"Only Re-connect" An overview of Integrated Food Chain Research

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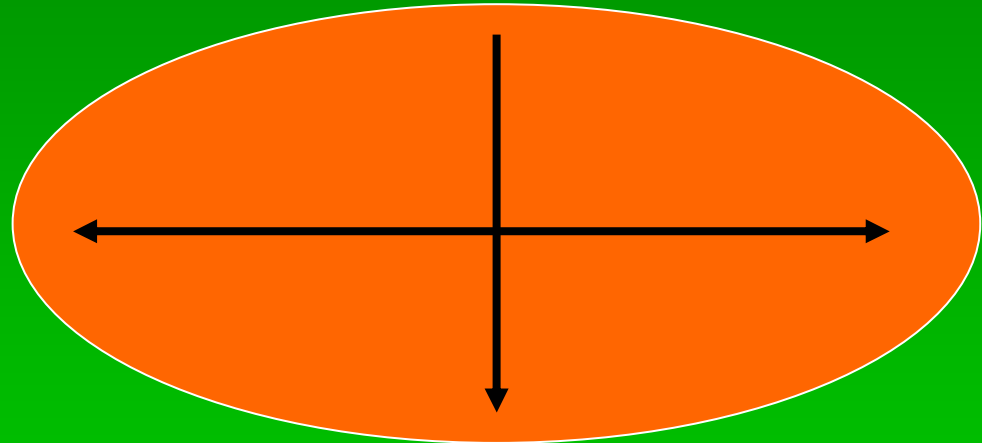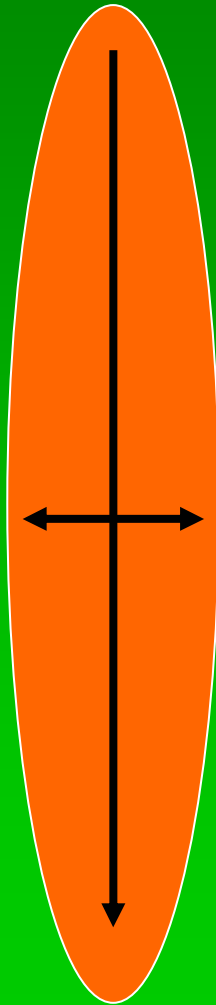# Food

from

agricultural commodity and
human metabolic input

to

'Social Fact'

The new morphology of food chain studies

- "Food is a liminal substance … bridging nature and culture, the human and the natural, the outside and the inside"

- Adrian Atkinson (1991) Principles of Political Ecology

The 'opening up' of agro-food studies

- The 'cultural turn' and the 'consumption turn'
- The political economy of retailing
- The technologisation of food
- The 'alternative' food economy and the contested 'third food regime'
- Sustainability and externalities

Four Key Research Agendas

- *Territories, Land and Nature*

- *Farm Systems and Sustainability*

- *Consumer/Producer relations*

- *Food Governance*

Territories, Land and Nature

1. Issues

- Consumer demands for quality
- Alternative food networks
- Incorporating positive externalities
- Reconnecting production and place

Territories, Land and Nature

2. Agendas

- Viable localities and the new spaces of production
- Instruments for integrating positive externalities and embedded qualities
- Social justice and the food chain

Towards a new territorialisation

Farm Systems and Sustainability

1. Issues

- **High natural value farming systems**
- **Farmland birds**
- **Integrated farming systems**
- **Organic farming systems**
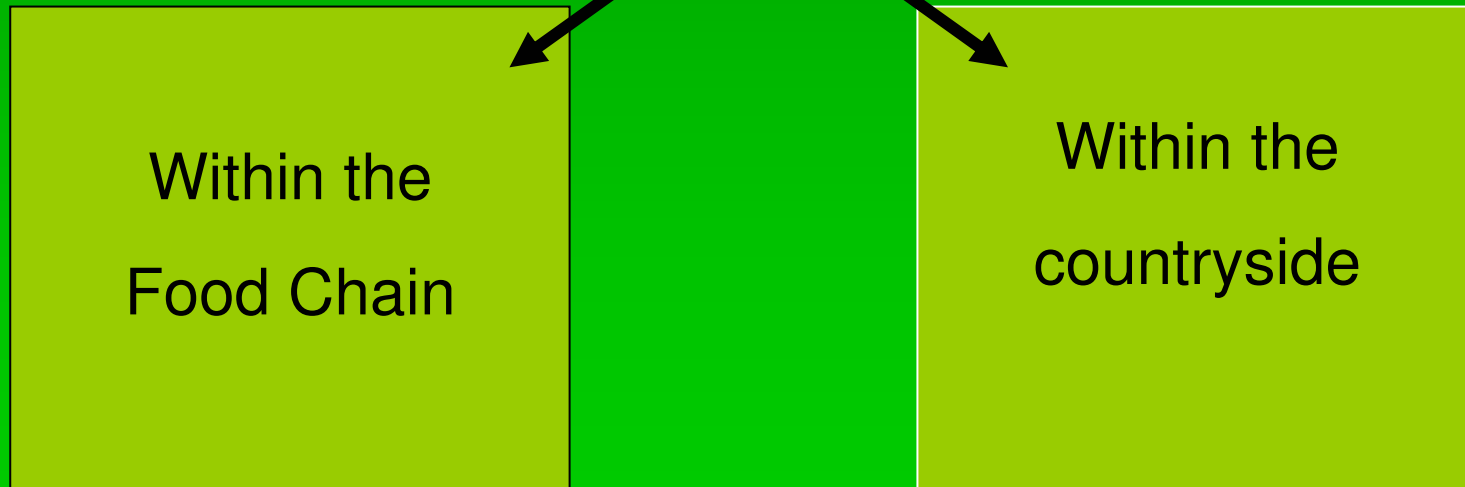
Farm Systems and Sustainability

2.   Agendas

- **Bringing food into farm systems research**

- **Putting food 'quality' alongside biodiversity**

- **The social construction of quality**

Consumer - Producer relations
1. Issues

Disconnection

Within the Food Chain

Within the countryside

Consumer - Producer relations

2. Agendas

"We need to reconnect all parts of the food chain in this common purpose, managing the land for profit and for public good"

(Policy Commission, 2003, p. 107).

Food Governance

1. Issues

- Re-politicisation of food and agriculture

- Broadening of food governance

- 'Territorialisation', regionalisation and 'hollowing out'

- Sub-regionalisation

Food Governance

2. Agendas

- Engaging with stakeholders

- Exploring the new multi-level governance landscape

- Connecting governances – food and health, food and retail, food and agriculture…

End Points

- The Return of Nature

- Multifunctionality

- From Conventionalisation and Alterity to Segmentation

- Reconnections