Quick summary of previous lecture

• Background on the book: the AESOP conference, UIP project
• The starting point: the food-disabling city
• How encountering agroecology shifted thinking around value, positionality, cities and planning
• Hitting the boundaries of sustainable food planning
• Embracing the challenge of pushing the boundaries: rethinking the history of urbanisation and food as an urban question
Outline of this lecture

1. social reproduction (critique of productivist urbanism) agroecological urbanism - argument that a socio ecological project for the city starts by seeing urbanism as a project centred around the regrounding of social reproduction in the politics of care

1. building blocks as an attempt to identify needed areas of articulation - often missing relations in the impoverished landscapes of capitalist urbanization to be revived in the saturated spaces of the urban

1. illustration more in dept of a couple of BBs
Social Reproduction

Definitions:

‘biological reproduction’ through childbirth and child rearing; the reproduction of humans, through socialization and education as well as the provision of food, shelter and other goods;

the maintenance of human wellbeing through the provision of welfare, health care and other services, and through social and cultural activities; and the reproduction of social relations and social institutions;

the repertoire of ‘social practices through which people reproduce themselves on a daily and generational basis and through which social relations and the material basis of capitalism are renewed’;

subject formation: ‘Variously called care, affective labor, or subjectivation, this activity forms capitalism’s human subjects, sustaining them as embodied natural beings while also constituting them as social beings, forming their habitus and the cultural ethos in which they move.’

(Tamara Jacka, Cindi Kats and nancy Frasers cited in in Gidwani and Ramamurthy 2018, 1000)
Social Reproduction

Feminist critique of production & labour theories
Social Reproduction

how capitalist urbanism has forgotten reproduction
What would a nonexistent city be like? Speculations on housing, urban design and human work

Dolores Hayden


“A woman’s place is in the home” has been one of the most important principles of architectural design and urban planning in the United States for the last century. An implicit rather than explicit principle for the conservation and over-consumption of energy. However, women have rejected this dogma and entered the paid labor force in larger and larger numbers. With the increasing size of the labor force, the work day and the paid labor force. Women are more likely to be homeowners than members of minority groups and women, who own homes in greater numbers and who are more likely to be homeowners than members of minority groups and women, who own homes in greater numbers.

The growth of the “urban settlement” towns of America’s families are more likely to be homeowners than members of minority groups and women, who own homes in greater numbers.

Housing and work

The roots of this American settlement form lie in the environmental and economic policies of the past. In the late nineteenth century, millions of immigrant families lived in the crowded, filthy slums of American industrial cities and despaired of achieving reasonable living conditions. However, many militant strikes and demonstrations between the 1890s and 1920s made some
inspiring collective care ideas...
phalanstere and familistere...

Fig. 1.—Child-care facilities, the Familistère, Guise, France, from J. A. B. Godin, Social Solutions, translated by Marie Howland, 1873.
...inspired utopian feminists

collective housekeeping, kitchenless housing, collective infrastructure

- Marie Stevens Howland
- Alice Constance Austin
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Fig. 6.—Alice Constance Austin showing colonists at Llano del Rio, California, an architectural model of a kitchenless house, 1915.
The selective memory of urbanism

Design for the housing estate Römerstadt (Ernst Ma)
Margarete Schütte-Lihotzky: Frankfurter Küche, published in: Bauwelt, Heft 9, 1927
The selective memory of urbanism

Kitchenless house, 1922

The Feminist flat is revolutionary, strikes at the root of the economic system, may involve vast readjustments of land-tenure, communal building and taxation. But we are not afraid of revolution, for we are the pioneers of a sex-revolution.

— W. L. George, 1913
Capitalist take on reproduction & food

- Reproduction of labour force → but devaluing of women reproductive labour
- Colonialism, green-revolution technologies, rhetoric of mass production, abundance of cheap food → devaluing farmer’s care work; externalisation of ecological costs
- Commodification of cheap food: functional to the reproduction of capital circuits → social acceptability of commodification
- Workers fully incorporated in the production-consumption loop. Wage as currency and social glue
Social reproduction in agroecology

- social and ecological reproduction are central in agroecology
- a practice built around ‘care’
- soil care: stewardship of soil fertility
- ecological care: more-than-human solidarities

- care for the human: social justice, cultural respect and recognition of diversity

- can we reimagine an urbanism built around social and ecological reproduction?

...building an agroecological urbanism
Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

• Interrupting Logics of Substitution

• Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities

• Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure
Pathways to an agroecological urbanism

• Interrupting Logics of Substitution
• Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities
• Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure
### 8 Building Blocks (BB)

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Why Building Blocks (BB)

form of advocacy planning speaking about what doesn’t exist yet

missing articulations

bringing agroecology movement urban food planning in to conversation
EXAMPLE: Political Pedagogies BB

Background:

- Farmer-to-farmer training, *dialogos de saberes*, and other horizontal forms of knowledge exchange are central in the **political strategies** of territorially grounded agroecological movements.

- Training and learning have been central to **farmers resilience** (i.e. Cuba).

- Importance of political pedagogies beyond farmer’s immediate needs: used as tools for gaining political traction, **building alliances** with consumers and other communities with a certain territory (i.e. ‘extension inversa’).

- Rural-oriented pedagogies: the content of agroecological schools and farmers-led learning networks, however, have been **overly focused on rural experiences**, practices and challenges.
EXAMPLE: Political Pedagogies BB

Key challenges of BB:

- Urban specific challenges need specific learning and strategizing: especially around access to land-housing; urban finance/funding; urban infrastructures; educating consumers

- How can cities become place in which agroecological food production can thrive?

- How can agroecological farmers take up a role as stewards of the resources needed for agroecological farming (starting with soils)?

- How can agroecological farmers become part of urban political constituency?

- How can agroecological farming be valued in an urban context and be sheltered from urban speculation?
Interrupting logics of substitution

- post-capitalist urbanism
- protection of use value / counter speculative measures
- environmental and spatial justice
- cultivating difference and diversity
EXAMPLE: Farming the fragmented land BB

- practices that valorise residual patches of agricultural land within the complex land mosaic of the periurban fringe.
- reappropriation of the use value of residualized assets. Landscapes that have been written off as inefficient, to small, fragmented.
- activating relationships between ‘specialized’, land locked, differentiated activities / restoring nutrient flows at landscape level.
- It is not about ‘the scraps’ as good enough for niche initiatives, but about the systematic reclamation of resources that make sense in light of the different logics advanced by agroecology
- agroecology as game changer in collaboration with nature development goals (advanced by urban constituencies)
- stewardship of residualized assets (i.e. teaming up with water management goals)
- specific business models, strategies to combine land, specific cultivation choices, etc., that build on the potential use value of fragmented landscapes
EXAMPLE:
Farming the fragmented land BB
Ecologies of Care and More-than-human Solidarities

• care as a disruptive practice / post-productivist practice
• humans as ‘critters’ of the soil, as care dependent animals in the web of life
• collective interdependence beyond the human
• Land sharing/Community Land Trusts (CLT)
• Skills sharing/skills buildings
• Community resourcefulness
  → territorial food hub
  → healthy soil scape
  → community kitchen
EXAMPLE: Agroecology-based community kitchen BB:

- A kitchen in every neighbourhood!
- Buy local food from peri-urban farmers
- Also growing locally
- Local composting
- Time-bank to integrate alternative currencies
- Involve schools and old people
- Run café, catering and take away meals
- Host a CSA
- Political kitchen talks (post-capitalist, decolonial, feminist approaches to food as a common)
Granville Community Kitchen is reimagining our localised food system, co-creating a community of abundance, healing and resilience with eaters, farmers and food producers, chefs and food businesses, community organisations, academics and researchers. We are guided by principles of equity, justice, respect and dignity and are working towards creating a just, equitable food system built on the Human Right to Food and Nutrition, Agroecology and Food Sovereignty.
Building Resourceful Communities through Empowering Infrastructure

- agroecology as urban public policy
- seeing what is ‘free’ for dominant farming model and hard to resource for alternative models
- urban ‘permanent improvements’ as decommodified assets
- the collective investment and labor involved in maintenance
EXAMPLE: Land and Market Access Incubator

-(Public) investment in enabling conditions
-What can be done on farm - what needs to be articulated collectively: shared farmers operating infrastructure
-Kick-start the career of the next farmers
-Organises access to knowledge or skill development
-Facilitates access to (local) markets and communities
‘Agroecology demands a complete reorganisation of municipalities. People from social economy, food production, the environment, health and planning, they all have to work as one multidisciplinary team.’

— Raul Terrile (Rosario), September 27, 2019
| 1  | Agroecological Reference Center (2, 5 has) experimentation and extension in Composting; Free seeds; Aromatic and medicinal garden; Eco-prepared; Native tropical trees and adaptation of seeds to local conditions. Modules of micro orchards |
| 2  | Garden Parks |
| 3  | Garden Parks under construction |
| 4  | Productive group gardens |
| 5  | Green Corridors of the Roads |
| 6  | Agroindustry of vegetable processing |
| 7  | 600 young people who are training in ecological garden |
| 8  | 3500 Micro Huertas on terraces and balconies |
| 9  | 6000 Families participate in the Home Garden cycles |
| 10 | Mobile cart of the Orchard at home in the neighborhoods |
| 11 | 6 Fairs (700 Annual fairs) |
| 12 | Biomarkets |
| 13 | 40 Schools work in Educational Gardens |
| 14 | Demonstration gardens in public places |
| 15 | Demonstration kitchen garden in the post-prison service |
| 16 | Orchard in jail |
| 17 | Kitchen garden in the center of assisted freedom |
| 18 | Healthy Gardens in Public Hospitals |
| 19 | Agroecological Nursery |
The Forum for an agroecological urbanism

- launched in 2017 in Coventry
- the book as a start
- conversations: the webinar series June-July 2021
- UiP online-resource: forthcoming

...what next?
References


Tornaghi C. (2017), "Urban Agriculture in the food-disabling city: (Re) defining urban food justice, reimagining a politics of empowerment" in *Antipode*, 49 (3), 781–801
Thank you!

2 questions for you:

- what is the stronger and most convincing elements of an agroecological urbanism approach?

- what is the weakest, and less convincing for you?
Our next session will take place on

Wednesday May 12 at 17.00 CET

GOVERNANCE - DEVELOPING NETWORKS for AGROECOLOGY with a CASE STUDY of the Netherlands (and other countries)

Jeroen de Vries
Piet Rombouts