

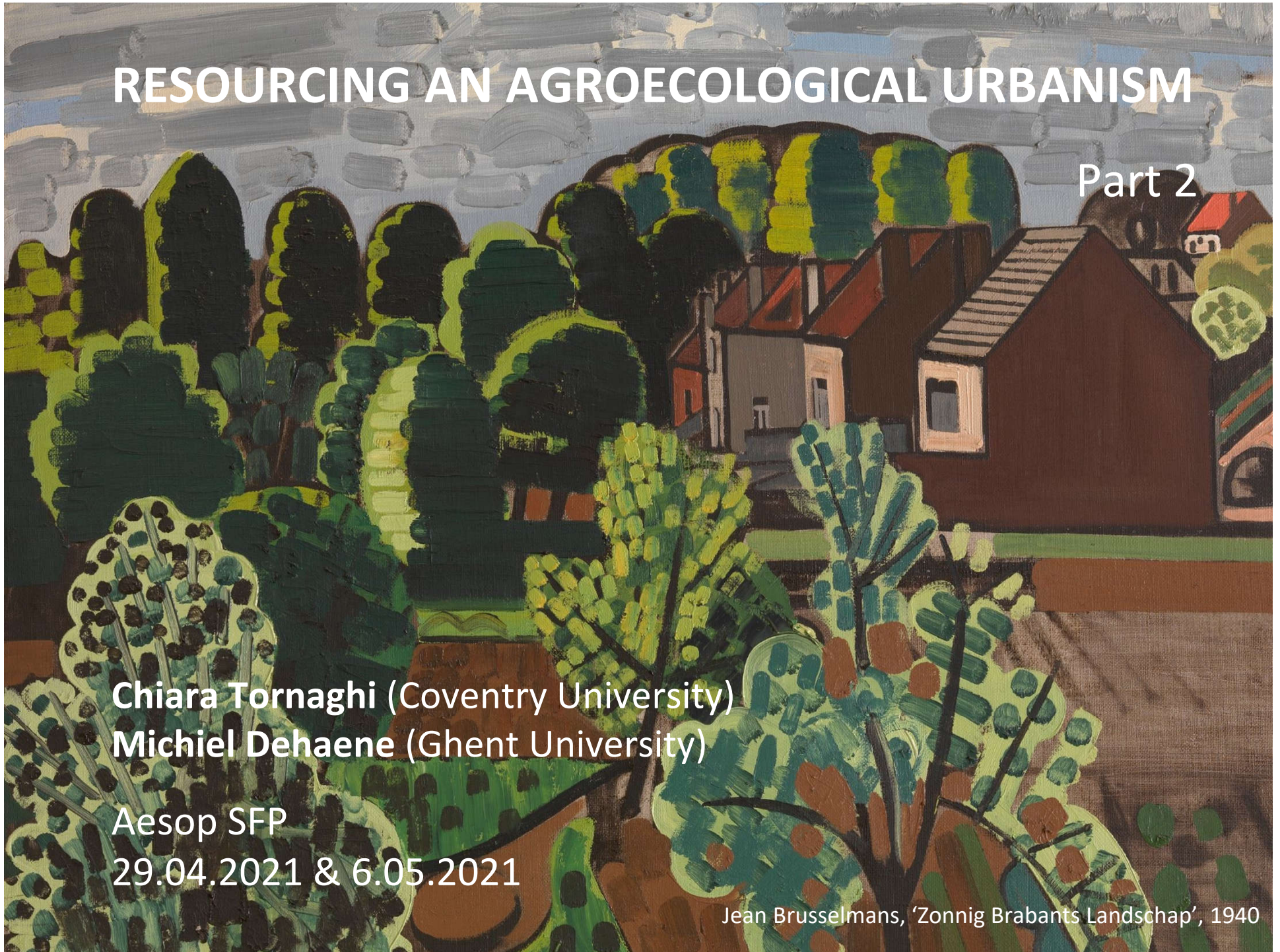
RESOURCING AN AGROECOLOGICAL URBANISM

Part 2

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

Aesop SFP
29.04.2021 & 6.05.2021

Jean Brusselmans, 'Zonnig Brabants Landschap', 1940



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;

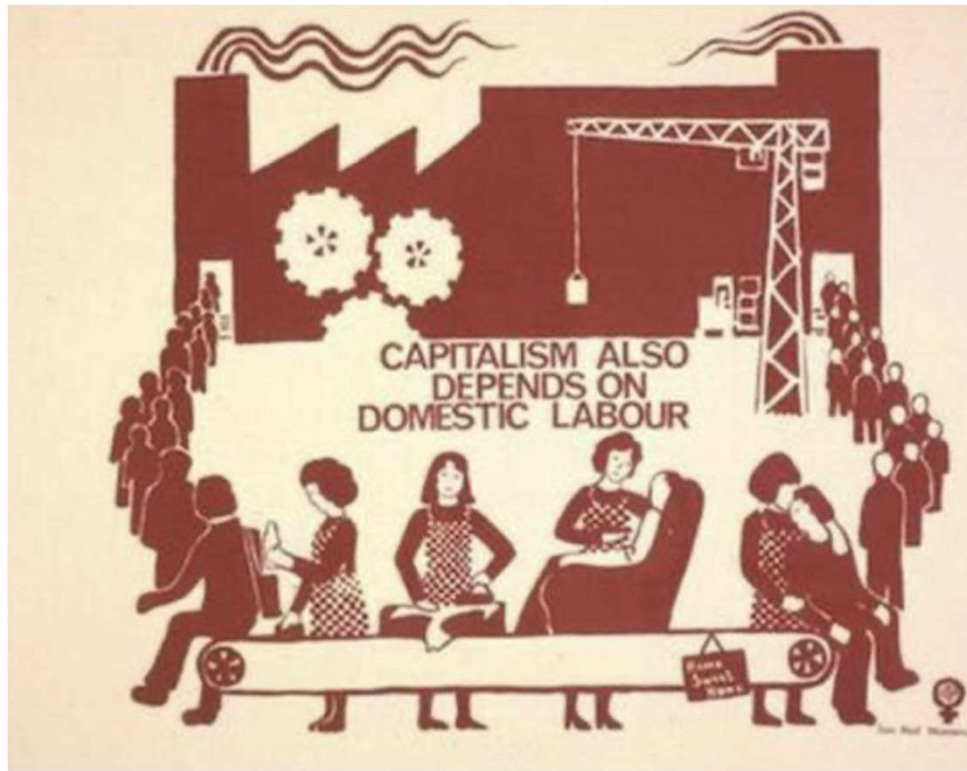
the repertoire of ‘social practices through which people reproduce themselves on a daily and generational basis and through which **social relations** and the material basis of capitalism are renewed’;

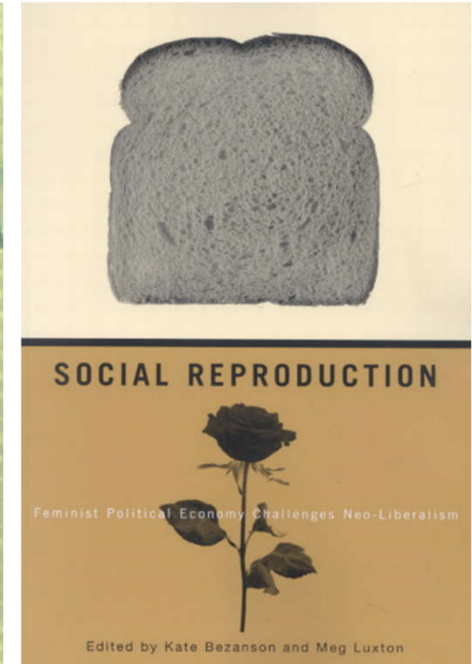
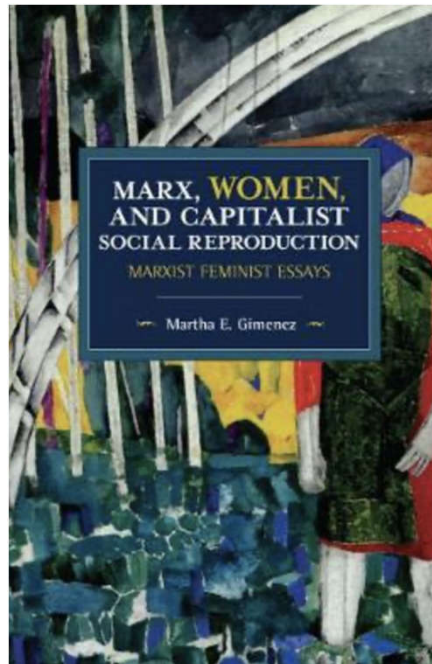
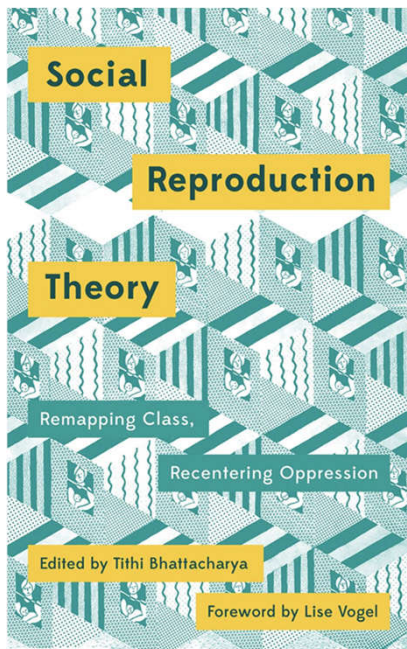
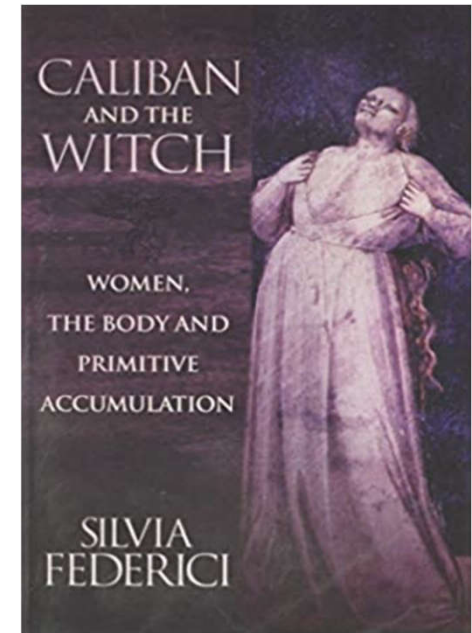
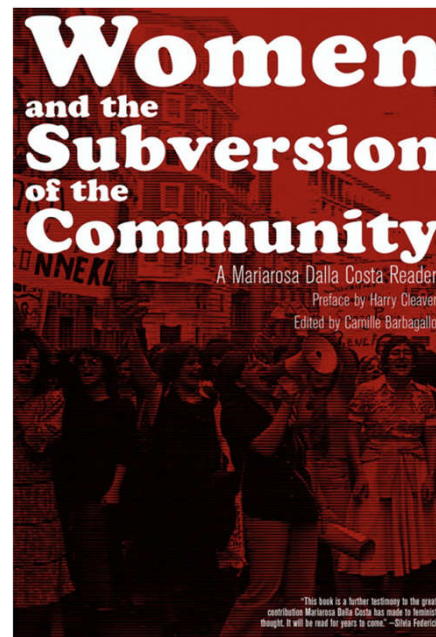
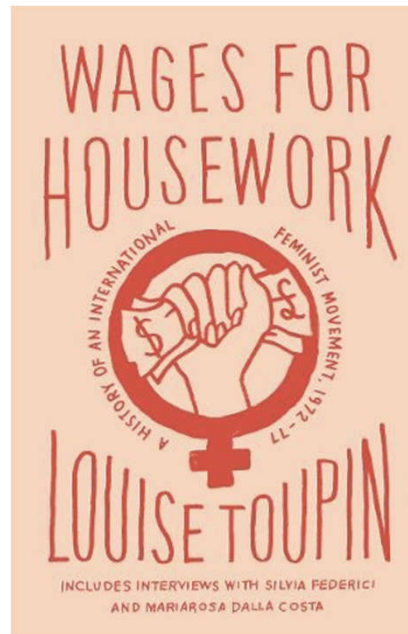
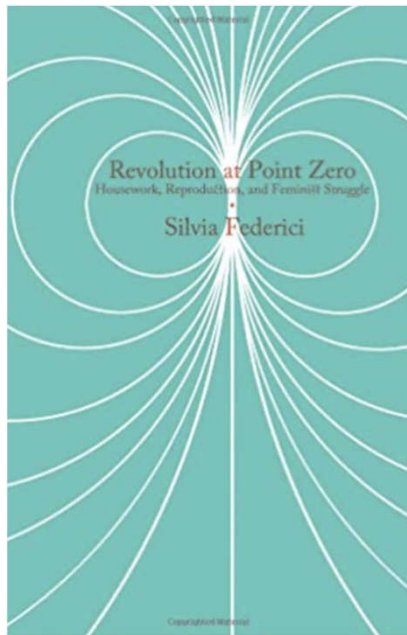
subject formation: ‘Variously called care, affective labor, or subjectivation, this activity forms capitalism’s human subjects, sustaining them as embodied natural beings while also constituting them as social beings, forming their habitus and the **cultural ethos** in which they move.’

(Tamara Jacka, Cindi Kats and nancy Frasers cited in in Gidwani and Ramamurthy [2018](#), 1000)

Social Reproduction

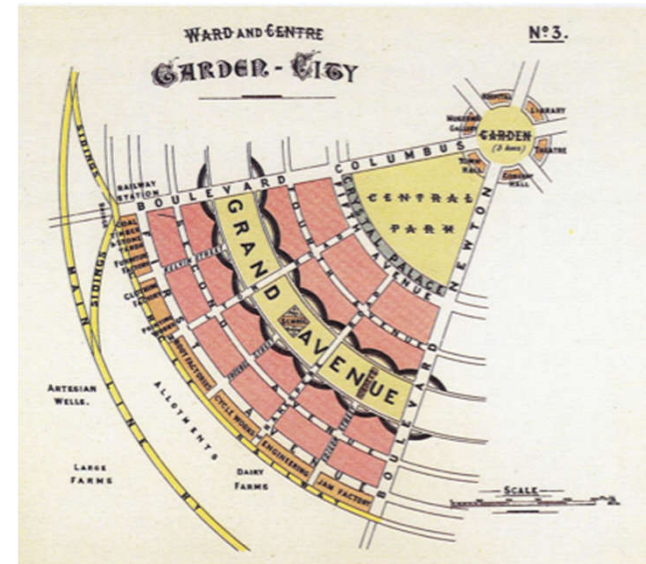
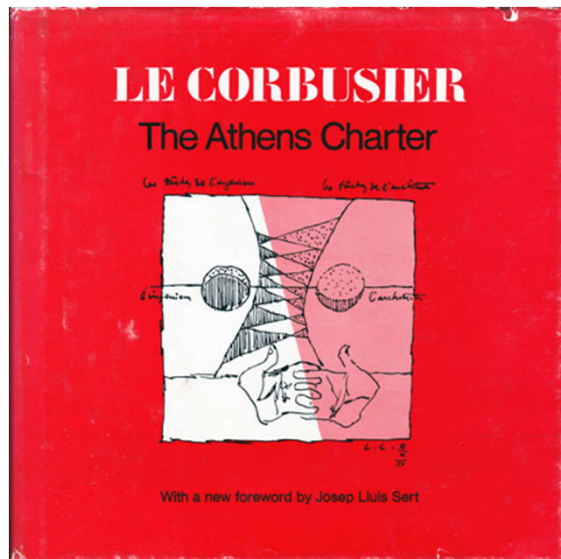
Feminist critique of production & labour theories





Social Reproduction

how capitalist urbanism has forgotten reproduction



Dolores Hayden

The Grand Domestic Revolution



What would a nonsexist city be like? Speculations on housing, urban design and human work

Dolores Hayden

The author, a noted feminist theorist and social historian as well as Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning at the University of California at Los Angeles, is a consultant and writer on housing and housing design for audiences in the United States, Denmark, Italy, Germany, Cuba and the People's Republic of China. The following paper comprised part of the text of a talk for the conference "Planning and Designing a Non-Sexist Society," University of California, Los Angeles, April 21, 1979, and was later published under the same title in Women and the American City, edited by Catherine R. Stimpson, Elsa Dixer, Martha J. Nelson and Kathryn B. Yatrakis, University of Chicago Press, 1981. The article is printed in EKISTICS with the permission of the author and the editors of the book. An expanded and updated version of the material can be found in the author's new book, Redesigning the American Dream: The Future of Housing, Work and Family Life, published in 1984 by W.W. Norton, Inc., New York.

"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 conservative and male-dominated design professions, it will not be found stated in large type in textbooks on land use. It has generated much less debate than the other organizing principles of the contemporary American city in an era of monopoly capitalism, which include the ravaging pressure of private land development, the fetishistic dependence on millions of private automobiles and the wasteful use of energy.¹ However, women have rejected this dogma and entered the paid labor force in larger and larger numbers. Dwellings, neighborhoods and cities designed for homebound women constrain women physically, socially and economically. Acute frustration occurs when women defy these constraints to spend all or part of the work day in the paid labor force. I contend that the only remedy for this situation is to develop a new paradigm of the home, the neighborhood and the city; to begin to describe the physical, social and economic design of a human settlement that would support, rather than restrict, the activities of employed women and their families. It is essential to recognize such needs in order to begin both the rehabilitation of the existing housing

¹ The term "sexism" is to be understood in a similar context as racism: a belief that gender is the primary determinant of human traits and capacities, thus establishing a rationale for discrimination in all areas of life on the basis of sex.

stock and the construction of new housing to meet the needs of a new and growing majority of Americans — working women and their families.

The growth of then "urban settlement"

When speaking of the American city in the last quarter of the twentieth century, a false distinction between "city" and "suburb" must be avoided. The urban region, organized to separate homes and workplaces, must be seen as a whole. In such urban regions, more than half of the population resides in the sprawling suburban areas, or "bedroom communities." The greatest part of the built environment in the United States consists of "suburban sprawl": single family homes grouped in class-segregated areas, crisscrossed by freeways and served by shopping malls and commercial strip developments. Over 50 million small homes are on the ground. About two thirds of American families "own" their homes on long mortgages; this includes over 77 percent of all AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor — Congress of Industrial Organizations) members.² White, male skilled workers are far more likely to be homeowners than members of minority groups and women, long denied equal credit or equal access to housing. Workers commute to jobs either in the center or elsewhere in the suburban ring. In metropolitan areas studied in 1975 and 1976, the journey to work, by public transit or private car, averaged about nine miles each way. Over 100 million privately owned cars filled two- and three-car garages (which would be considered magnificent housing by themselves in many developing countries). The United States, with 13 percent of the world's population, uses 41 percent of the world's passenger cars in support of the housing and transportation patterns described.³

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...

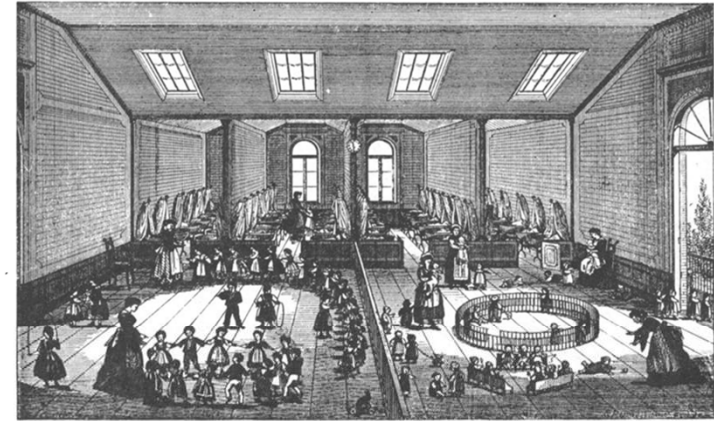
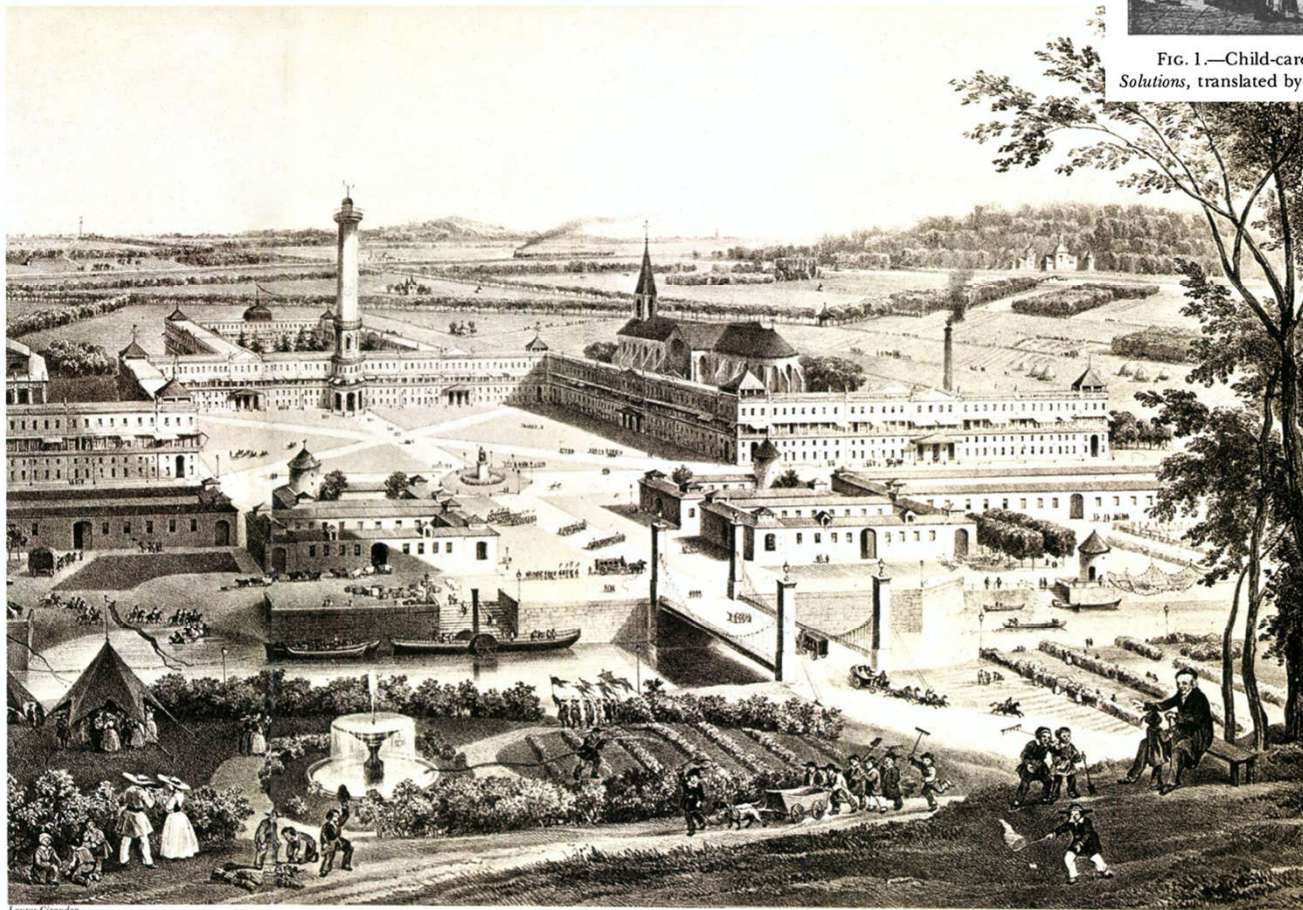


FIG. 1.—Child-care facilities, the Familistère, Guise, France, from J. A. B. Godin, *Social Solutions*, translated by Marie Howland, 1873.



Laurus Girardon

« Le phalanstère (village modèle) se compose d'environ 400 familles de fortunes inégales, associées en tous travaux exploitant 1 500 hectares ou une lieue carrée de terrain comme la propriété d'un seul »
Composé d'après les théories de C. Fourier par H. Fugère. Dessiné par C. Daubigny. (Bibliothèque nationale, Paris.)



Ph. P. 611

23 - Guise - Intérieur du Familistère

...inspired utopian feminists

collective housekeeping, kitchenless housing,
collective infrastructure



FIG. 6.—Alice Constance Austin showing colonists at Llano del Rio, California, an architectural model of a kitchenless house, 1915.

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

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

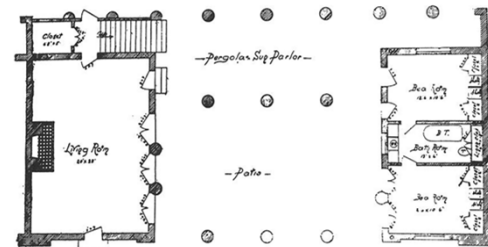


FIG. 8.—Austin, plan of kitchenless house, first floor

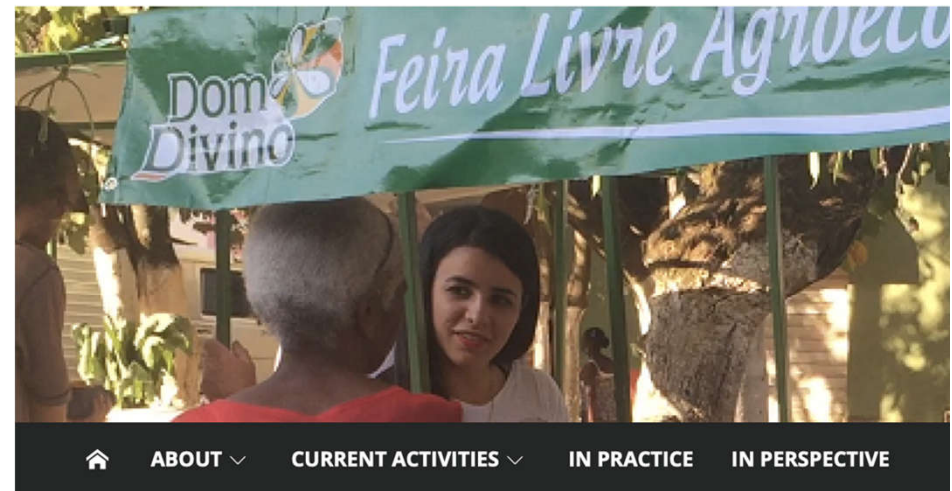
Capitalist take on reproduction & food

- 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



The path to feminist agroecology

🕒 December 5, 2020 by admin /

By Marta Soler Montiel, Marta Rivera-Ferre and Irene García Rocas

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



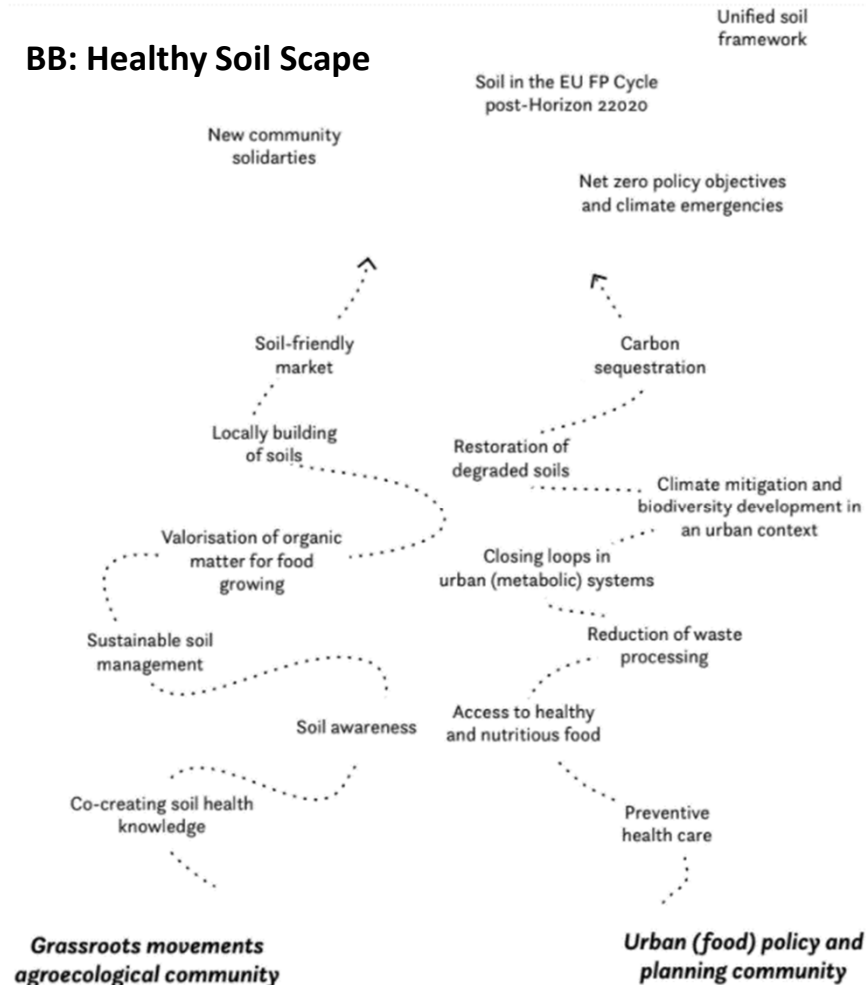
**Building
Blocks for an
Agroecological
Urbanism**

8 Building Blocks (BB)

	Building Blocks			
Interrupt logics of substitution	Agroecological Park		Farming the Fragmented Land	
Embodying an ecology of care and more-than-human solidarities	Territorial Food Hub	Healthy Soil Scape		Community Kitchen
Building resourceful communities through empowering infrastructure	Land and Market Access Incubator		Productive Housing Estate	
				Political Pedagogies for Urban Agroecology

Why Building Blocks (BB)

BB: Healthy Soil Scape



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, too 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



Sint-Pietersleeuw, Vlaams Brabant, Belgium

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**



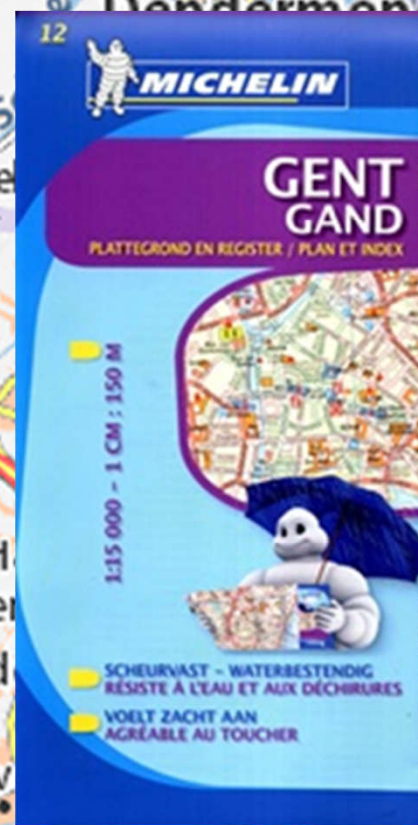
What we believe

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

4 Garden Parks

2 Garden Parks under construction

6 Productive group gardens

3 Green Corridors of the Roads

1 Agroindustry of vegetable processing

600 young people who are training in ecological garden

3500 Micro Huertas on terraces and balconies

6000 Families participate in the Home Garden cycles

1 Mobile cart of the Orchard at home in the neighborhoods

6 Fairs (700 Annual fairs)

2 Biomarkets

40 Schools work in Educational Gardens

2 Demonstration gardens in public places

1 Demonstration kitchen garden in the post-prison service

1 Orchard in jail

1 Kitchen garden in the center of assisted freedom

2 Healthy Gardens in Public Hospitals

1 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

- (book) Tornaghi C., Dehaene M. (eds.) (2021), *Resourcing an agroecological urbanism. Political, transformational and territorial dimensions*, London: Routledge (book series Routledge Studies in Food, Society and the Environment)
- Tornaghi C. and Dehaene M. (2021), "Introduction. Embracing political agroecology, transforming sustainable food planning". In Tornaghi C. and Dehaene M. (eds.) (2021) *Resourcing an agroecological urbanism: political, transformational and territorial dimensions*. London: Routledge
- C.M. Deh-Tor (Chiara Tornaghi and Michiel Dehaene), "Chapter 1 - Food as an urban question, and the foundations of a reproductive, agroecological urbanism", in Tornaghi C. and Dehaene M. (eds.) (2021) *Resourcing an agroecological urbanism: political, transformational and territorial dimensions*. London: Routledge
- Dehaene M. and Tornaghi C., (2021), "Conclusions. The programmatic dimension on an agroecological urbanism". In Tornaghi C. and Dehaene M. (eds.) (2021) *Resourcing an agroecological urbanism: political, transformational and territorial dimensions*. London: Routledge
- Tornaghi C., Dehaene M. (2020), "The prefigurative power of urban political agroecology: rethinking the urbanisms of agroecological transitions for food system transformation", for a special issue on agroecology transitions in Agroecology and sustainable food systems, 44:5, 594-610, DOI: 10.1080/21683565.2019.1680593
- Gennari C., Tornaghi C. (2020), "The transformative potential of community kitchens for an agroecological urbanism. Preliminary insights and a research agenda", in *Agroecological transitions confronting climate breakdown. Food planning for the post-carbon city. Book of Proceedings of the 9th International Conference of the AESOP Sustainable food planning group. Madrid, November 2019*. Publisher: Editorial Universidad de Granada. pp. 80-90.
- C.M. Deh-Tor (2017), "From Agriculture in the City to an Agroecological Urbanism: The transformative pathway of urban (political) agroecology", in RUAF Urban Agriculture Magazine, special issue on "Urban Agroecology", RUAF, No. 33, pp. 8-10.
- 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