



## Transnational Institute

A worldwide fellowship of scholar activists

*Today, a billion people live in hunger. Can we feed the world and achieve economic development while conserving ecosystems and improving the livelihoods of peasants and the rural poor? How do we understand and tackle the interlinked agrarian and environmental crises? What types of policies create sustainable development that guarantees justice, equality and autonomy for poor and marginalized communities? What types of food movements have emerged and why, and with what challenges? These are some of the questions that will be addressed in the Critical Agrarian Studies (CAS) Colloquium No. 3 at the International Institute of Social Studies (ISS) in The Hague on 12 December 2011. Co-organized by the Transnational Institute (TNI), the Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS) and the Land Deal Politics Initiatives (LDPI), the Colloquium brings together some of the world's leading radical thinkers and activists around the issues of food and the future of farming, namely, Olivier de Schutter, Frances Moore Lappé, Miguel Altieri, Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Eric Holt-Gimenez, Robin Broad and Tony Weis. The event will continue the emerging tradition of the CAS Colloquium: engaged, serious, but fun. Free snacks, lunch, and drinks. But you need to register before 30 November through [icas@iss.nl](mailto:icas@iss.nl).*

### **Hunger, Food & (Agroecological) Alternatives: A day-long colloquium**

#### **Critical Agrarian Studies Colloquium No. 3**

12 December 2011, 9:30 – 20:00 hrs

International Institute of Social Studies (ISS), The Hague, [www.iss.nl](http://www.iss.nl)

Co-organized by:

Transnational Institute (TNI), [www.tni.org](http://www.tni.org)

Initiatives in Critical Agrarian Studies (ICAS), [www.iss.nl/icas](http://www.iss.nl/icas)

Land Deal Politics Initiatives (LDPI), [www.iss.nl/ldpi](http://www.iss.nl/ldpi)

Venue: Attic

9:30 – 9:40	Colloquium Chair: Ben White, ISS Opening Remarks: Leo de Haan, Rector, ISS (tbc.) Marinus Verweij, Chairman of the Executive Board of ICCO (Inter-Church Organization for Development Cooperation)
9:40 – 10:30	Tony Weis, University of Western Ontario, Ontario, Canada <i>The Meat of the Global Food Crisis</i> Plenary Discussion Chair: Eric Vanhaute, University of Ghent
10:30- 11:20	Frances Moore Lappé, Small Planet Institute, New York

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The Critical Agrarian Studies Colloquium at ISS is in partnership with the Inter-Church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO) and the *Journal of Peasant Studies (JPS)*.

*Cultivating an EcoMind, We Know How to End Hunger*

Plenary Discussion

Chair: Bridget O'Laughlin, ISS

- 11:20 – 12:10 Jan Douwe van der Ploeg, Wageningen University, Netherlands  
*Social struggles aiming at the construction of new markets: a comparative analysis from China, Brazil and the European Union*  
Plenary Discussion  
Chair: Deborah Johnston, School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)
- 12:10 – 13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 – 14:40 Robin Broad, American University, Washington DC, USA  
*Food for a Rooted Future*  
Martha Robbins, National Farmers' Union of Canada &  
*La Via Campesina*  
Plenary Discussion  
Chair: Rosanne Rutten
- 14:40-15:30 Miguel Altieri, University of California, Berkeley  
*The agroecological revolution in Latin America: rescuing nature, ensuring food sovereignty and empowering peasants*  
Plenary Discussion  
Chair: Laurence Roudart, Universite Libre de Bruxelles
- 15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45 – 16:45 Eric Holt-Gimenez, Food First, Oakland, California  
*Convergence in Diversity: Food Movements and the transformation of our food systems*  
Plenary Discussion  
Chair: Kees Jansen, Wageningen University
- 16:45 – 17:30 Coffee break & book launch/book signing  
Frances Moore Lappe, *Ecomind*  
Very short remarks by: tba  
Eric Holt-Gimenez, *Food Movements Unite!*  
Very short remarks by: tba
- 17:30 – 18:00 Break
- Next Programme:
- Venue: Aula B (organized by the Society for International Development or SID, Netherlands Chapter together with ISS – see separate programme)
- 18:00 – 20:00 Olivier de Schutter, UN Rapporteur for the Right to Food  
*Tale of Four Hungers*  
Discussant: Frances Moore Lappe  
Chair: Max Spoor, International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
- 20:00 -- Drinks, Atrium

For further info, contact: Jun Borrás: [icas@iss.nl](mailto:icas@iss.nl); Hilde van der Pas: [hildevanderpas@tni.org](mailto:hildevanderpas@tni.org)

## SHORT BIOS:

**Miguel A. Altieri** has been a Professor of Agroecology at the University of California at Berkeley since 1981. He received a BS in Agronomy from the University of Chile, an MSc from the National University of Colombia and a Ph.D in Entomology from the University of Florida. Altieri served as a Scientific Advisor to the Latin American Consortium on Agroecology and Development (CLADES) Chile an NGO network promoting agroecology as a strategy for small farm sustainable development in the region. He also served for 4 years as the General Coordinator for the UNDP's Sustainable Agriculture Networking and Extension Programme which aimed at capacity building on agroecology among NGOs and the scaling-up of successful local sustainable agricultural initiatives in Africa, Latin America and Asia. In addition he was the chairman of the NGO committee of CGIAR whose mission was to make sure that the research agenda of the 15 International Agricultural Research Centers benefited the poor farmers of the. Currently he is advisor to the FAO-GIAHS program (Globally Ingenious Agricultural Heritage Systems) a program devoted at identifying and dynamically conserving traditional farming systems in the developing world. He also served as Director of the US-Brasil Consortium on Agroecology and Sustainable Rural Development (CASRD) an academic-research exchange program involving students and faculty of UC Berkeley, University of Nebraska, UNICAMP and Universidad Federal de Santa Catarina. He is the President of the Latin American Scientific Society of Agroecology. He is the author of more than 200 publications, and numerous books including *Agroecology: The Science of Sustainable Agriculture; Biodiversity, Pest Management in Agroecosystems* and *Agroecology and the Search for a Truly Sustainable Agriculture*. His research and teaching center around the design of biodiverse, resilient and sovereign peasant farming systems in a plant in crisis. His most recent article is: 'The agroecological revolution in Latin America: rescuing nature, ensuring food sovereignty and empowering peasants', *Journal of Peasant Studies*, 38(3) July 2011.

Miguel's contribution will provide an overview of what he calls 'agroecological revolution' in Latin America. As the expansion of agroexports and biofuels continues unfolding in Latin America and warming the planet, the concepts of food sovereignty and agroecology-based agricultural production gain increasing attention. New approaches and technologies involving the application of blended agroecological science and indigenous knowledge systems are being spearheaded by a significant number of peasants, NGOs and some government and academic institutions, and they are proving to enhance food security while conserving natural resources, and empowering local, regional and national peasant organizations and movements. An assessment of various grassroots initiatives in Latin America reveals that the application of the agroecological paradigm can bring significant environmental, economic and political benefits to small farmers and rural communities as well as urban populations in the region. The trajectory of the agroecological movements in Brazil, the Andean region, Mexico, Central America and Cuba and their potential to promote broad-based and sustainable agrarian and social change is briefly presented and examined. He argues that an emerging threefold 'agroecological revolution', namely, epistemological, technical and social, is creating new and unexpected changes directed at restoring local self-reliance, conserving and regenerating natural resource agrobiodiversity, producing healthy foods with low inputs, and empowering peasant organizations. These changes directly challenge neoliberal modernization policies based on agribusiness and agroexports while opening new political roads for Latin American agrarian societies.

**Robin Broad** is Professor of development studies at American University's School of International Service in Washington, D.C. In 1982, she co-authored with Walden Bello and others the first expose of World Bank structural adjustment lending: *Development Debacle: The World Bank in the Philippines*. Her books include (among others): *Development Redefined: How the Market Met its Match* (2009), *Plundering Paradise: The Struggle for the Environment in the Philippines* (1993), both coauthored with John Cavanagh, and *Global Backlash: Citizen Initiatives for a Just World Economy* (2002). She has just finished a year of sabbatical research in the Philippines, El Salvador, and Trinidad for her current project on "Economic, Social, and

Environmental Rootedness: Reframing Development in the Age of Vulnerability.” Initial articles from this research have been published in *Third World Quarterly*, *The Nation* (New York), *Earth Island Journal*, and on the Triple Crisis Blog. She and John Cavanagh have a regular blog on development issues in *YES! Magazine*.

Robin’s contribution builds on her thirty-five years as a development scholar, practitioner, and activist, concentrating on her recent field research. She will argue that the food system should be seen the Achilles heel of the neoliberal development paradigm. The current crises should not only add momentum to the delegitimization of the old model but also offer legitimacy for paths that lessen “vulnerability” and increase “rootedness” (a term she prefers to “resilience” or “sustainability”). She will then turn to the Philippines, where she has done research in communities where small-scale rice farmers are shifting back from chemical agriculture to various forms of organic farming. She will use these case studies to explore the economic, health, and environmental factors behind this shift as well as the policy directions of the new Philippine government that can support such a transformation of the Philippine agricultural sector. She then builds from this Philippine field work to ask whether such small-scale, organic farmers can supply a growing share of the world’s food and under what conditions they will be able to do so.

**Olivier De Schutter** a professor at the University of Louvain and at the College of Europe and a visiting professor at Columbia University, is the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the right to food. A specialist on economic and social rights and globalisation, he was Secretary General of the International Federation for Human Rights until 2008.

A Tale of Four Hungers: How to ensure the realization of the right to food in a world of scarce resources? The lecture will propose a diagnosis on hunger and malnutrition, based on the perspective provided by the human right to adequate food. It will describe the transitions that are required in the view of the Special Rapporteur, and how appropriate institutional frameworks and governance tools can contribute to achieving them. Alternatives can emerge to the dominant food systems of today. By linking small agricultural producers to the local urban consumers, through short food chains, we can hope to both improve the incomes of the producers and improve access of consumers to fresh and nutritious foods. And by improving the knowledge of agroecological practices, we can delink the production of food from its current dependency on fossil energy. But governance issues are key in making these shifts that are at one urgent, vital, and possible

**Eric Holt-Giménez, Ph.D.** Eric Holt-Giménez, Ph.D. is the executive director of Food First/Institute for Food and Development Policy. He is the editor of the recent Food First book, *"Food Movements Unite! Strategies to transform our Food Systems"* (2011), co-author of *"Food Rebellions: Crisis and the Hunger for Justice"* (2009), and author of *"Campesino a Campesino: Voices from Latin America's Farmer to Farmer Movement for Sustainable Agriculture"* (2006). From 1977 to 1998, Eric worked on the ground in Mexico and Central America with the Campesino a Campesino Movement. He then earned a Ph.D. in Environmental Studies from the University of California –Santa Cruz, and carried out a three-country study on "Measuring Farmers' agroecological resistance after Hurricane Mitch in Central America" with 2,000 peasant-researchers. He has taught Development Studies at the University of California in Berkeley and Santa Cruz, and for the Boston University Honors Program in Global Ecology. Prior to coming to Food First he was Latin America Program Manager for the Bank Information Center in Washington D.C.

**Frances Moore Lappé** is the author of 18 books including the three-million copy *Diet for a Small Planet*, as well as *World Hunger: 12 Myths*, and *Food First: Beyond the Myth of Scarcity*. She is cofounder of Food First: The Institute for Food and Development Policy; and, more recently, with Anna Lappé, the Small Planet Institute and the Small Planet Fund. In 1987 she received the Right Livelihood Award. In 2007 *Gourmet Magazine* named Frances as one of twenty-five people,

including Thomas Jefferson and Julia Child, whose work has changed the way America eats. She is a founding member of the Hamburg-based World Future Council.

Frances Moore Lappé challenges what she calls the ScarcityMind—the dominant mental map locked in the premise of “lack of goods and goodness.” Fueling fear, this worldview, she argues, is perversely aligned with nature and with human nature. It creates the very scarcity that it promises to address; and leaves most people feeling powerless. With stories from around the world, she describes an emerging worldview—the EcoMind—reflecting breakthroughs from neuroscience to anthropology to ecology. It enables us to see that as we align with nature, including our own, we can create “living democracies” in which citizens feel empowered to create the conditions proven to bring forth the best in our species: ongoing dispersion of power, transparency and mutual accountability.

**Jan Douwe van der Ploeg** (1950) is professor of Transition Studies at Wageningen University in the Netherlands and adjunct professor in rural sociology at China Agricultural University in Beijing. He has ample experience in agricultural sectors in both the North and the South. In 1999 he published *The Virtual Farmer* (Van Gorcum, Assen). This book critically examines the modernization project of European agriculture. This was followed, in 2008, by *The New Peasantries* (Earthscan, London). Based on three longitudinal studies that span 40 years and critically examine agricultural and rural development processes in Peru, Italy and the Netherlands, this last book argues that the peasant way of organizing and developing agricultural production is a strategic concept for understanding rural realities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This argument is spelled out further in a recent contribution to the *Journal of Peasant Studies* (Vol. 37, no. 1, January 2010, pp. 1-30).

Jan Douwe’s contribution compares rural development processes currently occurring in China, Brazil and the European Union. Although these are strongly rooted in the specificities of time and space, they also share important commonalities. I will argue that rural development can be viewed as an evolving set of responses to market failures. A key element of these responses is that they are unfolding through the construction of new markets: a seemingly contradictory phenomenon that has, as yet, hardly been theoretically elaborated. I will discuss these newly emerging markets as ‘nested markets’. Finally I will argue that the construction of such new markets occurs through social struggles in a context dominated by food empires.

**Martha Jane Robbins** is a part-time organic farmer in Canada. She was previously the youth president of the National Farmers’ Union (NFU) of Canada, a key activist of *La Via Campesina* and a member of the organizing team that launched the first international assembly of food sovereignty in Mali in 2007. In 2006, the top Canadian Magazine *MacLean* featured Martha as one of the top 25 future leaders of Canada.

**Tony Weis** is an Associate Professor of Geography at the University of Western Ontario, in London, Canada. He is the author of *The Global Food Economy: The Battle for the Future of Farming* (Zed, 2007), and is currently at work on *The Ecological Hoofprint: The Global Burden of Industrial Livestock* (Zed) and (with Harriet Friedmann) *A Political Ecology of the Global Food System: Precipice and Possibilities* (in the ICAS ‘small book series’ series – see: [www.iss.nl/icas](http://www.iss.nl/icas)).

Tony’s contribution will argue as follows: The global food crisis has generally been described in terms of the volatility of world grain and oilseed markets and the associated worsening of food security concerns for many poor people. Various explanations have been put forth for this volatility, with the impact of fast-rising industrial agro-fuel production on world grain and oilseed supplies widely accepted as a primary factor. Clearly, there are significant market pressures heavy and uneven class disparities associated with cycling so much food through cars, magnified by the role of agro-fuels in new land-grabbing and the ecological illogic of devoting so much land and resources on industrial monocultures for so little energetic return. Yet however problematic, the agro-fuel boom is only part of a crisis which runs much deeper than recent market turbulence, and must be understood in the context of the chronic biophysical contradictions of the industrial

grain-oilseed-livestock complex, and how they are now accelerating. Through this lens, the process of cycling food through large concentrated populations of pigs, poultry, and cattle to inefficiently produce food emerges alongside industrial agro-fuels as an older, larger, and also highly unequal pull on world agricultural production, with a vast, multi-dimensional ecological burden. Like agro-fuels, the consumption of meat is projected to continue rising significantly in the coming decades, and this growth -- based overwhelmingly on industrial livestock -- is very central to current and future world food problems.