Bergen Summer Research School
› Global Development Challenges

BSRS 2013: Food as a global development challenge
17th - 29th June 2013

PhD-Research Course: The Global Food System

Course theme

The course is aimed at providing an interdisciplinary approach to understanding the causes and consequences of the changing global food system, and to analyse and evaluate proposed policy interventions.

Course leader
Associate Professor Peter Andersen

Invited lecturer
Professor Julie Guthman
Division of Social Sciences, University of California, Santa Cruz

Lecturers
Associate Professor Peter Andersen
Professor Arnt Fløysand
Researcher Birgit Kopainsky
Postdoc Inger Elisabeth Måren
Associate Professor Ragnhild Overå
Postdoc Keshav P. Paudel
Professor Ole Reidar Vetaas
Department of Geography, UIB

Kari Loe Hjelle
Anne Karin Hufthammer
Bergen University Museum, UIB

Course description and objectives:

Viewing food in a global system perspective offers possibilities to analyze developments and linkages across spatial and temporal scales. It includes chains of production and consumption from soil, plant and livestock, water and fish, via transport, processing, marketing, purchase, food culture and to nutritional outcomes of food consumption. Changes within the system are linked to global environmental change, food policies, technology, expansion of corporate capital and neo-colonialism, farmers' decision making, intellectual property rights, agro-

biodiversity, cultural landscapes, demographic changes and changing metabolic rates, changing food skills, preferences and dietary patterns, creating concurrent situations of food insecurity and under-nutrition, and eating disorders, over-nutrition and obesity epidemics, in the global South as well as the global North. Food cultures, preferences and avoidances relate to economy, class, ethnicity, socialization and ethics, and are constantly challenged by trends and countertrends in global and local markets. This course seeks participants who are interested in setting their research case studies in a system perspective, being local or global.

Course Objectives

1. An overview of contemporary approaches to study food related themes in relation to spatial and temporal interactions.
2. The use of paleoecology and environmental archaeology in explaining nutritional changes through time.
3. Using a political ecology perspective on changes of production, marketing and consumption in the global food system.

Targeted students, Prerequisites and ECTS

The Global Food System is targeted at PhD students interested in combining insights from natural sciences and management of environmental resources with social science approaches to the production, provision and consumption of food. It is a two weeks course which will include plenary activities, about 10 lectures, in addition to workshops on students' own papers.

Course literature will be available by May 1st 2013, and must be read prior to the course. Group work and presentations will be given during the course.

Students will complete one written paper (5000 words) on a specific topic in agreement with one of the course leaders. The essays should be typed, double spaced, 1.0~1.5" margins on all sides, and 12 size font. Deadline for delivery will be specified by the course leaders, and the papers will be graded as pass/not pass.

Students are required to attend all course sessions and participation in the plenary events is also mandatory. The programme will be published on the web.

10 ECTS will be awarded upon successful participation and completion of the full programme, including an essay approved by the course leaders.

Reading list
Will be ready by May 1st 2013

Proposed lectures

Peter Andersen: The Global Food System: prospects and limitations of systemic approaches to agriculture and nutrition.

Birgit Kopainsky: Simulation models for designing and teaching about integrated food security strategies

Anne Karin Hufthammer: Diet in the hunter gatherer society in the Stone Age and development of agriculture – the most important change in subsistence in the history of man

Kari Hjelle: Technological changes, monasteries and urbanization: new impulses, food, nutrients and traditions in medieval time

Julie Guthman: The origin and character of current approaches to food system change and their limits

Inger Elisabeth Måren: Domesticated nature: the link between landscape and food production in a global perspective

Keshav Paudel: Climatic variability, crop production and food security in the Himalaya.

Ole Reidar Vetaas: Wheat production at high elevation in the Himalayas: will it benefit from climate change?

Ragnhild Overå: Local and global perspectives on fisheries and food security in Africa

Arnt Fløysand: Global demands - local development: The sustainability of the Salmon Industry in Southern Chile

Peter Andersen: From hidden hunger to dietary transitions: analysing the causal explanations of malnutrition, and the implications for food system intervention approaches