



**2023**  
**Radboud Conference**  
**on Earth System Governance**  
Bridging Sciences and Societies  
for Sustainability Transformations

# Book of Abstracts and Innovative Sessions



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The Book of Abstracts and Innovative Sessions compiles abstracts and descriptions of the selected papers and innovative sessions for the 2023 Radboud Conference on Earth System Governance. These materials have been sourced from the Conference's submission portal.

This document is organized chronologically to reflect the conference schedule, providing an overview of the content for each parallel panel and innovative session. It also includes details such as the session's date, time, and location, as well as the names of the chair(s), discussant(s), and presenter(s).

For information on the programme of semi-plenary and plenary sessions, please visit the Conference website:

<https://www.earthsystemgovernance.org/2023radboud/programme/>

## Parallel Panel: Agriculture and Food Systems

**Date & Time (Amsterdam Time):** October 25th 12:30:00 PM - 2:00:00 PM

**Location:** GR 1.109 / Zoom

**Chair(s):**

Daniel Polman

**Presentations (including names of presenting authors):**

***Beyond Certification: A Typology of Governance Actors and Strategies in Agri-Food Value Chains***

**Samuel Brülisauer**

While certification of voluntary sustainability standards remains an important strategy to promote sustainability of agri-food value chains, various alternative and complementary governance approaches have emerged in recent years. These include increasingly common inclusive business schemes, such as company-owned responsible sourcing programmes, or purchasing practices aiming to eliminate unnecessary intermediaries, often referred to as 'direct trade'. Finally, also producer cooperatives and other organizations (co-)owned by producers have developed sophisticated governance strategies, as well as social enterprises whose purpose and business model centres around promoting producers' well-being or another societal goal.

This growing institutional diversity creates an empirical and theoretical challenge of mapping the range of governance actors and strategies, including the goals, theories of change, and precise instruments they deploy to achieve those goals. Existing typologies of value chain governance remain at a broad level, without disentangling the institutional details regarding, e.g., ownership, voice, and the distribution of benefits, risks, and costs. Moreover, expanding the scope of governance actors from mainly buyers and certifiers to producer organizations reflects an important shift that may not only reveal innovative 'bottom-up' strategies including producer-led value chain upgrading and coordination between like-minded actors, but also a more diverse range of goals, instruments and theories of change that go above and beyond dominant strategies of sustainability or supply chain governance.

This paper addresses this challenge by developing a typology of value chain governance actors and strategies based on the results of an extensive survey (n = 120) of organizations in Peru and Switzerland that are involved in the production, processing, trading, selling, and certification of coffee and cacao and derived products. It discusses how actors' ownership and organizational mission may affect the choice of governance strategies, and which strategies in contrast are used by a wide range of actors.

***Advancing theories of change of private sustainability governance of coffee and cocoa supply chains***

**Christoph Oberlack**

3. Relations matter: Scales, spaces, and agencies of urban food governance are co-constituted through structural and fluid interactions.
4. Diversity matters: Dynamic and diverse critical theories, frames, and practices can help deal with complexity and co-produce new political possibilities
5. Power matters: Engaging with normative processes and values and making a commitment to fairness requires navigating uneven patterns and relations of power.

## ***Policy instruments for the transition to a circular food system***

**Daniel Polman**

Breaking the linear produce, consume, dispose chain is frequently seen by both scholars and practitioners as a crucial step in the transition toward more sustainable food systems. Therefore, circularity is an increasingly popular concept when thinking about the future of food systems, resulting in numerous policy developments for more circular food systems. As the outcomes of food systems are very context dependent, there are different visions on how to organize this transition. Hence, there is a wide variety of (combinations of) tools and mechanisms through which governmental authorities attempt to steer actors in the food system to make it more circular. However, there is limited systematic knowledge on the full spectrum of circular policy instruments, as well as how these contribute to more circular food systems.

In order to improve our understanding on these different policy pathways envisioned by scholars and policymakers, we conduct a systematic literature review of academic publications on how policy instruments can contribute to more circular urban food systems. The literature review follows the protocol for Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), and coding of policy instruments is done using the software Atlas.ti. Following this review, we first provide an overview of the academic field, by looking at the number of publications, the distribution across academic fields, and geographies. Second, we synthesize which types of circular food policy instruments are proposed in the literature or implemented in practice; what their policy goals are; which aspects of food systems are prioritized; and how circularity in relation to these different instruments is appraised or evaluated.

The findings outline our current understanding about the different policy pathways toward a more circular food system by providing lessons and insights about how different circular food policy instruments work across levels and regions, and how they are embedded or related to other policies. Moreover, we conclude by discussing the wider trends that emerge from the current developments in circular food system policies. Thereby offering a systematic overview for both practitioners and scholars working toward a more circular food system.

## ***Concepts to Understand and Research Transformative Change for Biodiversity & Equity (TC4BE)***

**Verina Ingram**