

EurSafe News

European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics



EurSafe News
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Editorial

Dear readers,

It is my privilege to present to you the March 2008 issue of EurSafe News. This is the first issue for the year and I hope you will find out that it continues the tradition of bringing to you important information and updates about EurSafe, about the state of the debate in agricultural and food ethics and about new initiatives in the field. In addition to the regular rubrics (publications, upcoming conferences, courses and new funding opportunities), this time, we offer a thematic section exploring the relation between food and trust and its ethical, political and social aspects. As usual, at the end of the issue, you will find the themes, deadlines and responsible editors for the upcoming publications of EurSafe News as well as the deadline for each issue. We look forward to hearing from you and to another

year of productive collaborations among the growing EurSafe community and beyond.

The theme of this quarter is ***“Food and trust: ethical, political and social dimensions”***. It explores the multiple and complex ways in which the production, supply, regulation and consumption of food depend crucially on relations of trust among all participants: farmers, consumers, biotechnology companies, distributors, policy makers, researchers and society at large. Trust is as much a personal relation as it is a social mechanism for allowing society to function smoothly and efficiently. Food is as much a matter of personal choice and biological necessity as it is a matter of group identity, shared values and socially defined opportunities. In today’s highly specialized society, we trust others to guarantee the availability, quality and safety of our food. The development of agricultural and food ethics has added other important dimensions and expectations: we trust that our food will be produced ethically in a manner that takes into consideration the health of the environment, the welfare of animals, the needs of poorer communities and the interests of future generations. Each meal we take is, among other things, an act of trust in the system of food production and in the good will of all those many strangers who have been part of the long, mediated and complicated chain that brings food to our tables. But what if the trust in food is threatened or lost? How can consumer trust be maintained, gained or re-established? Why do certain individuals, communities and even entire countries experience erosion of trust whereas other seem unaffected by We welcome your contributions, comments and suggestions as we sail through the year together and prepare to celebrate the 10th anniversary of EurSafe at the 8th EurSafe Congress in 2009 in Nottingham, UK!

breakdowns in the system such as food recalls, disease outbreaks or the unknowns surrounding genetically modified foods?

The two contributions presented in this issue tackle the questions of food and trust from two different perspectives. In his article “Why problems of trust are to be addressed as problems of trustworthiness” Franck Meijboom, Secretary of EurSafe and researcher at the University of Utrecht Ethics Institute, considers the issue of trust as central to the agro-food sector. He calls for a paradigm shift in the traditional approach to building trust by placing less emphasis on making consumers trust the system; instead, Meijboom calls for shifting the burden and demanding that the involved institutions and actors prove themselves to be trustworthy. The second article by Celina Ramjoué, a Policy Officer at the European Commission, Research Directorate-General, is titled “Regulations as an expression of trust: the transatlantic rift in GM food policy”. Ramjoué brings a global perspective to the issue of food and trust through the case of GM food policy. She argues that policy regulations express a certain level of societal trust. The article analyzes the major differences in trust and, hence, in the GM food policies of the United States and the European Union.

The June issue of EurSafe News will be dedicated to the theme ***“Taking animal lives”*** with issue editor Vonne Lund.

Please direct all contributions to vonne.lund@vetinst.no by 15 May, 2008.

Assya Pascalev
Issue editor

Thematic Section ‘Food and trust: ethical, political and social dimensions’

Why problems of trust are to be addressed as problems of trustworthiness

Franck L.B. Meijboom

Introduction

The importance of trust has been recognised regularly in the agro-food sector. For instance, the Dutch Advisory Council for the Rural Areas stresses the need to trust: “It is only the combination of trust and a certain product making that product fit for consumption.” (RLG, 1998, p. 19) Trust enables an individual to perform actions, such as buying and consuming food in spite of the uncertainty and the lack of personal control he is confronted with. This illustrates that trust is a way of “managing uncertainty” (Becker, 1996, p. 45). In trusting, one acts “as if” certain possible state of affairs will not occur (Lewis & Weigert, 1985). This does not imply that the problem of control and the uncertainty evaporate. However, in trusting it is possible to go beyond this uncertainty and lack of control, because trust “brackets ignorance or lack of information” (Giddens, 1991, p. 244). This acting “as if” is not an escape in a make-belief world of certainty and control. When we adopt an attitude of trust, we do not pretend, but have a sincere belief that the other agent is trustworthy, i.e., competent and adequately motivated to act in the expected way. Since it is the attitude of the individual truster that enables her to act in spite of the uncertainty, problems of trust are often addressed as a dilemma of the individual. She seems the one who should change in one way or another before she can trust. Consequently, the problem is often framed in terms of a failure of trust. The failure occurs when the individual has to rely on others, but unfortunately does not trust even though this would be the most useful attitude to adopt in order to deal with the uncertain situation. From this perspective, ways and methods to increase *trust* are introduced as the most

effective way to address problems of trust. For instance, many elements in the current European food policy, such as a revised food safety policy, the establishment of food safety authorities, and the increase of information services all have the aim to improve the level of trust (cf. Dreyer & Renn, 2007, pp. 551-552). However, as long as the problem of trust is approached as a failure of the individual agent, the issue is defined wrongly and remains intangible. For this claim, I have three arguments.

The argument from strategy: trust as an attitude is difficult to change

Problems of trust often remain intangible if they are addressed as a failure of the individual truster. As long as the policy approach starts from the aim to change the attitude of the consumer, regaining consumer trust turns into something next to a mission impossible. This has a conceptual background. On the one hand, a consumer cannot decide to trust. Trust results in beliefs and expectations, but is not a belief itself. One can want to trust, but one cannot trust at will. It is not a stance one simply decides to adopt all things considered. For the same reason, you cannot make others trust you. In general, consumer behaviour is difficult to steer, but to enforce trust is simply impossible. Therefore, (policy) measures that aim to improve trust should start from another perspective.

To address problems of trust in a fruitful way, the question should not be “how to increase trust?”, but “why would an individual agent trust another agent?” and “is this agent worth being trusted?” This illustrates that the ‘problem of trust’ is a problem of trustworthiness, i.e., a problem

of the one who wants to be trusted, rather than of the truster. Public trustees cannot change individuals to make them adopt a trustful attitude. However, they can show themselves to be trustworthy. At least for pragmatic and strategic reasons, enhancing trustworthiness seems a more promising starting point in the process of regaining public trust.

The argument from the implicit claim

The second argument starts in the trustee's assessment of the lack of trust as problematic. If a governmental agency considers a lack of trust as problematic, this implies an implicit claim about their own trustworthiness. Unless a trustee hopes that someone trusts him blindly, he believes that trust is based on an assessment of his competence and motivation. Thus, if he considers the lack of trust problematic, he implicitly argues that, according to him, the truster has very good reasons to trust him, i.e., that he is trustworthy. From this perspective, it would be too easy to define a lack of trust as a problem of the individual truster only. Yet, the trustee has a problem too. Even if he is competent and adequately motivated to do what is expected and to act as required by trust, he obviously failed to make this point sufficiently clear for the truster.

The argument from autonomy and the vulnerable position truster

Finally, the importance of the shift from trust to trustworthiness does not merely have a practical or strategic background. There is also a strong moral reason: the autonomy of the consumer. A trusting relationship is by definition asymmetric and includes differences in knowledge and power. The truster is always depending on the trustee. This vulnerable status is constitutive for trust. Without this vulnerable position, there would be no need to trust. Nonetheless, this is no permit for the trustee to make use of

this vulnerability. In spite of the vulnerable status, the truster should be treated as a person who is capable of autonomous agency. This is, as a person who has the capacity to choose one's goals and values personally. This makes the truster and the trustee equals on a moral level. In spite of the vulnerable and depending position of truster and his imperfect knowledge with regard to the object of trust, he still is an autonomous agent. This makes him worth of respect and has direct implications for trustworthiness.

If one takes this moral attitude of respect as a start, a lack of or hesitation to trust cannot longer be defined as failure of the truster only. This view disregards the autonomy of the truster in two ways. First, it does not take the assessment of an autonomous agent seriously. From the moral attitude of respect, a lack of or hesitation to trust should be acknowledged as a legitimate point of view, rather than as failure only. This does not imply that the truster cannot be wrong, but shows that the burden of proof also lies at the level of trustworthiness. The above-mentioned implicit claim of trustworthiness, which underlies the assessment of hesitation to trust as problematic shows that we are confronted with two conflicting claims about trustworthiness, rather than with just a flaw of one of the parties. This conflict demands reasonable reflection and openness of both parties. However, the acknowledgement of the truster's autonomy entails an extra responsibility for the trustee to prove himself trustworthy. This shows a second implication of the respect for autonomy which is disregarded by the definition of problems of trust as failures of the truster only. The vulnerability of an autonomous agent comes with a moral reason for the trustee to take additional care. The fact that the truster is in a vulnerable position or does not accept the (implicit) claim of trustworthiness should not be a reason for the trustee to treat him as non-autonomous, but should be an incentive to enable him to act as autonomously as possible.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the core of the “problem of trust” is not the individual’s failure to trust, but concerns questions of trustworthiness. We have practical and moral reasons to shift the scope. To address the problem of trust, the aim should be to prove oneself trustworthy, rather than to focus on the presumed failure of the consumer.

References

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Contact

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Regulation as an expression of trust: the transatlantic rift in GM food policy

Celina Ramjoué

The question of how best to regulate genetically modified (GM) food has been on political agendas all over the world for over a decade¹. National and international rules and regulations have been written and re-written, and still the topic continues to provoke heated discussions.

Within this debate, it is noteworthy that the European Union (EU) and the United States

(US) regulate GM foods and crops very differently: the US has a fundamentally permissive GM food regulation, while the EU is generally restrictive. It would seem that the US displays a higher level of trust in agricultural biotechnology than the EU.

US policy focuses exclusively on the product to be regulated and not on its method of production. Based on this line of reasoning, GM foods products are viewed as not being fundamentally new. The US thus regulates them applying roughly the same regulatory framework that it does to non GM products, and does not require any labelling. One could say that there is an inherent trust in the fact that GM foods and crops will not differ fundamentally from known products, and therefore be safe. In contrast, the EU focuses on the process by which GM foods and crops are developed. The underlying idea is that the

¹ This contribution is based on Ramjoué, Celina (2007), *The Transatlantic Rift in Genetically Modified Food Policy*, Ph.D. Dissertation, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich, Zurich. The views expressed in this article are those of the author and may not under any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of her current employer, the European Commission.
http://opac.nebis.ch/F/?local_base=NEBIS&con_lng=ENG&func=find-b&find_code=SYS&request=005475345.

process of production is new, not necessarily to be trusted, and that it should therefore trigger specific regulation. Accordingly, the EU has developed a relatively restrictive network of rules that specifically regulate GM foods and crops, and which foresees stringent labelling and traceability provisions.

Why are GM food policies in the United States and the European Union so different? This short piece suggests three main elements to answer this question: different experiences with the regulation of recombinant DNA techniques, dissimilar underlying paradigms, and diverse constellations of actors and actor coalitions.

From recombinant DNA research to GM foods and crops

A first reason for different US and EU regulations lies in their dissimilar experiences with regulating recombinant deoxyribonucleic acid (rDNA) techniques, the predecessor of applications of genetic engineering. When these were developed in the early 1970s, scientists around the world were thrilled by the new research possibilities, but also apprehensive as they reflected on the possible negative consequences of rDNA experiments.

In the early 1970s, US society was in a period of profound social and political upheaval. This period was marked by distrust of science and the beginning of the US environmental movement. The scientific community called for a moratorium on certain types of experiments with rDNA techniques until more was known about their potential hazards. The National Institutes of Health issues stringent guidelines on rDNA regulation. The civil society engaged actively in the debate that came to be known as “the DNA wars”. On this basis, by the late 1970s, a growing scientific consensus was reached that rDNA research was safe. As of 1978, the rules for rDNA research became less stringent. In the early 1980s,

these scientific developments gave pro-industry President Ronald Reagan the scientific basis to announce that comprehensive regulation on rDNA applications would not be necessary.

A comparable experience did not exist in Europe when it came time to regulate the first biotechnology applications in the 1980s. In the early 1970s, European scientists were generally less cautious about rDNA research than their US colleagues. The 1970s and early 1980s were characterized by a focus on “catching up” with the US in terms of science and technology. In comparison to the USA, European societal debates on rDNA research were limited. A full-blown debate on the role of science within a democratic society did not take place at this time. By the mid-1980s, however, when European Community countries faced the need to regulate the applications of rDNA technology, the environmental movement had become influential. European environmentalists and green parties strongly questioned the need for research using rDNA, and its use in applications. Non-governmental organizations and green parties forcefully turned against genetic engineering. It is within this increasingly environmentally conscious and GMO-hostile context that the issue of rDNA research and its pending applications came to be treated by policy-makers as an environmental issue to be addressed in a precautionary manner.

Paradigms: different US and EU beliefs on GM foods and crops

A second reason for the different regulations and levels of trust in GM foods is based on the assumption that the ideas, norms, and beliefs, or “paradigms” of policy makers influence and condition policy outcomes.

One difference in paradigms can be summarized as “competitiveness versus environmental and health protection”. US

policy on GM food and other applications of biotechnology has been devised against the backdrop of the larger goal of achieving and maintaining economic growth and international competitiveness. The role of policy is to create a predictable regulatory environment for industry. In addition, the dominant US agricultural model, often referred to as "agribusiness", privileges agricultural industrialization, standardization, and cost reduction in order to increase profits from agriculture. In contrast, the EU's policy is guided by the paradigm that consumer health and the environment should be protected from any potential harm from GM foods. The EU, which like the US has used intensive farming methods for decades, has recently attempted to move away from this model in a more decided way than the US.

A second fundamental paradigm difference lies in the US and EU perceptions of the capacity of science to deal with uncertainty, and in how potential risks connected with GM foods are defined and addressed. The US bases its GM food policy on the so-called "sound science principle" - a strong and unwavering faith in the capacity of science to furnish unequivocal information and evidence necessary to make sound policy decisions. In the case of agricultural biotechnology, this principle has led to regulators' perceived certainty that GM foods do not pose significant risks, and that a narrow definition of risks - limited to relatively specific, direct, and short-term risks - is acceptable.

The EU also abides by the sound science principle, but introduces an important caveat by also adopting the precautionary principle. The idea behind this is that sound science as a principle alone may not always suffice, and that scientific certainty may not always be achievable. The precautionary principle states that lack of scientific information and certainty shall not stop measures from being taken to prevent potential hazards. In EU regulation, potential risks can include

indirect and delayed effects, as well as social and ethical considerations.

Actors and actor coalitions: varying levels of success

A third explanation for the transatlantic rift in GM food and crop policy consists of the different levels of success that US and EU actors and actor coalitions supporting and criticising GM food have been able to achieve.

Pro-GMO actors form a strong and successful coalition in the US. A key reason for the success of GM supporters in the US is that GM foods are supported throughout the food chain. The fact that mainstream US farmers, the main users of agricultural biotechnology, are a crucial part of the pro-GM food coalition is also fundamental for its success. Critics of GM foods in the US are small-scale, family, and organic farmers, consumers, environmentalists and public interest groups. These US actors are fewer and less cohesive than in the EU. Moreover, while food processors, producers, and retailers may be only reserved supporters of agricultural biotechnology, they are not prepared to join the coalition against GM foods. Finally, The US has faced relatively mild external events and a fairly disengaged public. Main incidents connected with GM food (1999 monarch butterfly case, 2000 StarLink affair, 2002 ProdiGene incident) led to only limited public reactions because they were dealt with quickly and efficiently by US regulators.

In the EU, an anti-GM food discourse has gained mainstream acceptance. Actors critical of GM food are small-scale and organic farmers, consumers, and environmentalists. Support is less consolidated in the EU than in the US, and the only consistent supporter of GM food is the biotechnology industry. Mainstream European farmers stand to gain less from agricultural biotechnology than US farmers, and are therefore not strong supporters.

Food producers and retailers were supportive when first GM crops came out in the mid-1990s, but the fierce consumer backlash of the late 1990s made them revise their positions. Many supermarket chains went "GM free" during this time, thus exerting backwards pressure on food chain actors supporting GM food. Extremely important for the success of the EU anti-GM food coalition are a series of food and health-related shock events that coincided with the development and marketing of biotechnology and that fomented great public distrust of European regulatory institutions. The shock event with the most profound repercussions was Bovine

Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) or "Mad Cow Disease", although the probable causes of BSE are completely unrelated to genetic engineering and GM food.

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EurSafe Executive Committee Update

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2008. As highlighted in the last issue, the Executive Committee are currently reviewing the activities of the Society and as a result are meeting in April 2008 to discuss emerging opportunities. We look forward to updating you on the outcomes from this discussion.

In terms of future activities, we are delighted to announce "a date for your diary":

2-4 July 2009, Nottingham, UK

**EurSafe 2009
Ethical Futures: Bioscience and Food
Horizons**

8th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics
Celebrating 10 years of EurSafe
University of Nottingham, Nottingham, UK

The Centre for Applied Bioethics, School of Biosciences and Institute for Science and Society are delighted to announce that the 8th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics (EurSafe) will be held on: 2-4 July 2009 at the University of Nottingham, UK. The Organising

Committee are looking forward to presenting an exciting programme of internationally renowned plenary speakers, complemented by high quality submitted papers from EurSafe Members and colleagues.

On behalf of the Organising Committee, we would like to invite you to participate in EurSafe 2009. Details of the 'Call for Papers' deadlines and further information on the Congress themes and special sessions will be available in April 2008.

Registration will open in September 2008. Further information will be available at the Congress website: www.eursafe2009.co.uk, alternatively please contact the Organising Committee (eursafe2009@nottingham.ac.uk). The Organising Committee look forward to receiving your abstracts and seeing you in Nottingham next year!

Finally, the Executive Committee wishes you all an enjoyable and productive Spring break.

Kate Millar on behalf of the Executive Committee, March 2008

Publications

New books

Bioethics: an Introduction for the Biosciences (2nd edition)

by: Ben Mepham
2008 – 450 pages
ISBN-13: 978-0-19-921430-3
Oxford University Press

Welfare of Pigs. From Birth to Slaughter

edited by: Luigi Faucitano, Allan L. Schaefer
2008 - 316 pages
ISBN-13: 978-90-8686-066-1
Wageningen Academic Publishers

In Defence of Food: An Eater's Manifesto

by: Michael Pollan
2008 - 256 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1594201455
Penguin Press HC

The Future Control of Food: An Essential Guide to International Negotiations and Rules on Intellectual Property, Biodiversity and Food Security

edited by: Geoff Tansey, Tamsin Rajotte
2008 - 224 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1844074297
Earthscan Publications Ltd

Recently published books

Manifestos on the Future of Food and Seed

edited by Vandana Shiva
2007 - 145 pages
ISBN-13: 978-0896087774
South End Pres

The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming

by Tony Weis
2007 - 256 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1842777954
Zed Books

The Omnivore's Dilemma: A Natural History of Four Meals

by Michael Pollan
2006 - 464 pages
ISBN-13: 978-1594200823
Penguin Press HC

Conferences & Symposia

Spring

March 31-2 Apr

BSAS Annual Conference 2008
(Scarborough, UK)
Organised by the British Society for Animal
Science (BSAS)
www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/

April 17-18

Genomics and Society – Setting the Agenda
(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Organised by Centre for Society and
Genomics (NL) & Economic and Social
Research Council's Genomics Network
(UK)
www.society-genomics.nl/?page=537

April 17-18

Organic Agriculture and Climate Change
(Clermont-Ferrand, Lempdes, France)
Organised by Association of the French
Members of IFOAM (AsAFI); ENITA
Clermont National College of Higher
Education; Technical Institute of Organic
Agriculture (ITAB)
www.ifoam.org/events/other_events/Climate_change.html

May 14-17

Livestock & Global Climate Change.
International Conference on Livestock and
Global Climate Change (Hammamet,
Tunisia)
Organized jointly by BSAS, ICARDA,
IRESA, OEP, EAAP, INRA, ILRI
The meeting will consider the background to
global climate change and will examine the
actual and potential impact of climate
change on livestock and livestock
production systems
[www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/
Livestock_&_Global_Climate_Change/](http://www.bsas.org.uk/Meetings_&_Workshops/Livestock_&_Global_Climate_Change/)

May 15-16

Workshop: Ethics and Nature in a Northern
Context
(Copenhagen, Denmark)
Organized by Nordic Network on
Agriculture and Food Ethics
Venue: Danish Centre for Bioethics and
Risk Assessment, University of
Copenhagen
Planned sessions: 1: Teaching ethics in an
interdisciplinary context. 2: Using nature -
ethical issues in agriculture. 3: Using nature
- ethical issues in the human/nature
relationship.
For registration and information, contact:
Mickey Gjerris, Danish Centre for Bioethics
and Risk Assessment
E-mail: mgi@life.ku.dk

May 19-23

World Aquaculture 2008. Aquaculture for
Human Wellbeing: The Asian Perspective
(Busan, Korea)
Organised by the World Aquaculture
Society (WAS)
www.was.org/meetings/pdf/WA2008RegBro.pdf

May 22-23

International conference: Managing the
Uncertainty of Nanotechnologies.
Challenges to Law, Ethics and Policy
Making (Rovigo, Italy)
The conference will be hosted by the
University of Padua in the University
Campus of Rovigo.
More information: contact the Organising
Committee:
e-mail: ciga@unipd.it
<http://www.ciga.unipd.it>

May 31-3 June

European Human Genetics Conference 2008
(Barcelona, Spain)
Organised by European Society of Human
Genetics
www.eshg.org/eshg2008/index.html

June 4-8

Resilient Culinary Cultures: Disaster, Innovation and Change in Foodscapes. 21st Joint 2008 Annual Meetings of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS) and the Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS) (New Orleans, Louisiana, USA)
www.afhvs.org/CFP2008NO1.pdf

June 9-10

The 10th Annual Swedish Symposium on Biomedicine, Ethics and Society: Dual Uses of Biomedicine: Whose responsibility? (Uppsala, Sweden)
Symposium website:
<http://www.crb.uu.se/symposia/2008/index.html>

June 9-10

Dual Uses of Biomedicine: Whose Responsibility? X Annual Swedish Symposium on Biomedicine, Ethics and Society (Sandhamn, Sweden)
Organised by Centre for Bioethics at Karolinska Institutet & Uppsala University
www.bioethics.uu.se/symposium/2008/

June 18-20

Cultivate the Future: 16th IFOAM Organic World Congress (Modena, Italy)
Organised by the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM)
www.ifoam.org/events/ifoam_conferences/owc/Organic_World_Congress.html

June 25-27

IAMO Forum 2008. International Scientific Conference on Agri-Food Business: Global Challenges – Innovative Solutions (Halle (Saale), Germany)
The conference will focus on three global challenges pivotal for developments in the agri-food sector: food quality, bio-energy, and redefinition of agricultural policy
www.iamo.de/forum0/forum2008.html?L=1

Summer**July 3**

UFAW Animal Welfare Science conference 2008: Recent Advances in Animal Welfare Science (Birmingham, UK)
Organised by Universities Federation for Animal Welfare (UFAW)
www.ufaw.org.uk/quality-of-life.php

July 13-17

ICAR 2008. 16th International Conference on Animal Reproduction (Budapest, Hungary)
Organised by ICAR and The Hungarian Society for Animal Reproduction
www.icar2008.org/index.php

July 14-16

The British Society for Ethical Theory 2008 Conference (Edinburgh, UK)
To be held at University of Edinburgh, UK
www.bset.org.uk/conf.html

July 18-20

ECBB 2008. Fourth Joint European Conference on Behavioural Biology (ECBB) (Dijon, France)
Organized by University of Burgundy, France
Deadline abstract submission: 30 March 2008
www.u-bourgogne.fr/ECBB2008/main.php

July 20-24

ISAG 2008. XXXI Conference of the International Society for Animal Genetics (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
Deadline abstract submission: 31 May 2008
www.isag2008.nl/

August 5-9

ISAE Dublin 2008. 42nd Congress of the International Society for Applied Ethology (Dublin, Ireland)
www.isae2008.com/index.cfm#

August 12-14

Conference on Bioethics
(Egerton University, Kenya)
Organized by the UNESCO Regional
Bioethics Documentation and Research
Centre at Egerton University, Kenya. For
more information and registration, contact
the organizers:
Email: j_kkipkemboi@yahoo.co.uk
Email: mathookoj@yahoo.com

August 24-27

Efficient and Environmentally Friendly
Livestock Farming. 59th Annual Meeting of
the EAAP (Vilnius, Lithuania)
Organised by European Association for
Animal Production
www.eaap2008.org

September 3-8

9th World Congress of Bioethics: The
Challenge of Cross-Cultural Bioethics in the
21st Century (Rijeka - Opatija, Croatia)
www.bioethicsworldcongress.com

September 10 –13

WAFL-2008, the 4th International
Workshop on the Assessment of Animal
Welfare at Farm and Group Level (Ghent,
Belgium)
Organized by the Institute for Agricultural
and Fisheries Research (ILVO) and the
Faculty of Veterinary Medicine (University
Ghent)
www.wafl2008.com

September 16-18

Aquaculture Europe 2008: Resource
Management (Krakow, Poland)
The theme - Resource Management -
addresses the natural, human and material
resources for the sustainable development of
aquaculture

Organized by The European Aquaculture
Society (EAS)
[www.easonline.org/index.php?option=com_](http://www.easonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=1)
[content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=1](http://www.easonline.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=82&Itemid=1)

September 25-27

Annual Meeting of the European
Association of Centres of Medical Ethics
(EACME): Organizing Bioethics:
Challenges for Western, Central, and
Eastern Europe (Prague, Czech Republic)
Organized by EACME
www.eacmeweb.com (click EACME
Conference 2008)

Autumn**October 20-22**

Putting the OIE Standards to Work. Second
OIE Global Conference on Animal Welfare
(Cairo, Egypt)
Organised by The World Organisation for
Animal Health (OIE)
[www.oie.int/eng/A_AW2008/a_](http://www.oie.int/eng/A_AW2008/a_annonce.pdf)
[annonce.pdf](http://www.oie.int/eng/A_AW2008/a_annonce.pdf)

October 28-30

The Future of Agriculture – Value or
Volume? 5th ‘Horizons in Livestock
Sciences’ Conference (Christchurch, New
Zealand)
Organised by AgResearch, New Zealand
and CSIRO Livestock Industries
www.livestockhorizons.com/index.html

November 23-28

WCAP 2008. New World; Future World.
10th World Conference on Animal
Production (Cape Town, South Africa)
Sponsored by World Association of Animal
Production (WAAP)
Deadline abstract submission: 30 May 2008
www.wcap2008.co.za/

Courses

PhD course: Ethics and animals. Connecting the perspectives of science and philosophy

NordForsk & Nordic Network on
Agriculture and Food Ethics
24-30 August 2008
(Vilnius, Lithuania)

Main themes:

- Animals and humans – analysis and relation
- Animal welfare: Between Science and values
- Ethical issues in animal biotechnology
- Animals in food production
- Animal ethics and ethics of nature

The course will also include sessions with group work, discussions and dissertation presentations.

Course lecturers:

Matthias Kaiser – Professor at the National Committee for Research Ethics in Science and Technology in Norway

Vonne Lund – Senior researcher at the National Veterinary Institute in Oslo, Norway

Mickey Gjerris – Associate Professor at the Danish Centre for Bioethics and Risk Assessment

Raymond Anthony – Assistant Professor at the Philosophy Department at the University of Alaska, Anchorage

Anna Olsson – Senior researcher at the Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology in Porto, Portugal

Deadline for registration: June 1st 2008

ECTS: The course is accredited for 3 ECTS

Price: All participant expenses for the PhD course are covered by NordForsk. This includes food, accommodation and coach class travel expenses to and from Vilnius. For registration, program details or other information please go to www.vetmed.helsinki.fi/english/nordethics or contact Associate Professor Mickey Gjerris: mgj@life.ku.dk

Funding

Science in Society

FP7-SCIENCE-IN-SOCIETY-2008-1

Deadline: 18 March 2008 at 17:00:00
(Brussels local time)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.CapacitiesDetailsCallPage&call_id=104

Advanced Grant Social Sciences & Humanities

ERC-2008-AdG_20080318

Deadline: 18 March 2008, 17.00.00
(Brussels local time)

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.IdeasDetailsCallPage&call_id=113

Cooperation

ERA-NET / ERA-NET PLUS Call 2008

Identifier: FP7-ERANET-2008-RTD

Publication Date: 30 November 2007

Budget: € 29 300 000

Deadline: 12 August 2008 at 17:00:00
(Brussels local time)

Themes: [...] Socio-economic sciences and Humanities

http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7DetailsCallPage&CALL_ID=87

Erasmus Mundus

Call for proposals for the implementation of Action 4 in the year 2008

Deadline: 15/05/2008

Overall aim is to enhance the quality of European higher education by fostering co-operation with third countries in order to improve the development of human resources and to promote dialogue and understanding between peoples and cultures
<http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/static/en/mundus/call2008/index.htm>

Alexander von Humboldt Professorship

Research in Germany Award

Deadline: 2 June 2008

International Award for Research in Germany for academics of all disciplines from abroad, who are internationally recognized as leaders in their field and who are expected to contribute to enhancing Germany's sustained international competitiveness as a research location in consequence of the award.
<http://www.avh.de/en/programme/preise/doc/ahp/programminformation.pdf>

CREUM - 2008-2009 Postdoctoral fellowship program

Deadline: April 30th, 2008.

The University of Montreal's Centre de recherche en éthique (CREUM) is inviting applications of postdoctoral researchers in ethics, for residential fellowships which can vary in length according to individual circumstances.

<http://www.creum.umontreal.ca>

CREUM - 2008-2009 Senior fellowship programme

Deadline: April 30th, 2008.

The University of Montreal's Centre de recherche en éthique (CREUM) is inviting applications of professor-researchers in ethics, for residential fellowships which can vary in length according to individual circumstances. Applicants are expected to have at least a working knowledge of French.

<http://www.creum.umontreal.ca>

DAAD (Germans only)

DAAD funds the further academic and personal qualification of outstanding German students, interns and student trainees, (post)graduates, young academics and researchers.

<http://www.daad.de/ausland/index.en.html>

Contact

Executive secretariat

Paul den Besten, Royal Netherlands Society of Agricultural Sciences, P.O. Box 79, NL-6700 AB Wageningen, The Netherlands, paul.denbesten@wur.nl

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Editors and themes for next issues

Issue-editor June 2008: Vonne Lund, "Taking animal lives"- submission before May 15

Issue-editor September 2008: Tassos Michalopoulos, "Ethics & political consumerism"

Issue-editor December 2008: Herwig Grimm, "Practice versus theory"

Issue-editor March 2009: team Nottingham, "Veterinary ethics"

Issue-editor June 2009: Mattias Pasquali, "Ethical merits of agriculture types"

Deadline for the next issue: May 15, 2008

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