

The Essential Role of Food in Sustaining Cities

Why the World Needs Anthropologists
SUSTAINING CITIES

Saturday, 26th of October, Oslo, Norway

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The essential role of food for sustaining cities



Transforming cities: sites of consumption + pollution > production + sharing

Food is not only a critical part of bodily metabolism – transforming food into useful energy – but it is also an important part of a city's metabolism ... that underpins the transformation of nature into essential commodities such as food, energy and potable water. (Shillington 2013)

Gabry's 'sinks': to give rise to "new systems and new natural-cultural relations" to "mobilize and transform our environmental practices and imaginings" (2009)



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The multiplicity of social food practices

Examples of hope....

Such as the **SHARECITY 100** database (

<http://sharecity.ie/research/sharecity100-database/>)



WELCOME TO SHARECITY100 DATABASE!

Explore the map or use the drop-down menus to see what and how food is being shared within 100 cities around the world.

Scroll below the map to get more details about the food sharing activities matching your search.

For more information about using and licensing the SHARECITY100 Database click [here](#).

Please cite this database as: Davies, A.R. et al. (2016) SHARECITY100 Database, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland. Retrieved from: <http://sharecity.ie/research/sharecity100-database/>



106 FOOD SHARING ACTIVITIES IN BARCELONA

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NAME	CITY	WHAT IS SHARED	HOW IT IS SHARED	SHARING ORGANISATION
"Cultivamos el clima y la comunidad (3C)" by Humana	Barcelona			
30 Bellies	Barcelona			
Abarsol	Barcelona			
Aixada	Barcelona			
Apicultura Urbana	Barcelona			
Arrels Fundacio	Barcelona			

Workshop goals

However, many diverse food practices go unseen, remaining small, fragmented, and dominated by middle-class projects. Consequently, the multiple benefits of urban food practices do not include the wider public and are often overlooked by policy and planning bodies.

This workshop seeks to explore:

How urban food practices can be made **more visible, engaged and inclusive** to support greater uptake and engagement, the creation of new spaces or involvement in wider networks?

- > How can such practices be made more **economically sustainable** to overcome issues of volunteer dependency and lack of funding?
- > How can these practices be better integrated within **local policy and planning** to ensure their longevity?
- > How can emerging **technologies** in the smart city play a supportive role for food practices towards creating more sustainable cities?

Then return to ask: **How do economics/ policy/ technology make food sustain the city in more visible, engaged and inclusive ways?**

Workshop goals

Better understanding of:

- Diverse range of possible urban food practices and their importance for community cohesion, urban planning and design, and environmental health;
- Identification of strategies for engagement at individual, community and government levels to promote greater visibility and overcome hurdles for implementing and extending urban food practices.

Who we are

Ferne Edwards, EdiCitNet and RMIT Europe
Roos Gerritsen, Independent Scholar and Author
Sebastian Eiter, Research Scientist, NIBIO

Possible outcomes

- > Publication and agreement of use photo material, recording session
- > To create something concrete to take away

Practicalities:

- No break! Please get up and stretch when you need to

Workshop format

13:30 to 16:30

13:30 – Introduction to the workshop

Musical chairs to divide into 3 groups:

1. *Economics*
2. *Policy and planning*
3. *Technology*

Each table to assign a scribe and a facilitator

13:45 – 3 sessions (staying in same group)

13:45pm - 1. Challenges

14:30pm - 2. Solutions

15:15pm - 3. Creating Novel Responses

16:00 – Group discussion to synthesize key points

16:30 – End of session

Session 1: What to bake? - challenges

13:45pm - 14:30pm

All groups to consider each question writing on butcher's paper & sticky notes:

1. Have you worked on similar projects? List the different types of food practices that people identify.

This is a chance to introduce yourselves, to find similarities, and also to identify the diversity of examples and experiences in the room. Please write down responses on the paper.

2. What are the economic/ policy/ technological challenges* encountered by those urban food practices? What did you learn from those challenges/ failures?

*according to the theme of your table

3. Is there one or a few issues that the group are particularly interested in and would like to develop? Why do you find these of most interest?

Draw a circle around the ones that you want to focus on. Write down the reasons why you believe they are the most important.

Session 2: Creating the recipe - solutions

14:30pm – 15:15pm

1. What are possible solutions for the one or few key challenges/ failures that your group has chosen?

Silently write down on the butchers' paper or stickers some possible solutions.

Think about these from both perspectives where economy/policy/ technology could be both the problem *and* the solution. Why would economists/ policy makers/ technologists find this a threat or challenging?

Then discuss these responses in the group.

2. In your group, identify what is necessary to make these solutions happen?

Prompts:

What are the ingredients for the recipe for a delicious edible city?! What are the values you are trying to retain here? What processes do you need to make them happen?

Who needs to be involved to make this a successful project?

How can you approach them to ensure their participation?

Where should these things happen? In what part of the city? At what level of government/ technology/economy? Is this public or private?

Why does this matter? Should this activity be open from the few to the many?

When should this happen? Is time a factor?

What are the politics involved? Let's talk about the elephants in the room!

To think about your local context and personal experience. Write responses on the paper.

Session 3: Baking the cake

15:15pm – 16:00pm

1. Create a novel response for resolving your key urban food issue from your perspective of economy/ policy/ technology.

This can be done individually, with a couple of people, or with your group.

Suggestions include: A newspaper story or postcard from the future, a manifesto, a cookbook, a map, design a new form of technology such as an ideal app, write a recipe for change, sketch out some policy recommendations, create a puzzle (ie. Snakes & Ladders).

2. Prepare to pitch your idea for change to make it more visible, accessible and inclusive

Each table to select one idea to pull out the key points that they want to sell to an economist/ policy maker/ technologist. The idea is that you need to sell across sectors that may not understand and find threatening your proposal. Can you devise strategies or styles in which to be heard?

Consider the type of language and terms, ways of being understood, remember to think of your audience – who do they represent, and consider the application from idea to practice (ie. what anthropological practices do you need to employ here?)