

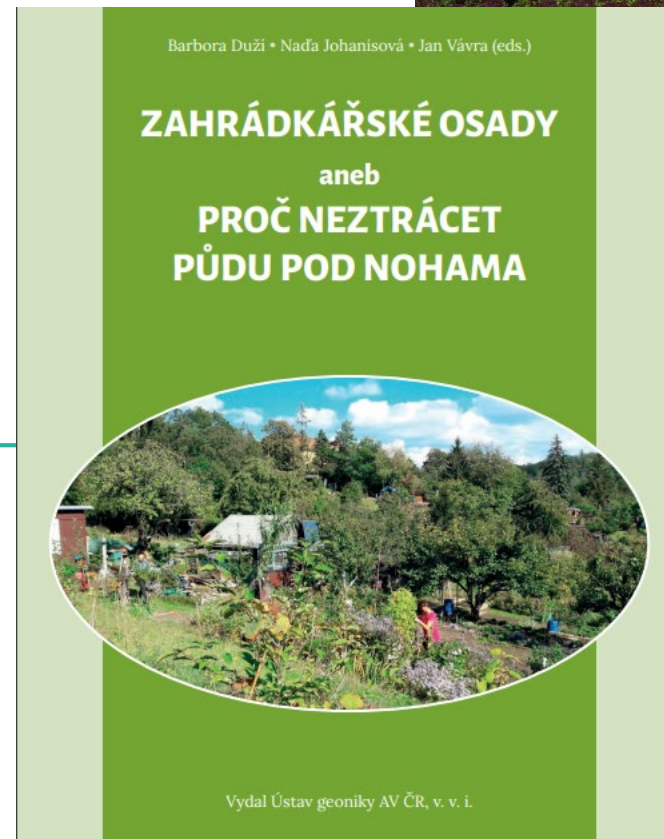


# Food in cities

## Urban food production, provisioning and citizenship

MUNI, Brno, 29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

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<https://tichaudrzitelnost.geogr.muni.cz/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Zahradkarske-osady-2021.pdf>

# Outline for the session

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- Some definitions and characteristics assigned to UA
- Illustration of the diversity of these using references from the literature
- Some illustrations from my research in Ghent and Bamberg – rather different stories.
- Time for questions, then a class exercise

# Urban Agriculture

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- Spatially - not in the countryside, but possibly on the edge of the countryside; definitely in the city.
- Functionally – may include household and community provisioning, social cohesion, innovation and environmental land use.
- Generally different emphases in global ‘North’ and ‘South’;
- Not everyone agrees on whether UA is a new thing or a really ancient practice. Partly this is linked to rapid urbanisation.

Urbanisation trends 1950-2050  
(% urban) (UN 2014)

Region	1950	2050
Africa	14.4	56.0
Asia	17.5	64.4
Europe	51.3	81.2
Latin/Caribb	41.4	86.0
North Amer	63.9	87.3
Oceania	62.4	74.0

Steel, C. (2020) *Sitopia: How Food Can Save the World*. London, Chatto & Windus

Thornton, A. (ed.) (2020) *Urban Food Democracy in the Global North and South*. Cham, Palgrave MacMillan.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XaEKJ5Vv3Zg>

# What is UA (1)?

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‘...the production of food in city spaces.’ (Keech & Redepenning 2020). ‘... has various functions in the urban system’. (de Zeeuw & Drechsel 2015: vii) ‘...As the name suggests, UA is any food production in urban areas...in some cases production can occur on top of buildings themselves.’ (Behrens et al. 2020: 172)

‘... become an increasingly relevant topic in the science and planning of urban food systems aimed at reducing food insecurity at the level of the household...and community. ... Peri-urban agriculture is a residual form of agriculture at the fringes of growing cities... (Opitz et al. 2015) – see also

<http://www.ccri.ac.uk/covid19-food-db/>

‘Urban food growing ... a post-modern response to socio-economic problems associated with the ... post-war ideas of modernisation and related failings of neo-liberal urban industrial growth.’ (Thornton 2019: 3)





Pics: [www.gruen-in-der-stadt.de](http://www.gruen-in-der-stadt.de) and Norwegian Government.

## What is UA (2)?



‘...includes small-intensive urban farms, food production on housing estates, land sharing, rooftop gardens and beehives, schoolyard greenhouses, restaurant-supported salad gardens, public space food production, guerrilla gardening, allotments, balcony and windowsill vegetable growing and other initiatives.’ (Tornaghi 2014)

‘The growing costs of transporting food will increase the demand for urban agriculture spaces in cities by compelling planners with the task of integrating the urban open space system, as well as local, fresh food markets as standard elements of urban infrastructure.’ (Russo & Cirella 2019)

Dyrk byer og tettsteder

Nasjonal strategi for urbant landbruk





# Self-sufficiency and participation

- ‘Who Feeds Bristol?’ (Carey 2013)
- Lincoln Food Food Partnership newsletter April 2020
- Rosario – UA to address poverty



Marielle Dubbeling, Laura Bracalenti & Laura Lagorio

### Abstract

Urban agriculture is increasingly recognized for its potential contribution to more sustainable urban development. Urban agriculture includes the cultivation and raising, processing and marketing of food and non-food crops, medicinal and aromatic herbs, fruit trees, as well as animal products within urban and periurban areas. Urban agriculture positively impacts urban food security, local economic development, environmental management and community building. To reconcile the demands posed by urban growth with urban agriculture activities of high social and economic value, urban agriculture however should be included into land use planning and design, and regulated by municipalities, assuring its proper management and avoiding potential health and environmental risks. Open and green urban spaces could be designed for multifunctional urban agriculture and combine natural habitat, food production, educational, recreational and leisure activities. Such design processes would benefit from broad participation of urban planners and architects, urban farmers, citizens and slum inhabitants as to enhance ownership and engagement, more effectively use available local resources and give the process a higher credibility and wider outreach. This article shares the experience of Rosario, Argentina where the city planners and University staff collaborated with two low-income communities in the design and implementation of a multifunctional neighborhood park, public square and road reserve. A step-by-step participatory design process was followed: starting from initial visioning, defining and relating the various existing and multi-functional land uses desired, to elaborating the site plan, and agreeing on implementation procedures. The article briefly contextualizes the site and its inhabitants, illustrates the design process and the results achieved and highlights some of the problems encountered. Participatory design of open spaces for urban agriculture in Rosario- though a complex process- proved to have contributed to improving socio-economic and environmental conditions in the city, while also serving as a source of inspiration to other cities in the region.

**Keywords:** Urban Agriculture, Urban Planning, Neighborhood Upgrading, Participatory Design, Multifunctional Public Spaces.



Current view on the garden park(2007)



open house international Vol 34, No 2, June 2009 Participatory design of public spaces...

# Central and Eastern Europe

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- What is alternative and where?
- Brno: centre of Czech AFN expertise.  
+ SlowFood Central Europe.
- <https://foodpathsnetwork.slowfood.com/>
- Research in Moravia-Silesia shows a higher intensity of AFNs close to cities; organic farms not integrated with AFNS (Hruška et al 2020).



Home cooking, Czechia style, Photo: Tereza Cerna  
2011

*'Thinking like an Eastern European'*  
(Jehlička et al. 2020)



# (Urban) food and gender

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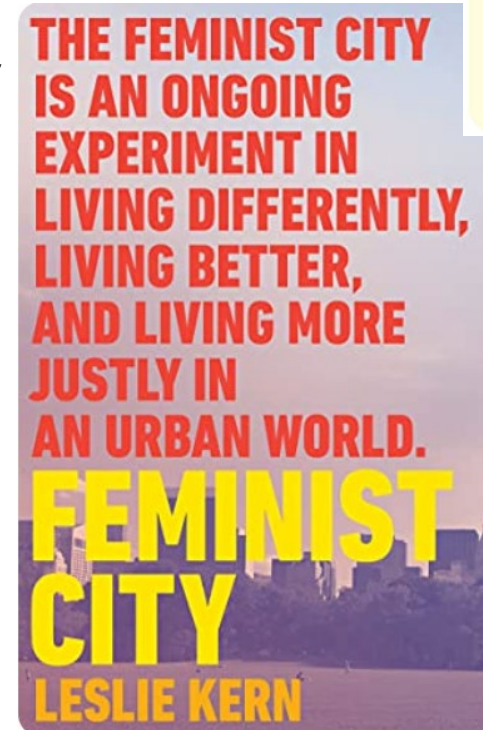
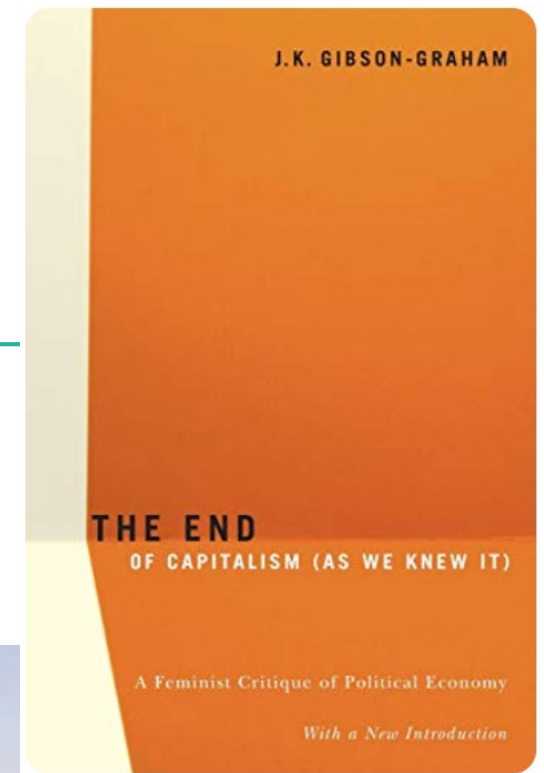
- Starting point: inequality. 'Women do 66% the world's work, produce 50% of the food, but earn 10% of the income and own 1% property.' In HCT, women = 70% workforce. (UN Women 2013).
- Multiple urban 'foodscapes': home, shops, workplace, on the move, eating out. (Parham 2015).
- Urban food projects often blend co-operative cooking, child-friendly growing and are inclusive or reflective of the cultures living in the city.





# Food feminism and the city

- The statistics → concept of embodiment of pain / exhaustion of everyday labour. Raises questions about work and power in the food chain. **SDG5.**
- *‘The ubiquity of food and gender difference in all societies makes the overlapping of food and gender studies particularly constructive for a social progress agenda.’* (Horvorka 2013)
- Changing urban open space design: safe, clean, convivial, child friendly etc...
- Feminism: powerful lens which shines a light not only on the lived food experiences of city women, but also more generally: justice, citizenship, alternative economics, sustainability and diversity.



# Locality diversity and/through creative practice

CLIMAVORE

Food for the new seasons  
of the climate emergency



↑ Salmon: A Red Herring. Cooking Sections, 2021. Tate Britain, Installation view.



Image: Sara Hannant  
[https://www.sustainweb.org/news/01\\_2004\\_from\\_brick\\_lane\\_to\\_bread\\_street/](https://www.sustainweb.org/news/01_2004_from_brick_lane_to_bread_street/)

# Farming as confrontation



Agnes Denes in her Manhattan Wheatfield, 1982.

Pic: Donna Svennevik



*'Wheatfield was a symbol, a universal concept. It represented food, energy, commerce, world trade, economics. It referred to mismanagement, waste, world hunger and ecological concerns. It was an intrusion into the Citadel, a confrontation of High Civilisation. Then again it was also Shangri-La, a small paradise, one's childhood, a hot summer afternoon in the country...'*

**The yield was 1,000lbs of 'healthy, golden wheat' worth £158 from land worth \$4.5bn.**



Image by permission: Zentrum Welderbe Bamberg,  
©Jürgen Schraudner.











**The Lower Market Gardener's District (1930)**  
Source. Stadt Bamberg

**The Lower Market Gardener's District (2017)**  
Source. Bing maps





**Images: From left, clockwise -**  
Bamberg Hörnla potato (Slow Food Presidia); Selbsterntegarten (Transition Bamberg); Corpus Christi procession ([www.bamberger-onlinezeitung.de/2014/07/24/maria-magdalena-schutzheilige-der-gaertnerwegen-eines-irrtums/](http://www.bamberger-onlinezeitung.de/2014/07/24/maria-magdalena-schutzheilige-der-gaertnerwegen-eines-irrtums/))





Image – Matt Reed



# De Site (2) – Parallel economy?



- Temporary urban brownfield site of 3,000m<sup>2</sup> – moving production concept (consequences?).
  - Led by community development organisation to stimulate integration in Rabot, a neighbourhood with 60 nationalities and poverty/homelessness challenges.
  - Project sells its produce for profit to the catering trade.
  - Locals and homeless provide labour, rewarded with their own parcel of land.
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- Allotment surplus can be sold to project by parcel holders and payment in **alternative local currency (TAX!)**.
  - This can be spent in the project's subsidised restaurant and shop on household goods and other food.





# De Site (3) – Some contexts



- Long-standing Social Democrat-Green-Liberal city coalition. Which has prioritised social integration and sustainability. Food policy, non-meat public food days.
  - De Site complemented by Wijveld CSA, urban food production SMEs, some city-produced foods (mushrooms, veg, honey) stocked in **Delhaize supermarket** – but difficult.
  - Soil degradation and compaction in intensive agricultural areas outside the city. Opportunities for closing waste cycles in the wider city-region?
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- In both Bristol and Ghent the alternative food production and retail systems are a form of active citizenship. Read more at [www.supurbfood.eu](http://www.supurbfood.eu)

# What have we learnt?

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Cities are important as places of food production and always have been.

Urban food can 'repair' some of the disconnections associated with industrialised agriculture, including between town and countryside.

City food economies continue to shape the fabric of cities and offer multiple social functions

Food culture and identity are complex, dynamic and need to be democratically renegotiated, sometime with local government assistance, or sometimes to make policy.

Gender, tradition and innovation are rich research arenas in city food research and can encourage sustainability solidarity and inclusion.

In Europe, provincial cities, not just larger capitals, are interesting locations of urban food and reveal 'rurbanity'.



# Classroom exercise

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Get into breakout groups. Please develop plan for an evaluation of an urban food project.

- What kind of project are you evaluating (could be a real example you know about; or you could just imagine)?
- What exactly are you evaluating and why? (Productive output, gender issues, functions of the growing space, innovation, connections with other networks?)
- What research method(s) do you think could work well in informing your evaluation?

**Please work up a brief evaluation plan (in 1 or 2 slides?) to share with the group. You may need a note-taker and/or speaker.**

