

Food sharing, grassroots innovation, and food governance in New York and Berlin

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Copenhagen Business School

Overview

- Introduction
- Background
- Food Sharing & Food Policy
- Disruption & Contestation in Berlin
- Experimentation & Learning in NYC
- Conclusions



Introduction

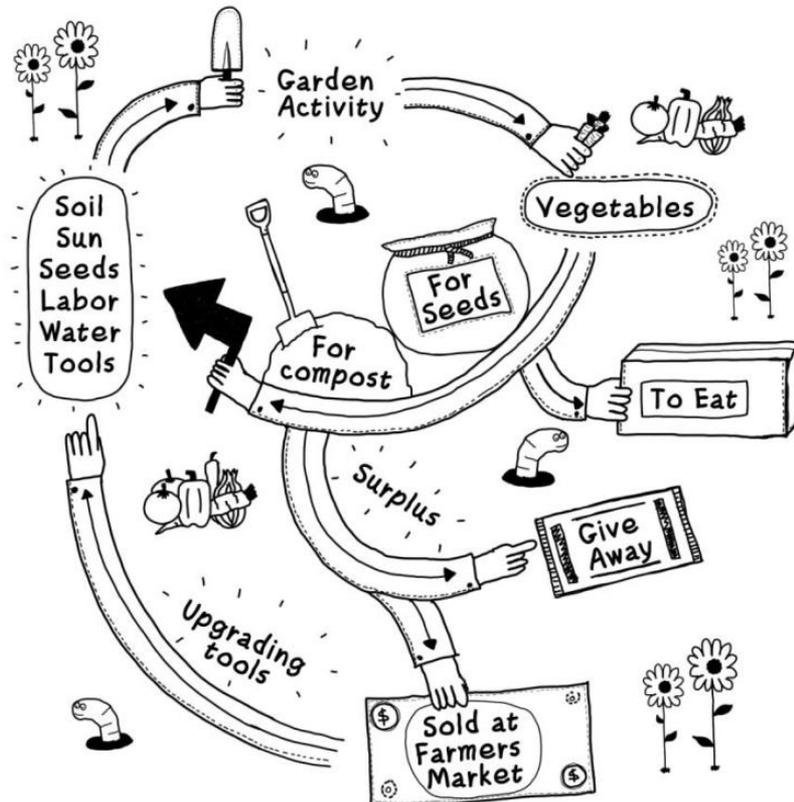


Figure 1: A Community Garden Economy
(Gibson-Graham, Cameron,
and Healy 2013)

A **community economy** is a space of interdependence and ethical negotiation around:

- what is **necessary** to personal and social survival;
- how social **surplus** is appropriated and distributed;
- whether and how social surplus is to be produced and **consumed**; and
- how a **commons** is produced and sustained (Gibson-Graham 2006)

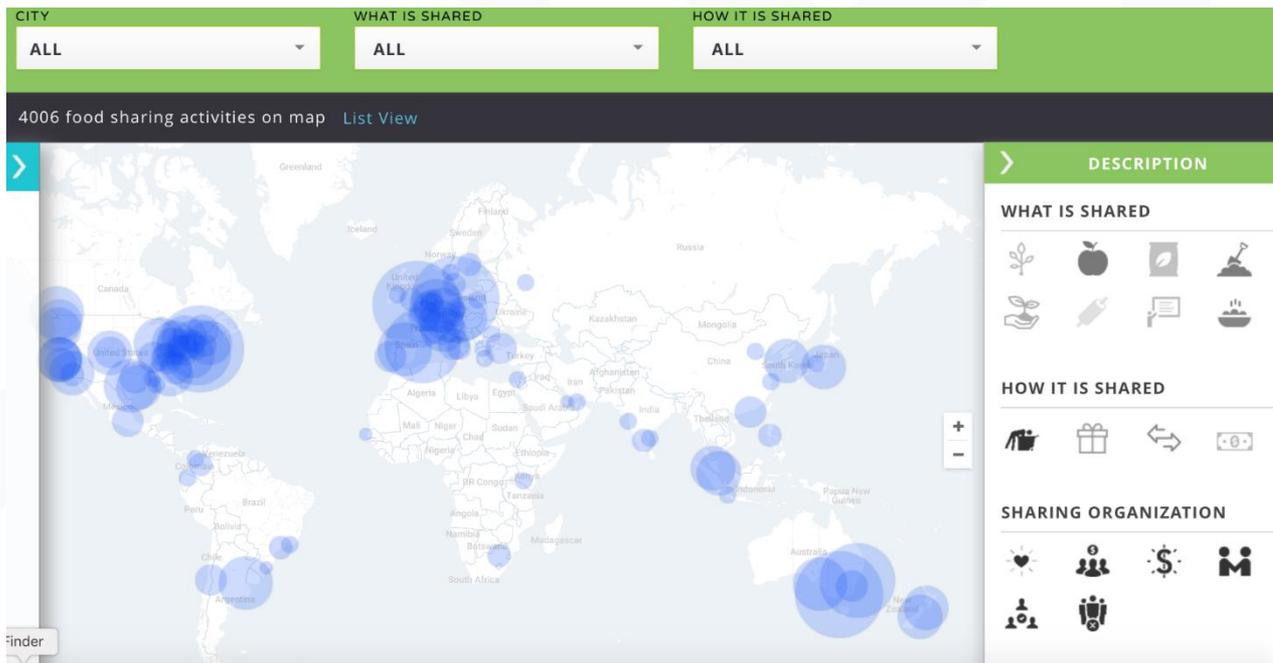


Introduction

- How do we get here?
- What role does food sharing play ?
- What role does food policy play ?



SHARECITY: Investigating the Sustainability Potential of Urban Food Sharing Economies



**SHARE
CITY** 
Sustainability of city-based food sharing



Davies, A.R., Edwards, M., Marovelli, B., Morrow, O., Rut, M., Weymes, M. (2018). Making visible: Interrogating the performance of food sharing across 100 urban areas. *Geoforum*

Davies, A.R., Edwards, M., Marovelli, B., Morrow, O., Rut, M., Weymes, M. (2017) Creative construction: Crafting, negotiating and performing urban food sharing landscapes. *Area*.



Food sharing in Berlin and New York

- Ethnographic research with
 - Initiatives from across the food sharing spectrum
 - Food Rescue & Redistribution
 - Cooking and Eating together
 - Composting and Growing together
 - Food sharing practitioners
 - Policy makers and regulators



Food Sharing & Food Policy

- Food Sharing is shaped by policy
 - E.g. Food safety, food donation, and land use laws operating at multiple scales
- Food sharing as site for policy (un)making
 - Disruption & Contestation
 - Experimentation & Learning



Food sharing is shaped by policy

- Community Gardening
 - Policy: Public Trust Doctrine + Community Stewardship Agreements via Greenthumb (NYC)
- Food rescue and redistribution
 - Policy: Bill Emerson Good Samaritans Law + state and federal tax incentives for donors (U.S.)
 - Policy: EU 178 Total traceability + Individual liability. Governing food safety through risk and liability (E.U.)



Berlin

- Ernährungsrat : Citizen led food policy council
- Priority: Food Sovereignty
- Food Safety Authority
- Department of Justice and Consumer Protection
- Priority: Food Safety

New York

- Mayor's Office of Food Policy
- Priority: Public Health and Food Security
- NYC Parks
- Priority: Env. Care
- Department of Sanitation
- Priority: Zero waste



Berlin

New York

- EU 178
 - Every food initiative is a food business
 - Demand for total traceability
- Berlin Fair Teiler Ruling
 - Risk governance through personal liability + EU178
- Bill Emerson Good Samaritan's Act
 - Protecting food donors from liability
- NYC Local law 176
 - To develop and maintain a food donation web portal



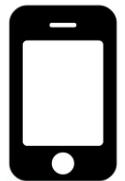
Disruption & Contestation in Berlin



- Non-profit E.v with grassroots network of ambassadors, store managers, food savers, food sharers.
- Rescuing and redistributing food via online platform, personal networks, and *fair-teiler* (public fridges).



Disruption & Contestation in Berlin



Governing Food Sharing

foodsharing

morrow@tcd.ie

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Essenskörbe

News

Über uns

Ratgeber

Aktionen

Mach-Mit!

Ratgeber

Ratgeber

Einleitung

Da Lebensmittel uns am Leben erhalten, sollte man mit ihnen auch respektvoll umgehen. Gegen die Lebensmittelverschwendung etwas zu tun, ist eine Möglichkeit Respekt zu zeigen. Um den Lebensmitteltausch oder die Lebensmittelabgabe für alle Teilnehmer so sicher wie möglich zu gestalten, haben wir die wichtigsten Voraussetzungen im folgenden Leitfaden zusammengefasst. Lebensmittel an andere weiterzugeben ist eine sehr menschliche aber auch verantwortungsvolle Situation. Grundsätzlich gilt wohl immer: „Nichts an andere weitergeben, was man selbst nicht mehr essen würde“. Die nun aufgeführten Punkte, sollen die Entscheidung erleichtern.

ⓘ Beachte die Regeln! Nicht gestattet ist das Anbieten und Teilen hygienisch riskanter Lebensmittel. Dazu gehören alle Lebensmittel, die ein Verbrauchsdatum tragen („zu verbrauchen bis...“), wie auch roher Fisch, Geflügel und anderes Fleisch, insbesondere Hackfleisch, rohe Eierspeisen und zubereitete Lebensmittel, die Fleisch oder Fisch enthalten, es sei denn es kann durch Infektionsrisiko sichergestellt werden, dass die Kühlkette ununterbrochen behält

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foodsharing Etikette

1 Sei ehrlich

Wir alle, die wir Foodsharing entwickelt haben, nehmen unsere Aufgabe sehr ernst und befolgen Gesetze und Auflagen. Sei auch Du bitte ehrlich beim Ausfüllen deiner Daten und bei der Beschreibung des ESSENSKORBES.

2 Beachte die Regeln

Wir weisen ausdrücklich darauf hin, dass wir das Anbieten und Teilen bestimmter Lebensmittel und anderer Waren aus rechtlichen Gründen nicht gestatten. Verderbliche Lebensmittel wie Fisch, Geflügel, Fleisch, rohe Eierspeisen und zubereitete Lebensmittel sowie Medikamente (auch homöopathische Medikamente) sind von foodsharing.de ausgeschlossen



Zur Senatsverwaltung | Kontakt

Suchen

Senatsverwaltung für Justiz, Verbraucherschutz und Antidiskriminierung Bereich Verbraucherschutz

Aufgaben

Verbraucherportal

Forum für Gutes Essen

Presse

Über uns

Service

berlin Berlin

Aufgaben > Gesundheitlicher Verbraucherschutz > Lebensmittelretter

Gesundheitlicher Verbraucherschutz

Überwachung von Lebensmitteln und Produkten

Gentechnik

Lebensmittelretter

Initiativen gegen Lebensmittelverschwendung

Food-Sharing, Lebensmittelretter, Fair-Teiler & Co



Fair-Teiler

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FOOD

European Commission

European Commission > Food Safety > Food > General Food Law

HEALTH FOOD ANIMALS PLANTS AMR

GENERAL FOOD LAW

Principles

Requirements

Procedures

Fitness Check of General Food Law

Expert Group on General Food Law

General Food Law

European citizens need to have access to safe and wholesome food of the highest standard.

A series of food incidents in late 1990s draw attention to the need to establish general principles and requirements concerning food and feed law at Union level. Accordingly, the European Commission developed an **integrated approach to food safety 'from farm to table'**, primarily set out in its **White Paper on Food Safety**. It covers all sectors of the food chain, including feed production, primary production, food processing, storage, transport and retail sale.

In 2002, the European Parliament and the Council adopted **Regulation (EC) No 178/2002** laying down the general principles and requirements of food law (**General Food Law Regulation**).

The General Food Law Regulation is the foundation of food and feed law. It sets out an

ALL TOPICS

Food sharing as contestation

It's collective ownership. And the German law has a real problem with that, because we're not defined... We don't have anyone in charge. And in this kind of community model where you have 800 people who co-own a hair dryer there's no legal framework for that (FS2, Berlin)



Food sharing as contestation

Our public fridge is a new social phenomenon. An innovative phenomenon. It cannot be pressed into existing screens and stencils, and that's exactly what they're trying to do. Both the policy and the authorities. In existing legislation, which provides only private or commercial and nothing in between, it has simply not been thought of when formulating these regulations... That there might something else, out there, out of the ordinary. And that is why the framework has to adapt to our reality and not reality to the frame (FS4, Berlin)



Food sharing as contestation

- Exposes tensions in governing food as a public good and a private commodity
- Commoning food while privatizing risk; Commons based approach to risk governance is needed.
- Community based sharing economies demand require liability structures



Food sharing as site for experimentation

But what we can do is stay out of everyone's way.....There are some ways in which Government creates incentives for innovation and there are some ways in which Government stays out in order to enable innovation (FP2, NYC)



Experimentation & Learning in NYC



NYC
zerowaste

0x30

donate**NYC**
give goods. find goods. do good.

NYC
Compost Project
Funded by **NYC**sanitation

Rebuilding our soil,
neighborhood
by neighborhood.



Experimentation & Learning in NYC

- Non-Profits with Municipal backing
- Community composting capacity building via Master Composter Program
- Stewarding food scraps, plants, and urban soil
- Prototyping neighbourhood scale circular food economies



Rebuilding our soil,
neighborhood
by neighborhood.



Experimentation & Learning in NYC

Name	Techniques	Tools	Capacity
NYC Compost Projected Hosted by Brooklyn Botanical Gardens (Brooklyn)	Windrows, Aerated Static Pile	Food Scrap Containers, Shovels, Brooms, Wheel Barrows, Screen, Solar and Wind Powered Air flower, Solar Panels, Wind Turbine.	225+ Tons
NYC Compost Project Hosted by BIG Reuse (Queens)	Aerated Static Pile, Windrows	Food Scrap Containers, Gore cover, Temperature and Oxygen Probes, Blower, Skidsteer, Jay- Lor Mixer, Toter- Tipper, Screen, Thermometers	650+ Tons
NYC Compost Project hosted by Earth Matter Compost Learning Center (Governors Island)	Aerated Static Pile, Windrows, Tumblers, In-Vessel systems, 3 bin systems, Bokashi Composting, Chicken assisted Deep Litter, worm bins, and and much more.	Food Scrap Containers, Skidsteer, Jay-Lor Mixer, Blowers, Thermometers, Shovels, numerous compost devices	480+ Tons
NYC Compost Project hosted by the Lower East Side Ecology Center (Manhattan)	In-Vessel system, Windrows	Food Scrap Containers, Compost Containers, Skidsteer, truck, Thermometer	250+ Tons



Experimentation & Learning in NYC

- Simply “adding compost” to an unsustainable and environmentally unjust waste management system does not lead to sustainable or just urban transformations
- Opportunity to cultivate a different relationship with waste beyond dominant ethos of disposability, distance and denial
- Embedding community waste in community food systems captures benefits locally with potential to remediate environmental injustices

Morrow, O. (forthcoming). Imagining alternative waste futures through community composting in New York City. *Home Grown*. Terreform: New York



NYC Learning from food sharing

- Sharing as key part of waste diversion strategy
- Learning new ways of living with and relating to organic waste via Community Composting
→ Education and buy in for new Local Composting Laws
- Taking inspiration from food sharing platform economies → Local Law 176



Local law 176 - chapter 4-G

Cities learning from food sharing ?

- *CHAPTER 4-G FOOD DONATION WEB PORTAL § 16-497 Food donation web portal.....the department or another agency or office designated by the mayor, shall, in conjunction with the department of information technology and telecommunications, create or modify and maintain a web portal that will allow prospective food donors and recipients, including but not limited to restaurants, grocery stores, produce markets, dining facilities and food rescue organizations, to post notifications concerning the availability of food, including food that would otherwise go to waste, and to arrange for the transportation or retrieval of such food.*
- *Such portal shall, at a minimum, allow (i) a prospective food donor to describe the type and amount of food available, including any information necessary to keep the food safe for human consumption, such as refrigeration requirements, as well as other information necessary to facilitate its donation, (ii) a prospective food recipient to specify the type and amount of food donations it will accept and the areas of the city from which it will accept donations and to receive prompt notification concerning the availability of food satisfying such specifications, and (iii) a prospective food donor and a prospective food recipient to communicate directly through a messaging system within such portal. § 2. This local law takes effect immediately.*



Food Strategy for food sharing?

Community Land Access
Stewardship Policies
Urban Ag. Zoning

Municipal Waste Mgmt Policy
Zero Waste
Incentives for Food Donation
Diverse composting economies

Growing

Wasting

Eating

Food Safety
Public health & nutrition
Food Risk & Liability

Lots of
energy &
investment!



Conclusions: Surplus Possibilities

- Waste as a moment where food can be disentangled from capitalist relations and re-embedded in commons relationships.
- Need to question technocratic circular economy “waste to resource” rhetoric to ask how waste becomes a resource, for whom, in what kinds of economies.
- Waste as resource for social and solidarity food economies, which can be supported via food safety regulations and municipal solid waste management policy.
- Other food (waste) economies are possible.
- But perhaps a distraction from further upstream solutions....??



Questions?

Thank you

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www.sharecity.ie



WAGENINGEN
UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH



100years
1918 — 2018



The University of Dublin