

Sustainable Food and Food Security

Masaryk University, Brno, April 21st – 24th 2015

Session 1 – Introduction

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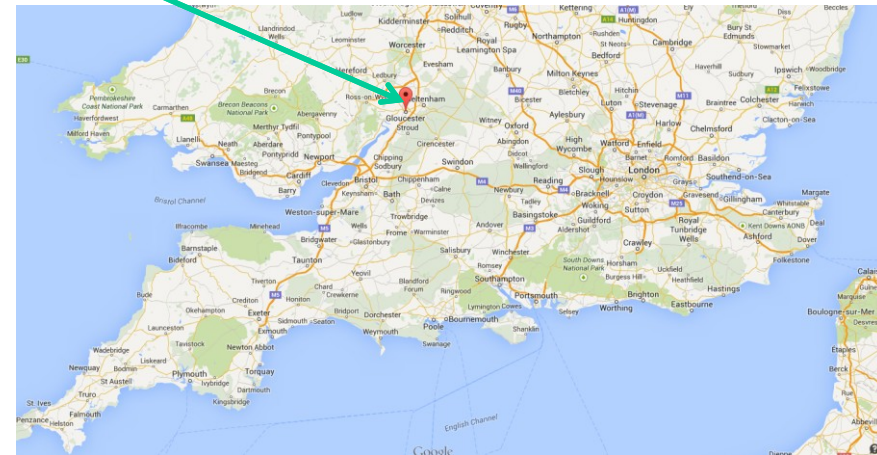


University of Gloucestershire

- Small university in SW England
- Originally est. in 1847
- 9000 students, 1000 PG, 55%W
- Specialisms: fine arts, applied/social sciences, sport, business, education
- Four campuses in two adjacent towns

CCRI

- Est. 1986, one of UK's largest rural research centres. Now more broadly based around social innovation, food, sustainability and renewables.
- Masters teaching and PhD
- Most research within EU partnerships



Introductions

- Your name
- Previous/other study areas
- Areas of interest in this module
- Involvement in food networks?

Overview of the week

Together we will:

- Explore the changing role of food over the last 2-3 decades.
- Critically consider some public, scientific and policy debates around food supply, production and consumption, including the complexities and inter-connectedness of local and non-local food.
- Briefly trace multi-disciplinary methodological approaches which can help us, as researchers, make sense of these difficult issues.
- Examine 'alternative' and community food provision models.
- Carry out independent research which aims to help students demonstrate and communicate their grasp of the issues covered.

Course progression (1)

Session 1: Tues 21st April (M117)

Introductions, overview, research exercise.

Session 2: Wed 22nd April 8.00 (U41)

Dynamic narratives: debates about sustainability and security

Session 3: Wed 22nd April 9.45 (Aula)

Responses from civil society: Community Supported Agriculture

Course progression (2)

Session 4 – Thurs 23rd April 8.00 (U42)

Farmers' Markets (in the UK) – Rural regeneration or urban niche?

Session 5 – Fri 24th April 8.00 (M117)

Traditional orchards in Germany – environmental social enterprise

Session 6 – Fri 24th April 9.45 (U35)

Student presentations of food diary.

Working together

Small group: allows flexibility and informality; but relies on attendance and adequate preparation.

We have a course structure, but please feel free to ask questions as they arise; discussions may develop and be pursued where time allows.

I appreciate that English is not your first language and that my examples are from UK/Germany.

Please ask for clarifications where necessary. If there are problems talk to me, or to your course leader.

Research exercise (feedback in session 6)

Keep a diary keep of what you eat from Monday 20th April until Thursday 23rd April (I hope this has started). **When you are buying food and eating, what things do you look for, which contexts inform your actions?**

The table shows some examples of considerations:

Preference	Reason	Indicator
I buy ready-meals.	I don't enjoy cooking.	Cooking instructions
I buy the cheapest food available.	I am a student with not much money.	Price
I try to buy organic food.	I believe it's better for your health.	Certification label

Research exercise

Buying: What decisions were involved in making your purchases? Did you make any compromises or trade-offs?

Menu: What did you cook and eat and what decisions were linked to this?

Consequences: consider the sustainability issues of your meals and purchasing in this period (food chains; human and non-human actors; areas of tension etc...).

Changes: What would you change? What would you need to achieve that? Did local food help with any of these issues?

Example of food diary record

Friday 6th Mar

Breakfast – Toast and honey, tea.

Lunch – Vegetarian meal from university canteen: potato salad and cheese sandwich. Chocolate bar.

Evening meal – Frozen pizza and frozen potato chips from the supermarket.

Comments – Always buy fair-trade tea. Am a vegetarian. Just can't resist chocolate! Quick evening meal, I am going out with friends tonight. Afternoon coffee plus apple cake at new local produce café run by people I know.



Food diary verbal report

This is based on your diary in the form of an oral presentation to the rest of the group. Work in groups of 3-4 people.

Can be a simple verbal presentation, power-point, video, excel sheet... all this is fine. But draw out critical questions or dilemmas which you have encountered or find interesting.

For example:

Health: do labels help?

Environment: did you throw lots of food away?

Ethics: fair-trade is an apology for neo-liberalism...

Social: no fresh fruit and veg in my neighbourhood

Economic: sustainable food seems to cost more

Be honest – this is auto-ethnographic data collection

Food diary oral presentation

Don't just describe what you bought/ate. Draw out critical reflections based on what we have discussed, for example:

- What social, ethical, economic, health, environmental factors inform your decisions?
- What are you trying to achieve, if anything (say if not)?
- Any narratives from academic literatures we covered?
- Who are the people affected by your decisions?
- Possible conflicts and dilemmas you faced
- What needs to change to affect your behaviour? To what extent do you control behaviour-change?
- Local foods – how do they feature (if at all)?
- You don't have to cover everything!! 5-10 mins present'n
- Concluding summary remarks

Any questions so far?

Happy?

What you expected?

See you after breakfast - 08.00 in U41

