



**GLAMUR**  
Global and local food assessment:  
a MULTIdimensional performance-based approach



**supurbfood**

Sustainable urban and periurban food provision



countryside and community  
research institute

# Research perspectives in food planning at the European level

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Towards a Territorial Approach

for European Food Security

FOODMETRES Final Conference, 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015, Brussels

- FOODMETRES ([www.foodmetres.eu](http://www.foodmetres.eu))
  - Metropolitan footprint assessment tools
- SUPURBFOOD ([www.supurbfood.eu](http://www.supurbfood.eu))
- Three activities:
  - Closing waste, water & nutrient cycles
  - Shortening food chains
  - Multi-functional land use
- GLAMUR ([www.glamur.eu](http://www.glamur.eu))
  - Integrate scientific knowledge about food chain impacts with knowledge about practice to increase sustainability of FSC.



# Food sustainability and the urban agriculture revolution

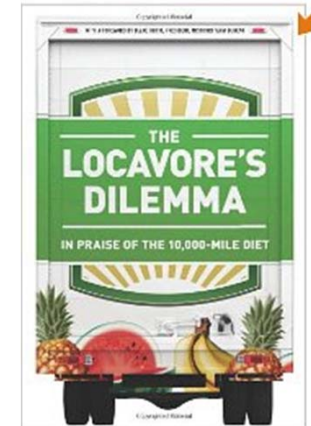
- Cities operate beyond the productive capacity of their hinterland (e.g. Steel, 2008).
- Recent ‘shocks’/ set of ‘intensifying circumstances’ question the sustainability of urban food supply.
- Urban food system pressures (Wiskerke, 2015):
  - Population growth, urbanisation, changing diets, scarcity and depletion of resources, climate change and public health concerns.
- Need to re-examine the sustainability and performance of food chains.

# Repositioning short food chains

- City as an innovator: urban policy councils and 'city food planning' (Morgan, 2015).
- FOODMETRES/SUPURBFOOD/GLAMUR:
  - re-examine short chain activities as innovation pathways.
  - new epistemologies / methodologies to assess food chain sustainability, performance and impact.

# Food sustainability assessment and technopolitics

- Sustainability credentials, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and ‘techno-politics’ (Freidberg, 2014).
- Need to democratise knowledge.
- The performance of food chains has multiple dimensions, voices and legitimate perspectives.



# Acknowledging complexity in food sustainability assessment

- Post-normal science (Funtowicz and Ravetz, 1993), wherein complexity, uncertainty, incomplete data and multiple stakeholder perspectives are explicitly acknowledged.
- GLAMUR has developed methods to capture this complexity, that include opening up the debate around the performance of FSC.

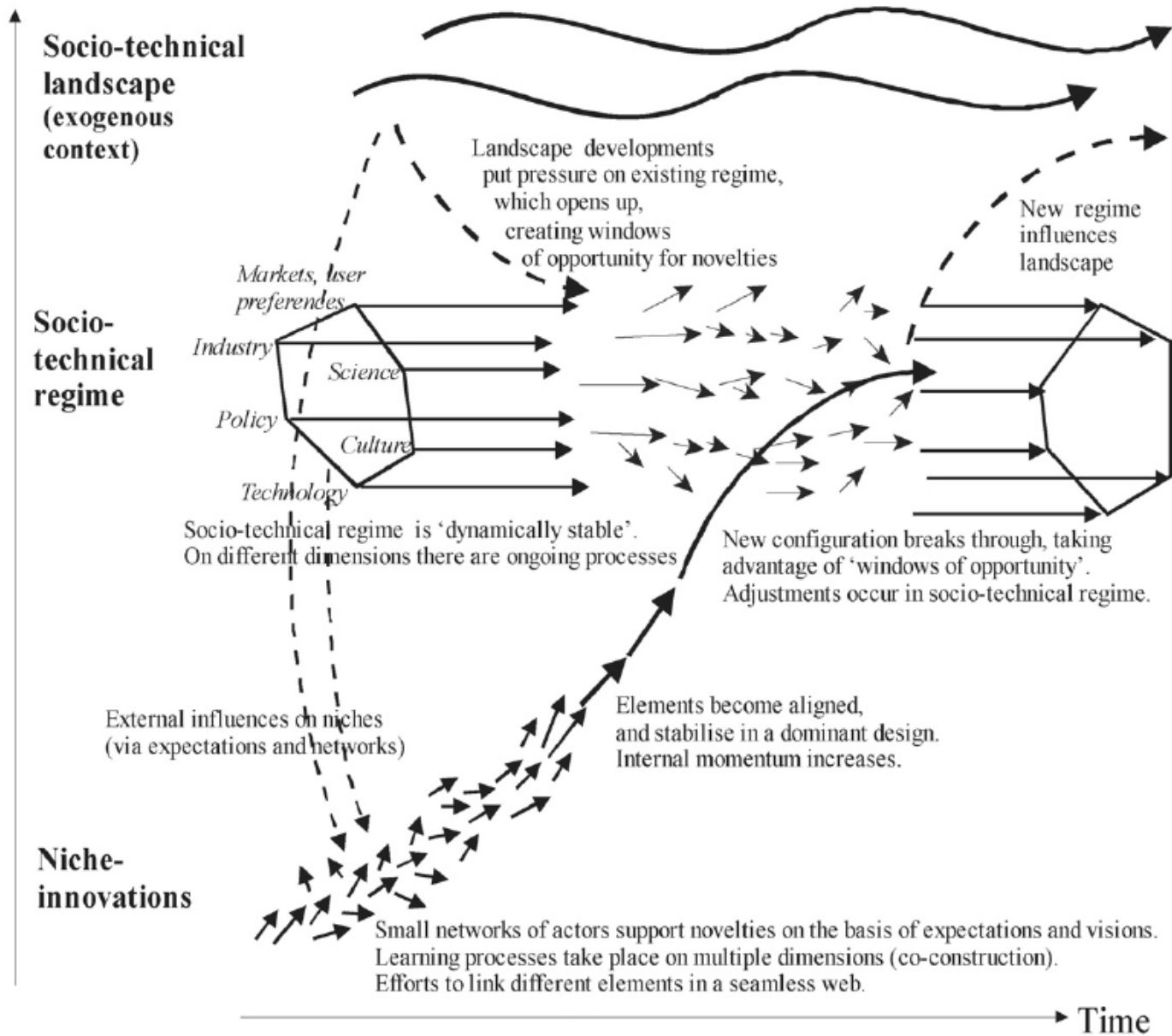
# Innovation and transition

- Innovation is central to transition processes
- ‘Incremental’ (first order) innovation
- ‘Radical’ (second order) innovation
- ‘Sustainability transitions’
- FOODMETRES: system innovation (four innovation domains)

# Social practices at the local / 'firm' level

- Multi-Level Perspective (started with this); interactions at different levels (vertical lens).
- Social innovation practices at the local level (horizontal lens).
- 'Systems of practice' (e.g. cycling - Wilson, 2012) (soft changes; changes to associated systems; context is central).
- 'Sustainable innovation journeys' as practices (Langendahl et al, 2014); also need to identify 'alignments of interest'.





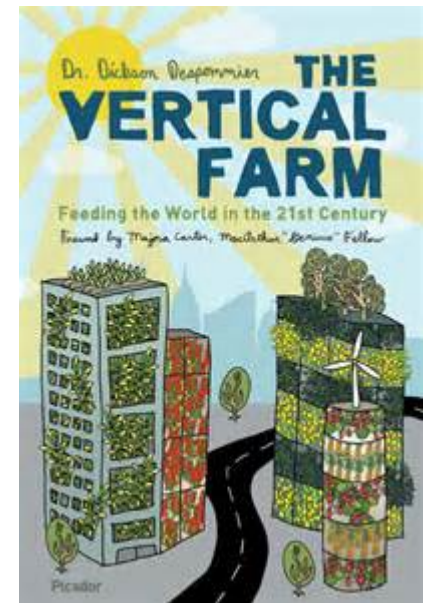
Source: Geels and Schot (2007, p. 401).

# Transformative capacity

- Transformation: what type and level of change is happening?
- Transformative capacity: ‘intrinsic benefits’; ‘diffusion benefits’ (Seyfang and Smith, 2007; Seyfang and Haxeltine, 2012).
- Practice approach provides horizontal appreciation of transformation/alignments.

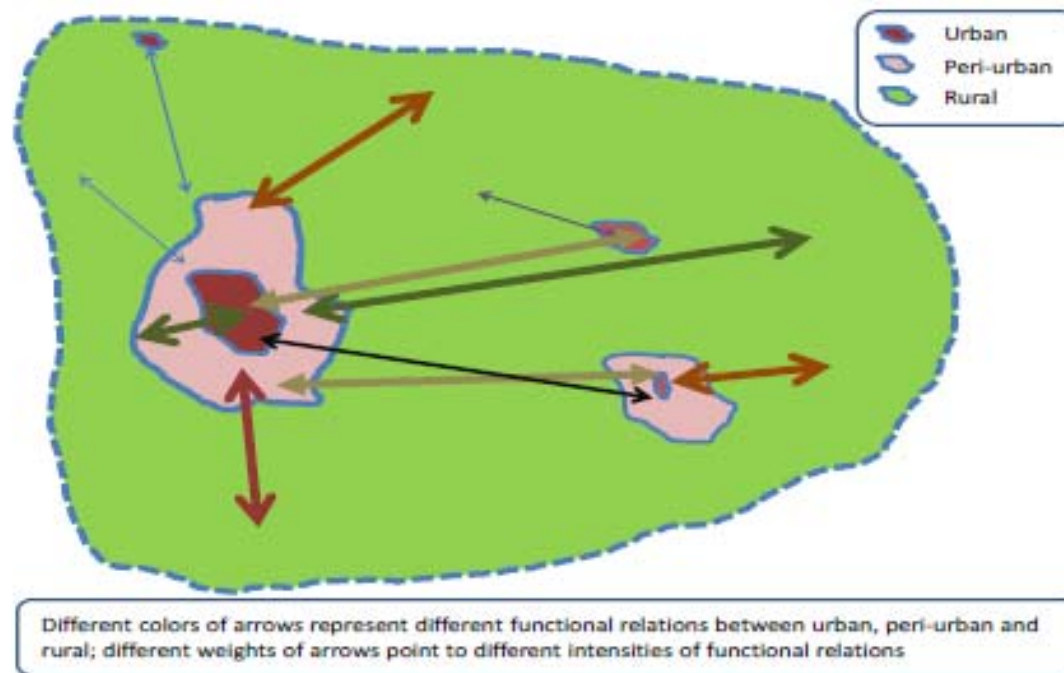
# 'Smart city' governance

- Techno-innovation
- E.g. dashboards
- 'Big data & smart urbanism'' (Kitchin, 2014)
- 'City-regionalism' (Jonas, 2012)
- 'Urban sustainability transitions' (Wittmayer et al., 2014).
- 'Smart city food governance'



# Scales of food governance

- Metropolitan-level (FOODMETRES)
- SUPURBFOOD: city-region level




*Figure 1.1. The city-region as a territory of different dynamic functional ties between urban, peri-urban and rural areas.*

# Urban agriculture & EU policies

- Reviewed key EU policies that impact urban agriculture (see Curry et al., 2014); 14 key ones, most linked to DG Agri.
- Where does urban food sit in European policy?; ambiguity exacerbated by sectoral nature of policies. 33 sectorial DGs, for e.g.
- Multi-level territorial modes of urban food governance not easy to implement.

# Summary

- FSC performance: wary of technopolitics; inclusion of a wide range of perspectives; multi-dimensionality to overcome 'hypocognition' (Lakeoff, 2004).
- Innovation: social practices, soft changes and links to associated systems; transformation and alignments of interest.
- Governance: smart cities – techno innovation; also social / civic; city-region perspective; silo nature of city planning.



Thank you for your attention

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