

## Call for communication - Session (S1-4) Sustainable food policies and territories in transition.



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Scientific studies and reports are raising food transition issues within a context of increasing population up to 11 billion by 2050 (DuAlime, 2014; IPCC, 2019). Current challenges are accelerated by the increasingly and repeated warnings on climate change and ecosystems degradation. It prompts urgent consideration of concrete action in favor of food systems transition to sustainability.

Food system transition involves both individual and organizational changes and at different system levels: from production to consumption, including waste management. Coordinating and articulating these multi-scale changes are one of the most complex problems that may slow down change. What kind of socio-technical changes can be considered today to promote food systems sustainability? What are the alternatives and the innovations, what frames of action to promote new food initiatives and actors, new ways of intervening to move systems towards more sustainability? The climate emergency requires to rapidly reflect on sustainability transition paths. This requires additional knowledge and a strong recognition of the capacity for action of collectives and individuals, anchored in multidimensional spaces of action, with different resistance and resilience dynamics, peculiar to locales which draw new food geographies.

In the session S1-4, we suggest tackling food systems transition in terms of two and complementary areas:

**Area 1.** Food system transition through and within territories: Actors, scales and collective action.

**Area 2.** Food systems transition through integrative policies design.

We are also seeking for proposals presenting methodological frameworks for analyzing, guiding and assessing place-based food transitions and dedicated public policies.

**Area 1. Food system transition through and within territories: Actors, scales and collective action.**

Addressing food system transition from a territorial / place-based perspective implies to understand the actor's rationale and the peculiarities of locales involved: who are the initiators, leaders or bearers of place-based food systems transition? Does the transition involve mere collective action frameworks or new arrangements and / or hybridization specific to social innovation processes? In other words, is analyzing food system transition at territorial scales shed light on new frames of action, insofar as local scales and or proximities can connect actors in new ways, bring out new interactions such as producing new ways of doing that are not yet documented.

Analyzing food systems transition at territorial levels can also offer insights on the relevant scales of food systems transition (Hansen et Coenen, 2014<sup>1</sup> ; Truffer et al. 2015<sup>2</sup> ; Murphy, 2015<sup>3</sup>). By relevant scale, we mean both the effectiveness of food transition

## Calendrier :

- **22 Février 2021**  
date limite de soumission  
des résumés.
- **Fin mars 2021**  
Réponses aux auteurs  
(exposés, posters)
- **À partir du 1<sup>er</sup> avril 2021**  
Inscriptions en ligne

1. Hansen, Teis, and Lars Coenen. 2014. "The Geography of Sustainability Transitions: Review, Synthesis and Reflections on an Emergent Research Field." *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 17, 92-109.
2. Truffer, Bernhard, James T Murphy, and Rob Raven. 2015. "The Geography of Sustainability Transitions Contours of an Emerging Theme." *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 17, 63-72.
3. Murphy, James T. 2015. "Human Geography and Socio-Technical Transition Studies: Promising Intersections." *Environmental Innovation and Societal Transitions*, 17, 73-91.

scales and those at which they may be more efficiently deployed. Scales and multi-scalar issues are real challenges when related to urban strategies and initiatives aiming to reach food self-sufficiency: some are utopias, others are spaces of possibilities or realities that concretely put rescaling and scales articulation both horizontally (in the sense of inter-territoriality as for example, city-country transactions...) and vertically (in the sense of multi-scalar governance, and more generally the interlocking of scales of action) as strong challenges. Scale issues are not very far from the circulation of models and frame of action and interaction within territories and between close and distant ones.

Reflecting on the geographical dimension of food systems transition is tightly related to coexistence issues (Gasselin et al., 2020). As key drivers of transition, some authors identifies two main types of innovations that enable transitions (Maye, 2017): (i) Incremental innovations, where they maintain the status quo, which make it possible to respond to the problems and issues of dominant systems without challenging current norms and values, and (ii) Radical innovations, that respond to the contradictions of current systems and transform them in depth. From these two perspectives, it is needed to consider frictions, controversies, tensions and conflicts that transitions processes at local scales generate and what they imply in terms of new models of acting together, territorial development and the coexistence of actors, spaces and systems.

#### Area 2. Operating food systems transition through integrative policies design.

Developing a more sustainable food supply at territorial scales requires a systemic analysis of various projects relating to ecosystem management, human activities, production and consumption patterns, etc. This is why, transition to more sustainable food systems challenges the way we design more integrative policies (cf. CAAP proposal, issues of integration of national plans such as the PNA, PNNS, PNSE, cf. EGA roadmap). In many regions in France, sustainable food is promoted to create social dynamics aiming the greening of practices. For instance, since 2018, the Occitan Region labeled sustainable food as a "great cause" and set up a public consultation to address important criteria for consumers (organic, local, seasonal products...).

Following different cities and countries situation, it seems important to understand the modalities of policy integration: taken as horizon, expectation or injunction, how are food systems transition appropriated by national and territorial actors? What are the relationships and interactions (synergies or competition) between processes of integration/disintegration of citizen movements within public policies? Are territorial food policies/strategies necessarily integrated? What are the barriers and levers of this integration process at territorial levels? Can the assumption that policy integration can only be effective at local scales, through experimentation, be verified? More generally, what is the kinetics and sustainability of these territorial food policies aiming food systems transition?

## The information on the Conference

(presentation, calls for papers, registration, etc.) is available on the website:

**<https://transitions2021.sciencesconf.org>**

Students in PhD and Master 2 are invited to register on the conference website  
(free registration subject to availability)

## Guidelines for communication proposals (format and submission):

Proposals for this session should be sent by email to Dr Salma Loudiyi (salma.loudiyi@vetagro-sup.fr) & PR Camille Dumat (camille.dumat@ensat.fr), before February 22, 2021 with the subject "Proposal T2021".

They will be examined by the scientific committee of the sub-session composed of: Salma Loudiyi, Camille Dumat, Marie Houdart, Virginie Baritoux and Claire Cerdan.

Selected papers will be organized by the Scientific Committee in half-day sessions. Proposals for communication must comply with the following instructions: times new novel, font size 12, single-spaced, margins 2.5cm. They include a title in bold italics (times new roman 14), mention the author(s) with their status and institutional affiliation in footnotes, indicate 5 key words. Proposals should not exceed 600 words (including references). You can precise : oral exposure or scientific poster.



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