



Canadian
Association for
Food Studies

Issue 17: Winter 2014 Newsletter

Greetings CAFS members,

Happy New Year to all CAFS members! This newsletter is full of fascinating food studies events, publications and projects. When I read it I felt proud to be part of this dynamic and engaged organization. The newsletter is full of what look like incredible opportunities for learning and for meeting others with similar interests. I am particularly excited for the conference season to come! CAFS' 10th Annual Assembly: Capital Ideas – Nourishing Debates, Minds and Bodies, will be held from May 30 – June 2nd at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa. In addition, this year's C2U Expo will be taking place along with many events, such as the "What if?" Symposium, and the CAFS Pre-Conference. Information covering all of these exciting events are outlined here in the newsletter. I am so looking forward to it, and I hope to see you in Ottawa this spring!

I for one am grateful for the opportunities that CAFS provides to connect with colleagues and stretch myself as an academic. My hope as President of this organization is to continue to engage all of you to make CAFS continue to grow as we bring more disciplines and approaches to our already big food studies table.

I hope that 2015 proves fruitful in all your food studies endeavours, and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have an idea for CAFS (Rachel.engler-stringer@usask.ca).

Thank you,
Rachel Engler-Stringer, CAFS President
University of Saskatchewan





Call for Submissions and Upcoming Events

Upcoming Event: CAFS' 10th Annual Assembly

Registration is now open for the 10th Annual Assembly of the Canadian Association for Food Studies: Capital Ideas: Nourishing Debates, Minds and Bodies/ Idées capitales: nourrir les débats, l'esprit et le corps, which will be held from May 30-June 2, 2015. On the [Congress 2015 website](#), you can also find detailed information about travel and accommodations. Check back on the [Congress website](#) and the [CAFS website](#) in February for the preliminary program and details for registration. Register before March 31st, 2015 to get discounted early bird registration rates!

We are no longer accepting abstracts for symposium proposals, individual presentations, pecha kuhca-like presentations, or session proposals, but we will continue to accept proposals for the [Exploration Gallery](#) on our website until March 15th, 2015. We will also be accepting nominations for the Award for Excellence in Food Studies Research until February 1st, 2015. This award will be presented to its recipient at the Assembly. This year's assembly will feature an Exploration Gallery, a pre-conference for emerging researchers, a special interdisciplinary Symposium: "What IF? Food Studies?", Keynote addresses by Dr. James Daschuk of University of Regina and Dr. Alice Julier of Chatham University, field trips, a locally-catered banquet, over 20 concurrent sessions and much more! Stay tuned for regular updates by visiting our [website](#) and subscribing to our listserv.

Call for Proposals: CAFS' 2015 Exploration Gallery

In recognition of the value of graphic, material, and experimental representations of research, the CAFS Exploration Gallery was first established in 2011. Since then, it has served an important role in stimulating new engagements with food knowledge, as well as new conversations among

conference participants. Graduate students, food scholars, NGOs, researchers outside the academy, artists, and other members of the community are welcome to propose works for the 2015 Gallery. All media are welcome, including installations, print and other visual forms, audio, and other works of art and design. A limited number of screen-based submissions will be accepted.

The Exploration Gallery will run for the duration of the CAFS conference and will be open to the public. Contributors will be responsible for delivery of their work to the Gallery curators or to University of Ottawa not later than May 15, 2015. To view the contributions from previous years, download the 2012 and 2014 Exploration Gallery catalogs from the "Past Meetings" page of the [CAFS website](#). We are still accepting submissions for the Exploration Gallery online at www.foodstudies.ca. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2015.

Upcoming Event: "What if? Symposium"

In recognition of the broad disciplinary and epistemological perspectives included under the umbrella of food studies, a symposium highlighting the breadth of the field will be held at the 10th annual assembly of CAFS. The symposium will invite participants to think beyond the question "What is food studies?" to consider "What if food studies _____?" The symposium's purpose is to collectively imagine multiple futures for food scholarship, transcending current frameworks, and targeting objectives for the field that move beyond the probable and possible, and into the innovative, lofty, and perhaps even outlandish.

The symposium will run throughout the CAFS conference and will bring together work that is sometimes considered outside of food studies' normative boundaries, that is, rooted in the humanities, art, design, and



technology, as well as natural and biological sciences. The symposium will be framed by two conference-wide events for all CAFS attendees: an opening keynote address and a closing plenary session to stimulate and recap key ideas and themes that emerge over the course of the symposium. The symposium keynote will be delivered by Dr. Alice Julier, of Chatham University, Pennsylvania. For Inquiries pertaining to the symposium: symposium@foodstudies.ca

Upcoming Event: CAFS Preconference

On Saturday May 30, 2015 CAFS will again be hosting a full-day pre-conference open to all students, postdocs and emerging researchers. Participants in the 2015 pre-conference will engage in a series of peer networking activities, interactive workshops and participatory discussions. An evening social at a local venue will follow the pre-conference. More information on the pre-conference program, submissions, registrations and activities will soon be available through the [CAFS website](#) and sent via the e-mail listserve.

Upcoming Event: C2U Expo

C2UExpo is a Canadian-led international conference designed to: showcase the best practices in community-campus partnerships worldwide; create a space for collaboration around key issues; and foster ideas, connections, and frameworks with the purpose of strengthening our communities. Held every two years, the conference allows community members, universities, colleges, government, and nonprofit organizations to work together to create an innovative learning environment where research, knowledge, and relationships can be shared and cultivated over the 3-day conference program. Activities and sessions are diverse, ranging from workshops to art activities, deliberative dialogue to mobile tours, and everything in between. This year's conference will take place at Carleton University, Ottawa from May 26 – 29, 2015. Befitting its location, the conference will seek to explore citizen solutions for a better world by delving into the array of policy work being done to advance solutions in areas such as health, environment, food security, and employment. For more information and to register, visit: <http://cuexpo2015.ca/>

Upcoming Event: C2UExpo-CAFS Dialogue Dinner”

The Canadian Association for Food Studies' 10th Annual Assembly and the 2015 C2UExpo conferences will be collaboratively hosting a dialogue dinner event on the evening of Friday, May 29th, 2015 in Ottawa, Ontario. This event will connect delegates from the two consecutive conferences and challenge them to engage in dialogue about current issues relevant to food studies and community-campus partnerships. Conference organizers are seeking YOUR input on the topics that you find most interesting, and the types of food that you feel would generate the most flavorful discussions! To contribute your input, please complete the survey that can be accessed here: <http://fluidsurveys.com/surveys/cfice/c2uexpo-cafs-networking-dinner/>

Call for Nominations: Award for Excellence in Food Studies Research

The Canadian Association for Food Studies is currently accepting nominations for the Award for Excellence in Food Studies Research. The deadline for nominations is February 1st, 2015. The Award for Excellence in Food Studies Research was created to recognize CAFS members for outstanding research contributions that have had a significant impact in the field of food studies. To nominate an individual for this award, please submit the following: A cover letter from the principal nominator detailing the member's contributions to substantive areas of research and/or theory and other qualifications for the award; The nominee's current CV; Two or three letters of support (at least one from a CAFS member); Up to three samples of the nominee's research (optional). Please send all nominations and supporting materials to CafsAdmin@foodstudies.ca by February 1st, 2015 to be forwarded to the awards committee.

Call for Chapter Proposals: Global Food History Journal

Global Food History is a peer-reviewed, academic journal with an international scope, presenting new research in food history from the foremost scholars in the field. The journal welcomes original articles covering any period from prehistory to the present and any geographical area, including transnational

and world histories of food. Submissions on subjects relating to and from contributors outside of Europe and North America are particularly welcomed. In addition to original research, the journal welcomes articles on teaching food history, archival notes, translations, and other essays that help to build the field by encouraging and disseminating documentation; it will also contain book reviews.

Global Food History aims to encourage a wider recognition of food as not only an important means for studying such traditional scholarly concerns as politics, class, gender, race, and ethnicity, but also an important field in its own right, exploring a vital element of the human experience. As history offers an ideal forum for conversations across the social sciences and humanities, the journal also invites submissions from scholars in allied disciplines who share historians' concerns with change over time, causation, and periodization. The journal will be of interest to those engaged in the study of the cultural, social and economic history of food. If you would like your article to be considered for publication in the first issue of Global Food History, please ensure that it has been submitted to the editors by 15 May 2015. Articles submitted after this date will be considered for publication in future issues. For more information visit the journal [site](#).

Call for Conference Abstracts: AFHVS/ASFS Annual Meeting & Conference: Bridging the Past, Cultivating the Future

Joint 2015 Annual Meetings & Conference of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society (AFHVS), Association for the Study of Food and Society (ASFS), & Society for Anthropology of Food and Nutrition (SAFN), to be hosted by Chatham University (Pittsburgh, PA), June 24-28, 2015. Submissions areas include but are not limited to: Food Systems, local and global, past and present; Culture and cultural studies; Discipline-specific and interdisciplinary research; Art, design, and technology; Ethics and philosophy; Food access, security, and sovereignty; Community studies; Cultural, agricultural, and culinary preservation and innovation; Governance and rights; Pedagogy and/or experiential education Labor in the food system; Energy and agriculture; Health: problems, paradigms, and professions. Abstracts due: January 31st, 2015. For more details or to register, visit the Chatham University [site](#).

Call for papers: Meeting Urban Food Needs

In the context of its project "Meeting urban food needs", the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN (FAO) has launched the following call for papers aimed at producing information and sensitization documents in support of policy decision at local level. Papers discussing the following issues will be considered: a) The contribution to the analysis of complex food systems meeting urban food needs of specific disciplines (agricultural economics, geography, territorial planning, sociology, environmental studies)—or a comparative analysis of contributions of multiple disciplines. b) A selected methodological approach—or a comparative analysis of methodological approaches - to analyzing complex food systems meeting urban food needs, designing appropriate policies, strategies and action/investment plans. Papers can be sent to MUFN-Papers@fao.org by January 15, 2015. For full details and conditions, please download the following [document](#).

Upcoming event: The Food Environments in Canada Symposium and Workshop

The Food Environments in Canada Symposium and Workshop will be held May 21 - 23, 2015 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. The goal of this symposium and methodological workshop is to bring together researchers, students and practitioners to discuss completed and on-going studies along with the distinct strengths and challenges of Canadian food environments research, and to strategize for how to move this research forward in the future. This is particularly important now in this emerging field, as Canadian food environments researchers are finding that data from the US, and to a lesser degree, the UK, are not always relevant to the Canadian context. Many researchers have voiced the need for more Canadian-specific discussions of food environments. This symposium and workshop will provide the time and place for these discussions to happen, leading to new collaborations and initiatives.

Registration will open soon. For more information please contact Rachel Engler-Stringer, Assistant Professor, Community Health and Epidemiology, University of Saskatchewan, rachel.engler-stringer@usask.ca, 306-966-7839.



Recent & Upcoming Publications

Recent Publication

Cuizine Volume 5, number 2. Speaking in the Food Voice.

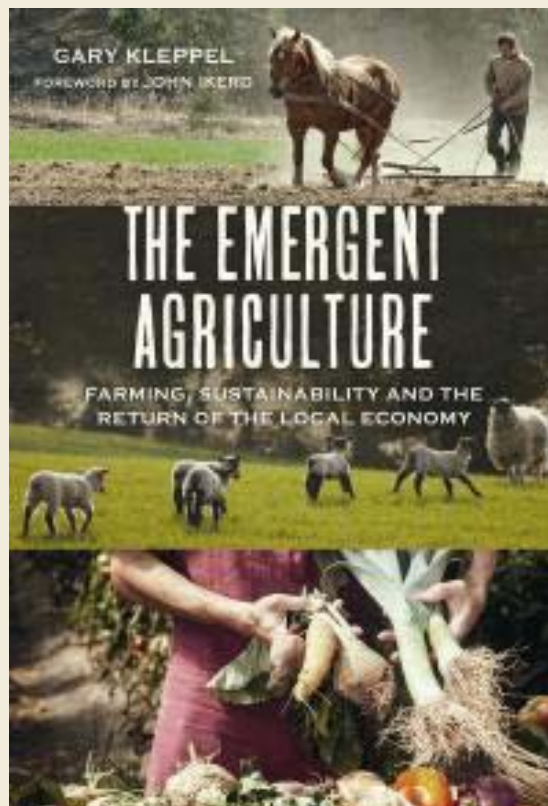
CuiZine: The Journal of Canadian Food Cultures is delighted to announce the launch of its latest issue, Speaking in the Food Voice. Contributors to CuiZine 5.2 explore how identity is spoken through food choices. This issue offers an eclectic menu—including cornbread, pumpkin pie, raw milk, and “Like, Pasta, Pizza, and Stuff”—by way of exploring a variety of food voices. How do communities and cultures communicate using a food voice? How has the food voice evolved through an increasing online presence? And, how might one interact with unfamiliar food voices in new spaces? Find some provocative answers [here](#).

Do follow the Cuizine [twitter](#) feed, which offers timely information about what is going on in the world of food studies in Canada.

Recent Publication

Kleppel, Gary (2014). *The Emergent Agriculture: Farming, Sustainability and the Return of the Local Economy*. New Society Publishers.

The Emergent Agriculture is a conversation about the future of food. Written from the vantage point of a farmer-ecologist, this collection of essays describes how industrial agriculture is being replaced by an emerging system of local production. The new paradigm celebrates craftsmanship and resiliency, and honors the growers who feed the soil and nourish the bonds between farmers and consumers.



Recent Publication

Seed, Barbara; Lang, Tim; Caraher, Martin; Ostry, Aleck (2014). Exploring Public Health’s roles and limitations in advancing food security in British Columbia. *Canadian Journal of Public Health*.

This research analyzes the roles and limitations of Public Health in British Columbia in advancing food security through the integration of food security initiatives into its policies and programs. It asks the question, can Public Health advance food security? If so, how, and what are its limitations? This policy analysis merges findings from 38 key informant interviews conducted with government and civil society stakeholders involved in the development of food security initiatives, along with an examination of relevant documents.

Public Health was able to advance food security in some ways, such as the adoption of food security as a core Public Health program. Public Health’s leadership role in food security is constrained by a restricted mandate, limited ability to collaborate across a wide range of sectors and levels, as well as internal conflict within Public Health between food security and food protection programs. Public Health’s limitations in advancing food security are primarily systemic and institutional. Thus, recommendations to overcome them are not simple but, rather, require movement toward embracing the determinants of health and regulatory pluralism. For full article, visit <http://journal.cpha.ca>.

Recent Publication

Weiler, Aelyse; Hergesheimer, Chris; Brisbois, Ben; Wittman, Hannah; Yassi, Annalee; Spiegel, Jerry (2014). *Food sovereignty, food security and health equity: a meta-narrative mapping exercise*. Health Policy and Planning.

Abstract: There has been growing policy interest in social justice issues related to both health and food. We sought to understand the state of knowledge on relationships between health equity-i.e. health inequalities that are socially produced-and food systems, where the concepts of 'food security' and 'food sovereignty' are prominent. We undertook exploratory scoping and mapping stages of a 'meta-narrative synthesis' on pathways from global food systems to health equity outcomes.

The review was oriented by a conceptual framework delineating eight pathways to health (in)equity through the food system: 1-Multi-Scalar Environmental, Social Context; 2-Occupational Exposures; 3-Environmental Change; 4-Traditional Livelihoods, Cultural Continuity; 5-Intake of Contaminants; 6-Nutrition; 7-Social Determinants of Health and 8-Political, Economic and Regulatory context. The terms 'food security' and 'food sovereignty' were, respectively, paired with a series of health equity-related terms. Combinations of health equity and food security (1414 citations) greatly outnumbered pairings with food sovereignty (18 citations). Prominent crosscutting themes that were observed included climate change, biotechnology, gender, racialization, indigeneity, poverty, citizenship and HIV as well as institutional barriers to reducing health inequities in the food system.

The literature indicates that food sovereignty-based approaches to health in specific contexts, such as advancing healthy school food systems, promoting soil fertility, gender equity and nutrition, and addressing structural racism, can complement the longer-term socio-political restructuring processes that health equity requires. Our conceptual model offers a useful starting point for identifying interventions with

strong potential to promote health equity. A research agenda to explore project-based interventions in the food system along these pathways can support the identification of ways to strengthen both food sovereignty and health equity. For more information visit <http://heapol.oxfordjournals.org/content/early/2014/10/03/heapol.czu109.abstract>

Upcoming Publication

Seed, Barbara (forthcoming). Sustainability in the Qatar national dietary guidelines, among the first to incorporate sustainability principles. Public Health Nutrition.

Objective: To present one of the first national dietary guidelines that incorporates food sustainability principles into its public health recommendations.

Design: Outlines recommendations, and utilizes an ecological framework of policy analysis to examine context, drivers, consequences and future suggestions in establishing and maintaining sustainability principles within the Qatar dietary guidelines.

Subjects: Population of Qatar

Results and Conclusions: Qatar has produced one of the first national dietary guidelines to integrate principles of food sustainability. National interest in environmental sustainability and food security, population concern over food waste (reinforced by Islamic religious law), strong authority of the Supreme Council of Health (supported by an Emirate government), a small domestic food industry, and a lack of food industry influence on the guidelines have contributed to the inclusion of sustainability principles within the document. Whether these principles will be embraced or rejected by the population in the long term will likely be determined by the Dietary Guideline Taskforce and the Supreme Council of Health's commitment to educating the population about the relevance and importance of these principles and establishing champions to advocate for them.

Making Food Matter: Strategies for Activating Change Together

By: Satya Ramen

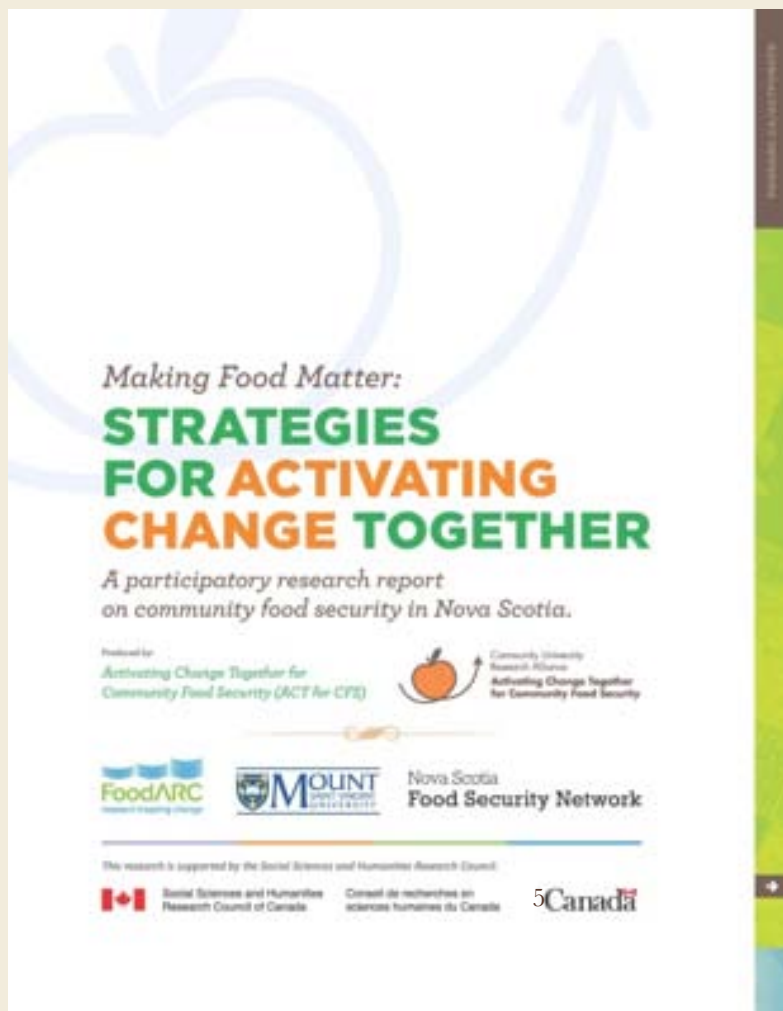
The most comprehensive community-level analysis of community food security in Nova Scotia has been released! On November 6, 2014, the Community-University Research Alliance: Activating Change Together for Community Food Security (ACT for CFS) released *Making Food Matter: Strategies for Activating Change Together*, a participatory research report on community food security in Nova Scotia.

Co-led by FoodARC and the Nova Scotia Food Security Network and supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, this project has spanned nearly five years, engaging nearly 70 organizational partners, 98 students, and more than 600 research participants. The results integrate policy landscape research completed in 2013 (<http://foodarc.ca/actforcfs/results-publications>) with the results of the four Participatory Community Food Security Assessments (led by local groups in Eastern Shelburne County, Spryfield (Halifax), Pictou County, and Northeastern Kings County), representing both rural and urban perspectives and diverse elements of food systems in Nova Scotia. In addition, more than 50 ACT for CFS team members and key stakeholders provided input into the draft report through an extensive stakeholder engagement process to ensure accuracy and to strengthen goals and recommendations. The report has been well received with coverage from radio, newspaper and television news outlets in the region. Each case community is also sharing provincial and community-specific results with community members through dialogues and preparing a community-level report.

The goals, strategies and opportunities to build community food security in Nova Scotia highlighted in this report serve as a platform

for moving knowledge to action, both within each community, provincially and beyond. ACT for CFS team members are working together to continue to share results, spark conversations, and plan next steps. Through the Voices for Food Security in Nova Scotia project, also based at FoodARC, a new education and awareness strategy is being developed with partners to Make Food Matter. Make Food Matter will provide an online platform and associated tools that draw upon Nova Scotia Participatory Food Costing, ACT for CFS research findings and other key research to support partners in moving research to action (communication, advocacy, policy change, and innovation).

Have a look at the [full report](#), and stay tuned for more tools to come ([#makefoodmatter](#)). For more



information on ACT for CFS and other FoodARC projects, please visit <http://foodarc.ca>.

The momentum generated from this participatory research was elevated at the recent Food Secure Canada Assembly, co-hosted by FoodARC in partnership with the Nova Scotia Food Security Network and ACORN. This 8th Assembly held for the first time in Atlantic Canada brought over 450 individuals from across the country (including almost 50 FoodARC partners, team members, and students) and was a dynamic and energizing event. A social media campaign was organized to connect the research results from the Making Food Matter report to the broader food movement represented at the Assembly. Several sessions featured local research and participatory research experiences, along with the Assembly's first ever Art Happening and a conversation with Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's Chief Public Health Officer, on government leadership on food security and healthy eating. Local team members also hosted two participatory conversations – Conversations for Change and Moving Your Ideas to Action – to enable Assembly participants to connect, share ideas and knowledge, and plan for action. Check out the twitter feed, [#foodwaves](#) or visit <http://foodsecurecanada.org> for more information.

Project Soil: Growing Public Food

By Phil Mount & Irena Knezevic

Project SOIL is a feasibility study that explores the potential of on-site food production for public institutions through arrangements with local producers, particularly where access to farmland is limited and expensive. Funded by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, we have produced four in-depth case studies of existing models with significant annual production:

- **FoodShare's School Grown Market Gardens**, with 2014 sales of over \$17,000 from two school sites;
 - **The Community Harvest** food growing project at the Black Family Farm, where the Ottawa Food Bank's staff farmer produced over 70,000 lbs. of vegetables in 2014
 - **McGill Feeding McGill**, where the foodservice department spends \$45,000 per year on produce grown on a University owned and operated 25 acre farm and
 - **the Kingston Prison Farms**, which included the largest urban farm in Canada (900 acres), and which housed beef, dairy, egg, fruit and vegetable production operations and an abattoir serving the local region
- These case studies represent food production models that developed over years, and required time, resources and commitment to achieve significant scale.



With our pilot projects, we took the initial steps with diverse set of partners at health care, social service and educational institutions across the province, and documented the results through Participatory Action Research projects: Victorian Garden project (Homewood Health Centre); Food School Farm (Centre Wellington District High School); GreenWerks Garden social enterprise (Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital); Therapeutic Garden Project (Hôpital Glengarry Memorial Hospital); Our Farm (KW Habilitation).

We shared those first steps with engaged participants in a well-attended webinar in late October, including how project partners found support and went about getting their pilot gardens off the ground at their institutions, as well as some of the lessons we learned in the first year of working together. The latter include the perspectives of project managers and administrators, as well as our farming partners at **Our Farm**, and **Young City Growers**, who create urban agriculture opportunities for youth. We are currently also conducting interviews with institutional administrators and staff. We are interested in Ontario educational and health care facilities that: 1) already have gardens (to learn about their successes); 2) are considering gardens but have not implemented them yet (to learn more about ongoing developments); and

3) institutions that considered gardens but did not go ahead with any plans (to learn more about barriers). If you know anyone we should interview please contact us – we would appreciate any recommendations. For more information please visit our website at <http://projectsoil.ca> or contact Phil Mount (pmount@wlu.ca) or Irena Knezevic (Irena.Knezevic@carleton.ca).

The CFICE Community Food Security Hub

By: Lauren Kepkiewicz

With demonstration projects examining nine community-campus partnerships, the Community Food Security (CFS) Hub is one element of Community First: Impacts of Community Engagement (CFICE, pronounced “suffice”). Launched in 2012, CFICE is a seven-year partnership project funded by SSHRC. It aims to support Canadian non-profits, universities, colleges, and funding agencies to build more successful, innovative, and resilient communities by asking the question: How can community campus partnerships be designed and implemented to maximize the value created for non-profit, community-based organizations? As part of this broader project, the CFS Hub aims to make sense of existing models of community-university partnerships that are working to strengthen community food



security across Canada. In keeping with the “community first” mandate of CFICE, the CFS Hub takes its cues from its core partner, Food Secure Canada (FSC), with a central goal to provide support for a network of community-campus partnerships that intersect with FSC’s People’s Food Policy. The CFS Hub Management team is made up of Charles Levkoe (Academic Co-lead), Cathleen Kneen (Community Co-lead), Abra Brynne (FSC Program Manager), and Lauren Kepkiewicz (Research Assistant).

The yearly cohorts in the CFS hub include a collaboration between the Regina Community Food System Steering Committee and the University of Regina, a research project involving the Long-Term Inmates Now in the Community (L.I.N.C) and the University of British Columbia, service learning with the University of Toronto and Sustain Ontario, and a joint project between Santropol Roulant and McGill University. Lessons learned from these partnerships include the necessity of addressing tensions between the different needs and goals of community partners and universities as well as the changing nature of these relationships and the need to constantly renew them. Furthermore, initial findings underline the importance of building respectful relationships, using food as a bridge-builder when developing partnerships, and the need to create institutional incentives for faculty engagement in community-university projects.

In the coming year, the CFS hub is looking forward to reconnecting with its existing partners, developing relationships with new partners, and thinking about longer-term projects. These longer-term projects may include a focus on Indigenous-settler relations, Food Secure Canada-Canadian Association for Food Studies relations, and provincial food networks.

For more information on the CFS Hub’s past projects and CFICE more generally please contact Charles Levkoe at clevkoe@wlu.ca or visit: <http://>

foodsecurecanada.org/cfice-community-food-security-hub.

The Laurier Centre for Sustainable Food Systems

By Alison Blay-Palmer

This fall, the Centre for Sustainable Food Systems at WLU has been undertaking OMAFRA-funded research into food hubs across Ontario. Involving in-depth case studies and a province-wide survey, the goal of this work is to capture the extent of and potential for food hubs in Ontario. Under the guidance of Dr. Erin Nelson, case studies are taking place in the north through Lakehead University, in the east centred at Carleton, in the GTA through Ryerson and in the southwest through WLU and the University of Guelph. More than 25 case studies and network analyses of innovative value chains, food hubs and network projects are underway with results expected by the spring. A parallel food hub survey will be distributed to producers, distributors, processors and points of sale throughout Ontario in early 2015.

We are also busy preparing to welcome scholars from Kenya, Brazil, Mexico and the European Union to Waterloo in January for a workshop on food, the social economy and climate change. The workshop is funded through the International Social Sciences Council as part of the ‘Transformations to Sustainability’ initiative. The Nourishing Communities web site continues to make connections and share valuable information from community and research partners, thanks to curator Dr. Phil Mount. In October alone we had more than 1,000 new visitors to the site from around the world. We are especially excited to see growing interest from Quebec. We welcome questions about our work. Please contact Alison Blay-Palmer for more information@ablalpalmer@wlu.ca

Campus Food Systems Project & Meal Exchange: Real Food Calculator

By: Sarah Archibald

Bringing the Real Food Calculator to Canada



Through the Campus Food Systems Project, Meal Exchange has helped students and campus stakeholders build just and sustainable food systems on campus. Campuses in Canada have the appetite to commit to better food systems on campus. With this foundation and momentum, Meal Exchange has decided to partner with Real Food Challenge, a U.S. based organization that is holding institutions accountable to shifting \$1 billion of food budgets away from industrial farms and junk food and towards local/community-based, fair, ecologically sound and humane food sources—what RFC calls “real food”—

by 2020. Over 150 American Campuses have signed on to the Real Food Challenge Campus Commitment.

To ensure that the Real Food Challenge is a good fit for our Canadian context, Meal Exchange students are researching each and every certification they can get their hands on to provide solid information to inform a Real Food Calculator in Canada. How CAFS can help: If you have information, resources or thoughts about certifications that should or should not be considered “real food”, please connect with sarah@mealexchange.com

Report on Recent Events

International Conference on Feeding Cities 2014: Rural-Urban Connections and the Future of Family Farming. Ryerson University

An international conference on Feeding Cities: Rural-Urban Connections and the Future of Family Farming was held on June 23-24, 2014 at Ryerson University in Toronto. The Conference commemorated the 20th anniversary of Ryerson’s Centre for Studies in Food Security, as well as the International Year of Family Farming. Sponsors included Ryerson, SSHRC and the Unesco Chair in World Food Systems/France.

Throughout the conference, scholars, students, policymakers and practitioners working on sustainable food systems and food security discussed issues concerning and addressing the future of family farming in an increasingly urbanized world. Dr. Haroon Akram-Lodhi, Trent University, inspired everyone with his keynote presentation on Why we need a new food system. Conference panels centered on four main themes: Family Farming: Who is Farming?; Ecological Sustainability and Family Farming; Rural-Urban Connections; and Policies and Social Mobilization.

Speakers from Canada, the United States, Mexico, Europe, and Africa explored the status and future of family farming around the world through interdisciplinary and intersectoral knowledge

exchanges. Among the international speakers were Nicolas Bricas, Centre for Agricultural Research for Development (CIRAD), France; Jahi Chappell, Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP), USA; Damien Conaré, UNESCO Chair in World Food Systems, France; Ibrahima Coulibaly, Network of Farmers’ Organizations (ROPPA) in West Africa; Fulvio Gioanetto, agroecologist, Mexico; and Kevin Morgan, Cardiff University, Wales. Canadian speakers included Suzanne Ainley, Georgian College; Alison Blay-Palmer, Wilfrid Laurier University; Eric Chaurette, Interpares; Donald Cole, University of Toronto; Wayne Roberts, author of Food for City Building; Annette Desmarais, University of Manitoba; Aabir Dey, Everdale and Bauta Seed Initiative; Harriet Friedmann, University of Toronto; Bryan Gilvesy, Y U Ranch, Ontario; Susan Machum, St. Thomas University; Ralph Martin, University of Guelph; Peter Lambrick, Golden Horseshoe Food & Farm Alliance, Ontario; Charles Levkoe, Wilfrid Laurier University; Carolyn Puterbough, Ministry of Agriculture and Food/Ministry of Rural Affairs; Cecilia Rocha, Ryerson University; Lori Stahlbrand, University of Toronto; and Tarrah Young, Green Being Farm, Ontario.

During the conference, Fiona Yeudall, Director of the Centre for Studies in Food Security, and Debbie Field, Executive Director of FoodShare, presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jennifer Welsh and

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FEEDING CITIES 2014
RURAL-URBAN
CONNECTIONS
AND THE FUTURE OF
FAMILY FARMING**

**JUNE 23-24, 2014
RYERSON UNIVERSITY
TORONTO, CANADA**



Mustafa Koç. Co-founders of the Centre for Studies in Food Security, Jennifer and Mustafa were recognized for their vision and commitment to food security and social justice.

A pre-conference family farming tour of the Ontario Green Belt was organized by Lauren Baker, Toronto Food Policy Council, and Janet Horner, GTA Agriculture Action Committee. More information, conference recordings and presentations are available at the website: <https://familyfarmingconference.wordpress.com/publications-2/>

Exhibition of the Agricultural Land Reserve at a Crossroads. University of the Fraser Valley.

As part of an ongoing project to study BC's Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) in the Lower Mainland of British Columbia, Canada Research Chair and University of the Fraser Valley professor Lenore Newman and her team staged a series of lightning talks and a gallery exhibition on farming on the rural/urban fringe. The talks included a summary of the ALR's history by postdoctoral scholar Lisa Powell, a discussion of farmland and food sovereignty by Dr. Hannah Wittman of UBC, an exploration of the challenges and opportunities faced by young farmers given by local farmer and University of the Fraser Valley student Amir Mann, and urban planner Brendan Hurley's take on how the ALR has influenced urban development near Vancouver. The gallery exhibition featured maps and photographs, allowing the public to see how much farmland is available in

the region and how much has been lost over the last 40 years. The project has shown that the ALR has been quite successful at preserving farmland in the Lower Mainland, holding losses to under ten percent over 40 years even as population has increased rapidly. However fragmentation and subdivision are growing problems and the extremely limited supply of land in the region ensure that tensions between farm and city will continue. The larger project is funded by SSHRC and by the Abbotsford Community Foundation, and will continue to monitor the quickly evolving situation in British Columbia as changes to the legislation governing the ALR begin to take effect. The talks and maps will be posted on the website of the Agriburban Research Centre early 2015. Visit the website for more details: <http://www.ufv.ca/agriburban/>

World Food Days: Workshops, Discussion Panels, and Lunch. New College, University of Toronto.

At New College, U of T, World Food Day was celebrated with 3 days of special events including guest speakers, workshops, and food on the theme of "Agroecology: The Next New Thing in Food?" Visit the following links for a detailed synopsis of the World Food Day events, written by Wayne Roberts:

Agroecology at New College:

<http://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/news/agroecology-at-new-world-food-days-part-1/>
<http://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/news/agroecology-at-new-world-food-days-part-2/>
<http://www.newcollege.utoronto.ca/news/agroecology-at-new-world-food-days-part-3/>

Awards & Honours

Two CAFS members, Lenore Newman and Evan Fraser, have both been named to the inaugural cohort of the College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada. Lenore Newman is the Canada Research Chair in Food Security and Environment at the University of the Fraser Valley, and Evan Fraser is the Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security at the University of Guelph

New program: The Food System Academy

Introducing a new open-education resource to transform our food systems. The Food Systems Academy is a free video library giving a succinct overview of food in our world today. This open access series of talks examines the complex and multidisciplinary nature of food systems, while suggesting desirable directions for creating a well-fed world at peace.

Contributors include Harriet Friedmann, Peter Drahos, Paul Rogers, Malcolm Dando, Janice Jiggins, Olivier de Schutter, Elizabeth Dowler and Geoff Tansey. Visit: <http://www.foodsystemsacademy.org.uk>

New program: Trent University's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program

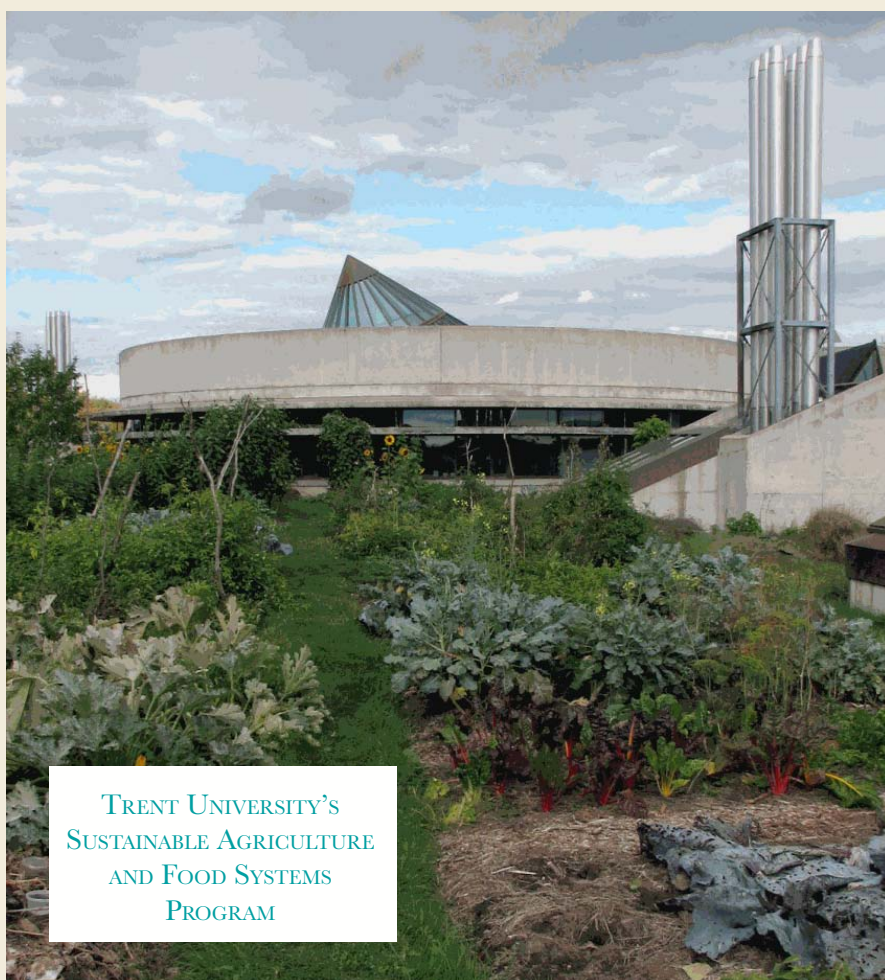
After four years of planning and developing new courses and degree options, Trent's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program is in full operation! We now offer three options for students interested in food and agriculture.

B.Sc. in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. This interdisciplinary program focuses on the science of agricultural production and food consumption. Courses provide the

following:

- A foundation in environmental science, biology, and geography that is relevant to agriculture
- Scientific perspectives on the key components of agricultural systems: soil, water, climate, plants and insects
- A detailed overview of the ecological and environmental dimensions of agricultural systems
- Analyses of the sustainability of conventional and alternative agricultural practices
- Advanced study of specific topics relating to food and agriculture, including climate change and agriculture, nutrition, food science, and nutrient management

B.A. in Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems. This program examines the social, political, economic and cultural dimensions of agriculture and food, from



Closing Remarks

global, Canadian, and local perspectives. Courses cover the following topics:

- The political, social, and environmental dimensions of agricultural production
- The relationship between agricultural production and other land uses
- How we consume food, examined from political, social and cultural perspectives
- Food distribution, including local food supply networks, global trade, and the prospects for fair trade
- Agriculture and community economic development
- Food production and distribution in the Global South
- Indigenous perspectives on food and agriculture

Specialization in Applied Agriculture. Offered in collaboration with Fleming College, this intensive 12 month program covers all aspects of the practice of farming – everything from planning to planting and harvesting. It's especially intended for students who aim to set up their own farming operation. Students transfer from Trent to Fleming midway through their fourth year, and graduate the following December with both a Trent degree and a Fleming graduate certificate.

A distinctive feature of these degree programs is that all B.Sc. and B.A. students are expected to gain some understanding of other perspectives. Science students also take courses on the social, economic, and political contexts of food and agriculture, and arts students gain a basic understanding of agricultural and food science.

The Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program is a cooperative effort, led by the Environmental and Resource Science/Studies Program, and with contributions from the departments of Anthropology, Biology, Geography, History, Indigenous Studies and International Development Studies. It's backed up by a range of agricultural facilities on campus: the Trent Experimental Farm, the Trent Vegetable Garden, an experimental rooftop garden, and the Seasoned Spoon Café – an on-campus organic restaurant operated by students.

We're excited to see this program grow, and invite one and all to get in touch if you're curious about it! For more information, contact Stephen Bocking (sbocking@trentu.ca), Coordinator, Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Program, Trent University.

CAFS/ACÉA Newsletter Team

Thanks to everyone that made contributions to the Winter 2014-2015 edition. The CAFS/ACÉA newsletter is published three times annually. We look forward to more great content from the food studies community for the Spring 2015 issue.

Please send any comments, questions, concerns or future submissions to newsletter@foodstudies.ca. Please also join the [CAFS Facebook](#) page or follow CAFS on [twitter](#).

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