



ESRS Autumn School 2018

Social Innovation *in* and *for* Sustainable Food Provision

To be held in Riga, Latvia
5-9 November 2018
at the Baltic Studies Centre

With the support of



Food and nutrition security and long-term sustainability of food systems are among the major challenges for European societies in the coming decades. Food systems and the ways we produce, consume and regulate the production of food are increasingly expected to contribute to a range of societal objectives – provide healthy nutrition to all, conserve the planetary resources, deliver public environmental goods, facilitate the development of rural and urban territories, promote social justice and inclusion, enrich our cultural diversity. Various stakeholders from food companies to consumers, environmentalists, municipalities, and many others are engaging in new practical initiatives of sustainable food provision and consumption, or even seek to develop new and more inclusive food policies. These processes are closely related to social innovation.

Objective of the Autumn School

The objective of the ESRS Autumn School 2018 “Social Innovation in and for Sustainable Food Provision” is to advance scientific knowledge of PhD students in rural sociology and related disciplines (e.g. agriculture and food studies, nutrition and public health) about the role social innovation plays in contemporary food provision. The Autumn School will look into conditions, frameworks and mechanisms of social innovation as well as its outcomes and effects on our food systems.

Who is invited?

It has been a tradition of ESRS schools to bring together students who work on PhD projects in thematically related area to discuss issues of common interest and individual relevance, and enhance the expertise of PhD researchers in an

interdisciplinary and friendly atmosphere, together with more experienced researchers and professors who act as tutors.

Guest professors and scientific committee:

- Tālis Tisenkopfs, Chair (Baltic Studies Centre, LV) – food systems, agricultural knowledge and innovation systems
- Boelie Elzen (Wageningen University and Research, NL) - dynamic of innovation, transition studies, innovation for sustainability
- Chris Kjeldsen (Department of Agroecology, Aarhus University, DK) – *tbc, agroecology*
- Elisabete Figueiredo (Dept. of Social, Political and Territorial Sciences, University of Aveiro, PT) – marketing and commercialization of local food, socio-biodiversity products
- Kristina Svelds (Nordland Research Institute, NO) – arctic food, seafood, local food
- Marc Barbier (French National Institute for Agricultural Research, FR) - innovation organizations, support for innovation
- Maria Partalidou (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, GR) - urban agriculture, agronomical and collective learning, local food systems
- Marianne Cerf (French National Institute for Agricultural Research, FR) - design in agri-food systems, intermediation work, innovation brokers
- Mikelis Grivins, Vice-Chair (Baltic Studies Centre, LV) – non-timber forest products, social innovation

This year the Autumn School invites PhD students who work on social innovation in the areas of agriculture and food, nutrition, diets and

consumption; examine the responses of the food industry to dynamic shifts in consumer demand for sustainably produced products; investigate

theoretical perspectives and empirical cases that would form the basis for academic interaction during the School's activities.

Gains from the Autumn School

For PhD students the Autumn School will provide an opportunity to discuss their work, receive feedback, and make choices regarding theories, methods and data representations most fitting their research goals. The School will also provide a structured overview of social innovation related academic debate which will be presented by well-known experts in the field. Guest professors and tutors will provide input in various forms (keynotes, workshops, feedback, individual consultations, etc.).

Besides plenary sessions, the Autumn school will hold working group discussions on the student research cases as well as practical issues participants might face in their work - such as context and sector-related peculiarities of innovations, research strategies, writing-related issues. It is expected that up to 12 PhD students will be admitted to the School. There is no registration fee and the expenses related to accommodation and catering will be covered by the organisers. The admitted students are expected to cover their travel costs.

The Autumn School is organised in conjunction and in parallel with another scientific event – **the 3rd SISA (Systems Innovation for Sustainable Agriculture) Workshop**, which will be held on the same premises. SISA workshop brings together research insights and practical experiences in making agriculture more sustainable. The 3rd SISA workshop will discuss these in-depth, seeking to contribute to more robust knowledge on how to stimulate transitions towards sustainable agro-food systems.

**International
workshop on
System
Innovation
towards
Sustainable
Agriculture**

SISA-3

To be held in Riga
(Latvia)
6-8 November 2018
at the
Baltic Studies Centre

The programme of both events is designed to allow spaces and activities for cross-fertilisation and interaction, thereby enhancing the interdisciplinary potential of Autumn School. There will be joint activities of SISA3 and Autumn School such as: evening conference, PhD bazaar, round table, as well as informal exchange which will enable PhD student networking with more experienced researchers.

To learn more about SISA, visit SISA CoP Web Page:
<https://sisacop.wixsite.com/mysite>

collaborative arrangements as well as governance towards sustainable food systems; examine ways in which specific supply and demand synergies enhance different modes of sustainable production and consumption; and other related topics. PhD students are expected to bring their own

How to apply?

- PhD students willing to apply have to submit an abstract (including a short biographical note, title of a paper, keywords, research questions, theoretical framework, methods used, empirical data and main results if available) and give precision about the status of their text – is it a thesis chapter, an academic paper or any other academic text. The abstract should not exceed 800 words.
- Abstract has to be sent to: andris.suvajevs@gmail.com by the **20th of September**.
- The Scientific committee will select and inform the candidates by the **1st of October**.
- Candidates who are selected will have to send their full paper (3-4 thousand words) by the **25th of October**.

Baltic Studies Centre (BSC) is a leading research institute in Latvia in the implementation of EU research and innovation projects on food systems, food security, agricultural knowledge and innovation, and rural development. For more information on BSC visit institute's homepage: www.bscresearch.lv

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