

Local Foods Research Project

Exploring Localism in Alternative Food Networks

Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh



What is this research about?

This research explores the concept of localism plays in an alternative food network, a term used to describe the range of food supply options which have been established as alternatives to the 'conventional' globalized food supply network. The research examines how 'the local' is defined, and how the local is valued and mobilized by different groups within an alternative food network.

Who is responsible for the research?

Ed Harris is a postgraduate research student with the Institute of Geography at the University of Edinburgh, where the research is a part of the MSc by Research in Human Geography program. Contact details are included at the bottom of this page.

What information will be recorded, and when?

The research will involve a series of audio-recorded interviews with a range of stakeholders in a local foods network. These conversations will explore how the individuals or the groups they represent are involved in the local foods network, and how ideas of localism are expressed through that involvement. The discussions will be audio-recorded to allow the researcher to produce complete written transcripts of the conversations after the event. Each interview will last for approximately one hour. The interviews will be scheduled at times convenient to the participants during May 2008.

How will this information be used?

All data gathered during the research will be stored securely by, and only be accessible to, the researcher. Transcripts will be available to participants for review before inclusion in any publication. The information gathered will be used to produce a final report for inclusion in the researcher's coursework portfolio, and may be presented in academic or non-academic publications. Feedback will also be provided to participants as the project concludes. Original audio-recordings will be destroyed at the conclusion of the project in September 2008.

What about confidentiality?

The project has been approved by the Institute of Geography Ethics Committee, and informed consent will be sought from all participants. Pseudonyms will be used in all publications stemming from the research, although some the identity of some participants may be apparent due to their position within a named organization. Issues of confidentiality will be discussed with all participants prior to commencement of interviews.

What are my rights as a participant?

Participants have the right to withdraw from the project at any stage. Further questions can be addressed to the researcher or to the Chair of the Institute of Geography Ethics Committee, Dr Nina Morris (telephone: 0131 651 4242 or email: n.morris@ed.ac.uk).

Further information about the research is available at the project website, at:

<http://localfoods.wordpress.com>