



Fellow's Individual Project

Fellow	Host Institution	PhD enrolment	Start Date	Duration
ESR 8	WUR	Y	Month 9	36 months

Project title and related WP(s): The politics of care and defining the good life: elderly women's community food economies in rural Japan (WP3, WP7).

Objectives: Conditions in Japan, which foreshadow a likely scenario in Europe (depopulation, aging, food insecurity, declining rural agricultural, economic and social vitality), have sparked concerted efforts to empower senior rural women. These women have been active in entrepreneurship that involves significant natural resources management over the last decade. Today, more than 10,000 rural women's enterprises in Japan generate livelihoods that nourish them, their families and communities. The ESR will examine relationships between rural, particularly senior women's entrepreneurial and care practices toward humans and nature in rural Japan and explore the embodied meaning of good life through a FPE lens. The focus will be on the everyday, embodied interdependencies among rural women entrepreneurs, consumers and nature, created through a community food economy. The ESR will use participatory action research, life histories and collaborative interviews.

Expected results: This project will make visible the gendered nature of a community food economy produced through rural elderly women's entrepreneurial and care practices in interconnected spaces illuminating the situated meanings of good life. The study will have particular relevance for European policy given Europe's accelerating rural depopulation, aging, and the globalisation of food chains.

Planned secondments: UWS (3 months) to work on community economies and FUB (3 months) to do a comparative study on the politics of food.