

Research Capacity Building Event: Increasing resilience of agri-food supply chains

This workshop is focused on understanding the economic, ecological, biological and social factors affecting the Agri-food supply chain, and the interplay between these, to increase resilience of the food system at a local-to-global level. This year, combining with the launch of a Newton Caldas project with the University of Los Andes in Colombia, we are going to focus on the challenges facing the dairy and flower supply chains there; but we will also learn from experience of other countries. The event also incorporates an ESRC seminar on sustainable approaches to food security.

Resilience means developing a ‘food system that works for everybody’, which would involve overcoming the divisions between competing demands amongst different human and non-human stakeholders positioned in different spatial locations (e.g. producers, consumers, suppliers, distributors, common pool resources). In many developing and developed world contexts, the globalisation of food systems has not benefitted small holder farmers. Thus a particular aim will be to address what is required to strengthen the capacity of smallholder farmers to capture value from international food chains. For example, by strengthening regional food markets; ensuring household food and nutrition security; lowering the cost of living for poor households; shaping policy for food security; supporting smallholders into commercial agriculture. Concurrently, the capabilities of multi-national corporations and government agencies are now viewed by many – including NGOs - as a key to scale the impacts for small holder farmers. Exploring how these scaled up interventions combine with grassroots organising is an important focus of the conference.

There are many challenges for creating resilience under conditions of neo-liberal trade and the globalisation of production. What rationality should govern the interplay between state, the private sector, NGOs, farmer organisations and consumers? How can relations between urban consumers and rural producers be developed to ensure the wellbeing of both stakeholder groups? What is the relationship between land rights and stakeholders in food systems? What institutional resources and structures are required for sustainable small and mid-scale agriculture? How can the legitimacy of sustainable food systems be established across multiple stakeholder groups? The conference seeks perspectives from different geographical contexts to explore answers to these questions and to learn from successes and failures.

Agricultural/food supply Chain Management
 Business Models
 Common Pool Resources
 Co-operatives & Social Enterprises
 Institutional Logics and Diversity
 Ecological Sustainability
 Embeddedness
 Ethos, Values and Principles
 Food Distribution
 Food Systems
 Geographical Scale
 Dilemmas of Growth
 Power in Supply Chains
 Isomorphism and Co-op Degeneration
 Membership Dynamics
 Policy Effects
 Regulation



Micro-intensification at School Farm, Dartington, UK. Providing 50 boxes of organic vegetables on 2.6 acres of land using no-dig methods.

Source: Adrian Bailey

This event is the Launch Meeting for a new research Project: *Sustainable Supply Chain Management in the Colombian Agricultural Sector* funded by a Newton Caldas Institutional Link with Colombia.

It also includes the second seminar in an ESRC funded seminar series 'Architects of a Better World: Building the Post 2015 Business Engagement Architecture'. The seminar series is a direct response to the United Nations Global Compact's call for businesses and business schools to support the establishment of a framework for sustainable development. This seminar addresses the resource need of sustainable food and agriculture, food security, and the role of business in this regard. Given the launching of the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, with the second goal being to 'end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture', the seminar is timely and complements the Newton Caldas project.

The two and half day conference is aimed at academics, business people (including co-ops), early career researchers and others who are interested in exploring food security in relation to innovations in supply chains, business models, sustainability and organisational forms. It will serve as a platform to promote dialogue between academic and professionals via inspired presentations whilst dissecting and debating the current issues and problems faced. The conference will provide opportunities for leading academics and practitioners to share their domestic and international experience whilst evaluating the funding streams and potential outcomes in order to set a research agenda for agricultural supply chain research in the next 5 years and drive greater participation across all Agriculture supply chains.

Day 1 and 2 of the conference will include presentations from academic and industry experts, and small-group discussions. On the 2nd day there will be a poster exhibition during lunchtime followed by an Open forum for PhD students to ask questions. Also, our steering committee will moderate a structured conversation around sustainable agricultural supply chain. Day 3 activities will be an exciting trip to North Wyke Farm (<http://www.rothamsted.ac.uk/north-wyke/north-wyke-farm>) and end promptly at noon to allow for return travel.

We hope that you can join us for this exciting conference that will help to shape future research in sustainable agriculture supply chain. Please respond to Avril Sun (H.Sun@exeter.ac.uk) with your willingness to participate.

We also welcome interests from Postgraduate students and early career researchers currently involved in empirical research projects and/or those seeking to develop theoretical frameworks that connect to issues of sustainable agricultural supply chain management and the commons. Please submit an abstract (max. 400 words) to Avril Sun (H.Sun@exeter.ac.uk) describing the nature of your research/idea and whether you would like to exhibit your poster.

To register or for any other enquiries, please contact:

Mrs Avril Sun

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Conference Venue and Date (detailed venue to be advised near the time)

23th - 25th November, 2015
University of Exeter
The Queen's Drive
Exeter, Devon
EX4 4QJ
UNITED KINGDOM

Funding

We shall provide a limited number of funding reimbursing travel expenses for the PGR students and early career researchers who contribute to the conference and are in need of such funding.

Confirmed Speakers: (continuing update)

Prof. Michael Bell

Prof. Mike Bell is Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor of Community and Environmental Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also serves as Director of the Centre for Integrated Agricultural Systems, and is a member of the faculty of the Agroecology Masters Program and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies. As a scholar, Mike is principally an environmental sociologist and a theorist. Three central foci can be found in all of his work: dialogics, the sociology of nature, and social justice. These concerns for the world have led him to studies of agroecology, the body, community, consumption, culture, food, democracy, development, economic sociology, gender, inequality, participation, place, rurality, the sociology of music, and more. Mike is the author or an editor of eight, three of which have won national awards. Currently, Mike is working on three more books: one on religion and ecology, another on the theory of agroecology, and a textbook on qualitative methods. He is also working with a cooperative of 800 smallholder farmers in the Eastern Cape Province of South Africa on an agro ecological approach to health and development.

Prof. Johan Van Rooyen

Dr Johan van Rooyen is currently the director of “the Standard Bank Centre for Agri-leadership & Mentorship Development” and senior professor in Agricultural Economics at Stellenbosch University. To-date he published more than 100 peer group refereed scientific papers, five academic books on Agri-business & Agri- development and presented over 100 papers at local and international events. He is a NRF rated scientist. He serves on a number of boards of agri-business companies and agencies, is currently a board member of IAMA (the International Agri-business and Food Industry Management Association) and serves on an expert panel of the “World Competitive Report”, University of Lausanne, Switzerland. He served on a number of committees, including the ‘Agricultural Sector Plan’ task team (2000-2001); served as ministerial appointment on the ‘Agri-BEE steering committee (2005-2008); managed the drafting of the ‘S.A. Wine Industry Transformation Charter and BEE Score Card’ (2003-2007); and served full terms on the boards of the S.A. Land and Agricultural Development Bank (2000-2004) and on the S.A. Agricultural Research Council (1996-2000).

Prof. Hongdong Guo

Hongdong, Guo is professor and dean of department of Agricultural Economics and Management of Zhejiang University, the senior researcher of Center for Chinese Agricultural

and Rural Development (CARD) of Zhejiang University, He is member of IAAE. He received his PhD in agricultural economics from the University of Zhejiang University. He has been working on agricultural and rural development policy research in China for the last 20 years. His research background is agricultural economics and development economics of (rural) institutions, including Agro-enterprise development, contract farming and farmer cooperative. He has published widely both in domestic and international professional journals.

Prof. Zhaohui Wu

Zhaohui Wu is a professor of Supply Chain and Operations Management. He is currently teaching and conducting research on supply networks, environmental management strategy in operations, alternative/sustainable food systems and agricultural cooperatives. He is a recipient of The Leverhulme Trust of Visiting Professorship at The University of Exeter in the United Kingdom.

He currently is conducting research in the areas of supply networks, sustainability strategy in natural resources, and supply chain management in agricultural cooperatives. Prior to his work in academe, Dr. Wu worked as a buyer for an US-based aerospace company, and as a project manager for a Chinese international trade company, focusing on power and utility issues.

Among his most recent publications include articles in the Journal of Supply Chain Management, Journal of Operations Management and Journal of Macromarketing and a book on sustainable food supply chain management.

Dr. Wu is an associate editor for Journal of Operations Management and editorial board member for Journal of Supply Chain Management.

Dr. Ximena Rueda Fajardo

Dr. Ximena Rueda is an Assistant Professor at the School of Management in Universidad de los Andes, Bogotá, Colombia. She is part of the Sustainable Development Management Group. She is a land-change scientist whose work seeks to understand the drivers of land use change and the consequences for local communities and the environment. She is currently leading the work on evaluating the impacts of private instruments for sustainability (i.e., certification, multi-stakeholders initiatives, appellations of origin, among others) on people and landscapes in developing countries. She has extensive experience in the coffee sector and is currently involved in projects analysing corporate sustainability initiatives for the cacao, flowers, and palm oil sectors in Ecuador and Colombia.

Dr. Rueda has a track record of publication in land-use change, globalization and tropical commodities in journals such as *World Development*, *Environment and Society* and *Global Environmental Change*, among others. She holds a B.A. and M.A. in Economics from Universidad de los Andes, a Master in Planning with concentration in Environmental Policy from MIT, and a PhD in Geography from Clark University. She has combined her academic

experience with a successful professional career in Rural and Agricultural Development, working for public agencies, such as the National Department of Planning and the Colombian Ministry of Agriculture, NGOs, such as the Colombia Coffee Growers Federation, and International Aid Programs. Prior to joining the faculty at Los Andes, she was working as a Research Associate at Stanford University, where she keeps an affiliation as Visiting Scholar in Center for Foods Security and the Environment.

Organising committee

Dr. Jeff Jia

Dr. Fu Jia PhD, MRes, MBA, is a Senior Lecturer in Operations and Supply Management at the University of Exeter Business School. He is a co-founder and director of '[Business, Nature and Value Research Centre](#)' affiliated to Exeter, which aims to focus on the relationships between business, nature and value creation. His research interests include supply relationship management in a cross cultural context, global sourcing, supply chain learning and innovation and sustainable supply management.

Dr Jia has been working extensively with the industry on a number of projects: "Global Sourcing Risk Management", "International Procurement Office in China", "Logistics Innovation in China-Europe supply chains", and "WWF Chinese Innovation Case Studies", to name a few.

He is a productive author and has published a number of papers in international conferences and top tier supply chain management journals such as *Journal of Business Logistics*, *International Journal of Logistics Management*, *International Journal of Operations and Production Management*, *International Journal of Production Economics*, *International Business Review* and *Journal of Purchasing and Supply Management* among others. He has also edited a book and contributed a number of book chapters.

Dr. Adrian Bailey

Dr Adrian R. Bailey, PhD, MSc, is a Senior Lecturer in Tourism Management at the University of Exeter Business School. His teaching and research interests include governance in co-operative business models and service innovations in food retail and tourism related sectors. He is currently developing research into performance management in co-operative organisations.

He has research papers published in *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*, *Environment & Planning A*, *Tourism Management*, *Journal of Consumer Culture*, *Social and Cultural Geography*, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. Dr Bailey holds a PhD from the University of Birmingham School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences.

In his 'spare' time, he is the co-chair of Exeter's first Eco-Congregation and is interested in the interconnection of organisational culture, values and environmental sustainability.

Professor Jonathan Gosling

Emeritus Professor of Leadership at the Centre for Leadership Studies, University of Exeter. His most recent book is [Napoleonic Leadership: a study in power](#) (Sage, 2015). He plays a significant role in the 'greening' of management education worldwide and is co-founder of the One Planet MBA.

Current research examines the leadership of malaria elimination programmes; legitimate authority in professional services; sustainability-driven innovation in multi-national firms in China. He worked many years as a community mediator and on other interventions inspired by psychodynamic perspectives on power and organizing.

He is co-founder of Coachingourselves.com and is a Visiting Professor at Copenhagen Business School and in the School of Philosophy at Renmin University, China.