Assessing the practice & sustainability potential of city-based food sharing economies

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What do we mean by food sharing?

- Have a portion of **FOOD** with another or others; [shared consumption]
- Give a portion of **FOOD** to others; [gifting]
- Use, occupy, or enjoy **FOOD** jointly; [shared use of space & experiences]
- Possess an interest in **FOOD** in common; [shared interest]
- Tell someone about **FOOD** [shared knowledge/skills]

(OED, 2014)

Our focus is on food sharing activities enabled by information and communications technologies (ICT)

Aim & Objectives

To establish the **significance** and **potential** of food sharing economies to transform cities onto more sustainable pathways

1) Develop **deeper theoretical** understanding of contemporary food sharing

2) Generate **comparative international empirical** data about food sharing activities within cities

3) Assess the **impact** of food sharing activities

4) Explore how food sharing in cities might **evolve** in the future
Cities & Food

DOMINANT NARRATIVE: TRANSITIONS
Large-scale: Technology, infrastructure, administration

DOMINANT NARRATIVE: AGRI-FOOD
Predict and provide: Increasing food supply to meet demand

SOCIETAL META-CHALLENGE
To transform urban food systems in a just and sustainable manner

SHARECITY INNOVATION
Reframing debates to include city-based food sharing economies
SHARING AS AN EVERYDAY SOCIAL PRACTICE
Sharing a meal with friends and family; sharing a kitchen with colleagues

SHARING ECONOMIES
Stretching contemporary sharing into new spaces and scales

SUSTAINABILITY CLAIMS BUT LIMITED EVIDENCE BASE
“a means to build community, to distribute (and re-distribute) resources more efficiently, to tread more lightly on our environment” (Gaskins, 2010)

SHARECITY INNOVATION
Opening up new research horizons and building evidence of food sharing
Research Design

A. Development of Concepts, Framework, & Database
B. In-Depth Ethnographies
C. Co-Designing Assessment
D. Integration, Analysis, & Futures
TASK A: CONCEPTS & FRAMEWORKS

TASK B: IN-DEPTH ETHNOGRAPHIES
TASK C: CO-DESIGNING ASSESSMENT

 Sharers  Researchers

 Economy  Environment

 Politics  Society

 Positive  Negative

 TASK D: INTEGRATION, ANALYSIS & FUTURES

 Possible Future
Results & Contribution

The first systematic international analysis of food sharing economies and their sustainability potential to transform eating within cities

Bridging disciplinary Silos
Unprecedented empirical data

Identifying sustainability impacts
Scenarios of food sharing futures

Bedrock - food sharing economies
Platform - interrogating other sharing sectors
Hub - connecting diverse actors involved in urban food systems

SHARECITY
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