“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”

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

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