

EurSafe News

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Dear EurSafe members,



Teaching and training play a substantial role in the professional lives of many EurSafe members. Hence, teaching and training are in the spotlight of this newsletter. Three papers each present application-oriented

perspectives on teaching practices. In addition, the newsletter looks back on the successful 2022 EurSafe Conference in Edinburgh and reports on the society's current five-year strategy plan, and structural and personnel changes in the EurSafe Board.

Teaching and training are key activities for EurSafe. As a society, it is committed to three aims, i.e., to encourage (i) 'international academic research and education on the ethical issues involved in the agriculture and food system that also incorporates discussions of ethics of non-human animal interactions, environment implications, climate change and sustainability', (ii) 'open exchange of professional experiences and training approaches related to ethical issues and capacities', and 'scientific and public debate on the ethical issues involved in the agriculture and food system'. With this, two of the society's aims refer to the exchange over the content and practice of teaching. In recent years, one of the pre-conference workshops regularly assembled EurSafe scholars to reflect on issues of teaching and training, and with this not only promoted intra-community exchange but also lifted the spirits of lecturers often caught in the 'troubles of the plains' (*'die Mühen der Ebene'*, Bert Brecht) of university routine. This newsletter can be understood as a further element in this endeavour to establish exchange on issues of teaching.



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By doing so, this newsletter highlights the inescapably inter- and transdisciplinary nature of teaching agricultural and food ethics. Moreover, it also ventures into a field described by Paul Thompson in 'The Emergence of Food Ethics', i.e., the space spanning between food ethics with a philosophical orientation on the one hand and with an activist orientation on the other.

Thompson contrasts '[p]hilosophical food ethics or deliberative inquiry into the moral norms for production, distribution and consumption of food' with 'food ethics as an international social movement aimed at reforming the global food system'. He explains the merits of both orientations and how they might address their respective blind spots by engaging with each other. Obviously, this has a bearing on teaching as well. Teaching programmes such as 'Education for Sustainable Development' are about fostering learners' competencies so that they can change their societies in more sustainable ways. Even though, these programmes are promoted by highly official institutions such as the UNESCO, they have an inherent activist streak, one that is most welcome and laudable given the many unsustainable pathways of agriculture and food production. However, the challenges learners-turned-practitioners face also require what philosophical food ethics provides: the competencies to deal with ethical judgements. Conversely, and in line with Thompson's observation, teaching philosophical food ethics will gain by engaging with the problems often addressed by food and environmental activists.

It goes without saying that a newsletter will not provide the final word on how to solve tensions that arise in this field between philosophical and activist food ethics. The aim of this newsletter is much more modest. It presents three contributions that reflect on teaching and by doing so navigate in their own way the vast space of agricultural and food ethics. In her paper '*Humans are a wolf (also) for the Iberian Wolf*', Leire Escajedo San-Epifanio (University of the Basque Country, Bilbao) talks about a teaching activity in the field of law and ethics in the biosciences. She explores the ethical challenges arising between sheep farming and nature conservation. Birgit Hoinle (University of Hohenheim) presents in her paper 'Fair chocolate on air' how ethical reflection about cocoa trade and global justice can be fostered in a trans-disciplinary and

multimedia teaching format. Marco Elischer is the education officer of 'proBiene', an NGO promoting organic apiculture and biodiversity in agricultural and urban spaces. He asks 'How to facilitate ethical food consumption?' and discusses the educational approach of *Alltagsphantasien* ('Everyday fantasies') as an answer to his question.

The result of good teaching and training, we all hope, are good student papers and presentations. As with previous conferences, also during the 2022 Edinburgh EurSafe conference the Vonne Lund junior researcher prize for best presentation by a (PhD) student was awarded. The newsletter introduces the authors of the two winning papers: Catherine Broomfield and Aoife Maher (University of Exeter): 'What role for England's grassland farming regions in the transition to a sustainable food system' and Katharina Dieck (Messerli Research Institute, Vienna): 'Capturing the animal in ethics – linguistic perspectives on understanding the animal concept'.

This newsletter can also report that our member Mickey Gjerris (University of Copenhagen) was awarded the prize 'Animal Friend of the Year'.

The 2022 Edinburgh Conference also brought about structural and personnel changes to the board. In the EurSafe Executive Committee Update, Franck Meijboom gives an overview of some of the changes, welcomes new board members (Bjørn K. Myskja, Joost van Herten, Ivo Wallimann-Helmer) and gives a warm farewell to departing members (Dirk de Haan, Kate Miller). In an interview, the newly elected EurSafe President Frank Meijboom and the newly elected EurSafe Secretary Teea Kortetmäki talk about the important changes adopted at the 2022 General Assembly. Joost van Herten then introduces himself as new Treasurer, followed by a short introduction of Bjørn K. Myskja and Ivo Wallimann-Helmer as new Board members. Finally, the newsletter draws attention to two upcoming events: the 2023 APSAFE Conference in Nagoya, Japan (March 10-11, 2023) and the 2023 VETERINARY ETHICS conference in Vienna (September 27-29, 2023).

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paper

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Humans are a wolf (also) for the Iberian Wolf

Teaching activity in the field of law and ethics in the Biosciences

Leire Escajedo San-Epifanio



The present activity is based on a case study of the unique ambivalent legal situation of the Iberian wolf in Spain until very recently. The case study is used with students of the core subject *Law and Ethics in Biosciences*, which is taught in the second

semester of the third year of the Degree in Biology, Degree in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Degree in Biotechnology at the University of the Basque Country (Spain).

This subject began to be taught in 2010 and aims to enable graduates to deal with the ethical, social and legal issues that will affect their professional practice. Environmental biologists, clinical biologists, and biotechnologists have experienced in the last decade an increasing regulatory intervention by public institutions in governance venues ranging from local to global.

The activity on the Iberian wolf, in particular, fosters the following skills in students: 1. The ability to recognise not only the institutions, but also the structural and circumstantial factors that positively or negatively affect the protection of the environment and wild species. 2. The capacity for analysis, synthesis, organisation, and planning to enable decision making and the elaboration and transmission of information. 3. Critical reasoning and ethical commitment to the society's values.

The Iberian wolf (*canis lupus signatus* or marked wolf) is a subspecies of wolf endemic to the Iberian Peninsula. Distinguishable from other *canis lupus* by



the presence of white spots on their lips, Iberian wolves also have dark spots on their tails and shoulders, and a series of vertical lines running down the front of their forelimbs. It is estimated that there are about 12,000 wolves left in Europe, of which between 2,000 and 2,500 are Iberian wolves located in Spain.

Hunting of Iberian wolves was banned in Portugal three decades ago. In Spain, however, it was not until 2021 that the Spanish government, with no consensus with all other affected parties, decided to include the Iberian wolf in the list of species under a special protection regime. This inclusion automatically entails that the Iberian wolf is excluded from the list of hunting species.

This case presents a number of elements that make its analysis particularly rich. Firstly, it must

be borne in mind that the management of wild diversity is a management that in Spain is shared by the central State and the regions in Spain. In this respect, the Iberian wolf has found itself in a special situation, due to its territorial distribution. Of the estimated 2,000 to 2,500 Iberian wolves remaining in Spain, the majority are in north-western areas (Galicia, Asturias, and Castilla-León), regions with a rather small human population in relative terms. These regions also concentrate, understandably, the vast majority of wolf attacks, which annually destroy almost four thousand head of livestock and cause significant material damage to livestock farms owned mainly by small families.

In addition, and secondly, this particular situation means that there are many views on the most appropriate way to manage the presence of

wolves in Spain and to achieve coexistence with the affected livestock communities. The northern regions with a higher presence of wolves used to admit, in a limited way, an annual selective hunting of wolves, in order to avoid overpopulation. This contrasts with the views of regions without any wolf presence or regions where the wolf is endangered. The environmental groups, on the other hand, maintain similar positions, although with nuances depending on whether they are more rural or more urban groups. The diversity of views is also evident within the Spanish government, with disagreements between the ministries of agriculture and the environment, and with the EU.

The issue is not as simple as whether hunting the Iberian wolf can be justified or not. This species is vulnerable in some areas; does it mean that it should be allowed to overpopulate in others? National and European legislation thus lays down obligations to protect species which are not in a favourable situation, but the assessment of this situation has a highly statistical component. Moreover, the regulations do not pre-establish any decision on how to deal with an unbalanced ter-

ritorial distribution of the population of a species or how to deal in particular with the situation of wandering wolves. The latter are far more dangerous than wolves in clans.

Finally, the issue also leads to an analysis of the real commitment of society to extensive livestock farming. While extensive livestock farming is seen as a model that potentially provides more animal welfare for livestock, the lack of support for farmers in the face of wolf attacks calls this commitment into question. Currently, farmers receive very little support for the damage their herds (mainly goats and sheep, and to a lesser extent cattle and horses) suffer from wolf attacks. The production of artisan cheeses are posed at particular risk and preventive measures, such as the use of mastiff dogs, help to avoid some damage, but also have two disadvantages: on the one hand, economic investment is needed; on the other hand, the efficient use of mastiff dogs requires the livestock to be located on smaller areas of land. Who should take responsibility for the decisions taken by society to protect biodiversity?



Fair chocolate on air

Ethical reflections about cocoa trade and global justice in teaching for sustainable development

Birgit Hoinle

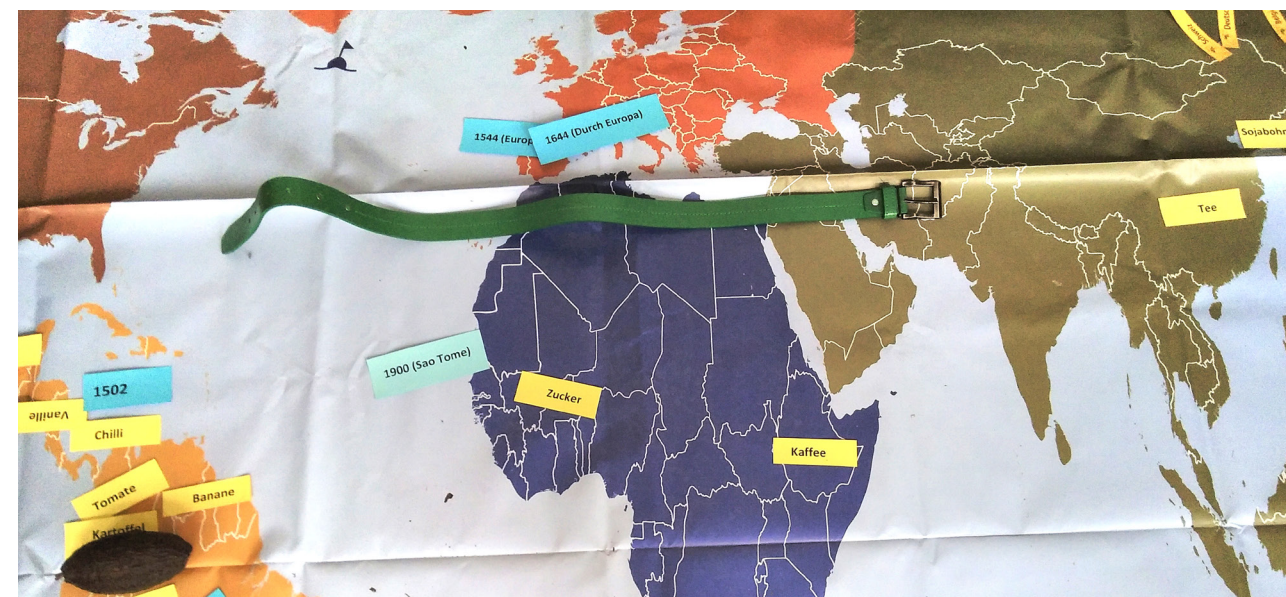


How is the world journey of chocolate? Historically, how did cocoa come to Europe? Who earns how much of the chocolate bar? What are alternatives to conventional chocolate consumption? These are the guiding questions of the teaching

project ›Fair chocolate on air‹. In November 2022, the seminar project won the first award in the area of Higher Education for Sustainable Development (HESD). The competition is organized every year by the BNE-Center Heidelberg (Center for HESD) in the federal state of Baden-Württemberg to reward innovative and outstanding teaching projects

The teaching project 'Fair chocolate on air' is part of the interdisciplinary seminar's program *Studium Oecologicum*, a program that already since 2009 offers courses about sustainable development for students of all faculties at the University of Tübingen. The project 'Fair chocolate on air' has been part of the course program since 2019 and is based on a partnership between the local radio station *Wüste Welle*, the local fair-trade shop *Weltladen*, the cooperative *Kallari Futuro* in Ecuador and the local Food Policy Council *Ernährungsrat Region Tübingen-Rottenburg e.V.* During the seminar project, students conduct interviews with local stakeholders and create their own radio program.

The aim is to offer a better comprehension about the colonial traces and local-global interconnectedness of our food system and to learn more about the answers that the different fair-trade approaches have been developing. For



Localising daily consumption productions.

a deeper understanding about these issues, the seminar concept is based on the methodology of HESD which involves interactive group working methods, critical discussions, out-of-university learning spaces, hands-on activities and digital tools, as well as transdisciplinary approaches with local stakeholders (Hoinle et al 2021). HESD aims to develop competencies for understanding and acting upon the global challenges of our times (e.g. climate change, biodiversity loss, global inequalities,...) and is orientated towards the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It involves, among others, competencies for systemic and critical thinking, normative and action-oriented competencies (Bellina et al. 2020: 34-35). The project ›Fair chocolate on air‹ takes up these objectives and combines them with the teaching approach of Global Learning which opens up spaces for diverse perspectives on global issues related to sustainability and for the active participation of partners of the Global South (Seitz 2018). In our case, the global-local perspective is put into practice through the participation as co-teachers of Raquel Cayapa who was born in an indigenous community of the Ecuadorian Amazonian region and of Matzel Xander (journalist of the local radio station *Wüste Welle*) and Birgit Hoinle (University of Hohenheim and Food Policy Council Tübingen).

The seminar project is divided in three phases which integrate the competencies of understanding global-local interconnections, normative

reflections and action-orientated competencies. In each we apply interactive methods of HESD and Global Learning. The first part is dedicated to the understanding of the history of cocoa trade in the context of colonial power relations and our daily consumption. For this, we work with the world map in Peters' projection (equal area projection) which allows already first critical reflections about our knowledge of the world and the representation of centers and peripheries. The students are invited to localize daily consumption products (e.g., sugar, coffee,...) on the map and think about their origins. Where is the origin of the cocoa plant? In which countries is the most cocoa grown? Where is most cocoa consumed? With these key questions students discuss the global inequalities in the production of cocoa and consumption of chocolate, e.g. the fact that people in the producer countries such as Côte d'Ivoire or Ghana eat almost no chocolate. In a second step, the students retrace the value chains of a conventional chocolate, a fair-trade chocolate and a chocolate produced by a cooperative in the Global South. For each value chain they pursue the question 'Who earns how much of a bar of chocolate?' and discover more about the differences of the producers' share (e.g. 4-6% in the case of conventional chocolates). This group work promotes normative competencies, since it inspires for reflections on global (in)justices and power inequalities in the organization of world trade. The third topic deals with the history of fair-trade and its different approaches and labels. In order to discover more

about it, the students visit the local *Weltladen* and learn about the history, motivations, and organization of this voluntary initiative. To gain insights about the work of a fair-trade project in the Global South, we conduct a zoom-talk with Michael Marmon-Halm, director of *FairAfric* in Ghana. *FairAfric* is – together with the cooperative *Kallari* in Ecuador – one of the only projects in the world that produces its own chocolate in the Global South and have control over the whole value chain. By doing so, they break new ground in the area of fair-trade. Usually, producer countries remain only in the role of exporting the raw material – cocoa – whereas the processing and adding value takes place in the Global North. During the talk with Michael Marmon-Halm, students discover how the chocolate fabric in Ghana works and gain new perspectives on the topic of fair-trade.

In the second phase, after a workshop on radio journalism students work in teams and prepare their own radio program: They research about the role of fair-trade at the university and at the famous chocolate festival *ChocolArt* which takes places every year before Christmas in the old town of Tübingen with chocolatiers from various countries. They conduct surveys with visitors and exhibitors during the festival and carry out interviews with local stakeholders who are involved in fair-trade, such as the officer of fair procurement of the city administration. With the online mapping tool *Framacarte*, students map fair-trade initiatives in the city of Tübingen.

The third phase is dedicated to action-orientated competencies. With the audio records of their interviews and surveys, students have the material for creating their own radio program. They experiment with audio editing software, record own jingles and select the music for the program. Everything has to be prepared before going live on air at 3pm in the afternoon. You can listen to the radio program of the winning team of 2021 [here](#).

At the end of the seminar, Raquel Cayapa who grew up in Tena, the region of the cocoa cooperative *Kallari*, offers a chocolate workshop. She invites the students to a phantasy journey into the Ecuadorian Amazonas in which they learn about the production of cocoa in *chacras* – traditional cocoa production in intercropping systems together

with plants for own food consumption. During the workshop, students themselves can experiment with the ingredients (roasted cocoa, cocoa butter, sugar,..) to create their own chocolate. In the final feedback and evaluation round, we ask the students about possibilities for action and localize them according to different scales of action (individual, local, national, global). This activity offers ground for the final discussion on what we can do as students, consumers and citizens in order to contribute to more justice in trade structures and the fulfilling of the global SDGs on a local scale.

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paper

How to facilitate ethical food consumption?

Marco Elischer



One child raises its voice, '*could I go and lift the lid?*' None of the other children seem to be surprised, but their teacher raises her eyebrow with some anxiety and looks up to the bee-educator. The smiling educator just goes straight to the apiary and proposes, '*I will open the beehive, together we look where the queen is. By the way, who would like to pet a drone?*'. Such interactions with bees or other animal ambassadors occur frequently in the daily work of many organizations which carry out Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). Why do educators think such encounters with *nature* could be useful? Fantasies might be found the play a key role in the scientific reconstruction of such approaches.

One line of thinking to which this idea can be traced back, might be the phenomenological descriptions of encounters between humans. Thinkers like Martin Buber or Emmanuel Levinas put these encounters at the center of their ethical investigations. Today's discourse has extended the range of such processes of recognition between entities. Philosophers like Corine Pelluchon describe potentials of interspecies empathy, for instance by proposing an ontology based on the fundamental experience that we live from and embedded into our environment. Therefore, the didactic principle of such outdoor education could be phrased as one of creating existential encounters. How can this idea of influencing the subjective ontologies of children be operationalized for an empirical investigation, which contributes to the design of effective interventions?

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Everyday fantasies are a specific conceptualization of implicit knowledge or theories and *due to their depth of meaning [...] influence values, interests and behaviour* (Gebhard 2007, p. 117; own translation). In this context, reference is made to the different symbolic systems of everyday language and scientific language. Only through a *bilingualism* can scientific knowledge about objects become capable of subjectification (i.e., adopted for one's own heuristics). The subjective construction of meaning that thus comes into view is particularly significant for the ethical treatment of problems. Elsewhere, Gebhard adds that the element of fantasy, here in the sense of creativity, is also particularly important. Hence, in the concept of everyday fantasies, the didactic process of object, irritation, and appropriation is enriched by the element of creativity. Therefore, the framework can map an important part of human problem-solving competence. Applied to ESD, one study for example manages to identify fantasies which play a role for the gaps between actions and attitudes observed in light of various environmental crises.

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For example, a *knowledge-oriented habitus* (Holfelder 2018), which locates cognitive problems in its own world and by that enables one to distance from knowledge about environmental crises in everyday activities. The reconstruction of such fantasies creates the basis for developing pedagogical interventions, that take up background orientations in order to enable sustainable transformation (or some would say, to tackle points of deep leverage). Therefore, interventions which do not reach into the symbolic system always exclude a fundamental part of our everyday evaluations and actions.

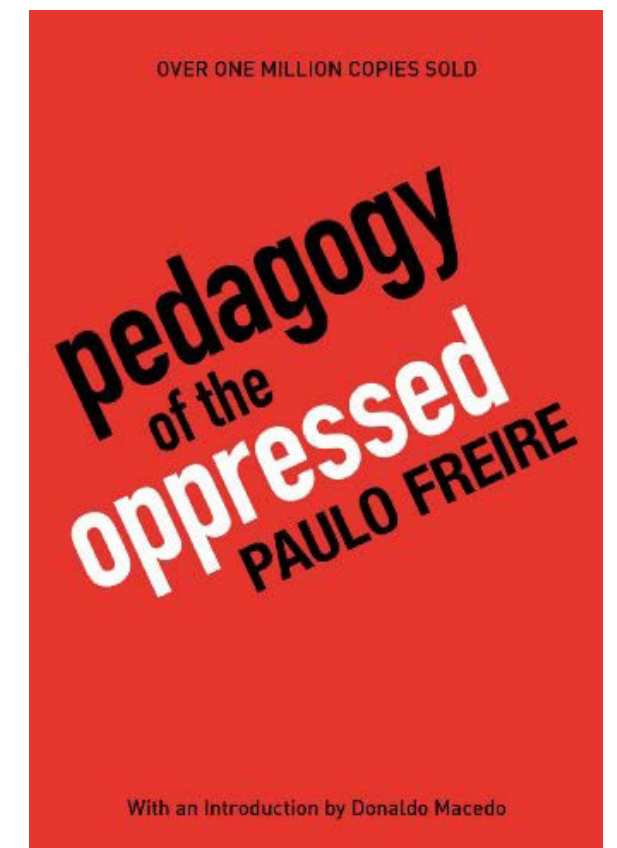
Having said that, some people might raise objections. Are such deep interventions not overstepping and setting the scene for patronizing re-education? Are we not done with the privatization of responsibility for sustainable transformation? Does a materialistic intervention not just reproduce individualistic pseudo-answers to the ecological challenges? Indeed, in theoretical work on every-day fantasies, such doubts are taken into consideration. Nature contact by kids is seen as above all *just* promoting children's health. Every-day fantasies about topics or objects are described and evaluated, but to change these fantasies is not the priority. Yet, it seems likely that many practitioners have more ambitious goals set. One might be to change some fantasies entangled with our current society and replace them with concepts such as (de)growth, nature relatedness or interspecies empathy.

From a transition perspective, which is, as Theea Kortetmäki noticed, understudied in the field of ethics, some arguments might side with these fans of fantasy. Elizabeth Shove for instance conceptualizes social change more holistic than many theories of ESD do. Hereby the elements of competence, material and meaning actualize each other and constitute the process of social change. Furthermore, new links can be made or old one's break as well as elements between practices develop shared meanings. Such new links inter alia can happen if the circulation of one element is altered. In the case of transformation, the partial substitution of bikes with cars is one example, where a new material triggered social change and also changed the meaning of biking from a tool for mobility into a recreational item. Hence for trans-

formative ESD it is imperative to not only facilitate competencies and deliver materials for sustainable lifestyles, but to have the meanings actualized too.

Where can the change of such meanings or every-day fantasies be found specifically? In terms of political science, the notion of refiguration might catch one aspect of every-day phantasies. The concept draws from the idea, that in late modern societies persons can be described as being sandwiched between the need for stability and high demands on mobility. Therefore, individuals have to seek activities which cater their need for identity construction. *Refiguration* is then proposed as a term to grasp the often-volatile engagement with community-based organizations like urban gardens or food-sharing. It means that by participating in such social innovations a utopian element is incorporated. During the engagement with tasks of the organization another world is imagined, for example one where in an urban environment food production is made possible. While these figurations of a utopia are always failing, cause outside of the organizational setting other social practices persist, still they are ever refigured in activities of the organization to satisfy the *identarian demands* of participants. Hence, such organizations can be places where every-day fantasies are altered, because by refiguration they penetrate into the realm of meaning. However, the limited scope of such practices and the momentum of failing prevents food movements being the silver bullet for an ethical food system. Other embodiments of utopias, where people attribute new meanings to their practices and simultaneously experience the possibility of social change, are necessary as well.

A pedagogical theory which integrates aspects of fantasies (or symbols) and politics is Paulo Freire's *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. Freire contrasts the liberating pedagogical concept with the so-called *bankers' pedagogy*. Freire counters this way of oppression with a different vision of knowledge production. Problem-posing education is described as the operator for this production of knowledge. In this, a reciprocal dialogue between learner and teacher emerges. Unlike the banking system, a solution is not given to be memorized, but a problem is placed at the center of the dialogue. Not as the first, Freire postulated that the world emerges from human dialogues. If this



applies to the subject-world relationship in general, then the subject's relationship to the alter ego is also captured by this dependence of existence. In the becoming of the world (authentic) dialogue produces transformational practice. Freire thus establishes an action-oriented model of language where language is the basis for social change.

Eventually, the concept of every-day phantasies can be seen as a tool to map such a transformative dialogue. Then, not only food movements can deliver ESD which facilitates ethical food consumption. Also, the sectors of formal education (e.g., schools) and youth work are enabled to design effective interventions. Without a panacea found, there remains the need to map the fuzzy conceptual landscape of ESD if the field of food ethics wants to contribute to transformative practice. Be it hermeneutic or phenomenological approaches, studies on ESD would benefit from the conceptual depth of philosophical inquiry. Especially philosophers operating with a transdisciplinary lens could deliver meaningful investigations for the ESD community. In that sense, some flower hunt and tail-wagging dance by practice-oriented food ethics could deliver the necessary pollination for a more blooming food system.

Vonne Lund Junior Researcher prize

Aoife Maher and Catherine Broomfield



We are Aoife Maher and Catherine Broomfield and it is so nice to have this opportunity to introduce ourselves and our research interests to the wider Eursafe community. We are sociology of agriculture PhD researchers at the Centre for Rural Policy Research, University of Exeter, in England.

Both of us bring practical experience of food production to our PhD research work; Aoife worked professionally in horticulture, and Catherine spent 15 years farming cattle and sheep, as well as working professionally with farmer-led organisations. We are both motivated to do our research to help understand the causes – and hopefully some solutions – for issues we see first-hand from our »fields-eye view«. Aoife is researching vegetable growers and their relationships with their wholesalers and intermediaries in Devon and Cornwall. She is particularly interested in how marketplace relationships shape production practices over time and has an historical as well as a contemporary focus to her research. Catherine is interested in understanding how and why ruminant livestock farmers' engage with non-farming people and the potential role of farmer-nonfarmer engagement to help farmers to continuously adapt and align their farming activities to evolving societal needs and expectations.

Our PhDs are both concerned with the production side of the food system, focusing on the south-west of England (SWE). We have each taken a mixed methods approach to our research and were able to draw on archival research, a regional survey of SWE farmers, and semi-structured interviews with livestock farmers and growers from the region, for our Eursafe paper. Several common themes emerged from thematic analysis of our two data sets, albeit it from the different perspectives of growers and livestock farmers. This then formed the genesis of our paper, and our motivation for collaborating on a joint paper.

The paper presented at the 2022 EurSafe Conference in Edinburgh, weaves together historical and contemporary perspectives of SWE farmers and growers to illuminate a diverse mosaic of plant and animal-based food production activity which challenges what we refer to as the dominant »traditionality of grasslands« (TOG) narrative which contributes to embedding an understanding of the SWE as a farming region that is »only good for growing grass«. Our exploratory paper hopes to stimulate further reflection on how challenging the dominance of the TOG narrative may help farmers, public and policy-makers re-evaluate the potential of grassland farming regions, like the SWE, to harness their mixed farming tradition to place them at the centre – rather than at the margins – of the transition to a diverse, healthy and sustainable food system. We hope our exploratory paper stimulates further research. We ourselves have plans to continue our research on the topic with the aim of publishing a journal piece on this topic. We also hope to keep collaborating in future as we continue to research future sustainable food systems from our respective and complementary areas of research. We really enjoyed participating in the EurSafe 2022 conference; it was a really stimulating event and, as lowly PhD researchers, we were made to feel welcome, supported and encouraged from the moment we arrived. Once again, we would like to thank the conference organisers for their kind recognition in the award of the Vonne Lund Junior Researcher prize.

Katharina Dieck



My name is Katharina Dieck and I am a recent master's graduate in philosophy from the University of Vienna. Over the

last four years I have been employed at the Messerli Research Institute, working alongside Herwig Grimm to support him in his research and teaching.

Thereby I could get many insights into academic life and philosophical research beyond my studies. Having a background in applied linguistics, I focused on the intersection between language and ethics in my own research: Which role does language use play in ethical theory and practice? This overarching research interest was also the starting point of my short paper for the EurSafe Conference 2022. Therein, I present one argument of my master's thesis addressing the theory-practice-gap in the current animal ethics debate from a linguistic perspective. The way we treat animals regularly contradicts any theories on how we should treat them. This obvious mismatch of theory and practice has constituted a long-standing debate in animal ethics. A frame-semantic theory by Alexander Ziem is used to address the following question: *How does language use define an understanding of what animals are?* Taking a linguistically informed perspective, this paper suggests that any 'theory-practice gap' in the debate of animal ethics may not be considered a problem but merely an unfortunate description. For processes regarding language understanding highlight that there can be no understanding without relation to practice and thus no strict distinction between a theoretical and a practical level in the debate as soon as we engage in language use. Even though it is situated in the animal ethics context, this paper might be interesting for anyone interested in the epistemic conditions of language understanding and its role for ethical theory. Having finished my Master's, I will use the upcoming year to explore other working fields before considering to return to university life for a PhD. I will, however, take my research interest with me and remain open for further interesting application areas next to the animal context.

EurSafe Executive Committee

Update January 2023

I hope you had a relaxing Christmas Break and good start of the New Year! As a Board, we still looking back at a very successful conference in Edinburgh last September. Many thanks again to Donald and Ann Bruce and their team for the well-organized and conference. I was great to see so many of you and we enjoyed the various very interesting presentations.

We also held our General Assembly on Thursday 9 September. During that meeting we said good-bye to our treasurer Dirk de Hen. Dirk served the Executive Committee for 6 years and contributed to keeping the society financially healthy. We thank him for all his great work. Furthermore, Kate Millar our president stepped down. Kate has served the Executive Committee as member and as (vice)president since 2006. She contributed to the success of the EurSafe Society in many ways. We will miss her enthusiasm and attention to others and are thankful for all her excellent work and commitment to the society! We were also happy to welcome three new Board members. Joost van Herten has been elected and will be the new treasurer. Ivo Wallimann-Helmer and Bjørn Myskja have been elected as board members. Both have been active members of our Society for many years.

The composition of the new board is:

President: Franck Meijboom

Vice presidency: Bernice Bovenkerk *Community and communication* and Herwig Grimm *Conference and Academic Exchange*

Secretary: Teea Kortetmäki

Treasurer: Joost van Herten

Members: Diana Dumitras, Leire Escajedo, Simon Meisch, Bjørn Myskja, Per Sandin, Ariane Willemsen, Ivo Wallimann

In the interview on the next page with Simon, Teea and myself, we discuss our ambitions as a board.

Finally, it was our great pleasure to announce the next EurSafe conference. Bernice Bovenkerk en Franck Meijboom are the core of the organizing team for the EurSafe 2024 conference, which will be in Ede, the Netherlands (11-14 September 2024). The theme of the conference is, "Back to the Future: Sustainable innovations for ethical food production and consumption. Celebrating 25 years EurSafe conferences". More information will available soon at our website. Please also check our website for the "EurSafe interim events" for 2023 that will be organized.

In the coming period the board will work on making the Five Year Strategy operational. We will inform you on the next steps in the coming months!

Best regards,
Franck Meijboom
On behalf of the Executive Committee

What's new after the last general assembly in Edinburgh?

An interview with Franck Meijboom and Teea Kortetmäki



Simon Meisch: *Franck, at the Edinburgh conference 2022, you were elected EurSafe president and Teea, you as the EurSafe secretary. Congratulations. What would you like to achieve in your new positions?*

Franck Meijboom: Mainly, I would like to further build EurSafe in a sustainable way attractive for our members and also make the new five-year strategy more practical. There is a lot of potential in the EurSafe community, but not all has been used. My ambition is to really make that much more fruitful and visible in the next three to four years.

Teea Kortetmäki: I'm happy to find that I share Franck's views pretty much. In addition, I really would like to help build EurSafe into a more inclusive and community-like space for food researchers across Europe.

Simon Meisch: *You mentioned the newly developed five-year strategy. What are the two most important points for you?*

Franck Meijboom: That's a tricky one because I think they are interconnected. One of the really important things though is to work on EurSafe as a community. I think the network function of EurSafe is probably one of the core elements of the five-year strategy. All other elements such as the publication strategy, the biannual conferences, EurSafe interim events are to a certain extent means to building up to this idea of having EurSafe as a living community.

Teea Kortetmäki: I also find community building very important. In addition to what Franck just said, I want to highlight the growing use of different platforms for virtual collaboration. They can be harnessed for the benefit of the

community in totally new ways. Another important aspect of the five-year strategy is the focus on supporting early-career researchers because they will actually make the core of the EurSafe in the forthcoming decades. We need to bring them in and provide them with something that they consider beneficial.

Simon Meisch: *You mentioned the EurSafe interim events. Actually, Teea, you are currently organizing one on in Trondheim; we introduced it in the last newsletter. Could you explain to our members what this new format is about?*

Teea Kortetmäki: The EurSafe interim events are new ways to bring members together in smaller groups around more specific topics or in regional grouping to help build intra-community networks and new connections. For example, with our interim event in Trondheim, we are looking forward to reaching out, especially to Nordic and Baltic food ethics researchers and getting them more involved in EurSafe activities.

Franck Meijboom: With these interim events, EurSafe gets more flexible in terms of content. General conferences should be broader and reflect the diverse set of topics our members are interested in. However, these interim events can be more focused and thus open novel avenues to explore new fields. Moreover, they might be formats more aligned with the interests and resources of early career researchers. For them, it's quite a step to organize a full EurSafe conference. Whereas if you are at the PhD or postdoc level, maybe it is less a hurdle to organize such an event. At the same time, it provides dynamics in terms of including countries that are less represented in our current conferences, for instance, in Eastern Europe or Southern Europe.

Simon Meisch: *The last general assembly also brought structural changes to the EurSafe board. Now, we have two vice-presidents instead of one: Bernice Bovenkerk and Herwig Grimm. Bernice will be responsible for communications and Herwig for events. Why was this change necessary?*

Franck Meijboom: That's me to blame. As being a vice-president in the previous board I thought the position of vice-president was not completely

clear. The treasurer has a clear profile, the secretary has a clear profile and to a certain degree also the president. However, it was unclear what you can reasonably expect from the vice-president. Now, with the five-year strategy, there is much more work with the conferences and the interim events on the one hand, but also with community-building and communication on the other hand. If you take both seriously, it is just too much for one person. So, there was the idea to have two vice-presidencies with more targeted responsibilities.

Simon Meisch: *Many thanks, Teea and Franck.*

members' section

New treasurer: Joost van Herten



I started my professional career working as a veterinary practitioner in a mixed practice in the Eastern part of the Netherlands. During this period, I became involved with veterinary policymaking and broader societal issues concerning animal husbandry. For this reason, I made a switch to the Royal Veterinary Association of the Netherlands (RVAN) to become a senior policy advisor. Dealing with all sorts of ethical questions that influence the work of veterinarians, I found

out that I missed a solid base in ethical theory. Therefore, I decided to do a master in applied ethics at Utrecht University. This helped me a lot in supporting the RVAN's ethical committee. Logically, the main points of attention in my work at RVAN are veterinary- and animal ethics. In 2016, I was offered the opportunity to deepen my academical skills by doing a PhD on the ethics of One Health, within the context of zoonotic disease control. It was a perfect chance to combine ethics with policymaking and veterinary medicine. And although, in advance my supervisors told me that a case study would surely present itself during the course of my PhD, nobody could have predicted that the COVID-19 pandemic would make my research so topical. Doing a part time PhD at Wageningen University was quite a challenge, but I really enjoyed the endeavour and successfully defended my PhD thesis in november 2021. Besides my work at RVAN, I'm currently also a member of the ethical committee on animal experimentation of the VU University in Amsterdam. Until the end of 2022, I stay on as a boardmember and treasurer of the Netherlands Society for Bioethics. I consider it an honour to continue this role within EURSAFE. I'm looking forward to contribute to a further development of the community of food and agricultural ethicists in Europe. Hopefully, we can meet at one of the next EURSAFE events in the near future.

New board member: Ivo Wallimann-Helmer



Since 2018, I am Professor for Environmental Humanities at the University of Fribourg (CH) and in addition, since 2019 the director of the UniFR_ESH Institute. My background is in philosophy and German linguistics and literature. My PhD thesis in philosophy addressed the ideal of equality of opportunity. The core areas of my work investigate conceptual and normative issues of justice in climate action and environmental protection, technological innovation for sustainability, and the fair differentiation

of responsibilities in environmental practice and food systems. My key interest concerns the conceptual conflicts between the global and intergenerational dimensions of these challenges and the local and temporal differentiations of responsibilities between relevant agents.

New board member: Bjørn K. Myskja



Bjørn K. Myskja is Professor of ethics and political philosophy at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology – NTNU. His research interests include Kantian ethics, bioethics, ethics of technology and animal ethics. He is leading a research project on the ethics of genome edited salmon and is responsible for RRI work packages in several interdisciplinary biotechnology.

ANIMAL FRIEND OF THE YEAR

The largest Danish Animal NGO, Animal Protection Denmark, founded in 1875, with more than 75.000 members, has each year since 1960 awarded the prize *Animal Friend of the Year* to a person who 'has provided a long and tireless effort for animals'. In 2022 the prize was awarded to long time EurSafe member, bioethicist, PhD Mickey Gjerris, University of Copenhagen.

Who gets the award is decided by the board of Animal Protection Denmark and they write as their reasons: For more than 20 years Mickey Gjerris has done research into the issue of human-animal relationship, technology, climate change, life & death, and the point of it all. He has placed the conditions of the animals we use in various ways on the agenda and advocated that what we choose to eat is an ethical issue, not a private matter: When we choose to eat meat, we harm other sentient beings. When we eat eggs from hens with keel bone fractures, it is OK to ask: why would you do that?

Mickey Gjerris has in public debates, TV-shows, articles, and talks tried to build a bridge between consumers and producers and argued that animal welfare is a societal matter that ought to concern us all.



Mickey Gjerris together with Chairman of the Board Per Jensen and CEO Britta Riis, Animal Protection Denmark

save the date

APSAFE 2023 CONFERENCE

Just transition in regenerative food systems under urbanization and climate crisis

We are pleased to announce that the 2023 APSAFE Conference will be held between March 10-11, 2023 in Nagoya, Japan (and online), under the theme *Just Transition in Regenerative Food Systems under Urbanization and Climate Crisis*. The symposium is shaping up to be an exciting opportunity to discuss about appropriate and equitable transitions in food systems, which are rapidly urbanizing and under the threats of climate emergency and socio-political conflicts. Through this opportunity we hope to shed light on the implicit assumptions and knowledge upon which our food system relies and depends on, and together cultivate a network of committed scholars and activists interested in the ethics and sustainability of agriculture and food.

The conference will include panel discussions, oral research presentations, the APSAFE award for best student presentation, and networking events. We are working hard to make this conference into an event everyone will enjoy and remember!

Here is important information about the APSAFE 2023 conference:

Registration

The conference registration is free of charge for both presenters and audience! Please register using this [Google form](#).

After the release of the proceedings on February 20, 2023, we plan to organize an online session for networking & preparation for the conference. Please let us know if you are interested in participating via the above registration form.

Joining APSAFE2023 online

The sessions will be streamed via Zoom. In addition, we have an APSAFE workspace on Slack for text-based discussions and material sharing. You can sign up [here](#) (for free, of course!)



Joining APSAFE2023 onsite

Meals, accommodations, and insurance are not included and must be arranged separately by the attendee. An optional Conference Dinner will be held on Friday, March 10. If you wish to join, please let us know your intention to participate, the number of accompanying people, and any dietary restrictions through the above registration form. Payment for the dinner needs to be made in Japanese Yen on March 11, 2023.

Program

APSAFE2023 will feature two panel discussions. The first will focus on how food ethics can contribute to a sustainable and regenerative food system in these challenging times. The panelists will be Matthias Kaiser, Kate Millar, and Kirill Thompson.

The second will center on knowledge sharing to help early career researchers approach the task of conducting research on agricultural and food ethics. Four early career researchers in different stages of their career path (Simona Zollet, Chika Kondo, Jasmine Black, and Mai Kobayashi) will share their experiences with fieldwork and practical engagement with agri-food issues.

In addition, APSAFE 2023 also has 25 planned oral presentations, divided among the following thematic areas:

1. Food policies that can integrate diverse stakeholders
2. Regenerating agricultural pluralism
3. Planetary health: human-animal-environment health and well-being
4. Urbanization and food systems: concentration and decentralization
5. Future Foodscapes
6. Commoning of water sphere and food procurement
7. Wild food basket: dependence and independence

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please feel free to contact one of the committee members. We look forward to seeing you at the APSAFE2023 conference, either in person or online!

Your Sincerely,

The Program Committee of APSAFE2023

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save the date

27-29 SEPTEMBER 2023 IN VIENNA Veterinary Ethics Conference 2023

We would like to draw your attention and cordially invite you to our VETERINARY ETHICS CONFERENCE which will take place from 27th until 29th of September 2023 at Messerli Research Institute in Vienna, Austria.

In recent years, debates and reflections on ethical issues of the veterinary profession, which were once marginal, are gaining momentum. VETERINARY ETHICS, as a field of applied ethics, attends to these debates by reflecting on ethical challenges and providing space for discussions with veterinary professionals and students. Consequently, VETERINARY ETHICS has been institutionalized as a multifaceted and multibranch field encompassing both empirical and normative ethics, and related methodological issues. Further, the field contributes to the development and implementation of ethical standards and codes of conduct that do not only provide orientation for veterinary professionals, but also promote and protect the profession's integrity.

The VETERINARY ETHICS CONFERENCE 2023 in Vienna will focus on these various tasks and responsibilities placed on the field of VETERINARY ETHICS as both an academic discipline and a practical profession. This focus enables a knowledge transfer among researchers working in the various branches of VETERINARY ETHICS, and goes beyond the academic borders by facilitating conversations between researchers, veterinary professionals as well as representatives of the veterinary profession and its associations. It is the overall aim of the VETERINARY ETHICS CONFERENCE 2023 to further institutionalize the field of VETERINARY ETHICS by focusing debates on recent developments as well as current and future potentials and possible challenges.

We are pleased that the VETERINARY ETHICS CONFERENCE 2023 will be framed by four keynote speakers:

1. Anne Quain, *University of Sydney, Australia*
2. Peter Sandøe, *University of Copenhagen, Denmark*
3. Sabine Salloch, *University Hannover, Germany* and
4. Sean Wensley, *Animal Welfare Working Group of the Federation of Veterinarians of Europe, UK*

Further, we welcome contributions from researchers working in a wide range of disciplines, including philosophy/applied ethics, veterinary science, science education, communication, sociology, politics, law and others. In addition to participants presenting and discussing their work in form of oral presentations, we will provide workshops with invited experts from core fields to offer



training on, e.g. integrity and responsible conduct of research, empirical ethics in the field of veterinary ethics, reflections on interdisciplinary work or mediating human-animal conflict situations in the veterinary profession.

Call for Abstracts

The Call for Abstracts can be found under the following link <https://www.vetmeduni.ac.at/veterinary-ethics-2023/call-for-abst> and is open until 15 March 2023. Further detailed information about important dates can be found here. For questions concerning scientific program scheduling and any other conference-related matter: veterinaryethics@vetmeduni.ac.at

We look forward to welcoming you in Vienna!

On behalf of the organizing team,

Svenja Springer and Herwig Grimm

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