

AESOP 2nd EUROPEAN SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLANNING CONFERENCE

**Urban Performance Group
University of Brighton**

CALL FOR PAPERS

Friday 29th - Saturday 30th October 2010

Abstracts should be no longer than 500 words, and e-mailed to Andre Viljoen no later than the 31st May 2010 at a.viljoen@brighton.ac.uk.

For updates and further information please visit the conference web site at: <http://arts.brighton.ac.uk/aesop2>

THEME: Urban food governance.

Convenors: Prof. Dr. Kevin Morgan (Professor of Governance and Development – City and Regional Planning at Cardiff University) and Dr. ing. Petra Derkzen (Assistant Professor, Rural Sociology Group Wageningen University)

With over half the world's population now deemed to be "urbanised", cities are assuming a larger role in political debates about the security and sustainability of the global food system. The *Urban Food Governance* workshop is primarily designed to help us better understand the roles that cities can and should play in fashioning sustainable food systems, as well as what they are already doing in the context of the urban food planning movement, one of the most rapidly growing social movements in the world today. The multifunctional character of food means that food planning is necessarily a multi-dimensional activity with profound implications for a wide array of other public policies, not least public health, social justice, ecological integrity, transport planning, energy, water, economic development and cultural identities. From an urban governance perspective, the multifunctional character of food presents both problems and opportunities. One of the biggest problems is how city governments overcome the departmental silos into which policy-making is split so as to design and deliver sustainable food strategies that are by definition holistic, integrated and multi-dimensional. On the other hand, one of the biggest opportunities lies in the convening power of food: urban food strategies have the potential to bring people together from very different professional, social and ethnic backgrounds, and such cultural diversity nurtures the cosmopolitan localism that typifies the liveliest and most congenial urban environments.

This workshop will address the theory, policy and practice of urban food governance and it is especially interested in the following questions and issues:

- The scope for/limits to urban food strategies in developed and developing countries
- To what extent are cities acting as local laboratories for national food policies?
- How are cities striving to overcome the segmented and hierarchical departmental silos that stymie holistic urban food policy-making?
- How are urban planners speaking to/collaborating with other relevant groups in their municipal government?
- How are city governments relating to/partnering with their local civil societies, for example by forming Food Policy Councils?
- Can city governments play a more enabling role to promote social enterprises, for example through community asset transfers to help the latter to organise community growing schemes or deliver nutritious food to under-served areas?
- Can transnational networks like ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) and Resilient Cities (which held its first Congress in Bonn in May 2010) help cities to learn from each other by disseminating good practice?
- What is the function of procurement strategies in the development of urban food governance?