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## Editorial



Dear EurSafe members,

I'm proud to present to you this year's second edition of EurSafe News. It is great to see so many of you at the 12<sup>th</sup> EurSafe conference in the beautiful city of Cluj, Romania. At the same time I write to you with a heavy heart, as we have just learned that a valued member of the local organising team at Cluj, Alexandru Simu, was lost in a tragic accident. In an obituary at the end of this newsletter his friend and colleague, Diana Dumitras, reflects on his life and work. It is clear that Alexandru will be greatly missed and the editorial board wishes his relatives, friends, and colleagues a lot of strength in dealing with their loss.

In this, especially for this conference, paper version of EurSafe News we stick with the conference theme: Know Your Food. We have three contributions and a book review especially dedicated to the topic of food ethics. In the first, Professor Li Jianjun sheds light on the development of food ethics in China. While moral reflection on food and agriculture used to be an integral part of Chinese culture, it has been abandoned by many Chinese in their pursuit for modernization. The numbers are staggering: the Chinese have created an agricultural miracle which successfully fed 20% of the world population with 7% of the world's cropland and water resources. This development has, of course, had significant impacts on the Chinese environment, and many are now calling for more sustainable practices. Moreover, Li describes various food safety incidents that have led to public outcries. In order to put food ethics on the map in China, together with Ren Jizhou, Li has initiated the Chinese Society for Agricultural and Environmental Ethics (CSAEE). We wish this Chinese sister

organisation all the best in their important work of guiding the Chinese to understand the significance of food issues through their research and education activities.

In the second contribution, Michiel Korthals takes us on a personal journey through the field of food ethics. How did this field start thirty years ago, where are we at now, and what can we expect for the future? While the field of agricultural and food ethics has now reached maturity and many influential scholars are committed to it, Korthals also notes some drawbacks. He discerns a lack of integration and cooperation between agricultural and food ethics and governmental departments of agriculture and food, with policy makers only willing to give attention to food ethics after public outcries. Also, food ethics is still not on the radar of academic philosophy and cooperation with economics, sociology, and communication sciences on agriculture and food is laborious. Korthals finishes with a note of criticism regarding the mandate and terms of the Board; no doubt this will be an impetus for the debate in the General Assembly at the end of the conference. In order to kick-start this debate I have invited EurSafe President Matthias Kaiser to give a brief response.

In the third contribution, Mark Stein focuses on public procurement of organic food by highlighting three recent reports from Sweden and Denmark. Many achievements have been made regarding the purchase of organic food at no extra cost, the public demand for organic food, and the education of Swedish and Danish schoolchildren about the benefits of healthy and organic food. Also connecting to the conference theme is the contribution by Kate Millar, who calls for the creation of a cross-disciplinary network about teaching animal and agrifood ethics to preprofessionals, such as veterinary students. She points out that even though many EurSafe members spend a significant amount of their working time to teaching ethics, not much attention has been paid to teaching methodologies and pedagogy in this field at EurSafe conferences. Hopefully, the workshop that will be held on Friday morning at the Cluj conference will provide stimulating food for thought and kickstart such a teaching network.

In his book review of David Kaplan's 'The Philosophy of Food' Raymond Anthony tempts us to sample many different courses of food ethics. The main impression that is left on the reader after his raving book review is that food ethics is an incredibly rich, complex, and multi-faceted field that touches upon practically every aspect of our existence. After Kate Millar's message from the Board, in this newsletter we also introduce two new candidates for the EurSafe Board: Herwig Grimm and Diana Dumitras. In the unlikely event that you don't know them yet, make sure to check them out; you can vote for them during the General Assembly.

I wish you all an interesting conference and a lovely stay in Cluj!

Bernice Bovenkerk, editor-in-chief

## Paper



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## Growing Ethical Concern over Food Issues in Contemporary China

Food is a very important part of Chinese culture with a long and rich agricultural civilization. Many ancient Chinese thinkers, such as Confucius (551-479 B.C) and Mencius (372-289 B.C), paid a great deal of attention to food and described it as one of the basic requirements for governing a state and morality development, along with trust. In their view, the gentlemen should “practice thrift and love the people”, dedicating themselves to the public good. But the importance of food can not override the dignity and virtues of an individual, especially for the gentlemen. So they criticized rulers that disregarded the basic needs of common people for good food in order to satisfy their own desires, and believed that only if people were fed it would be possible to establish a harmonious society.

Of course, they also attached great importance to dietetic hygiene. For example, Confucius insisted that food should not be eaten if it was rotten, if it had not been cooked through, if its color had changed, etc. In general, there are many worthwhile ideas or pieces of wisdom about food security and food safety in classical Chinese literature. Perhaps these could provide significant inspiration for us to discuss food ethics and deal with the food safety crisis. It is a pity that this precious spiritual heritage had been abandoned by modern Chinese in pursuit of modernization and economic miracles. Thus, many people are quite shocked by an unharmonious landscape and food safety incidents when turning to food issues contemporary China.

Firstly, in order to produce enough crops and animal products such as meat, eggs and milk, or “to take good control of its own bowl”, the Chinese government does its best to encourage farmers and agricultural companies to apply all possible technologies and methods which have improved agricultural productivity in recent decades. Undoubtedly, the Chinese have created an agricultural miracle which successfully fed 20% of the world population with 7% of the world’s cropland and water resources. But Chinese agricultural sustainable development is faced with an unprecedented large challenge after a successive increase in eleven years, as a number of croplands and water resources were polluted because of overuse of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. This means that the pursuit of high outputs of crops has already imposed heavy pollution and great constraints on Chinese agricultural development, leading to increasing public attention.

Secondly, the outbreak of a series of vicious poisoned food incidents has hit China over the last decade. These did not only cause serious damage to public health and the social ethos, but also caused national panics and delivered a destructive shock to Chinese agriculture and food industry. For example, the 2008 case of the tainted baby formula by Sanlu Group, a leading joint venture giant in the Chinese dairy industry. To artificially increase the amount of protein in inferior milk that was either diluted with water or spoiled, melamine, a chemical used to make plastic and to tan leather, was added, and the contaminated milk was then used to produce baby formula, ice cream bars, and other products. The tainted Sanlu milk powder caused six deaths, 51900 hospitalizations of children with serious kidney problems, and 24900 cases of children suffering from other problems (Zenobia C.Y.Chan and Wing-Fu Lai, 2009). Shocked by this tragic incident of food safety, the former premier Wen Jiabao lamented in a recent public address, “Many factories and milk dealers are lacking the most fundamental business morals and social

responsibility. They are just cold-blooded” (Chen, 2008). He emphasized that the blood of morality should flow in the bodies of all entrepreneurs.

Thirdly, although the Chinese government had revised the Food Hygiene Law and enacted the Food Safety Law since 2008, and imposed severe penalties for food safety crimes, all kinds of food safety incidents still keep occurring. In 2014, according to the Chinese food watchdog agency a Shanghai meat company, the Shanghai Hushi Co, a division of the Auora, Illinois-based OSI Group LLC, allegedly repackaged and sold expired beef and chicken to McDonald's, KFC and other restaurants in China in an organized fashion. It is worth noting that some of the company's illegal behavior was not the behavior of individuals, but rather an organized arrangement by the company. This food safety scandal highlighted some companies' illegal and immoral behavior at the pursuit of profits and at the cost of disastrous damage to public health and social solidarity.

Furthermore, increasing luxury consumption of wild animals has brought many events of poaching and illegal trading. According to a 1999 survey of 20,000 people by the State Forestry Administration and China Wildlife Conservation Association, nearly half of 1381 restaurants across the country had wild animal meat on the menu, and 46 percent of respondents said they had eaten game. In November 2012, footage from CCTV showed monkeys being killed illegally on mountains and sold at farmers markets, or gruesomely slaughtered and served in several restaurants in hilly Zixi county, Jiangxi province (Jin Zhu, 2012). China has abundant wildlife, and more than 10 percent of the world's wild vertebrate species are found in China, but some local people still maintain the traditional custom of eating exotic wildlife as a delicacy, which has not only resulted in sharp rates of extinction and the decline of wild animal populations, but has of course also aroused radical debates because of its illegal and brutal character.

Reflecting on these vicious food incidents and illegal food behavior, more and more Chinese begin to get into action and take account of agriculture and food ethics. Here we list several landmark events to show the subtle psychological change regarding food issues in contemporary China. In my opinion, these indicate a growing ethical concern over food issues recently in China.

In 2012, Wu Heng, a grad student in Fudan University had been shocked and disgusted by a series of food scandals such as fake beef and created a platform- 'Throw It Out the Window,' a homegrown resource that tries to alert the Chinese public to the many dangers lurking in the supermarket and on the restaurant table. Importantly, he warned with the help of an informative food scandal database, that if producers poison food by illegally adding or overusing chemicals, every Chinese person could be the victim of unsafe food (Zhao Bing and Li Jianjun, 2015). This demonstrated the moral significance attached to food production and cried for social responsibility of every food producer.

In 2014, animal rights activists used the infamous Yulin Dog Meat Festival in Guangxi province of south-west China, to protest against the cruel conduct of animal abuse. More and more Chinese criticize all kind of unnecessary food waste and expose the bad behavior of eating wild animals and cat- and dog meat. It is gratifying that the Chinese government has carried out anti-corruption measures and advocated the frugality decree, which also awakened public concern about extravagance and food waste, as early as two years ago. All this shows that a new ethical culture of food is growing in China.

In February of 2015, together with Ren Jizhou, a seed scientist and academic of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, I initiated the Chinese Society for Agricultural and Environmental Ethics (CSAEE). We wish to investigate and ethically reflect on the Chinese agricultural

development situation, and to conceive of new agricultural and food ethics by organizing an interdisciplinary team and rethinking ecological wisdom in the Chinese traditional agriculture practice. Of course, we hope to guide the Chinese to understand the significance of food issues through our research and education activities.

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## Paper



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## The coming of age of young Food Ethics: A personal perspective.

### *Where are we now?*

Food ethics has reached in this decade a kind of adult life with curriculums, conferences, journals, cherished concepts and approaches. We have now the twelfth Eursafe meeting in Romania, the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics publishes all kind of food ethical contributions, the Springer Encyclopedia of Food and Agricultural Ethics, edited by Thompson and Kaplan presents a momentous, weighty and significant reference, The Oxford Handbook of Food, Politics and Society edited by Herring plays its role in interdisciplinary networks, just like the forthcoming Routledge Handbook of Food Ethics edited by Mary Rawlinson. Certainly, many introductory book on bioethics leave out food ethics and pay attention only to the medical branch of bioethics. But the last years this is changing, as for example in Ruth Chadwick's edited volumes.

So it's time for some looking back and forward. Basically, Agricultural and Food Ethics started more than three decades ago with growing substantial and procedural concerns of consumers about the agricultural and food sector. Social scientists and philosophers in Europe and elsewhere embraced these concerns and realized that citizen-consumers are more than using their purse, and feel responsible for what goes on in this sector. The enormous increase of these concerned consumers in the last two decades together with many involved in the sector, like farmers and entrepreneurs, presents a large stream of innovative social movements, working for a change towards a more animal, nature, farmers and consumer friendly sector. As someone who joined this movement approximately thirty years ago, I felt never alone in my sometimes idealistic sometimes modest philosophical endeavors to contribute to this change. In 1996 and

1997 Jan Vorstenbosch of Utrecht University, an editor from Kluwer (now Springer) and I, coming from the science and society movement were regularly discussing in Utrecht, the Netherlands, how we should shape the start of a European Agricultural and Food Ethics Association which could be modelled after the Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society in the US. Kluwer/Springer was interested because it saw prospects for its journal JAEGE.

After a while Frans Brom joined us in replacing Jan Vorstenbosch and he took the lead. So we planned the first inaugural congress in Wageningen, to be organized by my chair group at Wageningen University. Names like Sandøe, Mephram, Abbo de Wit, Weijler circulated. We agreed that there would be a conference in September 1998 in Wageningen. I then asked Volkert Beekman and Jan Schakel to organize the conference, which was delayed till March 1999. I was happy that Wageningen President Cees Veerman stepped in because at that time I myself was busy playing director of the Social Sciences Group.

During the discussions of the Utrecht/Wageningen group we placed food ethics on the interface of various dimensions: the biological and agricultural dimensions; the social sciences dimensions; the agribusiness and retail dimensions; the farmer dimensions; consumers and their organizational dimensions, the government and its various agencies. In all those dimensions we aimed for fruitful relations. Cooperation with biologists, economists, sociologists, veterinarians and agronomists was our aim. As a matter of fact, individual, collective and global aspects played a role; we were conscious of the fact that what is on our plate comes from all over the world, in a good or bad way; anyhow, in a way that elicits ethical reflection. We made the comparison with Medical Ethics and the way ethics had established itself firmly in medical interactions: Medical professionals with direct contact with the users (patients) could not but pay attention to ethical problems. In medicine, as well as in agriculture, professionals were confronted with new deepseated problems compared to daily life ethics: prolonging life, abortion, euthanasia, prenatal screening. However, as became clear, the agricultural and food sector was also at a distance of its end-users and their values, a big difference with medical ethics. New technologies were developed since the beginning of the nineties like Genetic Modification, use of pesticides, bio-pestmanagement and treatment of animals were already put high on the agenda. These issues stretched common sense and common morality, and issues of agriculture and food production became continuous subject matter often haunting the public realm at least, and were no longer an issue of only specialists and professionals.

So March 6 1999 the first EURSAFE conference was held in Wageningen and the rest of the history of EURSAFE is well-known (1). Now, after 16 years, professionals in the field have developed a full blown body of knowledge and established networks all over the world. Fruitful concepts like Informed Food Choice, Food sovereignty, Animal Integrity, Food Justice and Food Democracy have developed; a host of interesting case studies have been published and theoretical debates about 'principalist' approaches like that of the Ethical Matrix, virtue ethical and pragmatist approaches are now common.

However, I perceive several drawbacks. Firstly, integration and cooperation of agricultural and food ethics in agricultural and food departments did not happen. From the beginning the relationship between these groups was tense, mostly because for many ethicists it is impossible whilst doing their work not to criticize the current way of food production. As a matter of fact, food ethicists often cannot refrain

from taking sides in debates but often they do more, accuse others of not thinking like them and label their opponents' behavior as a sign of 'cognitive dissonance' or of false ideological consciousness. Another factor was the decline of resources for agriculture in the nineties. Last but not least the fact that many agricultural scientists are so convinced of their normative stance in, for example, getting rid of hunger that this makes them less open for ethical reflection, which is often seen as only delaying their beneficial work. Secondly, food ethics' connections or cooperations are still laborious with the already firmly established research and teachings of economics, sociology, and communication sciences on agriculture and food. Thirdly, policymakers are only willing to give attention to food ethics when compelled by public outcries. So, the very heterogeneous audience, and very different groups along the chain of food ethics make our work not a normal academic affair. My personal experience is that social movements are eager to hear about academic ethical argumentations, although they do not or mostly do not agree, which makes the dialogue worthwhile. In talking with and learning from social movements like Slow Food, the urban agriculture movements, Friends of the Earth, and others, I got a lot of new insights. A fourth, and last, drawback is the lack of interest from the academic philosophy sector, although we have a lot to contribute to current debates about for instance free will versus determinism, responsibility, public and private affairs, mind body problem, and soft and hard technology.

#### *The future*

Despite these drawbacks, I am still optimistic about the future, mainly because the number of scholars in the field of food ethics is still growing, the new connections are promising (for instance with design and arts) and our skills and knowledge are again and again challenged by burning agricultural and food issues. I have one concern, and that is the organization of EURSAFE, which is in my view rather paternalistic. When a professional organization has year in year out the same board members, when we have a chair for years and years, we are more like Blatter's FIFA than a stimulating force for new and young members to engage in this field. It is now time, because food philosophy and food ethics have been coming of age, to reorganize the society on an adult basis, and to give every talent in the association the opportunity to play some role in the association. In my view it is quite bizarre that we have a president for six or even more years and that members of the board of Eursafe have for twelve years their seat. I therefore recommend that members of the board step back and take their responsibility in giving their seat to a new member and at least to one PhD-student. Secondly, I propose that we rotate much more regularly and the president does not stay longer president than one year, with a president-elect to come directly behind him or her. The rules of our American sister organization AFHVS can give an example of how to reorganize an adult professional organization. Finally, the society should temporarily appoint a non-board member to probe for new publication possibilities, such as a new journal.

<sup>1</sup> [Jeffrey Burkhardt](#), [Paul B. Thompson](#), [Tarla Rae Peterson](#), 2000, The first European congress on agricultural and food ethics and follow-up workshop on ethics and food biotechnology: A US perspective, [Agriculture and Human Values](#), December 2000, Volume 17, [Issue 4](#), pp 327-332

## Response by EurSafe President, Professor Matthias Kaiser

The EurSafe Board gratefully acknowledges the comments from emiritus Professor Korthals and hope it can stimulate debate and activities among its members. However, we note that Professor Korthals in all his active years as an academic and member of EurSafe has never used his right to suggest either new members or new presidents to the Board. This is a right accorded to all our members and is prescribed and promoted before each Congress as a procedure in the charter of EurSafe. Other members have also not used this right. We are keen to encourage and support higher levels of engagement in the Society at all levels. As a result of direct contact from the Board, younger members of EurSafe have indicated the lack of necessary funding to regularly engage with EurSafe on organizational issues or even through regular conference attendance. We strongly support the influx of new members into the organizational activities of EurSafe, however we also see the need of continuity in the activities of the Society. We point to the founding of our sister-organization, the Asian-Pacific Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (APSafe) as one activity which required long-term strategies. In terms of the last comment on a journal, we can preliminarily inform our members and Professor Korthals that Springer Publishing Company will be publishing a new journal with the title "Food Ethics - A Journal of the Societies for Agricultural and Food Ethics". The work to found and deliver this journal has been taken on by us as individual academics supported by our Universities and the journal will be jointly co-edited by Matthias Kaiser and Anne Algers. The first issue is planned for January 2016. More information on this journal will be announced and discussed at the EurSafe Congress in Cluj, 28-30 May 2015.

## Paper



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## Organic Food in Public Catering – new reports from Sweden and Denmark

Three recent reports highlight achievements in promoting organic food in public catering.

### *Sweden: Diet for a clean Baltic in practice*

This new report produced by the BERAS URBACT sustainable food project gives a very clear and detailed description of how the Swedish municipality of Södertälje has almost reached its goal of 50% organic food in the public canteens without extra money going into the school food budget. This is an excellent exposition of best practice. It shows how the extra cost of organic food becomes affordable through savings made in a variety of ways. These include minimising the use of ready-made products, employing trained staff who can achieve more and make savings – for example by planning the cooking to include reusing leftovers. Full kitchen facilities are developed at all units – it has been found that this approach brings significant savings rather than try to make all meals in centralised kitchens Pupils are made aware of the weight and value of food wasted every day and rewards given if food waste is below a certain level. Meat usage is reduced, with extra vegetables or pulses added to meat dishes. Seasonal ingredients are cheaper (Grantstedt & Hertwig).

### *Sweden: KRAV Market Report 2014*

KRAV is the umbrella organisation for organic food in Sweden. Its 2014 Market Report declares that “When school kitchen after school kitchen was able to purchase organic food within their normal budget, the debate on expensive organic food disappeared” (KRAV, 2014, p.4).

The report has a table showing Swedish municipalities which have reported the highest proportion of organic food purchased. Twenty two municipalities purchase over 30 per cent organic. Three purchase over 40 per cent (KRAV, 2014, p.30).

The report adds that there is

a large and growing interest from the public sector in increasing its organic purchases. Many municipalities, county councils and regions have increased their levels of ambition. Two good examples are Malmö’s goal of 100% organic food by 2020 and Uppsala’s by 2023. The future looks bright. The new procurement directives that the EU adopted in January 2014 will speed up the development. It will now be easier for contracting authorities to make demands regarding social conditions and environmental impacts. As well, a growing number of public catering kitchens are choosing to KRAV-certify, which facilitates communication about organic food initiatives (KRAV, 2014, p.31).

The report gives further examples of increasing organic usage at three municipalities: Ekilstuna, Vellinge and Västmanland:

We see how the staff are involved and strengthened in their professional roles when there is a focus on food quality. The entire meal gets a lift. KRAV’s three levels of certification make it possible for all our kitchens to take part. There are also a lot of ways to let the employees themselves take initiative to reach higher levels. Employees enjoy their work more and it makes us an attractive employer. The food from our kitchens is of higher quality and the environmental impact is reduced (Ekilstuna Municipal Commissioner quoted in KRAV, 2014, p. 31).

### **Organic action plan for Denmark – Working together for more organics**

This is a new policy document published by the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries in January 2015. Dan Jørgensen Minister for Food, Agriculture and Fisheries declares that

cooperation between farsighted farmers, organisations and politicians ...has turned Denmark into the world’s leading country for organics. We will continue to strive for this ambitious goal. ...With a new Organic Action Plan for Denmark, the Danish government will further develop and enlarge the organic production. Our aim is to double the organically cultivated area by 2020 from the 2007 level. The government wants the public sector to lead the way. Therefore, we speed up the transition from conventional to organic production on publicly owned land and we continue our efforts to support public kitchens to go organic. As a result more than 800,000 people will benefit from healthy, organic meals served every day in canteens, hospitals and

nurseries. Furthermore, we strengthen the knowledge of organic food and organic production in primary schools and in agricultural education.

Consumers' demand for organic food is higher than ever before. Today ...eight percent of all food sold in Denmark is organic. This is the highest percentage in the world and the share is rising. Danish organic export has also risen by more than 200 per cent since 2007. This holds great potential for the future. We will now unite our efforts to further develop organic production and consumption for the benefit of the environment, our nature, animal welfare and future generations (MAFF, 20115, p.3).

In pursuit of these objectives the government has made the following spending allocations for the years 2015-2018:

- € 4,5 million to support a variety of export activities for the Danish organic business
- more than € 3.3 million for sales promotion on the domestic market
- almost € 8 million to support public kitchens to significantly increase their use of organic raw materials

The government offers advice to public institutions wishing to change their kitchens to organic. In 2015-2016 the government allocated almost € 3 million to pay for this advice service. This objective will further be pursued through the 'Smart Food Purchases' project. The Partnership for Public Green Purchasing (POGI) will set new targets for the purchase of organic foods by local and regional administrations.

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## Paper



Dr.Kate Millar  
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## Teaching Animal and Agri-Food Ethics: Creating a cross-disciplinary space to encourage 'sharing and learning'

Members of EurSafe come to the conferences to talk passionately about their research in the fields of agriculture, food and animal ethics. This is of course what makes each conference such a stimulating and informative event. Researchers submit abstracts and present their most recent work and get much appreciated and valuable academic criticism and support from their peers. However, many of us within EurSafe have several duties as part of our

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professional roles; as well as researchers, we are also teachers spending many hours of our working lives developing and delivering undergraduate and postgraduate courses.

Considering the amount of time and passion devoted to teaching, and our experience of working with committed and bright students, it is notable that there are very few formal presentations (papers, posters or workshops) on teaching principles and approaches at the Society's Congresses. With that said some teaching papers are presented and each year one or two can be found in the programme and these are well received and usually well attended. So this raises a few questions in my mind; as EurSafe members:

- Are we only interested in presenting and listening to research papers about topics other than teaching at EurSafe Congresses?
- Do we present on our teaching practice and discuss the pedagogical principles that guide us at other conferences?
- What ethics teaching networks are available and how often do they have meetings?
- Are there any drivers to develop ethics teaching principles and practice in the fields of agriculture, food and animal ethics?

The questions above in some sense build on specific reflections about EurSafe and broader questions about agriculture, food and animal ethics teaching activities and opportunities. Considering this, it is possibly more informative to discuss these questions but in reverse order and therefore turning to the first question, what are the drivers to develop ethics teaching principles and practice in our subject area?

There appears to be increasing recognition that high quality teaching in ethics is needed to support the training of many professionals that work in animal, agriculture and food sectors. This is matched by a call to embed core ethics training in undergraduate degree courses relevant to the related-professions. For example in the UK, Universities recently signed up to a Research Integrity Concordat (1) that embedded a core training element related to ethics and personal integrity. In addition, several professional bodies (such as Veterinary Surgeon Professional Bodies or Colleges) now require a number of professional competencies in ethics, such as the ability to 'conduct an ethical analysis'. In response to this, ethics teaching is now offered by European Universities and Continued Professional Development Courses (CPD) are offered for a number of professions (veterinarians, food scientists, etc). The calls for services and innovation in the field of applied ethics appear to be growing.

So if the need for ethics teaching is convincing then the next question is what ethics teaching networks are available and when and where do they meet? The answer to this question is somewhat anecdotal but a number of EurSafe members have indicated that there are few opportunities to specifically discuss agriculture, food and animal ethics teaching. There also appears to be a limited literature in this area beyond some notable publications. In the UK there have been a number of disparate events that have been linked to the Higher Education (HE) Academy (a UK HE support body) focusing on teaching pedagogy more generally and within specific professional bodies (such as the AWSELVA) (2). Internationally when considering specialised teaching areas such as veterinary and animal ethics, 'spaces' to discuss teaching approaches also appear to be few and far between. Recognising this gap, in March 2015 I was invited by the Dean of the School of Veterinary Medicine, University College Dublin

(UCD) to be part of a conference session at Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges (AAVMC) Annual Conference held in Washington, presenting on approaches to animal and veterinary ethics teaching at the University of Nottingham (a presentation co-authored with colleague Pru Hobson-West). As speakers, which also included Alison Hanlon and Manuel Sant'Ana (UCD) and Bernie Rollin (Colorado State University), we discussed approaches to veterinary ethics teaching and reflected on the lack of opportunities to share experiences, methods and notions of good practice. Although this discussion was focusing on the USA, comments on a lack of a 'meeting point' for ethics teachers echoed recent conversations in Europe.

Moving from this wider point about a lack of a 'meeting point' to the last two questions about EurSafe, there have been some presentations on teaching practice and pedagogical principles at EurSafe. From a personal perspective, as a PhD co-supervisor of Manuel Magalhães Sant'Ana's PhD on veterinary ethics teaching (completed 2014), some of this work has previously been presented to EurSafe audiences (see Sant'Ana et al, 2014). Part of this work focused on identifying key objectives within veterinary ethics teaching through empirical work. What might be interesting for our community was the set of ten objectives that were identified by the university veterinary teachers interviewed, specifically:

1. Recognize prominent ethical issues in veterinary practice
2. Recognize the values and viewpoints of others
3. Identify veterinary norms, particularly codes of conduct
4. Recall laws and regulations, particularly animal-welfare regulations
5. Develop ethical reasoning and the ability to reflect upon ethical issues
6. Develop value-aware communication skills at the client and societal levels
7. Develop informed decision-making skills (acknowledging how actions and opinions relate to ethical values)
8. Develop a personal identity (recognize own ethical viewpoints)
9. Develop a professional identity (role as an advocate for the welfare of animals)
10. Contribute to professional identity (recognize the societal role of the veterinary profession)

I do not know of any similar work within similar fields, such as food ethics, but there is undoubtedly reflection on teaching objectives within our community and so it would be excellent to listen to EurSafe members present and discuss these underpinning objectives. This type of exchange could inform good practice and further aid teaching development. However there is not a formal space for this type of exchange within EurSafe at present, yet there appears to be a need and desire for the ethicists, scientists / practitioners and social scientists attending EurSafe to come together to discuss (i) teaching objectives, (ii) approaches used in teaching, and (iii) how this subject is embedded within large programmes.

So as set out above, if there is a need, if current opportunities are limited and if EurSafe is able to create a space, the final question is what next? Initial discussions at the EurSafe Conference in 2014 in Uppsala were supportive of a new interdisciplinary teaching network. So a session has been arranged at the Cluj Conference on Friday morning (29 May 2015) to discuss the themes and topics that could be the focus for work within a new Ethics Teaching Network for our

sector. I am hopeful that this could be a valued opportunity for members and that a number of you will participate and support the development of a EurSafe Ethics Teaching Network. Please contact me if you have any suggestions or comments.

(1) The Concordat to Support Research Integrity:

(<http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/highereducation/Pages/Theconcordat Tosupportresearchintegrity.aspx>)

(2) Animal Welfare Science Ethics and Law Veterinary Association (AWSELVA); <http://www.awselva.org.uk/>

*As well as the paper referenced, this article draws from discussions and collaborative work with Liz Mossop (School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham) and Pru Hobson-West (Centre for Applied Bioethics).*

## References

Sant'Ana, M., Larson, J., Millar K., Sandoe, P and A. Olsson. (2014) Examining why ethics is taught to veterinary students: a qualitative study of veterinary educators' perspectives. *Journal of Veterinary Medical Education*. 41(4):350-7

## Book review:



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## Philosophy of Food

**David M. Kaplan (Ed.) 2012. *The Philosophy of Food*. University of California Press: Berkeley and Los Angeles: CA. ISBN: 9780520269347**

David Kaplan's *The Philosophy of Food* is a smorgasbord of delectable delights. The editor has assembled sixteen scrumptious chapters written by some of the world's leading scholars of food. Kaplan begins the text by challenging readers to consider the 'polypotency' of food and its integral nature to our lives. Kaplan invites readers to ruminate over the nature of *eating well* from philosophical, epistemological, aesthetic, historical, political, practical and ethical aspects. Many of the other chapters deal with who or what are left out of popular discussions regarding the global food system (e.g., Korthals, Haynes, Thompson, Sweeney, Heldke). Readers are cajoled to look beyond the hidden and to explore food in its multifaceted contexts. There are many "absent", invisible or concealed referents and perspectives in the global food system, including those who do not or cannot participate directly in the food system, farm workers and animals, food processors and preparers, secondary and tertiary philosophies of agriculture, climate and food refugees, the environment, future generations of people and animals, food scientists and technologists, indigenous peoples and rural smallholder farmers to name a few.

Readers will enjoy sampling historical and contemporary discussions on the moral, metaphysical, material, and expressive meanings of food (Kaplan, Scruton, Brady, Korsmeyer), the relationship between our evolving existential circumstances and diets, and the ethical status of industrial agriculture, counter-hegemonic food movements (agrarianism, pastoralism, Slow Food, to name but a few), farm and

aquatic food animals (Haynes, Francione, Fraser, Kaiser) and new technologies (Welin et al, Scrinis, Comstock). Some of the authors go into considerable philosophical depth when discussing contemporary issues regarding hunger, poverty, distributive justice, sustainable agriculture, ethical governance of the food system, food security and food safety, animal welfare ethics, the role of science and decision-making frameworks and the implications of new technologies. Other authors invite readers to consider the urgency of conscientious governance of the global food system (Burkhardt, Castle et al) in the wake of food insecurity. The recipes that are offered for resolving existing conflicts are nuanced and philosophically sophisticated. They are palatable and certainly pique one's curiosity for further exploration.

The text takes on alienating aspects of the global food system and industrial agriculture, and inspires students of all levels and avid philosophical readers who are hungry to learn more about food, their roles and responsibilities as consumers and citizens and members of a generation who hold sway on the fate of the future of the planet, to revisit various "cultures of the table." *The Philosophy of Food* challenges readers to reconsider what we owe others through agricultural production and our food consumption and what has been missing or omitted due to the dominant food paradigm.

I would be remiss if I did not add that it was surprising that more was not said between the pages of the text about the serious challenges we face from anthropogenic impacts of climate change, food waste and loss, the growing numbers of disempowered smallholder and rural farmers and those who rely on subsistence lifestyles, and the increasing reliance on big data to shape food policies and production and consumption patterns in the global food system. Undoubtedly, not everything can be covered in a single sitting. Thus, I would urge the editor to consider including these items on the menu and a few more other entrées when considering the second edition of this very important contribution to the philosophical discourse on food. These questions also deserve careful philosophical treatment: how to balance market conditions with rights and needs of people; how to ethically generate energy and conserve water while anticipating emerging food demands in Asia and South America; and how to promote different ways of knowing and more equitable public-private partnerships to address the difficult dialogues we must have around food, climate and conservation of scarce resources.

Readers are also encouraged to check out Dr. Kaplan's <http://www.food.unt.edu>, which offers plenty of other tasty philosophical treats regarding the philosophy of food.

## Obituary

By Diana Dumitras

Lecturer **Alexandru Vasile Simu**, PhD, suddenly passed away on 3 May, 2015 at the early age of 34. His death was a shock to his colleagues from the Department of Economic Sciences, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca, Romania, who will miss his constantly active presence in all department activities.

He started the academic activity as Assistant and since 2012 as Lecturer in Management. He served the University with great dedication as both professor and researcher. His students have highly appreciated his devotion to teaching and his concerns over skills development. As a researcher, he was active in the field of farm

management and Common Agricultural Policy. Alexandru Vasile was one of the key members of the Organizing Committee of EurSafe Conference 2015 in Cluj, Romania, his contribution being paramount. He was also involved as reviewer of the abstracts and papers submitted to the conference, with valuable comments and suggestions. His absence will be deeply felt in future, not only as a colleague but also as a friend.



Kate Millar on behalf of  
the Executive Board

## EurSafe Executive Committee Update

Welcome to the Conference and Spring issue of the EurSafe Newsletter. It is always exciting to be writing an update for the Conference issue as there is usually much to talk about as we all gather for what will undoubtedly be a stimulating event.

The preparations are being finalised by our hosts the Department of Economic Sciences, Cluj-Napoca, Romania. The 12th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics, “Know your food! – Food Ethics and Innovation” will include approximately 70 different types of presentations. There will be a range of keynotes from prominent speakers, such as Dacian Cioloş (Former European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development) through to specialist workshops on teaching ethics and local network activities such as Agrocluster Transylvania. The full programme is available on the conference website <http://eursafe2015.usamvcluj.ro/>.

At the Congress, as is our normal rhythm as a Society, the General Assembly of the Society will take place on Saturday 30 May 2015 (at 12.15). One Board Member is up for re-election, Anna Olsson, and two new Board Members are proposed, Herwig Grimm (University of Vienna) and Diana Dumitras (University of Agricultural Science and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca).

The Board will provide further updates on the activities of the Society since the last General Assembly. This will include updates on the Newsletter. On that note, the Newsletter Editors are always keen to receive ideas on articles, information on events, etc. Please contact the EurSafe Newsletter Editor-in-chief, Bernice Bovenkerk ([bernice.bovenkerk@wur.nl](mailto:bernice.bovenkerk@wur.nl)).

In terms of new Society activities, there will be updates from the Board including information on teaching activities and an exciting update on a new ‘Food Ethics’ journal that is being established with Springer (further details will be provided by our President, Matthias Kaiser).

As an initial update on teaching activities, following a supportive initial event in Sweden at the 11<sup>th</sup> EurSafe Conference, the Society will seek to establish a teaching network that will act as a focal point for teaching-related activities within EurSafe. Going forward, it is hoped that this will include a special session at the Congresses, and possibly additional workshops that will allow opportunities to exchange approaches and discuss teaching objectives. A teaching session will take place on Friday morning at the Cluj Conference so please come along and get involved.

We wish you a ‘blooming’ start to Spring and we are all looking forward to a warm hello and catching up on your news in Cluj at the Congress

## Short biographies of EurSafe Board candidates

**Diana Dumitras** received her B.S. in Economic Engineering in Agriculture at the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UASVM) Cluj-Napoca, Romania and MSc in Resource and Applied Economics at University of Nevada, Reno, United States. She holds a Ph.D. in Agronomy (2008) from UASVM Cluj-Napoca, Romania. In 2005, she has joined the faculty of the Department of Economic Sciences. Currently she is Associate Professor teaching courses of International Agricultural Marketing, Econometrics, and Project management. Since 2011 she also acts as Chancellor for Research at department level.

Her main expertise is natural resources and environmental economics. Other research interests are marketing research and consumer behaviour. She was director of two research grants and member in several national and international projects. She has been active in the organization of the annual international conference "Prospects for the Third Millennium Agriculture", organized by UASVM Cluj-Napoca. She is also member of the editorial board of the Bulletin UASVM Horticulture which is a biannual open access peer-reviewed journal.

Since 2014, Diana is member of the organizing committee of EurSafe 2015, being responsible for the scientific organization, coordination of the reviewers and edition of the conference proceeding book "Know your food. Food Ethics and Innovation".

**Herwig Grimm** studied philosophy at the Universities of Salzburg, Zurich and Munich, main emphasis on ethics and applied ethics. In 2004 he earned his Master's degree in Salzburg with a thesis on "Moral Standing of Animals? – Approaching the subject with discourse ethics". From 2004 to 2011 he was a scientific assistant at the interdisciplinary Institute for Technology, Theology and Natural sciences in Munich. During this time he took his doctoral degree at the Munich School of Philosophy. From 2011 he has been a professor and the head of the unit "Ethics and Human-Animal-Studies" at the Messerli Research Institute of the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna, the Medical University of Vienna and the University of Vienna. Before his academic career, he completed an agricultural training and worked on farms between 1997-1999 in Great Britain and Austria.

Main fields of research:

- Applied animal ethics and agricultural ethics
- Pragmatism in applied ethics
- Methods of problem-oriented and applied moral philosophy.



## Conferences and Symposia

May 1- October 31

**EXPO Milano 2015 Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life**  
Milan, Italy  
<http://www.expo2015.org/en>

May 28-30

**12th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics**  
Cluj-Napoca, Romania  
<http://eursafe2015.usamvcluj.ro/>

June 1-5

**4th International Conference on Ecological Theology and Environmental Ethics**  
Crete, Greece  
<http://ithe.webs.com/>

June 4-8

**Ecology & Safety 2015, 24th International Conference**  
Burgas, Bulgaria  
<http://www.sciencebg.net/en/conferences/ecology-and-safety/>

June 12-13

**Animal Agency**  
Erlangen, Germany  
[www.kunstpalais.de](http://www.kunstpalais.de)

June 15-16

**5th International Conference on Asia Agriculture and Animal (ICAAA 2015)**  
Madrid, Spain  
<http://www.icaaa.org/cfp.htm>

June 20-21

**Minding Animals Germany Symposium**  
Munich, Germany  
<http://www.mindinganimals.de/News.html>

July 12-15

**Australian Animals Study Group (AASG) conference: Animal Publics: Emotions, Empathy, Activism Conference**  
Melbourne, Australia  
<http://humananimal.arts.unimelb.edu.au/event/animal-publics-emotions-empathy-activism-conference>

July 23-25

**Environmental Ethics between Action and Reflection**  
Kiel, Germany  
<http://www.isee2015.uni-kiel.de/iseehalt/Conference-General.php>

August 18-21

**XXVI European Society for Rural Sociology Places of Possibility: Rural Societies in a Neo Liberal World**  
Aberdeen, UK  
<http://www.esrs2015.eu/>

August 20-23

**Societas Ethica's 52nd Annual Conference "Globalisation and Global Justice"**  
Linköping, Sweden  
<http://www.societasethica.info/annual-conference-2015?!=de>

August 27-30	<p><b>The World Congress on Controversies in Bovine Health, Industry &amp; Economics (CoBo)</b>            Berlin, Germany  <a href="http://www.congressmed.com/bovine/">http://www.congressmed.com/bovine/</a></p>
September 7-10	<p><b>The 5th International Symposium for Farming Systems Design: Multi-functional farming systems in a changing world</b>            Montpellier, France  <a href="http://fsd5.european-agronomy.org/">http://fsd5.european-agronomy.org/</a></p>
September 14-17	<p><b>49th Congress of the International Society of Applied Ethology (ISAE)</b>            Sapporo Hokkaido, Japan  <a href="http://www.jsaab.org/isae2015/index.html">http://www.jsaab.org/isae2015/index.html</a></p>
September 17-19	<p><b>Animals in the Anthropocene. Human–animal relations in a changing semiosphere</b>            Stavanger, Norway  <a href="http://www.uis.no/research-and-phd-studies/research-areas/society-culture-and-religion/animals-in-changing-environments/2015-conference/">http://www.uis.no/research-and-phd-studies/research-areas/society-culture-and-religion/animals-in-changing-environments/2015-conference/</a></p>
September 17-19	<p><b>Vethics for vets - ethics for veterinary officers. Public Symposium</b>            Vienna, Austria  <a href="http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/de/messerli/forschung/forschung-ethik/projekte/vethics/">http://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/de/messerli/forschung/forschung-ethik/projekte/vethics/</a></p>
September 23-24	<p><b>Agri4D Agriculture for Development Conference 2015</b>            Uppsala, Sweden  <a href="http://www.siani.se/event/Agri4D2015">http://www.siani.se/event/Agri4D2015</a></p>
October 1-2	<p><b>Science for the Environment 2015</b>            Aarhus, Denmark  <a href="http://dce-conference.au.dk/">http://dce-conference.au.dk/</a></p>
October 6-7	<p><b>Human and Nonhuman Animals: Liberation, History and Critical Animal Studies – Fourth European Conference of Critical Animal Studies</b>            Lisabon, Portugal  <a href="http://animalsconferencelisbon.blogspot.pt/p/home.html">http://animalsconferencelisbon.blogspot.pt/p/home.html</a></p>
October 8-9	<p><b>4th International Conference on Social Responsibility, Ethics and Sustainable Business</b>            Athens, Greece  <a href="http://www.csrconferences.org/">http://www.csrconferences.org/</a></p>
October 10-12	<p><b>The Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the International Association for Environmental Philosophy Atlanta, USA</b>  <a href="http://environmentalphilosophy.org/2015-annual-meeting/">http://environmentalphilosophy.org/2015-annual-meeting/</a></p>
October 26-27	<p><b>3rd Annual International Conference on Advances in Veterinary Science Research (VETSCI 2015)</b>            Bangkok, Thailand  <a href="http://www.vetsci-conf.org">www.vetsci-conf.org</a></p>
	<p><b>2016</b></p>
Februari 23-25	<p><b>Contested Agronomy: Dynamics, Cases &amp; Implications</b>            Brighton, UK  <a href="http://contestedagronomy2016.com/">http://contestedagronomy2016.com/</a></p>

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# News

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