

EAAE seminar 2016

Institut polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, France



*In association with Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza,
Italy*



June 30-July 1, 2016

1) Title: Systemic innovations towards sustainability in agrifood sectors: opportunities and challenges for social science research.

2) Date and location: 30 June - 1 July 2016 at Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, Beauvais, France.

3) Theme and background: In a context of deep technological and societal changes, agrifood sectors are transforming rapidly. Agrifood economies are also witnessing drastic changes due to environmental and social pressures. Among these trends one could recognize the rise of biobased sectors and of sustainable practices such as organic farming, corporate social responsibilities, and circular economies, among other examples. To achieve these transitions, farmers, cooperatives, companies, and institutions develop innovations which go beyond the traditional ones: product/process or organizational. Indeed, these innovations are global and multileveled, and the term of systemic¹ (or system²) innovation has been crafted to characterize the global transition of agrifood sectors towards different forms of sustainability. In Elzen et al. (2004) the idea of global technological transitions are defined as transformations in the way different kinds of societal functions are fulfilled.

¹ Wieczorek A. J. & Hekkert M. P. (2012). Systemic instruments for systemic innovation problems: a framework for policy makers and innovation scholars. *Science and Public Policy*, 39, 74-87.

² Elzen, B., Geels, F. W., & Green, K. (Eds.) (2004). *System innovation and the transition to sustainability: theory, evidence and policy*. Edward Elgar Publishing.

In the same vein of thought several authors emphasized the fact that technological transitions do not only involve technological changes, but also encompass evolution and transformation in institutions, practices, regulations, industrial networks, infrastructure and even symbolic meaning. The term systemic innovation also refers to a set of actors, sometime defined as a triple helix of institutions, research and business (Etzkowitz and Leydesdorff, 2000³), and to the relationships between them, embedded in region and nation-specific characteristics (Lundvall, 2010⁴; Edquist, 2001⁵).

Not surprisingly, researchers devoted to this topic of transition towards sustainability have developed a wide range of methodologies and theoretical frameworks, including mono or multidisciplinary approaches, different perspectives about time and space scales. Nevertheless this highly complex topic of systemic innovations towards sustainability raises several fundamental questions to the agricultural research community that are rarely or not enough stressed: which methodological approaches and tools to use, the level to study the transition: from sector-specific to nationwide, from micro to meso to macro, and the time frame to consider: from short term adaptation to mid and long term transitions etc.

4) Objectives: The objective of the seminar is to provide an up-to-date reflection of the social science research devoted to systemic innovation towards sustainability in agrifood sectors. More specifically the objective of the seminar is to investigate the ways researchers address the analysis of these systemic innovations in considering the three following key aspects:

-the definition of systemic innovation: how do social scientists from different horizons and backgrounds define and delineate this concept of “systemic innovation”, alone and in relation with “sustainability”? Is it possible to agree on a common definition?

-the pluridisciplinarity of approaches: the concept of sustainability is by essence a mix of social, political and bio technical approaches. Some researchers will develop classical mono disciplinary approaches while others build interdisciplinary or even transdisciplinary approaches, extended or not to biotechnical sciences. What are their main results and difficulties? How to address the possibilities of exchange between these disciplinary approaches?

-the question of scales and levels: systemic innovations are intrinsically deployed at micro, meso and macro levels. How do researchers select their (quantitative and/or qualitative)

³ Etzkowitz, H., & Leydesdorff, L. (2000). The dynamics of innovation: from National Systems and “Mode 2” to a Triple Helix of university–industry–government relations. *Research Policy*, 29(2), 109-123.

⁴ Lundvall, B. Å. (Ed.). (2010). *National systems of innovation: Toward a theory of innovation and interactive learning* (Vol. 2). Anthem Press.

⁵ Edquist, C. (2001). Innovation policy—a systemic approach. *The Globalizing Learning Economy*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, 219-237.

tools, their time horizon, their level(s) of analysis when they study transitions towards sustainability?

5) Topics

The above general questions lead to following topics to be addressed (not conclusive):

- How to integrate economic theory and other social sciences to understand this dynamics of changes?
- How is it possible to categorize systemic innovations and what are the consequences for researchers?
- How to tackle in theoretical terms the question of levels, from micro to macro, addressed to the topic of innovation? And the question of interactions between levels?
- Is it possible to integrate social and biotechnical sciences to address multidisciplinary approaches of systemic innovations, in order to have “extended multidisciplinary approaches”?
- Do we observe convergence or divergence in the trends towards agrifood sustainability? What are the consequences for research?
- What could be the roles of different categories of actors –including researchers- in the systemic innovation learning process and how can theorists identify/acknowledge these roles?
- Does this question of systemic innovation bring along new methodologies and new approaches?
- How will new stakeholders, mainly from civil society and rural areas, be involved in these innovations? Is a specific research agenda needed?
- Can the research on this topic involve policy makers and what could be the effects for the neutrality of science?
- How is it possible for researchers to link systemic innovations with the issue of performance (societal, economical, agronomic performance), what could be the consequences for the practice of science?

6) Call for papers: Participants who would like to present a paper are requested to submit an abstract in English (max 500 words) before March 1st 2016. The abstract should indicate: the methodological/theoretical questions addressed, methods and results. Notification of acceptance/rejection will be communicated by April 1st 2016. The deadline for submission of the full version of accepted papers is June 10th 2016.

7) Language: English

8) Organization, program committee

Keynote speakers

Anna J. Wiecek, Eindhoven University of Technology, The Netherlands

Elena Saraceno, Bureau of European Policy Advisers, European Commission

International Scientific Committee

Bruce Ahrendsen, University of Arkansas, USA

Vincent Amanor Boadu, Kansas State University, USA

Stefano Boccaletti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy

Stefanie Bröring, University of Bonn, Germany

Gianluca Brunori, Università di Pisa, Italy

Raul Compes Lopez, Universidad Politecnica de Valencia, Spain

Daniela L. Constantin, Bucharest University of Economic Studies, Bucharest, Romania

Paul Dalziel, Lincoln University, Christchurch, New Zealand

Marcia Dutra de Barcellos, Universidad Federal Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil

Maryline Filippi, Bordeaux Sciences Agro, Bordeaux, France

Marian Garcia Martinez, Kent Business School, University of Kent, UK

Xavier Gellynck, Ghent University, Belgium

Rainer Haas, BOKU, Vienna, Austria

Philippe Jeanneaux, UMR Metafort, INRA, France

Peter G. Klein, Baylor University, USA

Stefano Pascucci, Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Loïc Sauvée, Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, France

André Torre, INRA AgroParisTech, Paris, France

Hans Westlund, Jönköping International Business School, Jönköping, Sweden

Organizing Committee

Loïc Sauvée, Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais, France, President of the Organizing Committee

In association with Stefano Boccaletti, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Piacenza, Italy

Local organizing Committee (all from Institut Polytechnique LaSalle Beauvais)

Zam-Zam Abdirahman

Lucian Ceapraz

Maryem Cherni
Elisa Marraccini
Nalini Rakotonandraina
Loïc Sauvé

9) Registration

All participants must be a member of the EAAE.

Registration will be open on February 15 2016 and will close on May 31 2016. Details on registration will be provided on the seminar's website.

Contact: loic.sauvee@lasalle-beauvais.fr

10) Participation fee

Participants of an EAAE-Seminar in 2016 have to be member of the EAAE at the time of registration for the seminar. The membership fee needs to be paid in advance of registration via <http://www.eaae.org/Site2014/index.php/contact--subscribe/become-a-member>.

	PhD students	Other
Early bird registration Before April 15, 2016	80 Euros	150 Euros
Late registration After April 15, 2016	100 Euros	200 Euros

The seminar fee covers participation to the sessions, any documents provided, coffee breaks, both days' lunches, and 30 June dinner. Accommodation is not included. Suggestions for accommodations will be provided on the seminar's website.

11) Important dates

- EAAE Seminar: 30 June-1 July 2016 in Beauvais, France
- Call for papers released: 20 September 2015
- Deadline for abstract submission: 1 March 2016
- Notification of acceptance: 1 April 2016
- Submission of full papers: 10 June 2016