

UNESCO CHAIRS SPECIAL SESSION

YOUNG RESEARCHERS AND PHD WORKSHOP

POSTER SESSION

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Seminar *Food dynamics. Climate change, environmental migration and food security*

Organized by

UNESCO Chair in Sustainable Development and Territory Management, University of Turin

UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems SuprAgro, University of Montpellier

UNESCO Chair in Population, Migrations and Development, Sapienza University of Rome

Introduction

Dario Padovan, Unesco Chair Torino

Climate change: the phenomenon of forced migration

Maurizio Gubiotti, Legambiente

Climate Change, Human Livelihoods and Migration

Etienne Piguet, Institut de Géographie Université de Neuchatel

Discussion with

Damien Conarè, UNESCO Chair on World Food Systems SuprAgro, University of Montpellier

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People migrate for many different reasons: the causes include social, political, economical and environmental aspects.

The numbers of the humanitarian emergency of environmental refugees are alarming: according to the most widely used estimate, about 200- 250 million environmental refugee will be forced to leave their homes by 2050, this means about 6 million of environmental refugees every year.

Rising sea levels, desertification, risks of drought and severe floods, resource scarcity and loss of soil productivity are the main factors that cause refugees and population displacements. Migrations caused by an increase in sea level is the most considerable and, contrarily to displacements caused by hurricanes and droughts, is an irreversible phenomenon.

However the problem is not confined to climate change: industrial and political decision, such as construction of dams, caused equally a large number of migrants due to destruction of living and working environment.

To tackle the problem of population displacement it is very important to consider the link between climate change, migration and international security. Climate change and environmental destruction can lead to violent conflicts around the world especially in vulnerable and poor countries. The Darfur war in 2007, the Arab Spring in 2011, and nowadays the Siria war are examples that show how political tensions mixed with environmental degradation can generate conflicts.

If war was the principal cause for masses immigration until some years ago, today global warming represents the leading element for population displacement. But up to now there is no legal recognition for climate refugees.

Environmental migrants need to be protected by international law as victims of climate change that is due also to human activities which have been carried out in countries other than those of origin of refugee. Currently existing EU humanitarian strategies are not adequate to respond to the challenges of environmental migrants. It is requested an effective EU common climate foreign policy to identify the structural causes of environmental migrations in terms of social, economic and political exclusion, as well as grievances and inequalities.

The identification of an official recognition for climate refugees is an immediate necessity; but understanding that many of the issues linked with hospitality and reception in our countries need to be faced up to a serious collective commitment against climate change, is the first step. These measures are much more necessary thinking that the effects of global warming and climate change are already a dramatic reality in many countries that have been paying a very high price for victims and displaced people. Moreover since environmental disasters cause economic loss the cost for adaptation to climate change should be integrated in the disaster risk management of each country.

It is interesting to observe that only few migrants decided to cross the borders of their country: in fact 80% of climate refugees stays in developing countries, moving inside their own country and crowding megalopolis attracted by apparent easy gains. Therefore, the urban issue would be a primary topic in international political agendas: it is important to analyse how to face up to the oncoming urbanization process, especially referred to social services, efficiency and energy conservation, water resources, waste management, land consumption. Measures in support of the degraded suburbs regeneration in developed and developing countries supplying them of standard urban services levels (health care, education, transports, waste management) are fundamental.

Finally, a brief note about the relation between climate change, environmental migration and the impact on agriculture and food security.

The risks of food insecurity and the breakdown of food systems are directly linked to warming, drought, flooding, and precipitation variability and extremes, particularly for poorer populations in urban and rural settings. To deal with these issues it is necessary a change in cultural systems: reducing use of fertilizers, diversification, more CO₂ capture in soils and biomass, fostering the roles of forests, developing alternatives to animal proteins, reducing losses and wastes, relocalising, recycling, a transition toward agroecology, circular economy and bioeconomy.

YOUNG RESEARCHERS AND PHD WORKSHOP

WORKSHOP 1: MAKING EFFECTIVE AN AGRICULTURAL PARK IN TURIN/VILLARETTO: PRESENT CONDITIONS AND MEASURES TO BE PROVIDED

Organizer: *Giuseppe Cinà (Politecnico di Torino)*

Invited experts and representatives Camilla Casati (Planning Department, Comune di Torino), Nadia Conticelli (6th District, Comune di Torino), Ezio De Magistris (Green areas Department, Comune di Torino), Stefano Fioravanzo (IFLA-AIAPP, Italian Association of Landscape Architecture), Paolo Lana (Farmer), Federica Larcher (University of Turin), Gianluigi Surra (Coldiretti, Provincia di Torino).

Students A. Allizond, S. Baccaro, F. Bolognesi, L. Bottiglieri, M. Bregliano, L. Canfora, B. Gamba, R. Garnerone, A. Sini, A. Ventura.

The workshop was aiming to foster a reflection about how consolidating and developing the present farming system of Villaretto agricultural Park in a multifunctional perspective. To this end the workshop focused on the way in which a multifunctional agriculture shall be fostered, according to the other issues of surrounding peripheral areas.

The work has been developed in five phases: (i) a set of documents was given to students in order to approach a previous knowledge of the problem to deal with; (ii) a meeting among students and local experts and stakeholders was held in order to help a direct discussion about the main issues of the Villaretto agricultural park; (iii) a presentation of a collective report elaborated by the students was presented at the end of the Conference; (iv) a personal Report and a poster, focused on a specific topic, were elaborated by each student during the following month; the topics were: Park's opportunities and strengths, Building decay and degradation, Slow mobility, Environment.

In conclusion, the overall result of the work has led to a reflection on the actual conditions and the prospects for action to be envisaged, taking into account that the Villaretto Park responds to a land use already envisaged in the formal planning but never implemented. Therefore, it is time to introduce new elements of assessment and scenario in order to support a specific agri-urban detailed plan.

The works are expected to be presented and discussed to the local stakeholders, and to the various representatives of the involved institutions during an Exhibition that will be held in the 6th District, Comune di Torino, scheduled at the beginning of 2016.

WORKSHOP 2: FEEDING THE CITY LOCALLY: FARMERS' MARKETS, PERIURBAN AGRICULTURE AND SHORT SUPPLY CHAINS, PLACES OF PRODUCTION, NETWORKS OF ACTION.

Organizers: Giacomo Pettenati (University of Turin), Angioletta Voghera (Politecnico di Torino); Coline Perrin (INRA, Montpellier); Aurora Cavallo (CURSA, Università del Molise)

The workshop was organized with a focus on the relationships between periurban and urban agriculture and local market, considering farmers' markets, projects of Community Supported Agriculture, solidarity purchase groups and other experiences of alternative food networks in the framework of metropolitan territorial and landscape governance.

The participants was 15, mostly PhD students and early career researchers, coming from eleven countries, all over the world: Italy, France, Spain, Brazil, USA, The Netherlands, Germany, Australia, Switzerland, Canada, UK.

The program of the workshop was divided in three parts: fieldworks, presentation of practices and discussion between the participants.

The first part of the workshop was a visit at the Porta Palazzo market. It is believed to be one of the biggest food markets in Europe, where everyday thousands of vendors sell any kind of food (fruit and vegetables, cheese, fish, meat, etc.). One section of the market is reserved to local producers. This place can be considered the symbol of short food supply chains in Turin. In 2010, the farmers' market has been renewed and revitalized by the project RURURBAL, led by the Province of Turin.

The participants was guided around the stalls of the Porta Palazzo market by a Elena Di Bella, responsible in chief for rural development and mountain policies of the Città Metropolitana of Turin, who lead many projects of support to the local food supply chain in Turin and by Umberto Tresso, of Coldiretti, the association that represents most of local farmers. Some farmers have been involved in the workshop, discussing with the participants about the opportunities and the critical issues of short food supply chain in a big city like Turin.

The second part of the workshop was held at the Castello del Valentino (Department of Regional and Urban Studies and Planning of the Polytechnic of Turin), where two invited speakers presented two of the most interesting projects and practices about local food in Turin.

The first is the local networks of Solidarity Purchasing Groups (Rete GAS), presented by Andrea Saroldi, putting together dozens of formal and informal groups and networks of consumers purchasing local food or other goods selected according to criteria of environmental, social and cultural sustainability. The second is the project VOV102, presented by Stefano Bernardi, an interesting example of an innovative organizational model for local food, trying to overcome some of the most important weaknesses of farmers' markets (e.g. the amount of time that farmers have to use to sell directly their products).

Finally, during the third part of the workshop, the participants discussed about the main topics of the day: the relationships between local production and local demand, the environmental impact of short food supply chain and the social dimension of local food systems, starting from their research experience.

WORKSHOP 3 URBAN GARDENS, BETWEEN PUBLIC POLICIES AND INFORMAL PRACTICES. PRODUCTION OF FOOD, SPACES AND SOCIALITY

Organizers: Egidio Dansero, Nadia Tecco, Alessia Toldo, Stefania Mancuso (University of Turin), Emanuela Saporito (Politecnico di Torino)

Participants: Magda Rich (University of Brighton), Esther Sanyé Mengual (Institute of Environmental Science and Technology, CTA-UAB); Giulia Giacché (Università degli Studi di Perugia); Specht Kathrin (Leibniz Centre for Agricultural Landscape Research); Jacques Abelman (Amsterdam Academy of Architecture), Lisa Betty (New York University); Radu Mircea Giurgiu (University of Applied Science, Dresden)

The workshop was structured in four parts, starting from the fact that urban gardens are involving more and more people and spaces in Turin, and often are laboratories of social innovation, facing problems of soil pollution, informal and formal regulation of land access.

Firstly we had the opportunity to visit the experience of MiraOrti with public and spontaneous gardens in the Southern part of Turin (thanks to Isabella De Vecchi, MiraOrti, <http://miraorti.com>). *Miraorti (inspired by the name of the neighborhood in which it was developed, Mira-orti signifies "look at the gardens") is a planning project promoted by Mirafiori Foundation in participation with the local community with the goal of understanding if, and in what measure, the maintenance of the spontaneous gardens could represent a resource for the city. The quarter of Mirafiori, in the south periphery of Turin, is a working-class neighborhood famous for the presence of the main FIAT industrial plant. It contains 34,000 inhabitants. Up until this day, in the quarter of Mirafiori alone there are still many spontaneous gardens - approximately 1,000. In 2009, the Province of Turin proposed a preliminary project for the requalification of an area containing 220 spontaneous gardens through their demolition and removal.*

Secondly we listened to short presentations of other experiences of urban garden in Turin:

Case study: Orti Alti (Emanuela Saporito) (<http://www.ortialti.com/en/>)

OrtiAlti is a social innovation project aimed to transform flat roofs of urban buildings into vegetable gardens, managed by communities of inhabitants and users and put in a supportive and sharing network. In the city of Turin, almost the 10% of the urban area is made up of unused flat roofs – from garages, to supermarkets and industrial sheds-. To convert these parts of the city in community roof orchards, represents a powerful tool for urban transformation and renewal, and cities environmental and social regeneration. From the urban environment approach OrtiAlti seeks to revitalize the building and improves its environmental performance thanks to the green roofing technology used. From the social innovation approach, OrtiAlti aims at the active participation of the citizens in urban regeneration and critical consumption, seeking to generate a collaborative process between public institutions, citizens, social enterprises and private actors.

Case study: Gabrio occupied social centre: L'orto di Walter (<http://gabrio.noblogs.org/orto/>)

Gabrio is a social centre auto-organized occupied in September 1994. The Social Centre goes on with activities attracting hundreds of people every year. Gabrio is a place where people organize themselves to respond to real social needs, but also a place for counter-culture. Among the different activities Gabrio started in 2011 a project of social gardening "L'orto di Walter".

Case study: Garden Chef (Davide Almondo) (<http://www.gardenchef.it>)

Gardenchef is an agricultural cooperative that through agreements with public and private organizations have set up more than 600 urban gardens in Venaria, near Turin Municipality. Gardenchef's proposal is oriented to restaurants too, offering them a private urban garden, led by Gardenchef farmers, for a direct supply of fresh and quality organic vegetables and fruits.

Finally Nadia Tecco (University of Turin) presented the final results of a research on “Adaptive governance or adjustment for the urban green spaces planning and management? The case of communal and community gardens in Turin”.

In the third part of the workshop an opening discussion focused on the following topics:

1. Many of the urban gardens are located illegally on public or private land. The regulation of these situations poses many conflicting issues concerning the land rights of those who cultivate perhaps for many years, the mechanisms of regulation of land use in informal situations.
2. As in other cities, the phenomenon of urban gardens shared by very different people with different motivations as: the retired, the unemployed, the young student, the activist environmental movement or the food, the children of a school. It may make sense and how to stimulate a community of urban gardens, united by the act of nurture?
3. Most experiences are oriented consumption, but those who think they are increasing to provide economies of proximity based on short chain. What are the strengths and limitations of these strategies? What international experience can provide guidance in this regard?
4. The cultivation of urban gardens, beyond the social consequences, has to deal with the problem of the quality of the urban environment, both about potential contamination of soils, and for the presence of widespread pollutants in the urban atmosphere.
5. Alongside the more traditional experience, at least from the point of view of the management of soils and growing, even in Turin are spreading in different ways experiences and practices such as rooftop gardens while at present there aren't yet experiences of vertical farms or hydroponic agriculture. From international experience which it is the potential and critical of these innovations in urban agriculture? Are there other interesting innovations to consider and what are the possibilities to replicate good practices in other contexts.

In the fourth and final part of the workshop, participants worked towards two goals:

- the creation of a thematic map of urban gardens in Turin, on the base of the information collected and of the census made by Stefania Mancuso, defining the legend with 4 different criteria: Business/Non business (economic purpose); Private/public (who owns the land); Official/unofficial (what kind of regulation); Allotments/collective (type of garden)
- identify and discuss weakness and possibilities of each case study presented during the workshop.