

# Food Sovereignty *a critical dialogue*

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, The Netherlands  
08:00 – 22:30 hrs; 24 January 2014

A contested concept, food sovereignty has — as a political project and campaign, an alternative, a social movement, and an analytical framework — barged into global agrarian discourse over the last two decades. The colloquium brings together leading scholars and political activists who are advocates of and sympathetic to the idea of *food sovereignty*, and those who are skeptical to the concept of food sovereignty to foster a critical and productive dialogue on the issue. Such a dialogue aims, among others, at exploring whether the subject of food sovereignty has an “intellectual future” in critical agrarian studies and, if so, on what terms.



***organized by:***

ISS-Agrarian, Food & Environmental Studies (AFES), Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS), Transnational Institute (TNI), Institute for Food and Development Policy/Food First, Land Deal Politics Initiatives (LDPI), and *The Journal of Peasant Studies*

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# Programme

## 21 January 2014 version

### Notes:

*This is 21 January 2014 final version of the programme.*

*We are adopting the format we used at the Yale conference in September 2013: all panel speakers will have **not more than 7 minutes** to present the highlights of their papers/argumentations – except for the keynote speakers who will have 15 minutes/per speaker, and for the concluding panel speakers who will have 5 minutes each. This will allow for greater time for open discussions. Further below, we are providing short bios of all speakers, chairs and organizers; there will be no introduction of speakers at the colloquium in order to save time. Meanwhile, it will be a long day: the registration will open at 8am (with coffee), and the formal colloquium will start at 9am sharp, and will end at 18:00 hr. Afterwards we will have an evening informal program: 18:00 to 22:30. Please see further below.*

*Key to a productive dialogue is for participants to have read a critical mass of the conference papers. There are more than 90 papers in total – all available at the colloquium website: [www.iss.nl/icas](http://www.iss.nl/icas) or [http://www.iss.nl/research/research\\_programmes/political\\_economy\\_of\\_resources\\_environment\\_and\\_population\\_per/networks/critical\\_agrarian\\_studies\\_icas/food\\_sovereignty\\_a\\_critical\\_dialogue/](http://www.iss.nl/research/research_programmes/political_economy_of_resources_environment_and_population_per/networks/critical_agrarian_studies_icas/food_sovereignty_a_critical_dialogue/).*

*We also encourage participants to read the papers by key scholars who have raised critical issues about food sovereignty, but that unfortunately could not join us on the 24<sup>th</sup> of January: Henry Bernstein, Bina Agarwal, Jack Kloppenburg, among others. Their papers are available online, except for Agarwal's; hers is now available in the Journal of Peasant Studies website (see "Latest Articles").*

*Finally, there will be a live broadcast of the conference from 09:00 to 12:30 and 14:00 to 18:00 hrs. You may want to inform colleagues about it. To access the live broadcast, one has to go to the ISS website: [www.iss.nl](http://www.iss.nl).*

*Lunch, coffee/tea, drinks and dinner will be served free of charge*

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8:00 – 8:50 am – Registration and coffee

**9:00 – 9:05 – Welcome remarks, Leo de Haan, ISS Rector**

**9:05-10:15 Plenary Session 1: Keynote addresses**

*Chair: Ian Scoones, Institute for Development Studies (IDS) Sussex, UK*

*Keynote Address:*

Elizabeth Mpofu, General Coordinator, *La Via Campesina*

*Keynote Panel:*

Susan George, Chairperson, Transnational Institute (TNI)

Olivier de Schutter, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, 'Second-generation food sovereignty and democracy'

Teodor Shanin, President, Moscow School of Social and Economic Sciences

Tania Li, University of Toronto, 'No Food Sovereignty Here'  
(see her Discussion Notes, colloquium website)

10:15-10:45 – plenary discussion

**10:45-12:30 – Plenary Session 2**

*Chair: Wendy Wolford, Cornell University, USA*

Jennifer Clapp, University of Waterloo, Canada, 'Financialization, Distance and Global Food Politics'  
(Conference paper # 5)

Marc Edelman, Hunter College/City University of New York (CUNY), USA, 'Food sovereignty: Forgotten genealogies and future regulatory challenges'  
(conference paper # 72)

Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Wageningen University, The Netherlands, 'Peasant-driven agricultural growth and food sovereignty'  
(Conference paper # 8)

Michael Windfuhr, German Institute for Human Rights, Berlin, 'Food Sovereignty and Human Rights. What type of a relation is possible?'

Ludwig Rumetshofer, European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

**12:30 – 14:00 Lunch, ISS Atrium & ISS Attic**

**14:00 – 15:45 Parallel Sessions**

***Parallel Session 1***

Room: Aula

*Chair: Sergio Sauer, University of Brasilia, Brazil*

Olivier de Schutter, University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium, 'The agrarian transition and the 'feminization' of agriculture'  
(Conference paper # 37)

Willem Stoop, Wageningen University, Comprehensive agronomy as a pre-condition for seed and food sovereignty; implications of SRI (system of rice intensification) principles for strategic policy issues  
(Conference paper # 88)

Giuliano Martiniello, Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University, Uganda, 'Food Sovereignty as a Weapon of the Weak? Rethinking the Food Question in Uganda'  
(conference paper # 41)

Christina Schiavoni, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, 'Competing sovereignties, contested processes: the political construction of food sovereignty'  
(conference paper # 90)

Nora McKeon, Terra Nouva, Rome

***Parallel Session 2***

Room: Attic

*Chair: Peter Mollinga, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), UK*

Annette Desmarais, University of Manitoba, Canada, 'Farmers, Foodies and First Nations: Getting to Food Sovereignty in Canada'  
(Conference paper # 3)

Shapan Adnan, Bangladesh, & Associate with South Asian Studies Programme at Oxford University, 'Rethinking food sovereignty in a limiting context: Refugees from Myanmar in Bangladesh without land and citizenship'  
(Conference paper # 93)

Edouard Morena, King's College, London, Words speak louder than actions: The 'peasant' dimension of the Confederation Paysanne's alternative to industrial farming  
(Conference paper # 85)

Isabella Giunta, University of Calabria, Italy, 'Food sovereignty in Ecuador: The gap between the constitutionalization of the principles and their materialization in the official agri-food strategies'  
(Conference paper # 50)

Someone from La Via Campesina/European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

### **Parallel Session 3**

Room: 4.42

*Chair: Chayan Vaddanaphuti, Chiang Mai University, Thailand*

Ryan Isakson, University of Toronto, Canada, 'Financialization and the Transformation of Agro-food Supply Chains: A Political Economy'  
(Conference paper # 9)

Kevin Woods, University of California, Berkeley & Transnational Institute (TNI), 'The politics of the emerging agro-industrial complex in Asia's 'final frontier': The war on food sovereignty in Burma'  
(Conference paper # 25)

Karine Peschard, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, 'Farmers' rights and food sovereignty: Comparative perspectives from Brazil and India''  
(Conference paper # 19)

Shirley Thompson, University of Manitoba, Canada, 'Recipe for decolonization and resurgence: Story of O-Pipon-Na-Piwin Cree Nation's indigenous food sovereignty movement'  
(Conference paper # 46)

Someone from La Via Campesina/European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

### **Parallel Session 4**

Room: 4.25

*Chair: Corbera, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain*

Patrick Mulvany, UK Food Group, 'Agricultural Biodiversity, Ecological Food Provision and Food Sovereignty: vital interdependencies'  
(Conference paper #... paper forthcoming)

Kees Jansen, Wageningen University, 'Food Sovereignty: Agro-ecology/Re-peasantization/Alternative Food Regime versus Expanded Reproduction'  
(Conference paper # 92)

Birgit Müller, LAIOS, CNRS/EHESS, Paris, 'The Temptation of Nitrogen: FAO Guidance for Food Sovereignty in Nicaragua'  
(Conference paper # 33)

Guadalupe Rodriguez-Gomez, Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (CIESAS), 'The Debate Over Food Sovereignty in Mexico'

(Conference paper # 36)

Jose Luis Vivero Pol, Université catholique de Louvain (UCL), Belgium, The Food Commons Transition Collective actions for food and nutrition security  
(Conference paper # 89)

Maryam Rahmanian, Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment (CENESTA), Iran

**Parallel Session 5:**

Room: 4.26

*Chair: Alexander Nikulin, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, Russia*

Terry Marsden, Cardiff, University, UK, The new rural land and food question: exploring sustainable pathways of green growth and the bio-economy  
(Conference paper # 86)

Madeleine Fairbairn, University of Wisconsin, USA, "Like gold with yield": Evolving intersections between farmland and finance'  
(Conference paper # 6)

Max Spoor, Natalia Mamonova, Oane Visser, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) The Hague, and Alexander Nikulin, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration, Moscow, 'Food Security in a Sovereign State and "Quiet Food Sovereignty" of an Insecure Population: The Case of Post-Soviet Russia  
(Conference paper # 28)

Josh Brem-Wilson, University of Bradford, 'Towards Food Sovereignty: Interrogating Peasant Voice in the UN Committee on World Food Security'  
(Conference paper # 87)

Antonio Onorati, Crocchia, Rome

**Parallel Session 6:**

Room: 4.39

*Chair: Sean Gillon, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA*

Priscilla Claeys, University of Louvain (UCL), 'From Food Sovereignty to Peasants' Rights: an Overview of La Via Campesina's Rights-Based Claims over the Last 20 Years'  
(Conference paper # 24)

Isabelle Anguelovski, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 'Conflicts around alternative urban food provision: Contesting food privilege, food injustice, and colorblindness in Jamaica Plain, Boston'  
(Conference paper # 84)

Clara Park (International Institute of Social Studies, ISS, The Hague), Julia (University of Bonn) with Ben White (ISS, The Hague), 'We Are Not All the Same: Taking Gender Seriously in Food Sovereignty Discourse'  
(Conference paper # 17)

Zuhre Aksoy, Bogazici University, Turkey, 'Agrobiodiversity, Global Environmental Justice and Food Sovereignty: A Necessary Encounter?'  
(Conference paper # 83)

Michel Pimbert, Centre for Agroecology and Food Security (CAFS) at Coventry University

15:45 – 16:05 Break

**16:05 – 17:30 Plenary Session 3**

*Chair: Ben White, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)*

Phil McMichael, Cornell University, USA, 'Historicizing Food Sovereignty: a Food Regime Perspective'  
(Conference paper # 13)

Sophia Murphy, University of British Columbia, Canada, 'What Place for International Trade in Food Sovereignty?'  
(Conference paper # 2)

Phil Woodhouse, University of Manchester, UK

Peter Rosset, El Colegio de la Frontera Sur (ECOSUR), Chiapas, Mexico, 'Rural Social Movements  
Diálogo de Saberes: Territories, Food Sovereignty, and Agroecology'  
(conference paper # 4)

Sofia Monsalve, Foodfirst Information & Action Network (FIAN) – International Secretariat (replacing Flavio Valente of FIAN), 'Gender, Nutrition, and the Human Right to Adequate Food: towards an inclusive framework'

**17:30 – 18:00 – Plenary Session 4: short concluding session**

*Chair: Ruth Hall, Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of Western Cape, South Africa*

Terry Boehm, National Farmers Union (NFU) Canada, *La Via Campesina*

John Hilary, War on Want, UK

Eric Holt-Gimenez, Food First/Institute for Development and Food Policy, USA

Bridget O'Laughlin, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

**Closing remarks: Max Spoor, Chair, Political Economy of Resources, Populations and the Environment (PER) Research Programme, ISS**

18:00-19:30 – ISS Atrium: Drinks plus a short informal programme: (i) collective launch of select books, and (ii) to commemorate the 20th anniversary of *La Via Campesina*, 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Transnational Institute (TNI), and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *The Journal of Peasant Studies (JPS)*. Among those who will give very short remarks include: Eric Holt-Gimenez, Cristobal Kay, John Hilary, *La Via Campesina* leader, Madeleine Fairbairn, Fiona Dove, Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Phil McMichael, Priscilla Claeys, Wendy Wolford, Nora Mckee, and Brigitte Reisenberger.

19:30 to 22:30 – Dinner, ISS Atrium

**Programme Facilitators**

09:00 – 13:00 hrs – Fiona Dove, Transnational Institute (TNI)

13:00 – 18:00 hrs – Mindi Schneider and Zoe Brent, ISS

18:00 – 22:30 hrs – Alberto Alonso-Fradejas and Christina Schiavoni, ISS

## Short bios of author presenters, speakers, chairs, program facilitators & conference organizers

*Alberto Alonso-Fradejas*, PhD candidate, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague. His dissertation research is on the dynamics of agrarian transformation in Guatemala. He has been deeply involved in rural social movements in Guatemala in particular and Latin America more generally during the past ten years. He has published an article on land grabbing in the *Canadian Journal of Development Studies* (2012). Alberto, Eric Holt-Gimenez (Food First) and Todd Holmes (Stanford University) are guest editors of a forthcoming special issue of *Third World Quarterly* on food sovereignty. Email: [fradejas@iss.nl](mailto:fradejas@iss.nl)

*Zuhre Aksoy* is Assistant Professor at the Department of Political Science and International Relations, Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey. She holds a PhD in Political Science from University of Massachusetts Amherst. Her research focuses on environmental politics, political economy of development, and North-South relations. Specifically, she has been working on agrobiodiversity conservation, multi-level linkages in the conservation of genetic resources, the debate on farmers' rights and the protection of traditional agricultural knowledge. In addition to a focus on Turkey, she has been working on the global governance of crop genetic resources. Publications include: Global Justice: From Theory to Development Action, in *Journal of International Development*, August 2009 (with Theo Papaioannou and Helen Yanacopoulos); The Legal-Institutional Framework and Agrobiodiversity Conservation in Turkey, in *Rethinking Structural Reform in Turkish Agriculture: Beyond the World Bank's Strategies* edited by Barış Karapınar et al (Nova Publishers, 2010); and Local-Global Linkages in Environmental Governance: The Case of Crop Genetic Resources in *Global Environmental Politics* (forthcoming).

*Isabelle Anguelovski*, Senior Researcher & Principal Investigator, Marie Curie Incoming Fellow (2011-2013) ICTA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain. She is trained in urban studies and planning (PhD MIT, 2011). Her research is situated at the intersection of urban inequality, environmental policy and planning, and development studies. Recently, she completed a book (MIT Press, 2014) examining environmental revitalization in historically marginalized neighborhoods in Barcelona, Boston, and Havana. Other publications include works on urban environmental and spatial justice, including food justice; political economy of urban development and sustainability planning; environmental movements; and vulnerability in climate adaptation planning.

*Terry Boehm* is the former president of the National Farmers Union of Canada as of this past December. He served in that position for 4 years and prior to that he had been vice president for 6 years and a national board member before that. He also chaired the NFU's Transportation Committee for many years. He has served on numerous other boards including the Canadian Biotechnology Action Network, Saskatchewan Wheat Pool, Saskatchewan Flax Development Commission, Agricultural Institute for Management Services, local consumer Co-operative Boards and others. He has a keen interest and expertise in issues around intellectual property and seeds, international trade, farm marketing boards, and transportation issues. He is a grain farmer in the province of Saskatchewan, Canada growing numerous crops on a family farm.

*Saturnino 'Jun' M. Borrás Jr.* is an associate professor at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, adjunct professor in China Agricultural University in Beijing, and a of Fellow of the Transnational Institute (TNI) in Amsterdam and Food First in California. He is a co-coordinator of the Land deal Politics Initiative (LDPI, [www.iss.nl/ldpi](http://www.iss.nl/ldpi)) and of the newly established research network, 'BRICS for Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies' (BICAS, [www.iss.nl/bicas](http://www.iss.nl/bicas)). He is the Editor of *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. Email: [junborras5@gmail.com](mailto:junborras5@gmail.com)

*Josh Brem-Wilson* is a Research Associate at the International Centre for Participation Studies, University of Bradford, UK. His work focuses at present upon the struggle of non-elite actors to gain voice in (transnational) policy processes. He attaches a high priority to collaborative research in which the knowingness and interests of the research partner are integrated into the project from the outset. He also tutors various food related courses for the Open University of Catalonia.

*Zoe Brent* holds a BA from University of California, Berkeley, and an M.A. in International Relations from Universidad del Salvador in Buenos Aires where her thesis research focused on indigenous rights claims in the context of soy, mining and tourism development in Argentina. She is a Food First Fellow, where her research interests include worker and immigrant rights throughout the global food supply chain. At Food First she also began developing 'Food Sovereignty Tours' in 2010, served as the first program coordinator and led the first Food Sovereignty Tour to Cuba. Her more recent work on land access in California is part of her current PhD study that started in October 2013 at ISS in The Hague.

*Priscilla Claeys* is a researcher in Social and Political Sciences, University of Louvain (UCL), Belgium. She recently completed her PhD dissertation on the use of human rights by the agrarian movement La Via Campesina. Her research interests include peasant movements, food and agriculture, human rights, and economic globalization.

She is an Advisor to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier De Schutter, since 2008. Prior to becoming an academic, she worked for a number of human rights organizations and development NGOs. She teaches two online courses on the right to food at the Open University of Catalunya (UOC), in partnership with the FAO.

*Jennifer Clapp* is a Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and Sustainability and Professor, Environment and Resource Studies Department at the University of Waterloo, Canada. She has published widely on the global governance of problems that arise at the intersection of the global economy, the environment, and food security. Her most recent books include *Hunger in the Balance: The New Politics of International Food Aid* (Cornell University Press, 2012), *Food (Polity, 2012)* and *Corporate Power in Global Agrifood Governance* (co-edited with Doris Fuchs, MIT Press, 2009).

*Esteve Corbera* is a “Ramón y Cajal” senior research fellow at the Institute of Environmental Science and Technology (ICTA), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He is also a research associate at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia, and a former associate lecturer of the Land Economy Department, University of Cambridge (United Kingdom). His research focuses on the governance of land-use activities for climate change mitigation and rural development, such as Payments for Ecosystem Services, forestry offsets (Clean Development Mechanism and REDD+), and the current wave of biofuels expansion. Esteve has undertaken fieldwork in Mexico, Belize and South Africa and is embarked in new projects in Tanzania and Argentina. He has written several peer-reviewed scientific articles, books and book chapters, as well as several policy briefs and working papers. He is a member of the International Advisory Board of *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, the Editorial Board of *Global Environmental Change*, and a member of the International Society for Ecological Economics, the International Association for the Study of the Commons. He has been a lead author in Working Group III of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) 5th Assessment Report.

*Olivier De Schutter* (LL.M., Harvard University; Ph.D., University of Louvain (UCL) has been the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food since May 2008. He is a Professor at the Catholic University of Louvain and at the College of Europe (Natolin). He is also a Member of the Global Law School Faculty at New York University and is Visiting Professor at Columbia University. In 2002-2006, he chaired the EU Network of Independent Experts on Fundamental Rights, a high-level group of experts which advised the European Union institutions on fundamental rights issues. He has acted on a number of occasions as expert for the Council of Europe and for the European Union. Since 2004, and until his appointment as the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to food, he has been the General Secretary of the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH) on the issue of globalization and human rights. His publications are in the area of international human rights and fundamental rights in the EU, with a particular emphasis on economic and social rights and on the relationship between human rights and governance. His most recent book is *International Human Rights Law* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2010).

*Annette Aurélie Desmarais* is the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Social Justice and Food Sovereignty at the University of Manitoba. She is the author of *La Vía Campesina: Globalization and the power of peasants* (Fernwood Publishing and Pluto Press, 2007) which has been published in various languages. Annette co-edited *Food sovereignty: Reconnecting food, nature, and community* (2010) and *Food sovereignty in Canada* (2011). Prior to getting a PhD in Geography Annette was a farmer in Canada for 14 years and worked as technical support to La Vía Campesina for over a decade.

*Isabelle Dos Reis* is an activist, working with La Via Campesina for nearly 10 years now. She started as a volunteer interpreter and translator early in 2004, then joined the team of UNAC, the LVC member in Mozambique in 2006, where she coordinated the LVC regional office for almost 7 years. She is now part of the International Operative Secretariat of the movement, and is based in France.

*Fiona Dove* is Executive Director of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam since 1995. She holds an MA in Development Studies from the Institute of Social Studies of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, a BA Honours in Industrial Sociology from the University of KwaZulu Natal, South Africa. She previously worked for the South African labour movement for 10 years.

*Marc Edelman* is professor of anthropology at Hunter College and the Graduate Center, both of the City University of New York. He is the author of *The Logic of the Latifundio* (Stanford 1992) and *Peasants Against Globalization* (Stanford, 1999); co-author of *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery* (Cambridge, 2007); and co-editor of *The Anthropology of Development and Globalization* (Blackwell, 2005) and *Transnational Agrarian Movements Confronting Globalization* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2009). His current research focuses on the campaign to have the United Nations approve a declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas. He is a member of the Editorial Collective of the *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

*Madeleine Fairbairn* is a PhD candidate in the joint Sociology/Community and Environmental Sociology graduate program at University of Wisconsin-Madison. Her previous research examined food sovereignty as a social

movement frame. She has also studied land grabbing in Mozambique. Her current work explores growing interest in farmland on the part of the financial sector, as well as the policy debate that surrounds foreign farmland investment in the case of Brazil. She is a Co-Editor of the Book Reviews Section of the *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

*Jennifer C. Franco* is the coordinator of the Agrarian Justice Work Area at the Transnational Institute (TNI) and is an adjunct professor at the College of Humanities and Development Studies at China Agricultural University, Beijing. Her research interests include land grabbing, rural social movements, water grabbing, rural democratization. Email: [jennycfranco@tni.org](mailto:jennycfranco@tni.org)

*Susan George* (Doctorate in Political Studies, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, University of Paris, 1978), Chair of the Board of the Transnational Institute (TNI). Her earlier work was on the politics of food and hunger. In 1976 her first book was published: *How the Other Half Dies: The Real Reasons for World Hunger*. From 1999 to 2006 she was vice-president of ATTAC France (Association for Taxation of [financial] Transactions to Aid Citizens) and remains a member of its scientific council; she was awarded the title of honorary president in 2008.

*Sean Gillon*, Associate Fellow, former Postdoctoral Researcher, Water Sustainability and Climate Project, Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA. My primary research and teaching interests are in environmental policy, politics and governance, human and environmental geography, agrifood system studies, and social science research methodologies in environmental studies. Topically, I focus on cooperation and conflict in agricultural, food, energy, water and conservation issues. I conduct interdisciplinary and problem-driven research aiming toward equitable improvement in policy and practice. To this end, I often adopt a political ecological approach to analyze how nature-society relations and problems are defined and addressed. My current, primary post is as Assistant Professor of Food Systems and Society at Marylhurst University in Portland, Oregon. Email: [sgillon@wisc.edu](mailto:sgillon@wisc.edu)

*Isabella Giunta* graduated in Social Anthropology, is currently a PhD candidate at the School of Doctorate in Knowledge and Innovation for Development-A G. Frank, in the Department of Political and Social Sciences of the University of Calabria (Italy). Performs a comparative research, between Ecuador and Italy, on the collective actions of organizations linked to La Vía Campesina. She lived for more than ten years in Ecuador working in initiatives of cooperation and research, conducted mainly with social organizations.

*Ruth Hall* is an associate professor at the Institute for Poverty, Land and Agrarian Studies (PLAAS), University of Western Cape, South Africa. She holds a DPhil in Politics from the University of Oxford, where she previously obtained an MPhil in Development Studies. Her doctoral work focused on the interests, actors and discourses that influenced the development of South African land reform policy. Key research interests that have shaped her work at PLAAS are: land tenure, restitution and redistribution, gender and development policy, and broad-based agricultural development. Her work has strongly emphasised the role of rights-based policy approaches to tenure for farm workers and other poor landholders.

*John Hilary* is Executive Director of War on Want and an honorary professor in the School of Politics and International Relations at the University of Nottingham. His new book, *The Poverty of Capitalism: Economic Meltdown and the Struggle for What Comes Next*, was published by Pluto Press in October 2013.

*Eric Holt-Gimenez* worked with the Campesino a Campesino Movement in Latin America from 1977-1999. He has a M.Sc. in International Agricultural Development from UC Davis and a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from UC Santa Cruz. His teaching in development studies includes Boston University, UC Berkeley, UC Santa Cruz, the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia and the University of Gastronomic Sciences in Pollenzo, Italy. He directs Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy in Oakland, CA.

*S. Ryan Isakson* holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and is currently an Assistant Professor of International Development Studies and Geography at the University of Toronto. He is broadly interested in the political economy of agrarian transformation (particularly food provisioning, the cultivation of agricultural biodiversity, and the dialectics of market and non-market activities) and the development potential of alternative/non-capitalist economic activities. To date, the majority of his research has focused upon the relationship between market development, peasant livelihoods, and the conservation of agricultural biodiversity in the Guatemalan highlands. He has also conducted research on the political economy of market-led land reform in Guatemala, payments for environmental services, and the impacts of agro-ecological certification upon the food security of small-scale farmers in Mexico. He was formerly a Co-Editor of the Book Reviews Section of the *Journal of Peasant Studies*.

*Xarles Iturbe Pasabán* is a militant of La Vía Campesina in the Basque Country, activist of the basque peasant union EHNE Bizkaia and part of the staff team in the International Operative Secretariat of La Vía Campesina since 2006. He joined the movement after different experiences with Basque development cooperation organizations in Guatemala and Mexico with the Zapatista communities.

*Kees Jansen* is Associate Professor in the Knowledge, Technology and Innovation group at Wageningen University, NL. He works in political ecology with research interests that cut across political economy, agrarian change (with a particular focus on Latin America) and risk regulation of agro-food technologies. Current projects involve the multi-level governance of banana diseases, the global governance of pesticides and the greening of the agrarian question. [www.keesjansen.eu](http://www.keesjansen.eu)

*Cristóbal Kay* is Emeritus Professor in Development Studies and Rural Development at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), Professorial Research Associate of the Department of Development Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) at the University of London and Visiting Professor at FLACSO in Quito, Ecuador. He is an editor of the Journal of Agrarian Change and a member of the International Advisory Board of the Journal of Peasant Studies.

*Tania Murray Li* teaches in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto, where she holds the Canada Research Chair in the Political Economy and Culture of Asia. Her publications include *Land's End: Capitalist Relations on an Indigenous Frontier* (Duke University Press, forthcoming), *Powers of Exclusion: Land Dilemmas in Southeast Asia* (with Derek Hall and Philip Hirsch, NUS Press, 2011), *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics* (Duke University Press, 2007) and many articles on land, development, resource struggles, community, class, and indigeneity with a particular focus on Indonesia. Together with Pujo Semedi, she is currently conducting ethnographic research on the social, political and economic relations that emerge in Indonesia's oil palm zones.

*Natalia Mamonova* is PhD candidate at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) of Erasmus University, The Netherlands. Her PhD-research is on land grabbing in the post-Soviet countryside, land conflicts, responses by the local population, and rural social movements in Russia and Ukraine. E-mail: [mamonova@iss.nl](mailto:mamonova@iss.nl)

*Giuliano Martiniello* is a Research Fellow in Political Economy at the Makerere Institute of Social Research, Makerere University since 2012. He received a PhD in Politics and International Studies from the University of Leeds in June 2011. He has been working on the political economy of land and agrarian change in South Africa in historical perspective. His current research interests include land grabbing, land reforms, food sovereignty and social movements in Africa.

*Terry Marsden* currently holds the established chair of Environmental Policy and Planning in the School of Planning and Geography at Cardiff University. He is Director of the Sustainable Places Research Institute at Cardiff. He is also Dean of the University Graduate College. I research the interdisciplinary social science and applied policy fields of rural geography, rural sociology, environmental sociology, geography and planning. I have published over 150 international journal articles, book chapters or books. This includes 20 research monographs and edited collections. This body of work ranges from original theoretical work in the field, through to empirical analysis and emerging policy impacts and analysis. It includes wide ranging work on: the socio-economic restructuring of agriculture; theorisations and empirical investigations of rural development; analysis of agri-food chains and networks; and critical commentaries in the emerging fields of environmental sociology and environmental planning. The empirical work has extended from the UK, Europe, Brazil, the Caribbean and now China.

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processes characterising neoliberalism play out in the water domain, how different ‘technologies of power’ are deployed in these processes, and what are modes of contestation in the everyday politics, politics of policy, hydro-politics and global politics of water. In other research I explore how a cultural political economy perspective on agriculture and environmental resources can be developed, with a focus on the agricultural labour process, and how sustainable agriculture (policy) can help to develop new approaches to agrarian change and innovation, drawing on (Marxist) political economy, political ecology, and science and technology studies.

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## About the Colloquium organizers

Hosted at ISS in The Hague, the **Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS)** has been established as a community of like-minded scholars, development practitioners and activists from different parts of the world who are working on agrarian issues. ICAS responds to the need for an initiative that builds and focuses on linkages -- between academics, development policy practitioners, social movement activists; between the world's North and South, South and South; between rural-agricultural and urban-industrial sectors; between experts and non-experts. ICAS promotes critical thinking, which here means: conventional assumptions are interrogated, popular propositions critically examined, and new ways of questioning composed, proposed and pursued. ICAS believes in and promotes engaged research and scholarship. This means an emphasis on research and scholarship that is both academically interesting and socially relevant, and further, implies taking the side of the poor. The focus is on contributing to the dynamics of 'change' - playing a role not only in (re)interpreting the agrarian world in various ways, but also in changing it – with a clear bias for the working classes, for the poor. The work by ICAS, including the colloquium series, is supported by the Dutch development organization, **Inter-Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO)**. For further info: [www.iss.nl/icas](http://www.iss.nl/icas). The International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) is located in The Hague, The Netherlands. Its mission is to create and share state-of-the-art critical knowledge in relation to global issues in the areas of international development, social justice and equity. ISS research focuses on studying political, economic and social developments in Africa, Asia, Latin America, North Africa, the Middle East and transition economies. The Institute explores new developments in North-South and South-South relationships and the role of the BRICS countries, especially in relation to globalization and development. ISS research is accessible to the academic community in the Global South, and attempts to influence policy-makers and practitioners. The Institute aims to capitalize its unique methodology of co-constructing and co-creating new knowledge, and contribute to the education of a new generation of researchers and change agents in their own societies and on the world stage, amongst others through a large PhD programme. In terms of teaching and research, one of the groups in ISS is the **Agrarian, Food & Environmental Studies (AFES)** group ([www.iss.nl/afes](http://www.iss.nl/afes)), which is within the Research Program **Political Economy of Resources, Population and the Environment (PER)** ([www.iss.nl/per](http://www.iss.nl/per)).

The Amsterdam-based **Transnational Institute (TNI)** is a worldwide fellowship of scholar-activists founded in 1974. The Transnational Institute (TNI) was established in 1974 as an international network of activist researchers ('scholar activists') committed to critical analyses of the global problems of today and tomorrow. It aims to provide intellectual support to movements struggling for a more democratic, equitable and environmentally sustainable world. Over almost 40 years, TNI has gained an international reputation for: carrying out well researched and radical critiques – sometimes against the grain of current pressing global problems; anticipating and producing informed work on key issues long before they become mainstream concerns, for example, our work on food and hunger, third world debt, transnational corporations, trade, and carbon trading; supporting and enhancing social movements' work for economic and social justice worldwide; naming outstanding TNI fellows from many countries and backgrounds whose scholarship, analysis and research have inspired and educated generations of activists and whose writings continue to provoke debate; building alternatives that are both just and pragmatic, for example developing alternative approaches to international drugs policy and providing support for the practical detailed work of public water services reform; influencing policy makers thanks to its research and its direct links and engagement with mass movements, particularly those most affected by current global economic and social policies; remaining non-sectarian and able to bridge different political tendencies, thereby helping build coalitions of social movements that span regions and continents. One of the Work Areas at TNI is 'Agrarian Justice'. [www.tni.org](http://www.tni.org)

The **Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI)** was launched in 2010 as an 'engaged research' initiative, taking the side of the rural poor, but based on solid evidence and detailed, field-based research. The LDPI promotes in-depth and systematic enquiry to inform deeper, meaningful and productive debates about the global trends and local manifestations. The LDPI aims for a broad framework encompassing the political economy, political ecology and political sociology of land deals centred on food, biofuels, minerals and conservation. Working within the broad analytical lenses of these three fields, the LDPI uses as a general framework the four key questions in agrarian political economy: (i) who owns what? (ii) who does what? (iii) who gets what? and (iv) what do they do with the surplus wealth created? Two additional key questions highlight political dynamics between groups and social classes: 'what do they do to each other?', and 'how do changes in politics get shaped by dynamic ecologies, and vice versa?' The LDPI network explores a range of big picture questions through detailed in-depth case studies in several sites globally, focusing on the politics of land deals. For details, see: [www.iss.nl/ldpi](http://www.iss.nl/ldpi).

The purpose of the **Institute for Food and Development Policy - Food First** - is to eliminate the injustices that cause hunger. Bridging Food Justice and Food Sovereignty: Called one of the country's "most established food think tanks" by the New York Times, the Institute for Food and Development Policy, also known as Food First, is a "people's think-and-do tank." Our mission is to end the injustices that cause hunger, poverty and environmental degradation throughout the world. We believe a world free of hunger is possible if farmers and communities take back control of the food systems presently dominated by transnational agri-foods industries. We carry out

research, analysis, advocacy and education with communities and social movements for informed citizen engagement with the institutions and policies that control production, distribution and access to food. Our work both informs and amplifies the voices of social movements fighting for food justice and food sovereignty. We are committed to dismantling racism in the food system and believe in people's right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems—at home and abroad. [www.foodfirst.org](http://www.foodfirst.org).

***The Journal of Peasant Studies*** is one of the leading journals in the field of rural development. It was founded on the initiative of Terence J. Byres and its first editors were Byres, Charles Curwen and Teodor Shanin. It provokes and promotes critical thinking about social structures, institutions, actors and processes of change in and in relation to the rural world. It encourages inquiry into how agrarian power relations between classes and other social groups are created, understood, contested and transformed. The Journal pays special attention to questions of 'agency' of marginalized groups in agrarian societies, particularly their autonomy and capacity to interpret – and change – their conditions. The Journal promotes contributions that question mainstream prescriptions or interrogate orthodoxies in radical thinking. It welcomes contributions that explore theoretical, policy and political alternatives. The Journal encourages contributions about a wide range of contemporary and historical questions and perspectives related to rural development. These are issues that confront peasants, farmers, rural labourers, migrant workers, indigenous peoples, forest dwellers, pastoralists, fisherfolk and rural youth – both female and male – in different parts of the world. For detail, see the website: [www.informaworld.com/jps](http://www.informaworld.com/jps).