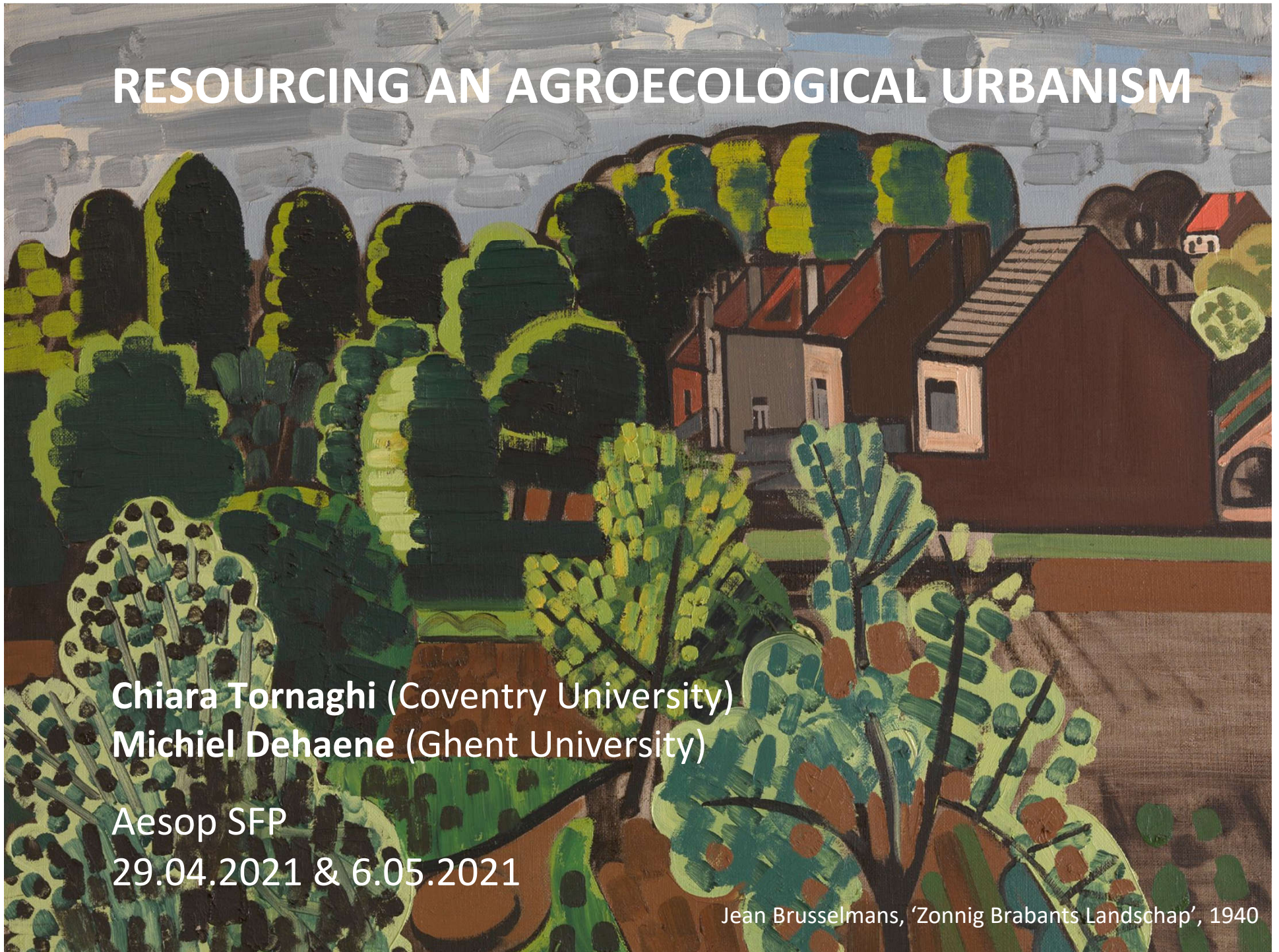


RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

Chiara Tornaghi (Coventry University)
Michiel Dehaene (Ghent University)

Aesop SFP
29.04.2021 & 6.05.2021

Jean Brusselmans, 'Zonnig Brabants Landschap', 1940



Spring series on sustainable food planning

organized by Le Notre institute and AESOP sfp group

AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM I

challenging the status quo of sustainable food planning

*the way in which an agroecological perspective is instructive to push the boundaries
of sustainable food planning*

**Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience
(CAWR), Coventry University, UK**



Chiara Tornaghi

Associate Professor in
Urban Food Sovereignty

**Department of Architecture and Urban Planning
Ghent University, Belgium**



Michiel Dehaene

Associate Professor in Urbanism

Q&A

Sustainable Food Planning Spring Seminar 2021

Intro, Food Systems, Mapping
City-Region Foodsystems and
Urban Foodscapes
Spatial dimension of Sustainable
Farming Systems
Agroecological Urbanism I
Agroecological Urbanism II
Governance and networks
Research: methods and cases

Online
Sessions

April
1

April
15

April
22

April
29

May
6

May
12

May
22

Assignment

Food System Mapping, Challenge and Approach



Presentations
assignment

Participants who take part in active mode define their food system, map the main elements and processes, define the main challenge that they may address and formulate an approach

Mission of AESOP's SFP group

Bringing together academics, policy-makers and practitioners from an international audience

<https://aesopsfp.wordpress.com/>

Providing a forum for discussion and development of sustainable food systems.

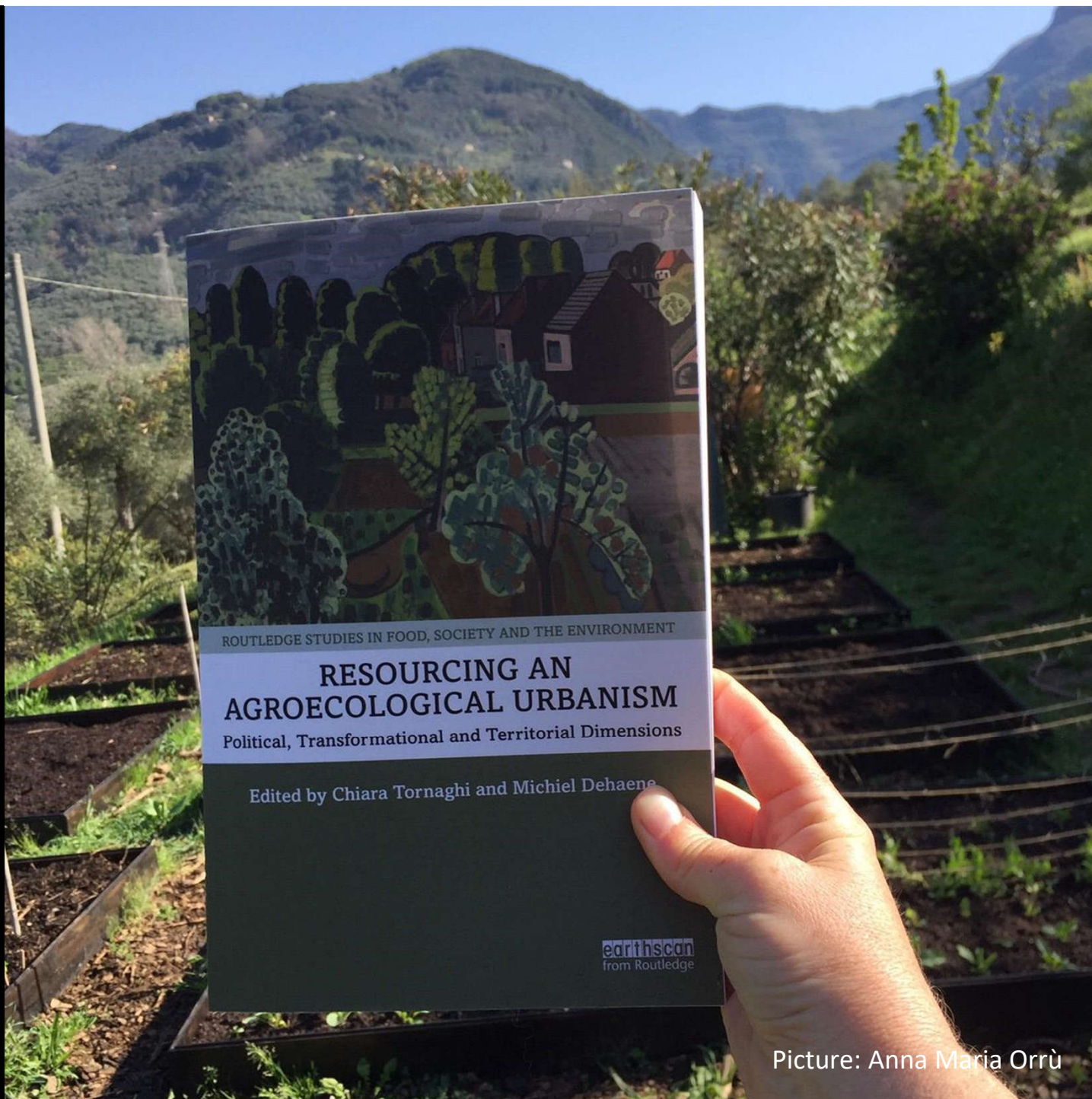


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Picture: Anna Maria Orrù

Outline (lecture 1 of 2)

- Introducing ourselves and the journey
- 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
- What's next

Introducing ourselves: Chiara

Social scientist, with background in politics, sociology, and planning (PhD 2005, University of Milano-Bicocca)

Affiliation: Associate Professor in Urban Food Sovereignty and Resilience, at the Centre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience, Coventry University, UK

Engaged scholar, citizen and food grower

Since 2016, **elected chair of the AESOP** sustainable food planning group.

Main Areas of work: urban political agroecology, agroecological urbanism, feminist agroecology, medicinal agroecology, community kitchens/social reproduction, political pedagogies, and soil care.

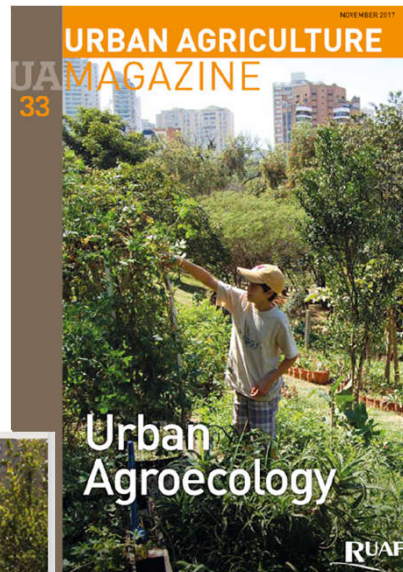
Introducing ourselves: Michiel

Architect - Urban Planner

Affiliation: Associate Professor in Urbanism,
department of Architecture and Urban Planning,
Ghent University

Main Areas of work: sub-urban renewal, (planning)
history of dispersed urban development, sustainable
cities and food planning

Introducing ourselves: a journey



AGROECOLOGY AND SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS
<https://doi.org/10.1080/21683565.2019.1680593>



OPEN ACCESS Check for updates

The prefigurative power of urban political agroecology: rethinking the urbanisms of agroecological transitions for food system transformation

Chiara Tornaghi^a and Michiel Dehaene^b

^aCentre for Agroecology, Water and Resilience (CAWR), Coventry University, Coventry, UK;
^bDepartment of Architecture and Urban Planning, Ghent, Belgium

ABSTRACT

In recent years, urban contexts and urban-rural linkages have become central for scholars and activists engaged in agrarian questions, agroecological transitions and food system transformation. Grassroots experimentations in urban agroecology and farmers' engagement with urban policies have marked the rise of a new agenda aiming to bridge urban and agrarian movements.

Departing from the work of Eric Holt-Gimenez and Annie Shattuck, this paper argues that the way urban-rural links have been conceptualized is occasionally progressive, and that an agroecology-informed food system transformation needs radical approaches. Acknowledging that processes of urbanization are dynamic, driven by specific lifestyles, consumption patterns, and value orientations – producing ongoing suburbanization, land enclosures, farmers displacement and food-knowledge loss – the paper argues that thinking transitions through new rural-urban links is unfit to tackle the evolving nature of these geographies and reproduces the distinction between consumers and producers living on either side of what Mindi Schneider and Philip McMichael have described as an epistemic and ecological rift.

Building on insights from four case-studies across global north and south, the paper reframes agroecological transition as a paradigmatic change in biopolitical spatial relations, economic values and planning agency – what we call an 'agroecological urbanism'. The paper articulates a transformation agenda addressing urban nutrients, peri-urban landuse, community food pedagogies and farmers' infrastructure.

KEYWORDS

Agroecology; urban political agroecology; urbanism; agroecological transitions; agroecological urbanism



Introduction

In recent years, the centrality of urban contexts and food system transformation, has become an important both scholars and activists engaged in agrarian quest transitions (Tornaghi 2017; Vaarst et al. 2018; Weissman 2014). Indeed, grassroots experimentation (AA.VV. 2017), and farmers' engagement with urban

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RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

Political, Transformational and Territorial Dimensions

Edited by Chiara Tornaghi and Michiel Dehaene



Background - AESOP SFP conference 2017

8th international conference AESOP SFP

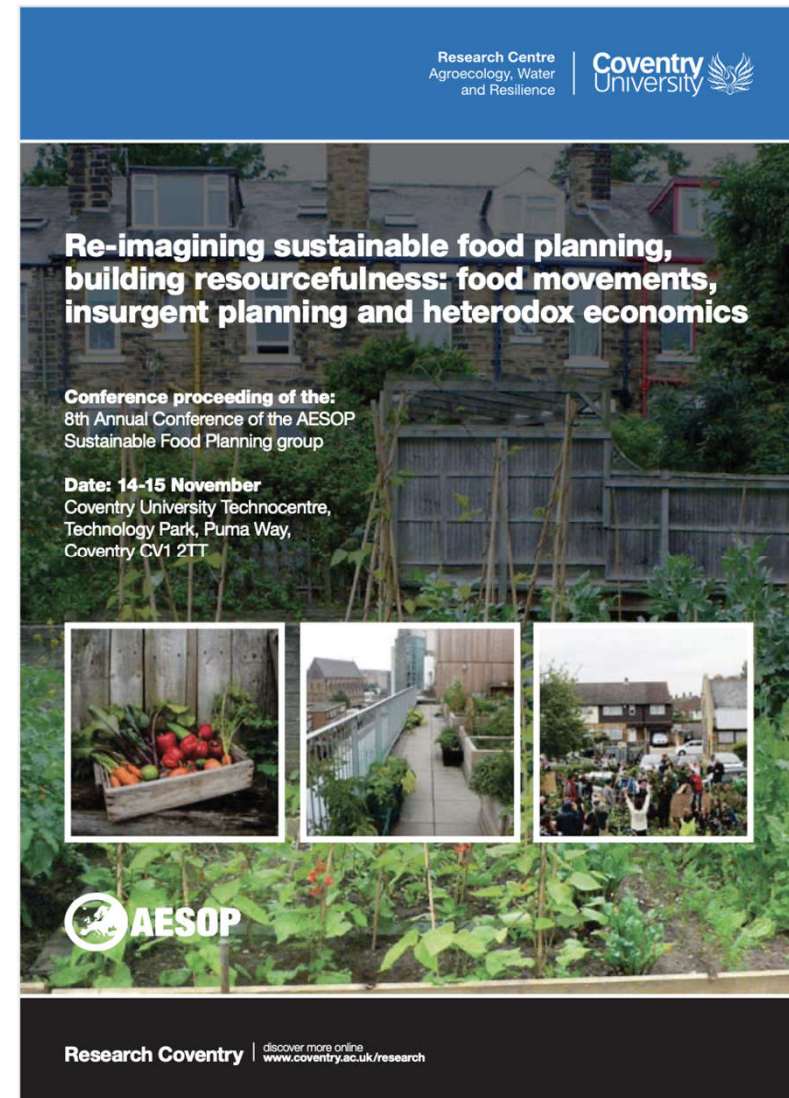
Aims: cross-fertilisation between the SFP and the agroecology communities.

Tracks:

- agroecological urbanism
- political processes
- resourceful land management
- agroecological practices
- post-capitalist economics
- alternative methodologies

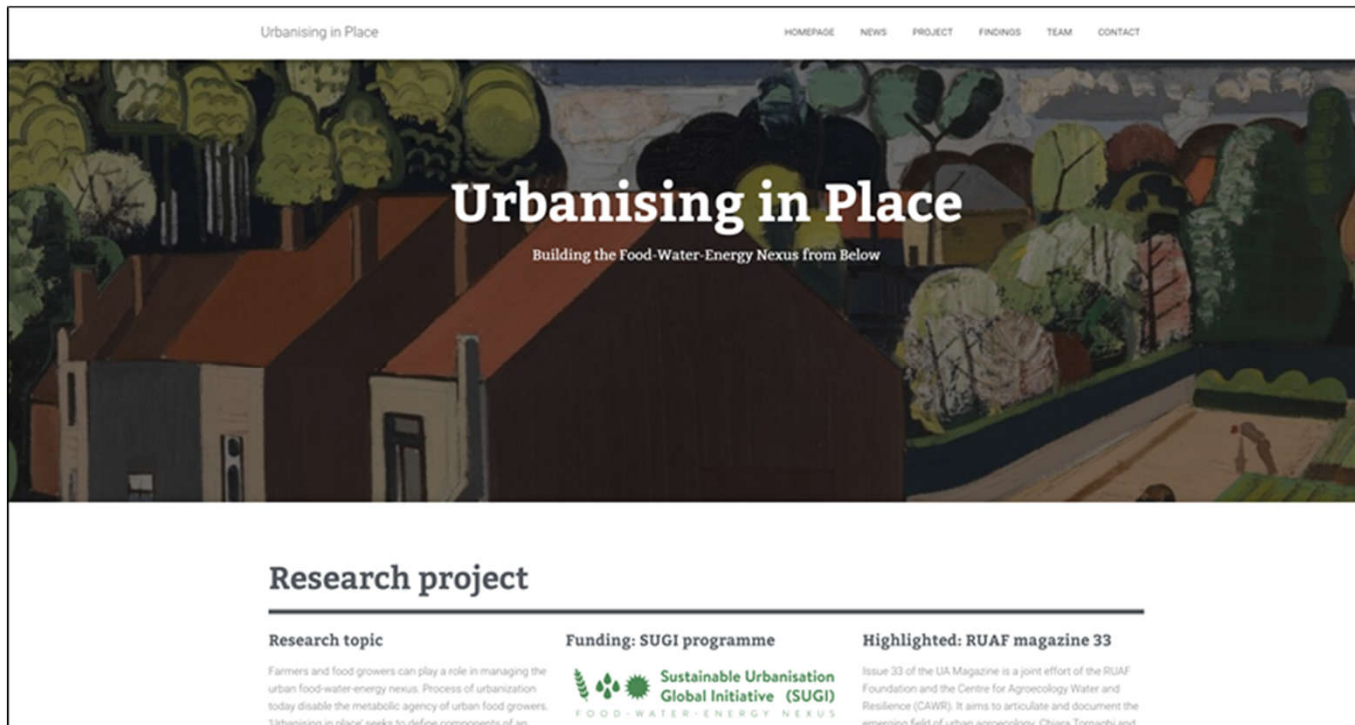
Book: a transdisciplinary approach

Launch of the Forum for an agroecological urbanism



Background 2 - UiP project

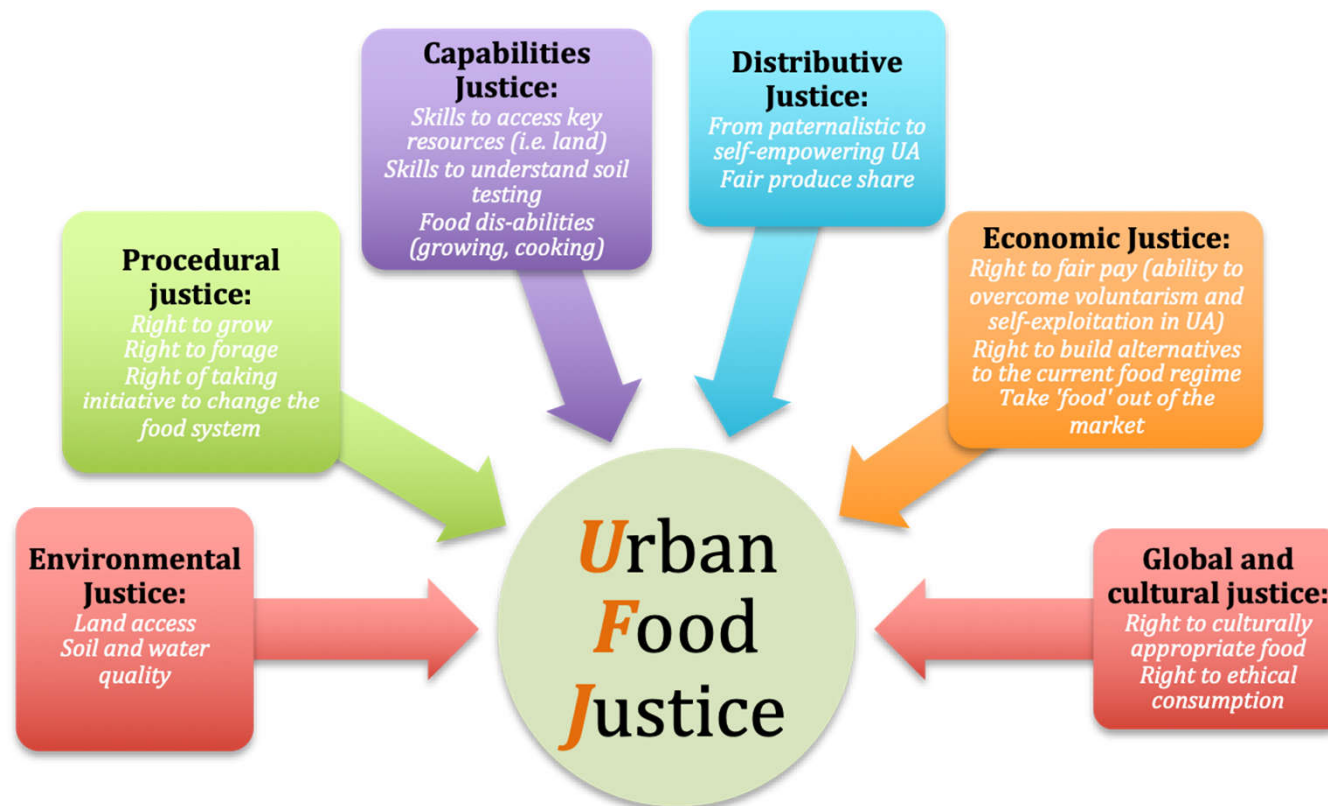
- JPI SUGI programmer Food Water Energy Nexus
-Agroecological Farmers as Stewards of the Nexus



<http://urbanisinginplace.org/>

The Food-disabling city

when looking at UA as a food producing practice....we begin to see the food-disabling city



How encountering agroecology shifted thinking around values and planning

- Definitions:
 - the application of ecological principles to the study, design and management of agroecosystems that are both productive and natural resource conserving, culturally sensitive, socially just and economically viable
 - a science, movement and practice
 - political agroecology: socio-ecological practice, indigenous knowledge, equity and justice, built on soils care
- Resisting erasure
- Not an urban movement...
- Bringing agroecology to the urban... transforming our interest for SFP and UA
 - knowledge rift, epistemic rift
 - positionality
 - values shifts

Warning: junk agroecology

<https://civileats.com/2021/04/20/is-agroecology-being-co-opted-by-big-ag/>

<https://www.tni.org/en/junk-agroecology>

'JUNK AGROECOLOGY': THE CORPORATE CAPTURE OF AGROECOLOGY FOR A PARTIAL ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION WITHOUT SOCIAL JUSTICE

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH INTERNATIONAL, TRANSNATIONAL INSTITUTE AND CROCEVIA
APRIL | 2020



CROCEVIA
Centro Internazionale

tni
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Friends of
the Earth
International

Hitting the boundaries of SFP

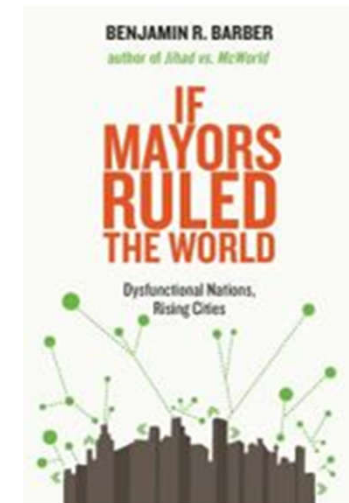
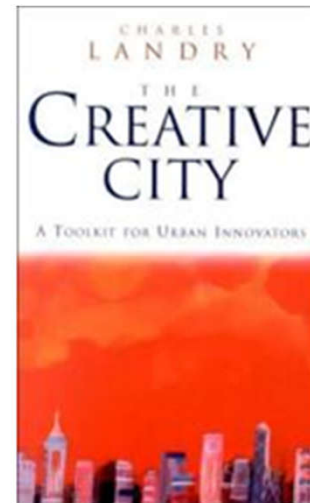
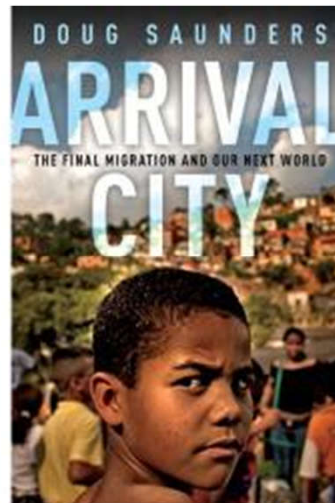
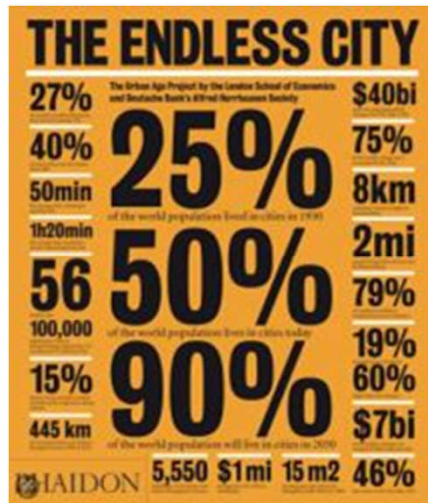
a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

the global food crisis is to a large extent an urban crisis

- governance challenge
- resource use
- growing inequality
- environmental pollution
- feeding a growing urban population

(Wiskerke, H., 'Urban food systems', 2015)

Hitting the boundaries of SFP



More than half of the world population lives in cities...
The city as the solution to a global crisis?

Embracing the challenge

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

The food question is predominantly looked upon as a question to be addressed 'in the city'

rather than, a question that requires a fundamental transformation of the city

Food as an urban question: a question central to the way cities are organized, equally central as the housing question, the mobility question, etc.

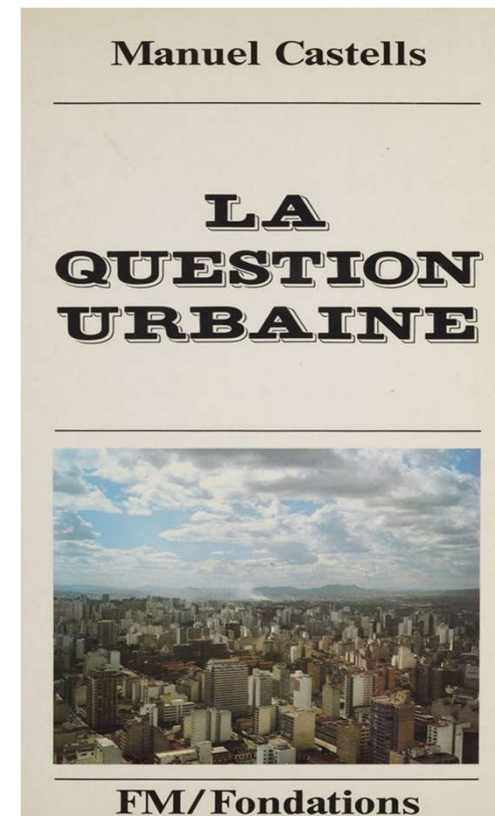
Food as an urban question?

The urban question:

- exacerbate or collective interdependence
- collective organization needed to care for the urban community
- contested and subject to disagreement

Urbanism:

‘the (always contested) ensemble of social arrangements, lifestyles, divisions of labour, cultural practices and social solidarities that materialise and shape the urban environment through processes of urbanisation. ... the urban context is more than just a physical space, but always the manifestation of socionatural, sociocultural and socioeconomic processes and ideas that the discipline of urban planning and design ‘serve’.’ (Tornaghi & Dehaene, p. 5)



La Question Urbaine, 1972

How have we come to experience food as a **new** matter of concern in urbanism?

Food can be understood within the history of urbanization as a **question of urban political ecology** in the literal sense of the word, that is, as part of the political negotiation of those aspects of life that are (and those that are not) made into a collective matter of concern, worthy of urban political attention.

Embracing the challenge

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

Thinking the right to the city and the right to the rural together
(Mark Tilzey, chapter 10)

Think both food production and urbanization as part of the same equation: i.e. the cultivation of nature

Think farmers as part of the urban constituency

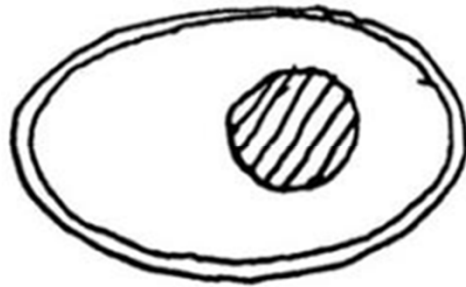
Embracing the challenge

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

Urbanisation unbounded: resourcing the rural urban continuum beyond the rural urban divide

THE CITY AS AN EGG

boiled



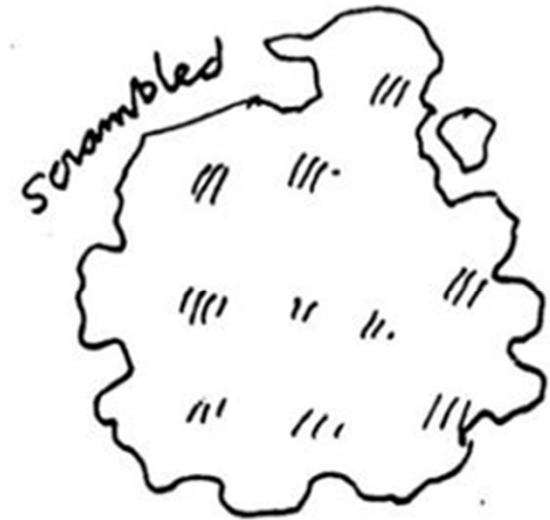
ANCIENT

fried

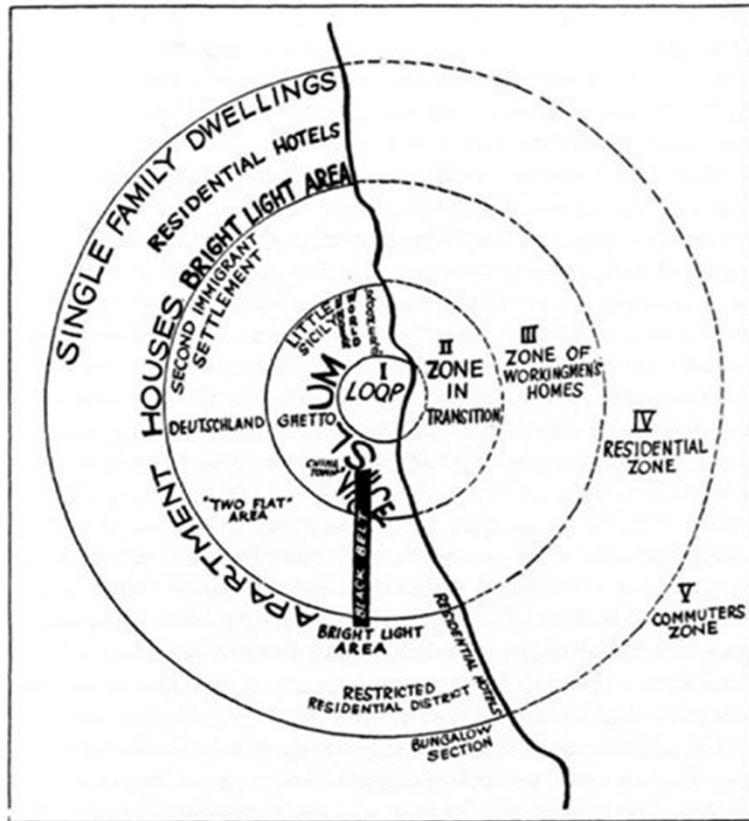


17-19 CENT.

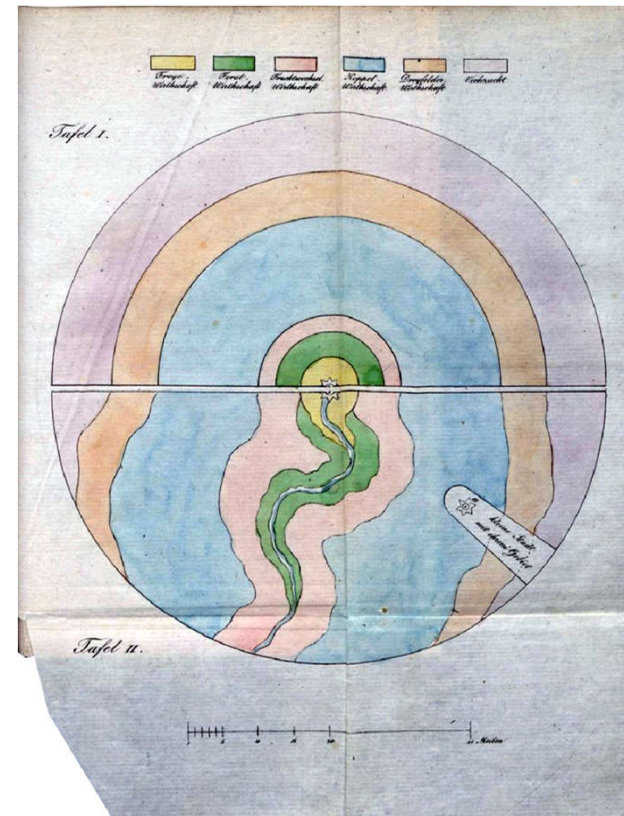
scrambled



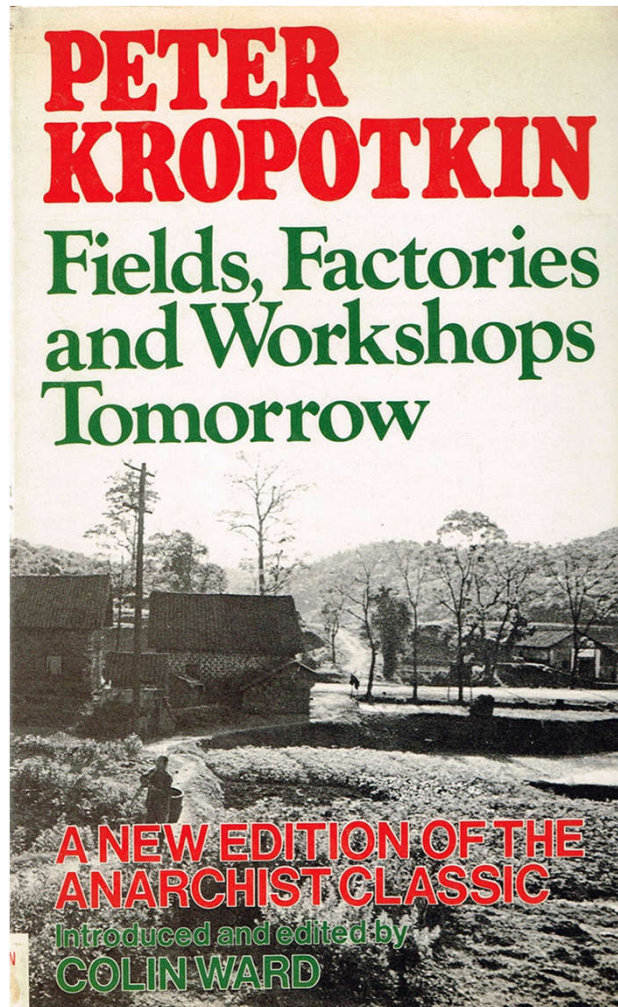
MODERN



R. Park, E. Burgess, The City, 1925



J.H. von Thünen, Der isolirte Staat in Beziehung auf Landwirthschaft un Nationalökonomie, 1826



Peter Kropotkin, *Fields, Factories, and Workshops*, 1899
Abridged edition by Colin Ward 1974



Phot. Aéronautique militaire belge.

B. — LE VILLAGE DE GOHISSART, A L'OUEST DE LODELINSART,
ENTRE FLEURUS ET CHARLEROI.

Multitude de maisons ouvrières avec leurs jardins et leurs petits champs.

Embracing the challenge

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

Urbanisation unbounded: resourcing the rural urban continuum beyond the rural urban divide

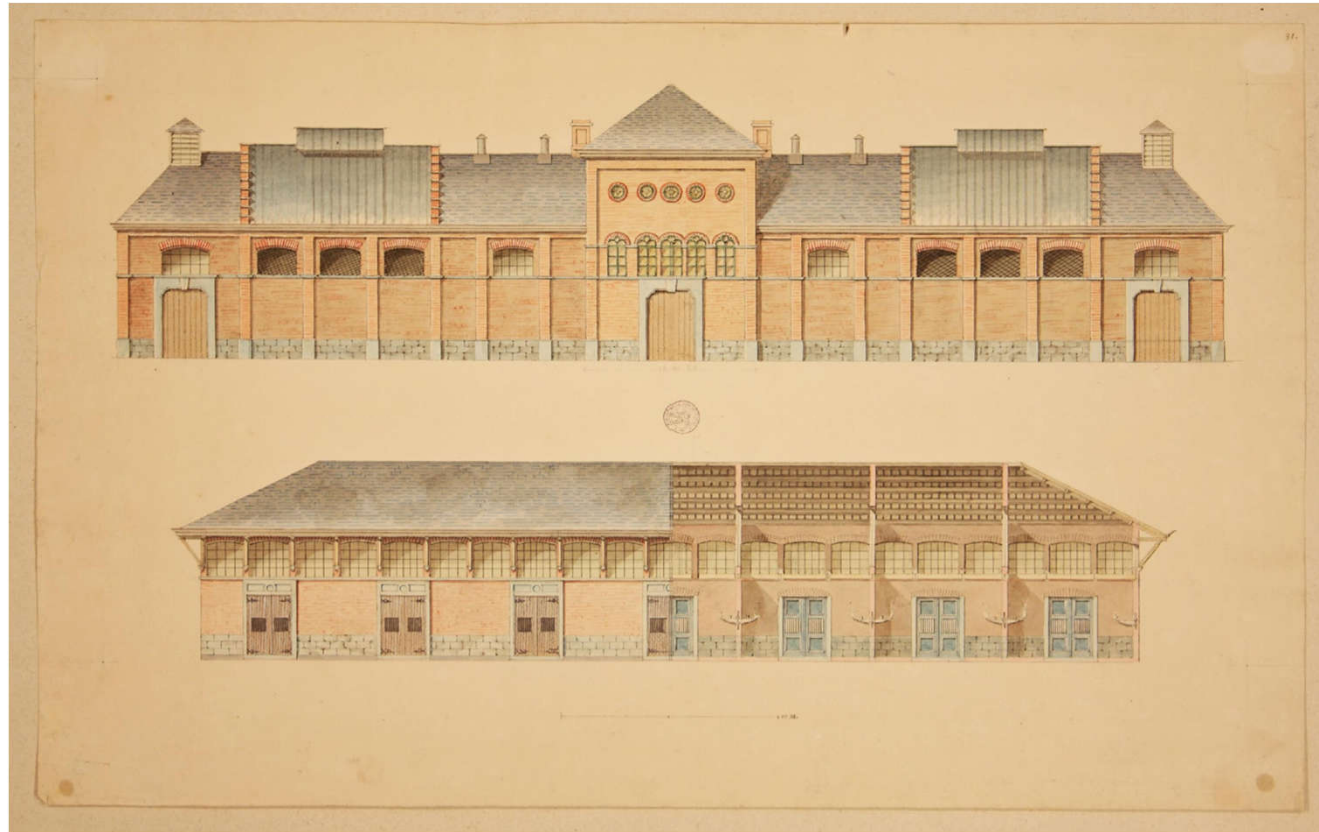
beyond the selective uptake of urban questions: thinking the right to grow as an integral part of the right to the city

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



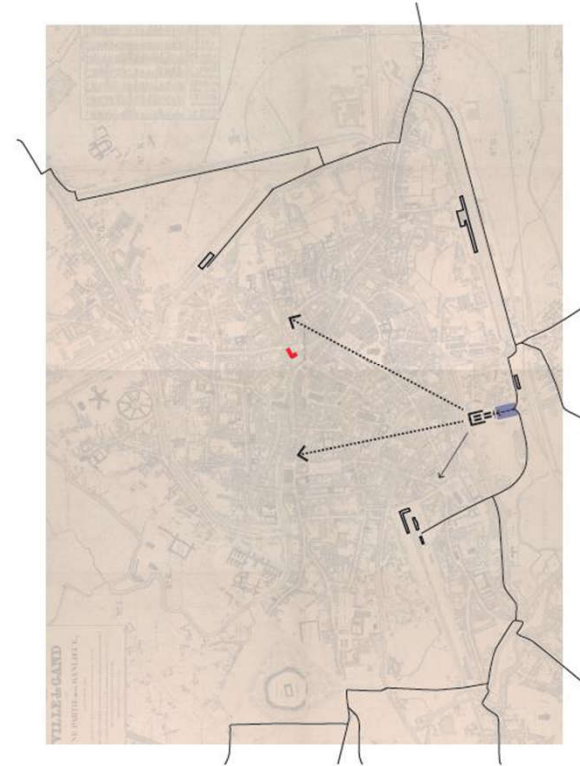
Jan Wildens, Gezicht op Antwerpen, 1656 [Amsterdam Rijksmuseum]

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



Design of the municipal slaughterhouse of Ghent by city architect L. Roelandt ca. 1850.

The progressive removal of food from the urban agenda



Routes for animals into the city before and after the construction of the slaughterhouse

K. Danneels, Good Nature in Bad Nature out, 2016

Embracing the challenge

a transformative agenda for thinking urbanism and urbanisation

Urbanisation unbounded: resourcing the rural urban continuum beyond the rural urban divide

beyond the selective uptake of urban questions: thinking the right to grow as an integral part of the right to the city

‘A field formerly called planning’: beyond the ethnocentric, antropocentric, technocentric boundaries of planning

For many years, urban plans have labelled periurban lands around cities as 'awaiting development' and hatched them as blank space, disregarding the great diversity of rural infrastructures and landscapes that distinguish one periurban area from the other. Urbanization proceeds regardless of these diversities and thus has had a detrimental impact on many peri urban farms and rural heritage sites, particularly in European urban regions.

Ilieva, R., Urban Food Planning. Seeds for Transition in the Global North, 2016, 80

How agroecology pushes the boundaries

...from technical to value-oriented (resourcefulness, equity, socio-cultural justice etc.)

Introduction. Embracing political agroecology, transforming sustainable food planning

CHIARA TORNAGHI AND MICHIEL DEHAENE

- 1 Food as an urban question, and the foundations of a reproductive, agroecological, urbanism**
C.M. DEH-TOR
- 2. Sharing the harvest: Transformative artful and activist methodologies for urban agroecology**
E. VON DER HAIDE, A. M. ORRÙ, B. VAN DYCK, D. SOLOMON, M. D. UJUJAJE, D. WOODS, S. HALDER, R. GREY
- 3 Commons and communing for a just agroecological transition: how to decolonize and decommodify our food systems**
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- 4 Urban agrarian alliance building in peri-urban Rome: The pivotal role of land access in food system reconfiguration**
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- 5 Urban agroforestry as a strategy for aligning agroecology with resilience planning initiatives**
SARAH LOVELL AND JOHN TAYLOR
- 6 Soils, Industrialised Cities, and Contaminants: Challenges for an Agroecological Urbanism**
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ELISE WACH AND SANTIAGO RIPOLL
- 9 Conjugating Social and Solidarity Economies in Chiapas, Mexico: Redesigning food systems for economic, social and ecological virtuous circles**
EMILIO TRAVIESO
- 10 Peasant Counter-Hegemony towards post-capitalist food sovereignty: Facing Rural and Urban Precarity**
MARK TILZEY

Conclusions

CHIARA TORNAGHI AND MICHIEL DEHAENE