



Agenda April 3, 2025

Michiel Dehaene of Ghent University will give a recap of scenario planning, developing strategies and the use of prototypes (30 minutes)

Q&A session on introductions and readings, please use the padlet:

https://padlet.com/geronimo2/questions-for-the-2025-aesop4food-seminar-eeczz0f899y4tud9

Discussion in smaller groups on the theme of scenario planning

Outlook on next session April 10























Q&A session introductions & readings

Add any questions, comments on this padlet:

https://padlet.com/geronimo2/questions-for-the-2025-aesop4food-seminar-eeczz0f899y4tud9

Mette Vaarst, Arthur Getz Escudero, M. Jahi Chappell, Catherine Brinkley, Ravic Nijbroek, Nilson A.M. Arraes, Lise Andreasen, Andreas Gattinger, Gustavo Fonseca De Almeida, Deborah Bossio & Niels Halberg (2018) Exploring the concept of agroecological food systems in a city-region context, Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems, 42:6, 686-711

Scoones et al. (2015) The politics of Green Transformation (Chapter 1). Oxon/New York: Routledge. Only Chapter 1 is compulsory reading: page 1 - 24.





















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Coming soon: Call for Coalitions

February 2023 Coming soon: Call for Coalitions

February 2023 Coming soon: Ca

Agroecological farmers and cities are insufficiently understanding and finding each other.

How can we move beyond the conversation stoppers that block the identification of shared matters of concern?

Urbanisation destroys agriculture.



Territorial coordination of municipal public policy

Cinturón Verde

Building Block

Political Pedagogies

This building block aims to contribute to the reconfiguration of the political pedagogies of the agroecological movement in a way better fit to address the challenges posed by current processes of urbanisation and the residualisation of agroecological farming.



Working and living on protected farmland

Agricultural Colony Rosario



Building Block

Territorial Food Hub

The territorial food hub is an organisation that is a central component (or node) of a wider agroecological food system or network that operates within, and is closely identified with, a specific neighbourhood or district.

Building Block

Land & Market Access Incubator

The Land & Market Access Incubator develops institutional support for agroecology and coordinates this with an appropriate programme for farmers to access land, skills, infrastructure and markets at the same time.



Building Block

Farming the Fragmented Land

The Farming the Fragmented Land building block calls for new agroecological imaginaries that allow distinctive food growing to transform and thrive in a heavily fragmented territory.

Brussels

Gardening contested lands

Agroecological farmers are less productive but deliver ecosystem services. Let's pay them for those services!

The city is first of all an opportunity to sell my products (at a higher price).

Agroecological farmers are not busy with urbanisation or are mostly confronted by the problems it causes. Cities do not see the farmers and the transformative potential of agroecology.

How can we move beyond the conversation stoppers that block the mobilisation around shared matters of concern?

Urbanist Community

Agroecological farmers are less productive but deliver ecosystem services. Let's pay them for those services!

It is good that environmental policies are seeing the ecosystem services that can be derived from nature inclusive and regenerative farming models, such as carbon sequestration, nature or water management. However, exclusive focus on the benefits may distract from the farming model through which services are provided. Sponsoring benefits does not guarantee the transition to sustainable forms of farming. Agroecology is more than a set of tricks, it requires intensive engagement with the local context, and a lasting balance between farmers' production and investment in the regeneration of soil fertility, knowledge, and skills. If we want lasting ecological benefits, let's start caring for the soil carer, beginning with supportive physical and social infrastructure.

continue the conversation .

Urbanist Community

The agricultural system is organised (inter)nationally, rendering cities powerless.

Food is not an urban question by default, it is only so to the extent that urban communities (re)claim their role. As consumption centres, cities have a high mandate and impact to relocalise the food system. And as responsible authority in many other areas (land policy, green policy, etc.), cities possess many instruments that can also be used for agricultural purposes. How do we rethink these instruments so that they actively support a *local* food system?

continue the conversation ...

Agroecological Community

Urban agriculture is not agriculture.

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Agroecological Community

Agriculture is just a function on the urban land use map that has not been rezoned yet.

At present, most cities have no coherent vision on the agricultural land within their jurisdiction. This puts agricultural land in a fragile position. Agroecology has a role to play to turn this around because it has the unique potential to break the conflict between environmental objectives and productive objectives in the open space arena. A growing number of cities realise that they need specific farmers close to the city: to reach ambitious goals around local food production, and to help realise climate policy, to combat the loss of biodiversity, to manage the landscape, and so on. What if agroecology became a matter of public policy?

continue the conversation ...

Agroecological Community

Let us farm and spare us all the extras.

Building a common agenda around an agroecological urbanism is necessary and promising.

Where can we start the conversation between agroecological farmers and cities?

The agroecological park as sheltered space and enabling environment

Here things are different



©Graines de Pavsans

The agroecological park is a sanctuary space, shielded from the dominant context, in which other rules can be set and favorable conditions for agroecological farming created. This may come in the form of training, of specific 'test spaces' (as in the Pede Valley in Brussels). This may also come in the form of specific infrastructure (land readjustment, composting facilities, processing facilities, machine sharing); the building of shared management and maintenance capabilities; training and technical assistance; cancellation of unnecessary roads, land readjustment, the reintroduction of hedgerows, and other small landscape elements; water harvesting infrastructure (on and on off farm); etc. Park management may also come with shared marketing strategies, food processing and conservation, shared logistics, labeling etc. (Parc Agrari del Park Labrorat)

Community Kitchens as Places of Solidarity

Cooperative Housekeeping

"I will now speak of the immense impetus I believe co-operative housekeeping would give to farming, and the revolution it would bring to it. [...] It will be the first aim of the co-operative housekeepers then, [...] to secure for each society a landed interest of its own."

C.F. Pierce, Cooperative Housekeeping, 1870

The historical movement for co-operative housekeeping brings the burgeoning reflection of cooperative enterprise of the workers movement into the sphere of domestic work. Pierce's revolution begins in the kitchen and in the de- and reconstruction of the many social, political and economic relations wrapped up in it. Taking control of the kitchen is taking control of the many relations of dependency reproduced in everyday life. Today this translates directly into the decolonial struggle and unexpected forms of solidarity that come out of community kitchens.

A transformative community kitchen based on the principles of agroecology can play a pivotal role in the radical restructuring of the entire food system, including both relations with producers (near and afar) and urban consumers. By accessing urban and peri-urban land or liaising with peri-urban farmers they can contribute to develop a territorial food system, mindful of farmers' livelihoods. By making the food broadly accessible, it addresses injustice in the availability of healthy food for all. By cooking and eating together, it can break with patriarchal and individualised approaches to food. By also sourcing food overseas from agroecological farmers, it can make available culturally appropriate food to a wider group of

Building on the effective use of zoning as a counterspeculative measure

Parque Agrario de Fuenlabrada



©Francisco Pérez Molina

Spanish cities have been able to protect farmland on the periurban fringe through effective land use instruments and the establishment of so-called agricultural parks. The measures have been reasonably successful in stopping the destruction of agricultural soils (Miralles I Garcia 2015, 2020) but show mixed results when it comes to delivering a transition towards agroecological ways of farming. Many of these agricultural parks are situated within naturally sensitive areas. This provides clear opportunities to link nature development and biodiversity goals to the establishment of conditions in which only certain farming models can thrive. Agroecology can be a gamechanger in such a context, as it is a farming model that can accelerate the evolution towards nature inclusive forms of farming and move beyond the conflict between environmental

An agroecological urbanism requires new transformative projects that redefine social, spatial and political relations.

What are the building blocks around which agroecological farmers and cities can engage together?

Productive Housing Estate

The Productive Housing Estate looks at complementary relationships between housing and food growing spaces. It is set to overcome the latent conflict between the capacity to exercise the right to grow and the right to shelter within an urbanised context.



Healthy Soil Scape

The Healthy Soil Scape relates the practices of soil care to a landscape geography in which nutrient streams can be circulated. It considers the ways in which humans and non-humans look after each other through the medium of soil, and how these caring relationships can be strengthened.



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Landed Community Kitchen

Landed Community Kitchens coordinate large-scale food sourcing, food cooking, and availability of food to large numbers of people. They bridge the gap between agroecological movements and community food initiatives.



Agroecological Park

The (peri-urban) Agroecological Park combines territorial measures to protect land and soil with specific initiatives to facilitate the agroecological cultivation of these protected lands.



Political Pedagogies

The political pedagogies of the agroecological movement are rural in origin and may be reconfigured in ways better fit to address the challenges posed by current processes of urbanisation and the residualisation of agroecological farming.



Farming the Fragmented Land

Farming the Fragmented Land looks at practices that valorize residual patches of land within the complex land mosaic of the peri-urban fringe, building the necessary linkages to resource the landscape beyond the level of the farm.



Making sense of the proliferation of approaches



Action for Education Spatial Organisation and Planning For Sustainable Food



THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CITY REGION FOOD SYSTEMS (CRFS)

- FACTSHEETS -

This project has received funding form the European Union's Noticen 2020 Research and Innovation Programme, und Grant Agreement n° 652663

















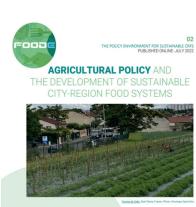




Making sense of the proliferation of approaches

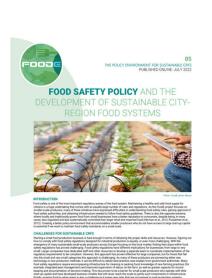
















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Making sense of the proliferation of approaches





THE POLICY ENVIRONMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE CRFS
PUBLISHED ONLINE: JULY 2022

POLICY SILOS AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITY-REGION FOOD SYSTEMS



INTRODUCTION

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CHALLENGES FOR SUSTAINABLE CRES

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Agroecology principles	in a food systems context
(1) Resource recycling and minimizing losses	Recycling and minimizing losses of biomass and natural resources in terms of food, water, and compost between the different levels of a food system, including minimizing losses of genetic resources. In a city-region food system, this implies common awareness and organization of rural-urban cycles.
(2) Minimal external inputs	Use of local resources which enhance the environment: energy, human skills, capacities, and which are in accordance with the natural and social environment in a food system, hence "internal inputs."
(3) Contextualized	Farming and food systems are developed in each context with and by the actors, who carry and constantly co-create relevant knowledge. The consciousness of the context may be emphasized in the agroecological city-region food system, where several "non-natural elements" are involved in the landscapes. In CRFSs, the importance of this is captured in the concept of "place-based food."
(4) Resilience	Adaptive capacity, health and immunity in the food system at all levels (social and environmental; individuals and populations), in terms of ability to absorb shocks and disturbances, over seasons and in times and conditions of change and challenges. This involves feedback loops of production and need for diverse food over seasons. Diversification and diverse genetic resources can enhance resilience.
(5) Multifunctionality	The system has ability and capacity to carry out multiple different functions, often involving multiple actors and giving many different roles to each system element, as well as to the links between them.
(6) Complexity and integration	Enhancing interaction and synergies in social-ecological systems, building on sensible resource efficiency at all levels of the food systems, to meet the challenges of, for example, seasonality, storage, and production at scale.
(7) Equitable	Emphasizing multiactor involvement, the necessity of clever use of human resources and mutuality within the system, valuing different capacities and knowledge types and no exploitation, as well as acting in ways which nourish and allow future generations to develop and flourish.
(8) Nourishing	Use of non-destructive inputs and resources which nourish soil, the environment, plants, animals, humans, landscapes, and ecosystems at all levels of the food and ecosystem, supporting healthy diets in resource clever food systems, and understanding health as resilience.





















Actions in agro-ecological farming systems

Biomass, water, natural resources recycledto soil, within farm and between farms and landscapes.

Genetic diversity maintained.

Diversification of activities, actors, and agricultural outputs create synergies and addresses seasonality.

Agroecosystems and social systems develop and organise to withstand shocks and disturbances

Nourishing food and landscapes address seasonality and adaptive resource management.

Citizens and farmer groupscocreate awareness and action, whilst safeguarding equity issues related to the agroecological food producing system, and participate in onthe-ground decision making and policy developments.

Resource recycling, minimising losses and external inputs

Resilience: adaptive capacity, immunity and health in ecological, social and institutional spheres

Nourishment for soil, plants, animals, landscapes, ecosystems and human diets

Equitable through multi-actor involvement, shared awareness and collective decisions

Actions in city-region agroecological food systems

Collection and recyclingof biomass for compost, and grey water between food system levels in urban, peri-urban and rural landscapes, with no negative short- or longterm effects.

The diverse geneticand other resources, and multiple functions, actors, and relations interact in food markets, around processing, storage and exchange of food, create cicular economies and enhance the multifaceted natural/ seminatural/ nonnatural environment.

Nourishing food, actions, and landscapes support healthy diets and adaptive resource management.

Citizens and farmer groups cocreate knowledge, awareness and inclusive action, utilize human resources and social networks, and participate in onthe-ground decision making and policy developments.









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Navigating the policy field of food planning

- wicked problems thinking uncertainty and disagreement
- policy navigation a policy arrangement perspective
- strategizing: prototyping and scenario planning



no linear connection between a systematic understanding of food systesms and strategies of systems change

uncertainty: simultaneous uncertainty about facts and values

- thinking pathways and modalities of change
- thinking in terms of possibilities (scenario's)















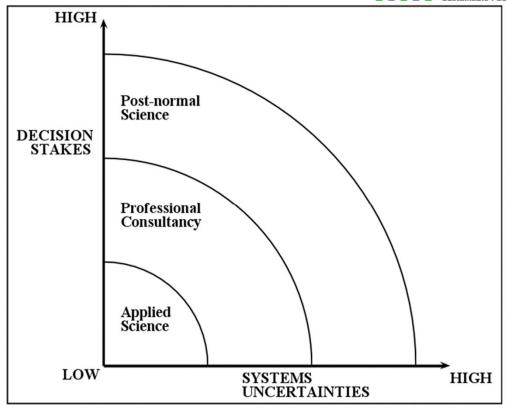




Post-normal science?

High levels of uncertainty High stakes





Funtowicz, S.O., Ravetz, J.R., 1993.





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Typology of problems

Far from agreement on norms and values

Close to agreement

on norms and

values at stake

Uncertainty (do we know the facts)

VS

Disagreements (what values do we attach to these facts) Moderately structured problems: discussion ethical acceptability of goals

Unstructured, 'wicked' problems

Structured problems

Moderately structured problems: discussion about

Close to certainty on required and available knowledge

Far from certainty

(Hisschemöller & Hoppe, 2001)

Typology of problems

Far from agreement on norms and values

Uncertainty (do we know the facts)

VS

Disagreements (what values do we attach to these facts)

Close to agreement on norms and values at stake

Use of GMO's

Getting rid of plastic straws

Food and Climate Change / The long food chang Unstructured, 'wicked' problems

Use of plastic in food packaging

Close to certainty on required and available knowledge

Far from certainty

(Hisschemöller & Hoppe, 2001)



WICKED PROBLEMS / Staying with the problem

Rittel & Webber – Dilemmas in a General Theory of Planning, 1973

- 1. There is no definitive formulation of a wicked problem.
- 2. Wicked problems have no stopping rule.
- 3. Solutions to wicked problems are not true-or-false, but better or worse.
- 4. There is no immediate and no ultimate test of a solution to a wicked problem.
- 5. Every solution to a wicked problem is a "one-shot operation"; because there is no opportunity to learn by trial and error, every attempt counts significantly.
- 6. Wicked problems do not have an enumerable (or an exhaustively describable) set of potential solutions, nor is there a well-described set of permissible operations that may be incorporated into the plan.
- 7. Every wicked problem is essentially unique.
- 8. Every wicked problem can be considered to be a symptom of another problem.
- 9. The existence of a discrepancy representing a wicked problem can be explained in numerous ways. The choice of explanation determines the nature of the problem's resolution.
- 10. The social planner has **no right to be wrong** (i.e., planners are liable for the consequences of the actions they generate).















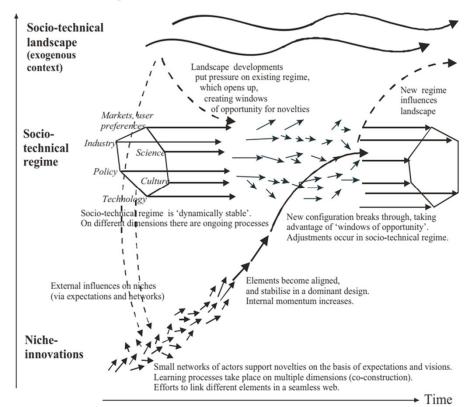






Multi-level perspective on transitions

Increasing structuration of activities in local practices





Source: F.W Geels, Environmental Innovation and Societal Transition 1 (2011) 24-40





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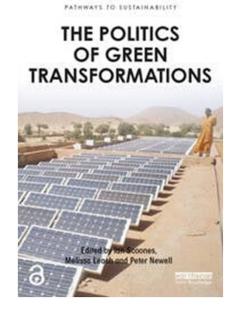


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Scoones et al. (2015) The politics of Green Transformation (Chapter 1). New York: Routledge.







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AESOP4FOOD) Action for Educations Spatial Organisation and Planning For Sustainable Food

SCOONES et al.

There is growing acknowledgement of the multiple environmental stresses the world faces - from climate change, air and water pollution, and biodiversity loss to land use change, for example. There is growing consensus that these will prove deeply damaging to human well-being and futures unless they are addressed. [...]

But how these are to be tackled remains much disputed, and a clear vision of what green transformations are required, for what and for whom remains elusive. This is, of course, due to political contention. There is intense competition around framings of how to read and react to the observed trends: what diagnosis they allegedly provide of the origins of the crisis and the sources of the remedies. There is much at stake in the construction of what drives unsustainability (who is to blame for what) and of what forces can be aligned to rebalance socionatures.



















SCOONES et al.

TABLE 1.1 Narratives of green transformations: diagnoses and solutions

Narratives of green transformations/ diagnoses

Solutions

Technocentric

Either about to or already exceed many planetary limits; urgency and crisis

Emphasis on population; Malthusian models of scarcity and conflict

Highlighting the role of technology as magic bullets . . .

... but also potentials of alternative technologies

Marketized

Crisis results from market failures, externalities

Primacy of (green) growth

Corporations as agents of change

Technologies as global public goods to tackle environmental crisis

Low-carbon transitions: new energy technologies

Including 'technical fixes', from geoengineering to genetically modified crops, but also bottom-up, grassroots innovation

Top-down governance arrangements in favour of 'the planet'

Technological entrepreneurs, green capitalists and consumers to lead

Prices will reflect scarcity of resources and demand to protect them, and reward ecosystem service providers

Need to allocate and enforce property rights and use institutions to this end

Economic investments and market incentives to achieve green growth and a green economy

State-led

Need for state involvement in steering transformation and re-embedding markets

State-backed R&D and wider finance central to a 'developmental state'

Crisis of governance at national and global levels; importance of institutions, agreements, international architectures

Citizen-led

Change comes from below, cumulative actions of multiple, networked initiatives

Linking niches, experiments and demonstrations through movements

Behaviour change, advocacy and demonstrating alternatives central: 'another world is possible'

At the national level, need for a green state, adopting green Keynesian industrial policies of stimulus, infrastructural projects, creating green jobs

At the international level, modifying and reforming existing institutions or creating new ones (World Environment Organisation)

Strengthening global architectures (Earth System Governance)

Power from below, involving connected social movements (e.g. green consumers, green living/transition towns; food, water, energysovereignty movements)

Radical system change required (e.g. arguments for eco-socialism, eco-feminism, Third World environmentalism, postdevelopmentalism)

Bio-communities; self-sufficiency; dematerialization; degrowth







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SCOONES et al.



illustrations in the context of food planning

Technocentric (diagnosis and therapy side) often starting from non sustainable use of resources now... technological fixes to the carbon footprint potential to reduce land consumption through non land based forms of cultivation top down introduction of new systems - i.e. biodigestion of green waste

Marketized

negative externalities / food is too cheap price on packaging - price on waste... regulation

state led

need for state intervention - missing infrastructure pubic procurement - decommodified food supply access to land - counter speculative measures

citizen led

need for behavioral change and popular support via campesina, slow food, eco-feminism niche initiatives - alternative food networks, community supported agriculture direct buying communities























Multiple transformations: strategies for change

Shaping and resisting structures:

the possibility to contribute to change is distributed unevenly within existing structures

- e.g. existing investment in monocrop farming and highly commodified food supply chains
- e.g. existing regulation on waste management preventing the use of organic (waste) streams for on farm composting

Reframing knowledge

Existing discursive structures place a limit on how we see and imagine problems and solutions, and how we define, know and frame futures (p. 22)

- e.g. the focus on food miles (rather than food sovereignty)
- e.g. the lack of knowledge regarding the role of living soils in farming

Realigning institutions and incentives

state is both necessary and institutionally poorly placed to contribute to emerging possibilities e.g. framing (and dismissing) sound solutions as 'alternative'

Mobilizing and networking

the potential of place-based struggles to resonate and 'globalize' through transnational advocacy networks e.g. via campesina, new municipalism...





















AESOP4FOOD) Action for Educations Spatial Organisations and Blanning For

Concept development by Van Tatenhove et al. [2000].

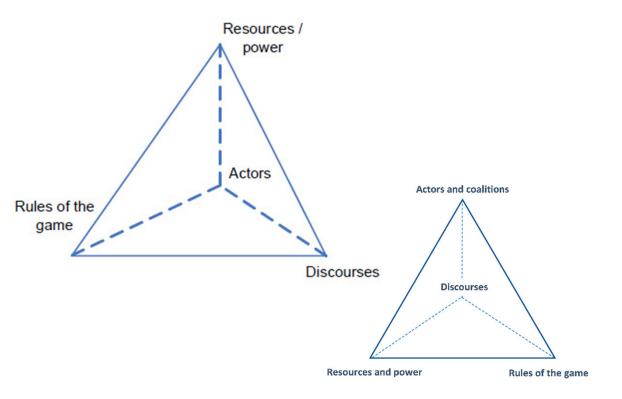
Roots in the field of environmental policy

a 'meso level theory' or 'approach' for analyzing and understanding change and stability in policy processes

approach to think about policy change

A policy arrangement is defined as "the temporary stabilization of the content and organization of a particular policy domain at a certain policy a level or over several policy levels" (Leroy and Arts 2006).

policy arrangement perspective























Multiple transformations: strategies for change

Shaping and resisting structures:

the possibility to contribute to change is distributed unevenly within existing structures

- e.g. existing investment in monocrop farming and highly commodified food supply chains
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Reframing knowledge

discourse

power

Existing discursive structures place a limit on how we see and imagine problems and solutions, and how we define, know and frame futures (p. 22)

- e.g. the focus on food miles (rather than food sovereignty)
- e.g. the lack of knowledge regarding the role of living soils in farming

Realigning institutions and incentives

rules

state is both necessary and institutionally poorly placed to contribute to emerging possibilities e.g. framing (and dismissing) sound solutions as 'alternative'

Mobilizing and networking

actors

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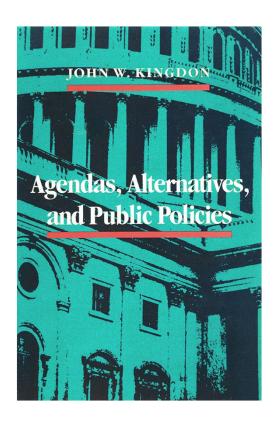








policy entrepreneurship and policy windows



Convergence of:

driving problems

emerging solutions

political will















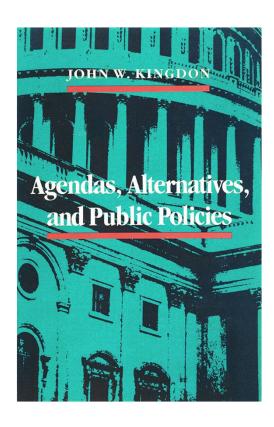








policy entrepreneurship and policy windows



Policy Window opens when there is convergence of problems, solutions and political will

Policy Entrepreneurs are individuals who exploit opportunities to influence policy outcomes so as to promote their own goals, without having the resources necessary to achieve this alone. They are not satisfied with merely promoting their self-interests within institutions that others have established; rather, they try to create new horizons of opportunity through innovative ideas and strategies. (wikipedia)



















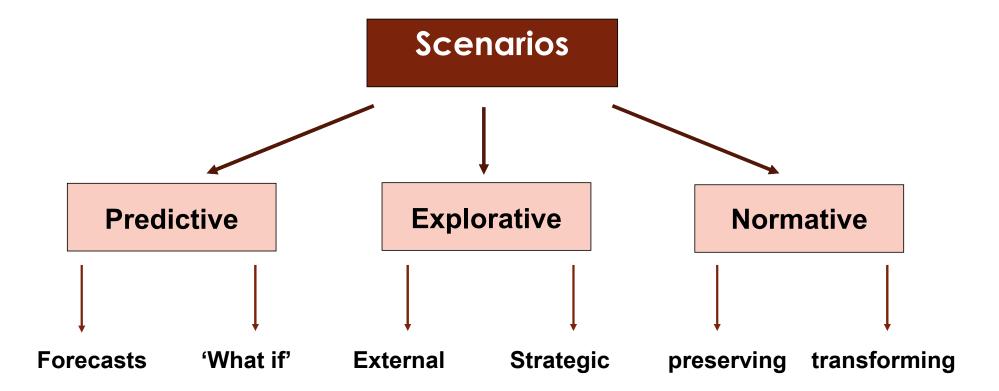


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SCENARIOS

what will happen? what can happen? what should happen?



After: Dreborg, K. H. (2004). Scenarios and Structural Uncertainty. Department of Infrastructure. Stockholm, Sweden, Royal Institute of Technology.

SCENARIOS



Why explorative scenario's

- -fostering strategic discussions in light of long term evolutions
- -strengthening the learning capacity of organizations and their ability to cope with unexpected changes
- -detecting opportunities avoiding unwanted evolutions
- -policy integration (thinking multiple questions at the same time)











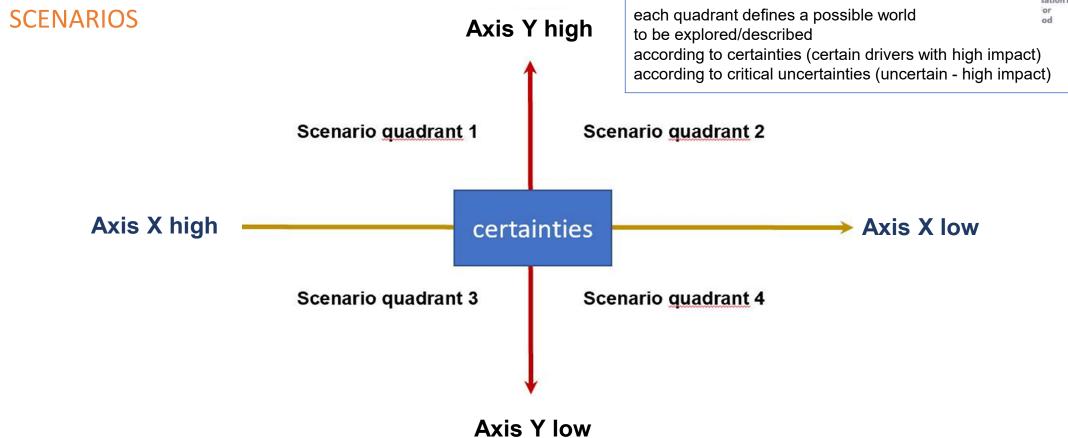






















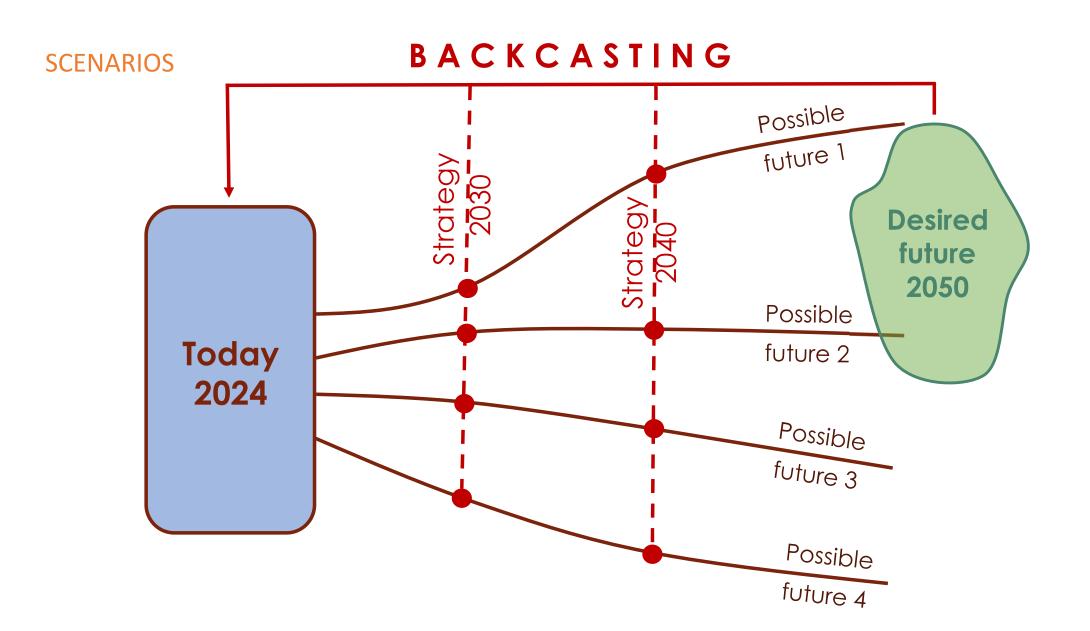












PROTOTYPING

Opening up of political pathways

Installing forms of organization (resources, infrastructure, institutions, actor constellations,...) that don't exist yet and may initiate transformative change.

Could belong to different concepts of change (state led, market led, citizen led, technology driven...)

Acting in the presence in light of alternative futures

An agroecological urbanism requires new transformative projects that redefine social, spatial and political relations.

What are the building blocks around which agroecological farmers and cities can engage together?

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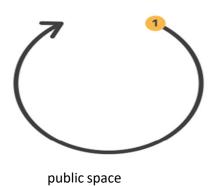


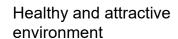
Farming the Fragmented Land

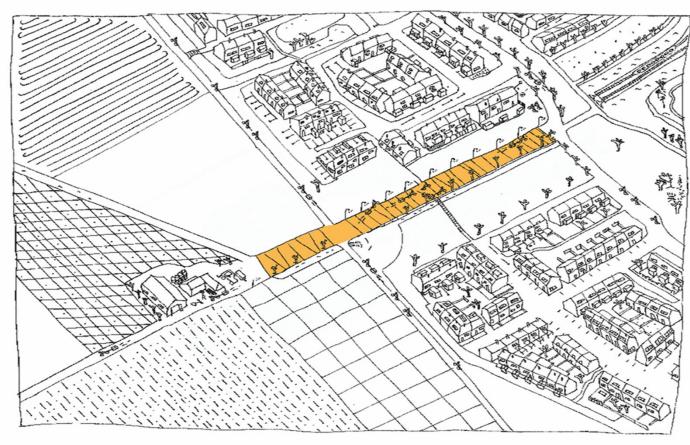
Farming the Fragmented Land looks at practices that valorize residual patches of land within the complex land mosaic of the peri-urban fringe, building the necessary linkages to resource the landscape beyond the level of the farm.





















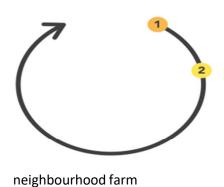


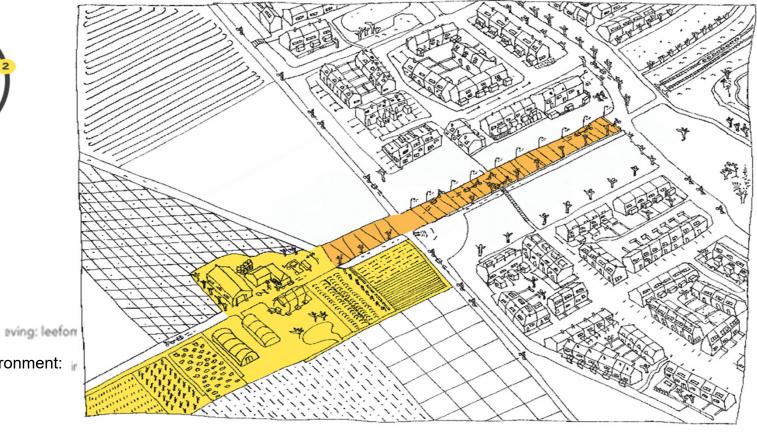












- Healthy and attractive environment
- Healthy and attractive environment: Food











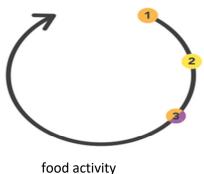


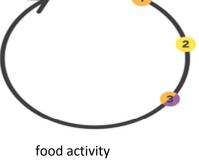






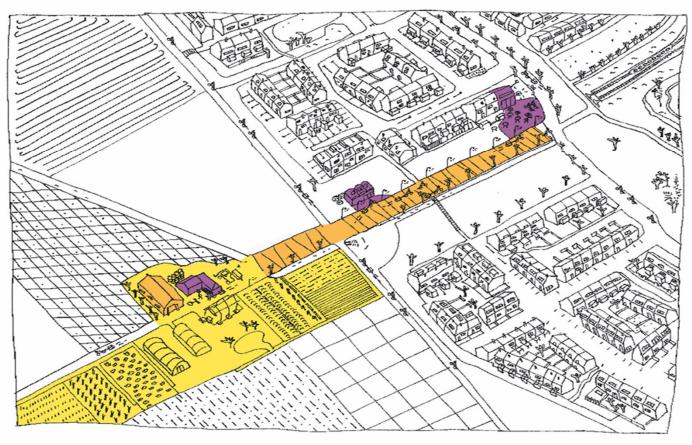






- New economy: the next level
- Healthy and attractive environment

Healthy and attractive environment: Food













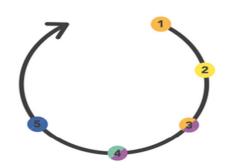






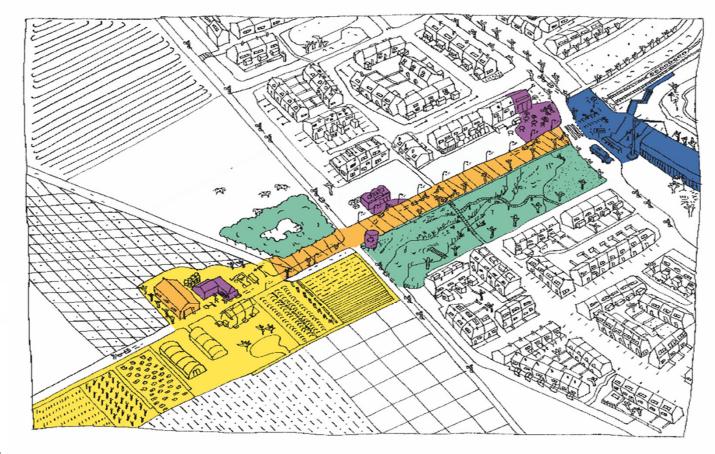






Circular nature development

- A province with excellent access
- For a climate adaptive delta
- New economy: the next level
- Healthy and attractive environment
- Healthy and attractive environment: Food













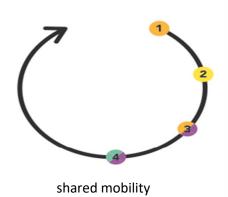


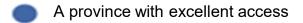




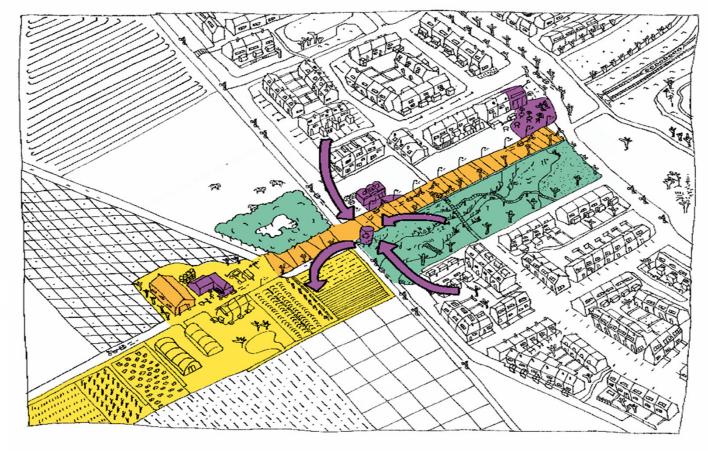








- For a climate adaptive delta
- New economy: the next level
- Healthy and attractive environment
- Healthy and attractive environment: Food













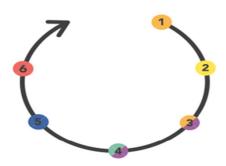












neighbourhood development

- Towards a lively and multinodal metropole
- A province with excellent access
- For a climate adaptive delta
- New economy: the next level
- Healthy and attractive environment
- Healthy and attractive environment: Food



Province of South Holland future scenarios, AWB, 2019











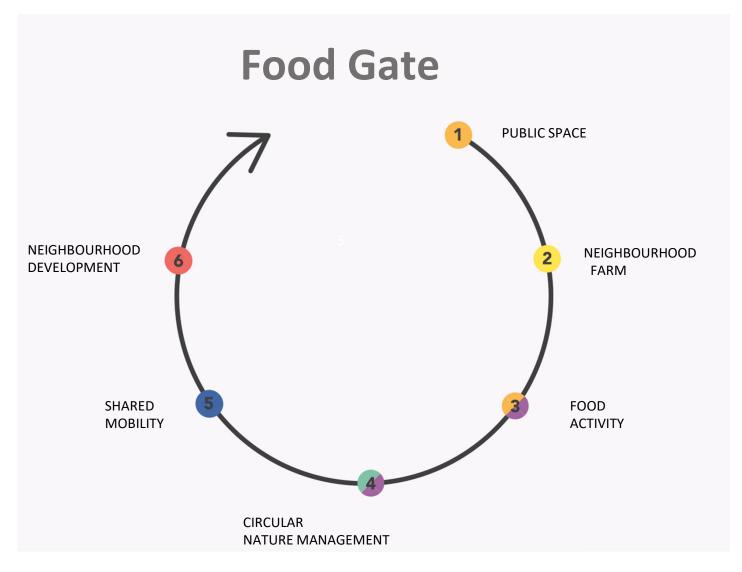




































Next and last session April 10, 2025

Collaborative monitoring and evaluation

Jeroen de Vries will give a recap on collaborative monitoring and evaluation (30 minutes).

Q&A on the preparatory material and a discussion

Discussion in smaller groups on the theme of monitoring and evaluation.

Outlook on the presentation by participants.























Reading material for April 10

Add any questions, comments on this padlet before the next session:

https://padlet.com/geronimo2/questions-for-the-2025-aesop4food-seminar-eeczz0f899y4tud9



View the recording and the presentation slides of May 23, 2024:

https://wiki.landscapeportal.org/index.php/AESOP4Food_seminar_2024#Session_May_23, 2024

Preparation reading before April 10

UNICEF (2005) Useful Tools for Engaging Young People in Participatory Evaluation. UNICEF CEE/CIS Regional Office.





















