

ECOPOLITICS PODCAST: Additional Pedagogical Resources (Episode 16)

[Episode 16: Pathways to Sustainable Food Systems](#)

Overview: Achieving more sustainable food systems is a messy business because the stakes are so high for all involved. In this episode, we look at the state of food systems generally, and then critically analyze pathways towards sustainability for the food systems of Canada and Africa with our guests, Helena Shilomboleni, PhD, CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture, and Food Security (CCAFS) East Africa at the International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi, Kenya, and Sarah J. Martin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Memorial University.

Key Takeaways

- Global food systems are diverse, with various interests in sustainability, profits, and consumption. These systems are shaped by many actors, including private corporations, individuals, civil society, governments, among others.
- There are various eco-worldviews and principles that inform how food systems are developed, how food is grown, and perceptions about the “optimal” scale of agricultural production.
- Food system sustainability and food security are increasingly at risk due to the climate crisis. The global food system has contributed to the crises, but also promises a range of proposed solutions.
- Access to food and food policy is highly uneven. Various well-intentioned political, environmental, and economic decisions have at the same time contributed to food insecurity for individuals and communities elsewhere

Discussion Questions

1. Dr. Martin and Dr. Shilomboleni discuss the relationship between local and global food production; what role does global and local food play in your own food consumption?
2. To what extent do you think capitalism and agri-business influence the food systems that you take part in?
3. What is the role of small-scale producers and individual food consumers in shaping food policies? Do you think producers and consumers have equal access to decision-making compared to other actors?

Episode 16: Pathways to Sustainable Food Systems

Learn more about our Guests

Dr. Helena Shilomboleni

- <https://ccaafs.cgiar.org/people/helena-shilomboleni>

Select Articles and Videos

- **Shilomboleni, Helena.** “COVID-19 and Food Security in Africa: Building More Resilient Food Systems.” *AAS Open Research*. 3 (2020): 27–27.
- **Shilomboleni, Helena.** “Political Economy Challenges for Climate Smart Agriculture in Africa.” *Agriculture and Human Values*. 37, no. 4 (2020): 1195–1206.
- CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). “Scaling Climate-Smart Agriculture in Eastern & Southern Africa for Resilient Food Systems” Youtube. February 9 2021. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nri-pE_66Uo

Dr. Sarah J. Martin

- <https://www.mun.ca/posc/People/martin.php>

Select articles and videos

- **Martin, Sarah J,** Charles Mather, Christine Knott, and Dean Bavington. “‘Landing’ Salmon Aquaculture: Ecologies, Infrastructures and the Promise of Sustainability.” *Geoforum* 123 (2021): 47–55.
- Katz-Rosene, Ryan M., and **Sarah J. Martin.** *Green Meat?: Sustaining Eaters, Animals, and the Planet*. Montreal: McGill-Queen’s University Press. 2020.
- **Martin, Sarah J.** “The Political Economy of Distillers’ Grains and the Frictions of Consumption.” *Environmental Politics*. 29, no. 2 (2020): 297–316.

Explore resources mentioned in this episode:

- Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation <https://www.gatesfoundation.org/>
- Biovision Foundation for Ecological Development & International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food System. *Money Flows: What is holding back Investment in Agroecological Research for Africa?* PDF. 2020. http://www.ipes-food.org/_img/upload/files/Money%20Flows_Full%20report.pdf
- Government of Canada. “Food Policy for Canada.” 2019. PDF. https://agriculture.canada.ca/sites/default/files/legacy/pack/pdf/fpc_20190614-en.pdf
- La Via Campesina <https://viacampesina.org/en/>
- Le Guin, Ursula K. *Left Hand of Darkness*. London: Macdonald, 1969.

Episode 16: Pathways to Sustainable Food Systems

Learn more about Climate Change, Global Crisis, and Food Systems

- Akram-Lodhi, A. Haroon. “The Ties That Bind? Agroecology and the Agrarian Question in the Twenty-First Century.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. 48, no. 4 (2021): 687–714.
- Clapp, Jennifer, Peter Newell, and Zoe W Brent. “The Global Political Economy of Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Systems.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. 45, no. 1 (2018): 80–88.
- Clapp, Jennifer, and William G Moseley. “This Food Crisis Is Different: COVID-19 and the Fragility of the Neoliberal Food Security Order.” *The Journal of Peasant Studies*. 47, no. 7 (2020): 1393–1417
- Knezevic, I., Dong, B.M., & Tyson, H. (2020). “Food Access, Concerns and Perceptions During Covid-19 First Wave: Ontario Survey.” *Ottawa: School of Journalism and Communication, Carleton University*. PDF.
www.kpu.ca/sites/default/files/Food%20access%20concerns%20and%20perceptions%20during%20COVID-19_ON_0.pdf
- Rawe T, Antonelli M, Chatrchyan A, Clayton T, Fanzo J, Gonsalves J, Matthews A, Nierenberg D, Zurek M. 2019. “Transforming food systems under climate change: Local to global policy as a catalyst for change.” *CCAFS Working Paper no. 271*. Wageningen, the Netherlands: CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS). Available online at: www.ccafs.cgiar.org