailability. For instance, the analysis of Mast et al (2009) and (Zimmermann 2007) show that malaria patients can become more ill with iron supplementation because iron promotes malaria micro-organism. Moreover, younger and older people react differently to micronutrient supplements. For example, increasing the intake of B12 in the young can have healthy effects (a deficit of B12 can lead to neurological problems like amnesia and lameness) but in the older population, higher intake of B12 can spur the growth of cancer tumours. Evidence for the often confusing collaboration or enmity of micronutrients includes the fact that high intake of Folic Acid (PMG or B11) risks that a low or insufficient level of vitamin B 12 is masked and therefore, its deficiency cannot be detected by normal biomarkers (Cuskelly 2007).

With respect to agriculture, mostly it is not taken into account just how far the targeted areas are suitable for biofortified crops. Moreover, the strategies make targeted people dependent on buying pills, sachets or biofortified seeds, which they probably cannot do their whole life. Very poor people cannot afford to buy these treatment products. Furthermore, the programs do not start with indigenous knowledge and practices of farmers. They are formulated from a technology push position. This raises distributive justice concerns. For example, just how far the biofortified crops will push out poor farmers, and will likely be accessible only to rich or commercial farmers has not been looked into carefully (Johns 2007). Finally, environmental issues like water scarcity and land resources are not taken into account.

There are two reasons behind these concerns. Firstly, innovation trajectories to produce biofortified crops are formulated as top down pipe solutions (IAASTD 2008). This top down approach is confirmed, for instance, by the recommendation in the rather positive *Report of the First External Review of the HarvestPlus Challenge Program* (2008): 'Whilst enhancement may be brought about through breeding research, in moving to deployment there will be a need to consider the whole chain from production to consumption as there are many steps at which the quality of foods can be affected either positively of negatively (p. vii; see also Johns 2007).

Secondly, the current strategies of supplementation and biofortification define the problem of malnutrition as a health problem, and use health strategies: they target one particular problem, e.g. a iodine deficiency, propose a specific micronutrient and try to increase its presence in crops without looking for long term and wider effects like sustainability. This kind of solution is a form of a drug therapy which is like what some medical researchers are doing when a health problem is diagnosed. Here, the researchers focus on the medical problem and try to cure it.

As mentioned above, malnutrition is a multi-faceted problem: physiological, agricultural, context dependent and cultural, and all these approaches should be taken together. The overall orientation of framing malnutrition as a health problem however has several severe disadvantages that express themselves in the continuation of micronutrient malnutrition or transferring the problem. Because both strategies frame malnutrition in terms of health disentangled from food (production) they run the risk of underestimating the complexity



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of the problem of malnutrition. The issue is not an intentional or non-intentional mistake form the side of the scientists. The whole landscape of treatment of malnutrition is torn between the two large boxes that are used in classifying complex human body issues by national and international administrations: they are either health (belonging to WHO) or food problems (FAO). Mostly the health side wins, because it looks so much more urgent to care for health problems. Treatment of micronutrient malnutrition is therefore pulled toward the health pole.

### My suggestion towards a solution is this:

A strategy that frames malnutrition not just as a health problem but as a health and food problem could have more success. It should include complexity, contrary to common scientific practice that is often directed to simplicity and analyticity. I recommend a pragmatic ethical approach. The organic, pluralistic, experimental and developmental nature of this approach would allow for a more comprehensive mosaic of social and ethical values to express themselves in dilemmas that involve sustainable agriculture, biodiversity, climateneutral emissions, and cultural preferences of food and perceptions of risks. It would encourage often silenced voices like that of the poor to be part of the conversation (Keulartz et al 2004). From the beginning, any kind of interdisciplinary research should heed the root of malnutrition. When considering the link between food consumption and production, farmers' social contexts should be included, not only because farmers are 75% of the people facing malnutrition, but also because they provide urban people with food. Furthermore, all levels of research should focus on the really poor farmers. When biofortified seeds are targeted by research that only rich farmers can afford to buy, the reduction of the poverty gap fails. Moreover, many other types of proposals should be taken into account, like sanitation reforms, water supply, and sewages systems.

Finally and also, research strategies should include a platform that functions as an information source on the basis of studies of cases. Here, comparative narratives can also lead to helpful benchmarking of good practices of biofortification. The benchmark should include realistic targets of reduction of deficiencies. By continuously adapting interdisciplinary technologies and social and ethical aspects the platform can foster ethical bridges between different communities, contexts and practices and promote innovations that can decrease the 10/90 gap, the gap between the rich 10 percent that uses 90 percent of all resources.

The problem of malnutrition not only shows the important role of ethics in evaluating the direct impact of technological approaches to get rid of malnutrition, but also in making explicit the value laden definitions of key practices and concomitant concepts of health, food, hunger and malnutrition.

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## EurSafe 2012

30 May – 2 June 2012, Tübingen, Germany,

# Extended deadline: 30 september 2011

10th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe)
Tübingen, Germany,
30. May – 2. June 2012

Call for abstracts - extended deadline: 30. September 2011

## Climate Change and Sustainable Development: Ethical Perspectives on Land Use and Food Production

Climate change is one of the major framing conditions for sustainable development of agriculture and food production. This is connected to ongoing changes in and of land-use practices which are related to local, regional and global scales, often dubbed as 'glocal' situations. That characterisation also applies to the closely related land and waters use domains of forestry and fisheries.

Agricultural and food ethics and its adjacent fields need to address well known, but aggravated 'old' problems. These are, among others, desertification due to temperature increase, changing precipitation regimes, unsustainable and/or unfair land-use and water regimes, pressure on arable land due to the loss of coastal areas, soil degradation and suburban sprawl, and the strain placed on both environment and animal welfare as a consequence of a growing worldwide demand for animal products. Also the manifold socioeconomic implications on justice and fairness have to be investigated from different ethical perspectives.

At the same time, however, climate change creates specific effects: There are and will be new irreversible changes of natural and anthropogenic systems. Mitigation and adaptation measures to counter or slow down climate change have already resulted in considerable changes in agri- and silvicultural land-use. This is mainly but not only due to the significant increase in growing plants for energy supply ("biofuels"). Another perspective is the purchase or long-term tenancy of arable land or of water rights in the countries of the global south by wealthy nations and by transnational enterprises.



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In the case of animal production, specific dilemmas arise when a narrow focus on carbon efficiency favours intensive production systems which are decoupled from many traditional agricultural considerations.

These issues are only some of the many dimensions which demand reflection from an agricultural and food ethics perspective and thus examination by the community of scholars involved in EurSafe. The 10th EurSafe Congress will address the topic of climate change and sustainable development under four main perspectives: (1) food production, (2) preservation of natural resources, (3) lifestyles (4) general philosophical and historical issues of climate change, sustainable development and food ethics. There are overlaps, so sessions within the programme will examine different foci providing a stimulating and challenging array of contributions to the congress.

You will be asked to submit your abstract for a paper or a poster under one of the four main themes. The sub-themes are issues of major interest and papers should address at least one of them. However, the structure of both the conference volume and the sessions at the conference will be adjusted according to the thematic scope of papers accepted:

#### THEME 1: CLIMATE CHANGE AND FOOD PRODUCTION

This section is devoted to questions of climate adaption and mitigation measures with regard to agriculture, fisheries and the related technologies for food production. Problems such as changing land-use, agricultural water consumption, reduction of greenhouse gases, degradation/pollution and animal welfare will be addressed. These issues are of course also related to overall perspectives of sustainable development.

- 1.1 Agricultural and aquacultural production systems adapting to climate change
- 1.2 Land ownership and land grab
- 1.3 Animal farming and animal welfare
- 1.4 Intensive vs. extensive production practices
- 1.5 Role of genetically modified organisms
- 1.6 Production priorities: food vs. fibre vs. fuel

# THEME 2: CLIMATE CHANGE AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

This section focuses on how natural sources that support food production can be maintained, hence providing basic capital for sustainable development under conditions of climate change.

- 2.1 Land-use changes
- 2.2 Water rights and regimes: demands and supplies
- 2.3 Local breeds and cultural traditions in a changing world
- 2.4 Biodiversity and/or ecosystem services
- 2.5 Patenting, food/feed markets and global socio-economic perspectives
- 2.6 Sustainable transport systems related to agri-food
- 2.7 Managing change new options for sustainable development



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#### **THEME 3: CLIMATE CHANGE AND LIFE STYLES**

This section focuses on the issue of new lifestyles that are compatible, or not, with climate adaption and mitigation (also referred to as compensation) measures with regard to food. Different types of actor responsibility (individual, regional, collective, state, global) in coping with climate change could be discussed here.

- 3.1 'Glocalization' and food: the role of local actors in addressing global challenges
- 3.2 Lifestyles and institutional perspectives: regulation, law, governance
- 3.3 Lifestyle and its relation to animal welfare
- 3.4 Lifestyle and resources (e.g. mobility, "virtual" water content of products)
- 3.5. 'Ethical' or 'green' consumerism
- 3.6. Education and food ethics

# THEME 4: GENERAL PHILOSOPHICAL AND HISTORICAL ISSUES

This section focuses on more general philosophical and historical questions of climate change, sustainability, agricultural and food ethics.

- 4.1 Towards a general philosophy of agriculture and food production
- 4.2 Teaching sustainable development and ethics: concepts and practical cases
- 4.3 Values and norms in sustainable food production: links to international governance
- 4.4 Historical perspectives on colonisation, globalisation and land

Electronic submissions of abstracts for papers and posters are sought until 1st September 2011 under <a href="www.eursafe2012.eu">www.eursafe2012.eu</a>. All abstracts will be reviewed by a scientific committee and successful candidates are asked to submit the full paper (ca. 25.000 characters) or poster (text version) by 9th December 2011 in order to have the printed volume of the Congress Book with all contributions ready for the conference 2012.

Proposals for sessions with 3-4 related papers are welcomed, but all papers have to be submitted and will be reviewed also individually. A session proposal contains name and address of the proponent, a brief description of its theme, and the list of authors and papers suggested. It is due also 1st September 2011 and should be e-mailed to <a href="mailto:eursafe2012@izew.uni-tuebingen.de">eursafe2012@izew.uni-tuebingen.de</a>

Proposals for workshops with others formats (workgroups, discussion, film, etc.) during the conference should reach the Scientific Committee by 9th December 2011. The proposal should contain name and address of the person proposing the workshop, a brief description of its theme and special focus, and an outline of the format of the workshop. The ethical aspects should be made explicit. The description should be under 1000 words and sent to <a href="mailto:eursafe2012@izew.uni-tuebingen.de">eursafe2012@izew.uni-tuebingen.de</a>



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### **Timeline**

01.09.2011 Deadline for submission of abstracts

(for Papers, Posters, Sessions)

02.09.-20.10.2011 Review by Scientific Committee

21.10.2011 Decision sent to authors 09.12.2011 Submission of full paper

Deadline for suggestions of Workshops

10.02.2012 Review by Scientific Committee, if appl.

revision by authors, editing

#### Conference fees

EurSafe members310€EurSafe members340€Non-EurSafe members360€Non-EurSafe members390€Students120€Students150€

The fees include a copy of the Congress Book, tea/coffee/snacks, 2 luncheons and the conference dinner.

#### **Conference Date**

30th May (Wed evening) – 2nd June 2012 (Sat afternoon)

#### Venue

Tübingen - Theology Building of Tübingen University, Liebermeisterstr. 12-16, 72076 Tübingen, Germany

#### **Local Host**

International Centre for Ethics in the Sciences and Humanities (IZEW), Tübingen University, Wilhelmstr. 19, 72074 Tübingen, Germany

#### **Contact persons**

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# Call for Papers for a Special Issue

# **'Ethical Aspects of Large-scale Land Acquisition in Developing Countries'**

Deadline for submission: 25 September, 2011

The project 'Large-scale land acquisition and sustainable development' (<a href="www.landgrab.de">www.landgrab.de</a>) in collaboration with the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics, calls for abstracts for a special issue on 'Ethical Aspects of Large-scale Land Acquisition in Developing Countries', to be published in 2012-2013:

The phenomenon of so-called "land-grab" has lately received considerable media attention. The term encompasses public and private investment in purchase or (long-term) lease of large-scale agricultural land in Africa, East Europe, Central and South East Asia. Whether this phenomenon represents much-needed investment or a foreign "land grab" remains a matter of dispute: Opponents point out that land targeted by Large-scale land acquisition (LaSLA) is neither unused nor underutilized. Thus, they argue, LaSLA will lead to detrimental effects for local communities as well as in regard to the environment. Some authors even count nature conservation issues as one driver of 'land-grab'. On the other hand, proponents claim that - given certain conditions - LaSLA can result in capital influx, infrastructure investment, technology transfer and job creation. They therefore conceive of LaSLA as offering a possibility for a win-winsituation, allowing to simultaneously exploit so called 'underutilized' agricultural potential, thereby contributing to an essential increase in global agricultural commodity production as well as producing much needed rural development in developing countries.

Besides the obvious ethical questions regarding the acceptability of the phenomenon in the light of its consequences for the respective local population, LaSLA evokes several interesting questions for environmental ethicists:

- Are their ethical reasons to oppose the phenomenon that individuals/ corporations own/lease very large tracks of land that go beyond the direct consequences for the respective local population?
- Is agriculture really all about efficiency, that is, about producing maximum (sustainable) yields?
- If not, what kind of agriculture do we wish for, and why? And how does LaSLA fit into this picture?
- What is meant by concepts such as land sovereignty or a human right to land? Are such concepts conclusive?
- What do (our) considerations about LaSLA in developing countries imply for agriculture and land-ownership in the industrialised world?

We invite contributions addressing these as well as further questions regarding 'Ethical aspects of large-scale land acquisition in developing countries'.



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#### Deadline for abstracts

Please submit abstracts (not full papers!) of no more than 500 words by 25 September, 2011.

Acceptances will be announced by 31 October, 2011. Full papers must be available by 30 December, 2011, should contain original material and should be between 7000 and 10000 words in length.

Please send abstracts as well as any questions to <a href="mailto:lieske.voget-kleschin@uni-greifswald.de">lieske.voget-kleschin@uni-greifswald.de</a>, with an email subject line of 'Special Issue Ethical Aspects of LaSLA'.

# First Call for Abstracts: Minding Animals Conference

The 2012 Minding Animals Conference is the second in a series of conferences about scientific, ethical and social issues related to human animal interactions. The aim of the conference is to bring together academics from many disciplines with politicians and a broad variety of interest groups.

The conference offers a platform for exchange of information about research developments, debates about controversial political and ethical issues concerning the human treatment of animals, and a variety of cultural activities around human animal interactions.

The Minding Animals Conference planned for Utrecht University in the Netherlands is proud to follow up on the internationally celebrated first Minding Animals Conference (Newcastle, Australia, July 2009) and will take place in the first week of July 2012.

#### Plan your summer of 2012 in Europe!

Immediately preceding the main conference at Utrecht University, there will be a final pre-conference event, hosted by the International School of Philosophy at Leusden, near Utrecht. This conference includes keynotes, (panel) discussions, film and book presentations, art exhibitions and a social program on The Future of Animal Politics. The Utrecht conference - entitled Minding Animals. Science, Humanities, Ethics - will consist of keynotes, academic parallel sessions based on a call for abstracts, and the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series in which animal advocacy organizations and community advocates are invited to present and discuss their work among themselves and with a broader public. The conference will be supported by an active social program.

- June 26 29: 11th World Congress in Bioethics, Rotterdam, the Netherlands ("Bioethics for the future, bioethics of the future": concerning new technologies and new problems, with special attention for methodology and theory in bioethics)
- July 1 3: final pre-conference event The Future of Animal Politics at the International School of Philosophy in Leusden, near Utrecht



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 July 4 – 6: Minding Animals Conference 2012 - Minding Animals, Science, Humanities and Ethics - at Utrecht University

#### How to contribute?

- Submit an abstract for an academic presentation:
- Submit a contribution for the Protecting the Animals Seminar Series

Besides a great number of excellent keynote speakers from different disciplinary backgrounds, there will be many parallel sessions featuring presentations based on this call for papers. Abstracts, of a maximum 600 words, should contain the main question, line or argument, and (expected) conclusions. The abstracts will be reviewed with respect to quality and academic rigor.

The PASS is a forum for animal advocacy organizations and community advocates to present and discus their work and concerns among themselves and with a broader public.

To lodge an abstract or contribute to the PASS, you must complete the abstract form or PASS contribution form, to be downloaded at <a href="https://www.mindinganimals.com">www.mindinganimals.com</a> and send as an email to: <a href="mindinganimals@uu.nl">mindinganimals@uu.nl</a>. Please follow the instructions on the website!

Deadline for Abstract Submissions: 15 December 2011. You will be notified of your acceptance by 15 February 2012.

### Confirmed speakers for the conference include

Prof. John Coetzee, Prof. Marc Bekoff, Prof. Hariet Ritvo, Dr. Jill Robinson, Prof. Robert Garner, Prof. Dale Jamieson and Prof. Christine Korsgaard.

For more information, check out <a href="https://www.mindinganimals.com">www.mindinganimals.com</a>

# Food Ethics Lecture Series—Live Webcast

August 29, 2011 - March 19, 2012

The Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State—in collaboration with the Bioethics Program and several other units at University Park—invites you to join us for the Food Ethics Lectures Series 2011-12.

The series explores some of the most compelling issues in food ethics today—from the agrarian tradition to industrial farming, from the ethics of nutrigenomics to food safety and food security, from fish in pain to the fish on your plate. This course of eight distinct but interrelated lectures is—like any good meal—designed to leave the audience both satisfied and wanting more. The lectures can be viewed live on the web, and questions can be submitted in real time to the speakers. For a list of all the lectures, please go to: <a href="http://rockethics.psu.edu/bioethics/events/food1112.shtml">http://rockethics.psu.edu/bioethics/events/food1112.shtml</a>



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The first lecture is by Paul B. Thompson W. K. Kellogg Professor of Agricultural, Food and Community Ethics, Michigan State University, and will be webcast live on Monday, August 29 at 3 – 4:30pm EST: "What Makes Food Good? The Terrain of Food Ethics and the Agrarian Tradition." To view the lecture live, go to <a href="http://live.libraries.psu.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=e4b17c21e9f14437b9b1cbf8de55f9fe1d">http://live.libraries.psu.edu/mediasite/Viewer/?peid=e4b17c21e9f14437b9b1cbf8de55f9fe1d</a>

No advance registration is required.

Viewers are also encouraged to follow and engage in the conversation about food ethics on the Rock Ethics Institute's Bioethics Blog, <a href="http://rockblogs.psu.edu/bioethics/">http://rockblogs.psu.edu/bioethics/</a>, and on the Public Philosophy Network:

http://publicphilosophynetwork.ning.com/group/foodethics

If you would like to receive email reminders about our forthcoming lectures in the Food Ethics Lecture Series, please send an email to rockfoodethics@gmail.com

For more information about the Rock Ethics Institute at Penn State, please go to <a href="http://rockethics.psu.edu/">http://rockethics.psu.edu/</a>
To learn more about Penn State's Bioethics Program, and its new interdisciplinary dual-title Ph.D. in bioethics, the only program of its kind, please go to <a href="http://bioethics.psu.edu">http://bioethics.psu.edu</a>

# **Conferences 2011/2012**

September 2-4 14th ICPP: Ethics, Experience and Evidence: Integration of

Perspectives in Psychiatry Gothenburg, Sweden

http://www.phil.gu.se/sffp/sffp\_eng.html

September 4-8 6th Science Centre World Congress

Cape Town, South Africa http://www.6scwc.org/

September 5 – 15 Medical Ethics & Legal Medicine

Civitavecchia, Italy

http://www.continuingeducation.net/coursedetails.php?program\_number=886

September 6-9 Agricultural and Biotechnology International Conference

Johannisburg, South Africa http://www.abic2011.co.za

September 8-9 Climate Ethics Works-in-Progress Conference 2011

University of Alaska, Anchorage, USA <a href="http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/nsfclimateethics/">http://www.uaa.alaska.edu/nsfclimateethics/</a>

September 9-10 Emergent Critical Environments: Where Next for Ecology and the

Humanities?

London, United Kingdom

http://emergentenvironments.wordpress.com/2011/01/25/emergent-

critical-environments/



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September 12-15 International Conference on Veterinary and Animal Ethics

London, United Kingdom <a href="http://www.icvae.com">http://www.icvae.com</a>

September 12-16 3rd Symposium on Environmental Weeds & Invasive Plants (Intractable

Weeds and Plant Invaders)

Ticino, Switzerland

http://www.ewrs.org/coming\_events.asp

September 14-16 1st international Conference on Biogas Microbiology

Leipzig, Germany

http://www.ufz.de/data/biogas%20conference2011\_Flyer\_final\_updated

14363.pdf

September 16 UFSPE-Workshop "Globale Gerechtigkeit"

Zurich, Switzerland

http://www.agenda.uzh.ch/record.php?id=13576&group=26

**September 19 – 21** Global AgInvesting Europe 2011

Geneva, Switzerland

http://events.soyatech.com/conference.php?cid=24

September 22 - 23 On Human Nature. Does Ethics of the Lifesciences need Anthropology?

Herbsttagung der Europäischen Akademie zur Erforschung von Folgen wissenschaftlich-technischer Entwicklungen Bad Neuenahr-Ahrweiler

Bonn, Germany www.ea-aw.de

**September 29 – October 2** Die Selbstbestimmung des Patienten und die Medizin der Zukunft.

Perspektiven einer Medizinethik des 21. Jahrhunderts. Jahrestagung

der Akademie für Ethik in der Medizin 2011

Göttingen, Germany www.aem-online.de

October 3 - 6 Publish or Perish. Intensive Course on research and publishing in the

field of bioethics. Leuven, Belgium

http://med.kuleuven.be/Faculteit Geneeskunde/english/borders/erasmu

s-mundus-bioethics/publishing-in-bioethics

October 4 - 6 Ressourcen – Lebensqualität – Sinn. Gerechtigkeit für die Zukunft

denken

Tagung des Instituts für christliche Sozialethik Münster

Münster, Germany

http://www.uni-muenster.de/FB2/ics/

October 5 - 8 3rd Conference of the "European Philosophy of Science Association"

Athens, Greece

http://epsa11.phs.uoa.gr/

October 15-19 The IDF World Dairy Summit 2011

Parma, Italy

http://www.wds2011.com/enter.html

October 20 EPTA-Konferenz: Hope-, Hype- und Fear-Technologien – die Rolle von

Wissenschaft und Politik

Berlin, Germany

http://www.eptanetwork.org/

October 28-29 Bucharest Conference in Applied Ethics 2011

University of Bucharest, Romania

http://www.bcae.ro/



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October 31- November 2 CropWorld Global 2011

London, United Kingdom

http://www.cropworld-global.com

November 2-4 Sixth International Symposium on non-CO2 Greenhouse Gases

Amsterdam, Netherlands <a href="http://www.ncgg.info">http://www.ncgg.info</a>

November 17-18 Politik, Wissenschaft und Technik. Themenoffene Nachwuchstagung

2011

Berlin, Germany

http://www.politics-science-technology.org/

**December 14-15** Food Security 2011-08-30

London, United Kingdom

http://www.chathamhouse.org/food2011?campaign=confalerts

2012

February 27-March 2 Therapie und Person, wissenschaftliche Klausurwoche

München, Germany

www.ttn-institut.de/therapieundperson

May 7 - 11 6th World Fisheries Congress

Edinburgh, UK

http://www.6thwfc2012.com/

May 30 – June 2 EurSafe 2012

Tübingen, Germany www.eursafe2012.eu

July 1-7 Minding Animals Conference

Utrecht University, The Netherlands

www.mindinganimals.com

# **Funding: FP7 Calls**

**IDEAS** 

ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant (for the domain Social Sciences & Humanities)

Identifier: ERC-2012-StG\_20111124

Deadline: 24 November 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/ideas?callIdentifier

=ERC-2012-StG 20111124

ERC Starting Independent Researcher Grant (for the domain Life Sciences)

Identifier: ERC-2012-StG\_20111109

Deadline: 09 November 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/ideas?callIdentifier

=ERC-2012-StG\_20111109



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### Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept

Identifier: ERC-2011-PoC

Final Deadline: 08 November 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Intermediate Deadline(s): 15 June 2011

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/ideas?callIdentifier

=ERC-2011-PoC

#### **CAPACITIES**

# Integration of research entities from the EU's Convergence and Outermost regions in the ERA and enhancement of their innovation potential

Theme(s): Research Potential Identifier: FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1

Deadline: 03 January 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIde

ntifier=FP7-REGPOT-2012-2013-1

# Transnational cooperation between regional research-driven clusters

Theme(s): Regions of Knowledge Identifier: FP7-REGIONS-2012-2013-1

Deadline: 31 January 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIde

ntifier=FP7-REGIONS-2012-2013-1

# Bilateral coordination for the enhancement and development of S&T

Theme(s): Activities of International Cooperation

Identifier: FP7-INCO-2012-2

Deadline: 15 November 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIde

ntifier=FP7-INCO-2012-2

#### FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2012

Theme(s): Science in Society

Identifier: FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2012-1

Deadline: 22 February 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/capacities?callIde

ntifier=FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2012-1

## **PEOPLE**

### MARIE CURIE CAREER INTEGRATION GRANTS (CIG)

Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2011-CIG

Final Deadline: 06 September 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Intermediate Deadline(s): 08 March 2011

 $\underline{\text{http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifi}}$ 

er=FP7-PEOPLE-2011-CIG



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#### Marie Curie Initial Training Networks 2012 (ITN)

Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2012-ITN

Deadline: 12 January 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifi

er=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-ITN

# Marie Curie International Research Staff Exchange Scheme (IRSES)

Identifier: FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IRSES

Deadline: 18 January 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/people?callIdentifi

er=FP7-PEOPLE-2012-IRSES

#### **COOPERATION**

#### **ERA-NET Call 2012**

Theme(s): Socio-economic sciences and Humanities; Transport (including Aeronautics); General Activities; Energy; Health; Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies - NMP; Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and

Biotechnology

Identifier: FP7-ERANET-2012-RTD

Deadline: 28 February 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Additional information: A Pre-Proposal Check (PPC) service is available

and will remain open until 27 January 2012.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-ERANET-2012-RTD

## **ENVIRONMENT 2012: ONE-STAGE**

Theme(s): Environment (including Climate Change)

Identifier: FP7-ENV-2012-one-stage

Deadline: 20 October 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-ENV-2012-one-stage

#### **ENVIRONMENT 2012: TWO-STAGE**

Theme(s): Environment (including Climate Change)

Identifier: FP7-ENV-2012-two-stage

Deadline: 20 October 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time). 15 February 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time) - 2nd deadline (for 2-

stage procedure)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-ENV-2012-two-stage

### Energy Call - Part 1

Theme(s): Energy. Collaborative Projects that follow a two-stage

procedure.

Identifier: FP7-ENERGY-2012-1-2STAGE

Deadline: 25 October 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time). 03 April 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time) - 2nd deadline (for 2-stage

procedure)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callIdentifier=FP7-ENERGY-2012-1-2STAGE



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### Energy Call - Part 1

Theme(s): Energy. Coordination and Support Actions that follow one-

stage procedure.

Identifier: FP7-ENERGY-2012-1-1STAGE

Deadline: 25 October 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-ENERGY-2012-1-1STAGE

#### **KBBE 2012**

Theme(s): Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and Biotechnology

Identifier: FP7-KBBE-2012-6-singlestage

Deadline: 15 November 2011 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-KBBE-2012-6-singlestage

#### **ERA-NET Call 2012**

Theme(s): Socio-economic sciences and Humanities; Transport (including Aeronautics); General Activities; Energy; Health; Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies - NMP; Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, and

Biotechnology

Identifier: FP7-ERANET-2012-RTD

Deadline: 28 February 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

Additional information: A Pre-Proposal Check (PPC) service is available

and will remain open until 27 January 2012.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-ERANET-2012-RTD

# FP7-SSH-2012 - Collaborative projects (Large scale integrated research projects)

Theme(s): Socio-economic sciences and Humanities

Identifier: FP7-SSH-2012-1

Deadline: 02 February 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-SSH-2012-1

# FP7-SSH-2012 - Collaborative Projects (Small or medium-scale focused research projects) as well as Coordination and Support Actions

Theme(s): Socio-economic sciences and Humanities

Identifier: FP7-SSH-2012-2

Deadline: 02 February 2012 at 17:00:00 (Brussels local time)

http://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/portal/page/cooperation?callId

entifier=FP7-SSH-2012-2



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## **Editors and themes next issues**

**December 2011** Tassos Michalopoulos: "Food Market & Consumption Ethics"

March 2012 Kate Millar: "Ethical decision-making tools"

Deadline for the next issue: November 15, 2011

You are kindly invited to send any relevant contributions, conference calls, publication reviews, etc. to the editors.