

Food Policy Council Movement in North America: A Convergence of Alternative Local Agrifood Interests?

Patrick H. Mooney

Keiko Tanaka

Gabriele Ciciurkaite

Alternative Agrifood Movements: Patterns of Convergence and Divergence

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Abstract

This chapter seeks to address questions related to the convergence among alternative agrifood movements as well as the convergence between alternative and conventional practices with a focus on local movements. We reconstruct the common conflation of the alternative/conventional binary into a multidimensional measure that recognizes the complex interactions of economic, political, social, and cultural elements in the construction of convention, alterity, and opposition. We also consider several forms of possible convergence: multi-organizational, multi-sectoral (among elements of the agrifood system), multidimensional (among political, economic, cultural, and social practices), and multilevel or scale (hierarchy of spatially embedded governance units). These matters are empirically examined by focusing on the rapidly growing Food Policy Council (FPC) movement in North America. We address the question of this movement's diffusion, consider its variable linkages between state and civil society, and examine the substantive practices and framings in which the movement has been engaged. While we find that most FPC practices are probably vulnerable to conventionalization, the movement's most valuable function may be its modular form. That form functions as an incubator of multi-organizational and multi-sectoral experimental practices in a multiplicity of local environments. Further, ties between FPCs provide a networking mechanism for transmitting information about the successes and failures of those experiments among hundreds of locales and regions. Finally, the discourse among the FPC leadership amplifies values favoring the democratization of food, and articulates beliefs in the right to food as well as notions of food citizenship and sovereignty.

Citation

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Research Article. Convergences and divergences in mortality. A new approach to health transition. Jacques Vallin. France Meslé. The seminar was organized by the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research and the Committee on Emerging Health Threats. of the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population. Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research. However, just as the industrial revolution was born in Europe, so the pattern of epidemiologic transition was first seen in Europe before spreading to the rest of the world, and even there, in some countries before others. Even now, not all countries have completed that process. 14 <http://www.demographic-research.org>. (2014), "Alternative Agrifood Movements: Patterns of Convergence and Divergence", *Alternative Agrifood Movements: Patterns of Convergence and Divergence (Research in Rural Sociology and Development, Vol. 21)*, Emerald Group Publishing Limited, p. i. <https://doi.org/10.1108/S1057-192220140000021013>. Download as .RIS. You may be able to access teaching notes by logging in via Shibboleth, Open Athens or with your Emerald Account. Login. If you would like to contact us about accessing teaching notes, click the button and fill out the form. Contact us. To read the full version of this content please select one of the options below. You may be able to access this content by logging in via Shibboleth, Open Athens or with your Emerald Account. Login. The transformative agrifood movement in Catalonia: Operational divergences in the construction of food sovereignty. M Di Masso, MG Rivera-Ferre, JL Espluga. *Alternative agrifood movements: Patterns of convergence and divergence*, 2014. 11. 2014. Local agriculture

