**RSO-31806**

**Sociology of Food Provisioning and Place-based Development**

Period 5, Academic Year 2014-2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Credits</td>
<td>6 ECTS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Period</td>
<td>5 2013-2014, Weeks 28-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time and venue</td>
<td>Monday 10.30 – 12.15 (C84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wednesday 09.30 – 12.15 (C84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Friday 08.30 – 10.15 (C84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam</td>
<td>May 4th 2015; 8.30 – 11.30 hrs; C0071</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Re-exam</td>
<td>August 10th 2015; 08.30 – 11.30 hrs; 1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person</td>
<td>Han Wiskerke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:han.wiskerke@wur.nl">han.wiskerke@wur.nl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0317-482679</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lecturer(s)</td>
<td>Han Wiskerke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ina Horlings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examiner(s)</td>
<td>Han Wiskerke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ina Horlings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat</td>
<td>Sociology and Anthropology of Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:sade.secretariaat@wur.nl">sade.secretariaat@wur.nl</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Building 201 (Leeuwenborch), room 3052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0317-482075 / 484507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Profile of the course

The course aims to provide a theoretical, empirical and methodological understanding of place-based development processes, with an emphasis on food provisioning and rural and territorial dynamics in urbanizing societies. It builds upon several BSc and MSc courses (see courses mentioned above under ‘assumed prerequisite knowledge) of the BSc and MSc program in International Development Studies.
This course will, on the one hand, deepen and integrate themes and theoretical concepts and perspectives of these courses, and on the other hand elaborate on emerging topics and concepts such as place-based and placeless food, resilient places, food citizenship, food sovereignty, place branding and development paths, alternative food geographies, sustainable place-shaping, place branding, food citizenship, and city-region food systems. By presenting and discussing recently completed and current research projects a wide range of research methodologies will be introduced.
As such this course acquaints students with the most important scientific theoretical perspectives and paradigms of food provisioning and place-based development processes and their social, political and academic context. In doing so the course presents a comprehensive framework for a thorough analysis of the heterogeneous and multidimensional character of socio-spatial transformation processes. Within that framework the on-going scientific and policy debates about food provisioning and place-based development fall into place.
In addition to a thorough and in-depth elaboration of these debates, food provisioning and place-based development practices will be analysed. This is among others achieved through PhD research presentations, analysis of case studies from current and recently completed research projects, movies and excursions. As a result students come to understand the methodological questions and need of trans-disciplinarity to deal with the multiple facets of food provisioning and place-based development dynamics.

Assumed prerequisite knowledge

This course builds on several courses that are mandatory in the Sociology of Development specialisation within the Bachelor and Master of International Development Studies (BIN/MID). These courses are:
- Sociology of Farming and Rural Life (RSO-30806),
- Sociological Theories of Rural Transformation (RDS-30306),
- Globalisation and Sustainability of Food Production and Consumption (ENP-31806),
- Sociology in Development: Towards a Critical Perspective (RDS-32806).
If you have not followed and completed any of these courses it may be difficult to participate in this course.
Learning outcomes

At the end of this course students will be able to:
1. understand past and current academic debates about food provisioning dynamics and place-based development processes and their changing social and political context;
2. analyse the multi-actor, multi-level and multi-aspect dynamics of food provisioning and place-based development;
3. evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical concepts and perspectives to grasp and understand the complexity of food provisioning and place-based development;
4. identify methods for carrying out scientific research about food provisioning and place-based development dynamics;
5. apply methods and findings of recently completed and current national and international research projects in the design of a research proposal;
6. draft a first outline of a research proposal on one of the topics of the course.

Course materials and resources

- Scientific articles, working papers, conference proceedings, book chapters, videos and other study material available through blackboard
- Power-point presentations
- Lecture notes

Educational (=teaching and learning) activities

- Lectures (learning outcomes 1-4)
- Debates in class (learning outcomes 1-3)
- Self-study (learning outcomes 1-6)
- Field trips (learning outcome 2)
- Group assignment (learning outcomes 4-6)

Assessment strategy

The course will be concluded with two forms of final assessment:
1. A written exam (75% of the final mark), which consists of essay like questions about the literature and the lecture materials. The examination consists of 6 open questions, one for every weekly theme, of which 5 have to be answered (each questions counts for 20% of the total written exam grade). The questions are divided in weighed sub-questions. The questions address the learning outcomes 1-4.
2. A research proposal (group assignment that counts for 25% of the final mark) on one of the course topics. The proposal should be maximum 10 A-4, line spacing 1, and font 11. The precise requirements for the proposal will be explained during the first week. The assignment addresses learning outcomes 4-6 in applying literature, methods and
concepts in a research proposal. Draft versions can be discussed with the lecturers upon request of the students.

In the table below a detailed assessment strategy is presented, specifying what is being assessed, how and by whom.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning outcome</th>
<th>Form of assessment</th>
<th>Examiners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To understand past and current academic debates about agro-food, rural and regional development processes and their changing social and political context</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HW; IH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To analyze the multi-actor, multi-level and multi-aspect dynamics of food provisioning and place-based development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HW; IH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different theoretical concepts and perspectives to grasp and understand the complexity of food provisioning and place-based development</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HW; IH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To identify methods for carrying out scientific research about food provisioning and place-based development dynamics</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HW; IH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To apply methods and findings of recently completed and ongoing research projects in the design of a research proposal</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HW; IH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To prepare a first outline of a research proposal</td>
<td>X</td>
<td>HW; IH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution to final mark</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Threshold mark to pass the course</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>5.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* HW = Han Wiskerke; IH = Ina Horlings
** Dictionaries are allowed at the exam but no course texts, lecture slides or lecture notes.
*** The deadline for submitting the final version of the proposal is May 4th 2015 at 18.00 hrs.
Submission by e-mail to han.wiskerke@wur.nl.
The marks for the proposal and for the written exam will remain valid for 1 year.

The principal themes of the content

The course is based upon recently completed and ongoing research activities within two of the main research domains of the Rural Sociology Group:
1. The sociology of food provisioning;
2. The sociology of place-based development.

Being based on recently completed and ongoing research projects implies that this course provides an up-to-date insight into current theoretical debates and research findings. These are mainly derived from international collaborative research programmes\(^1\), carried out by multi-disciplinary research teams in different countries inside and outside Europe. Within and linked to these programmes the Rural Sociology Group has approximately 30 ongoing PhD projects\(^2\). Some of these projects will also feature during this course.

---

\(^1\) See [http://ruralsociologywageningen.nl/our-projects/](http://ruralsociologywageningen.nl/our-projects/) for an overview of research projects.

\(^2\) See [http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Social-Sciences/Rural-Sociology-Group/Research/PhD-Research.htm](http://www.wageningenur.nl/en/Expertise-Services/Chair-groups/Social-Sciences/Rural-Sociology-Group/Research/PhD-Research.htm) for an overview of PhD projects in progress
The course is divided into four main themes:

1. **Food, place and resilience (week 1).** In the first week of the course we will outline the theoretical and societal context and background of patterns of food provisioning and territorial development by questioning the importance (or irrelevance) of place in food provisioning practices and territorial development and if, why and how the significance of place has changed during the past decades. Key issues are diversity in development patterns, dynamics in time, placeless and place-based food provisioning and territorial development, and the resilience of places.

2. **Food, place and citizenship (weeks 2 & 3).** In the second and third week of the course the focus will be on the role of civil society in food provisioning and place-based development. After decades of state-led development after World War II, followed by a wave a neo-liberalism that commenced in the 1980s, we are now witnessing a large variety of citizen-led food provisioning and local development initiatives. The dynamics of these initiatives will be discussed and we will critically assess to what extent these initiatives and movements embody new forms of citizenship and democracy. Key topics are food citizenship, food democracy, food sovereignty, community development and do-it-yourself democracy.

3. **Food & place identities and strategies (weeks 3 & 5).** In the fourth and fifth week of the course we will examine the identities of food and places (and the significance of food for the identity of a place) and the strategies developed by different stakeholders (SMEs, local authorities, civil society organisations) to protect and valorise these identities. Key issues are food quality, geographical indications and place branding.

4. **Resilient city region food systems (week 6).** In the last week of the course the focus will be on city region food systems, i.e. the ways in which urban and rural areas are linked by the ecological, social and economic aspects of food provisioning processes. This interdependence has expressed itself in an ongoing reorganization of rural spaces to serve the requirements of urban food consumption, at the expense of equitable and sustainable development – ultimately to the disbenefit of urban, as much as rural communities. Through the concept of city region food systems we will explore how the linkages between urban centres and their surrounding rural areas can be made more resilient and more effective in delivering a range of public goods. Key issues are urban-rural linkages, city-region food systems, resilience and public goods.
Course schedule and literature

**Week 1 (March 16th – 20th): Food, place and resilience**

**Monday 16 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**
10.30 – 11.15 Introduction to the course
11.30 – 12.15 Placeless and place-based food


**Wednesday 18 March 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings**
09.30 – 11.15 Place and resilience
11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)


**Friday 20 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke & Ina Horlings**
08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial

**Week 2 (March 23rd-27th): Food, Place and Citizenship (1)**

**Monday 23 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**
10.30 – 12.15 Civic food networks


**Wednesday 25 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**
09.30 – 11.15 Food sovereignty
11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)


**Friday 27 March 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke**
08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial
Week 3 (March 30th – April 3rd): Food, Place and Citizenship (2)

Monday 30 March 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings
10.30 – 12.15 Citizenship initiatives (do-it-yourself democracy)

Kenis, A. & E. Mathijs (2014) (De)politicising the local: The case of the Transition Towns movement in Flanders (Belgium), Journal of Rural Studies 34: 172-183.

Wednesday 1 April 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings
09.30 – 11.15 Community development
11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)


Thursday 2 April: Excursion???

Friday 3 April 2015 (C84) – Good Friday (no classes)

Week 4 (April 6th – 10th): Food & place: identities and strategies (1)

Monday 6 April 2015: Easter Monday (no lectures)

Wednesday 8 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke
09.30 – 11.15 Food quality and territorial development
11.30 – 12.15 Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)


Friday 10 April 2015 (C79) – Han Wiskerke
08.30 – 10.15 Tutorial
Week 5 (April 13\textsuperscript{th} – 17\textsuperscript{th}): Food & place: identities and strategies (2)

Monday 13 April 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings
10.30 – 12.15  Place branding and endogenous development


Wednesday 15 April 2015 (C84) – Ina Horlings or guest lecture of Mechtild Donner (PhD)
09.30 – 11.15  Place based food products
11.30 – 12.15  Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)


Thursday 16 April 2015
08.30 – 12.30  Excursion

Friday 17 April 2015
08.30 – 10.15  Tutorial

Week 6 (April 20\textsuperscript{st} – 24\textsuperscript{th}): Resilient city-region food systems

Monday 20 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke
10.30 – 12.15  A city-region perspective on food systems


Wednesday 22 April 2015 (C84) – Han Wiskerke
09.30 – 11.15  Toward resilient city-region food systems
11.30 – 12.15  Group assignment supervision (Han and Ina)


Friday 24 April 2013 (C84) – Han Wiskerke
08.30 – 10.15  Tutorial