

Call for papers: Food futures: ethics, science and culture



Welcome to the 13th Congress of the European Society for Agricultural and Food Ethics to take place in 2016 at the University of Porto, Portugal!

EurSAFE 2016 is a forum for discussion of ethical issues around food, including production, consumption, marketing, policy and health. The future perspective and the utopian tradition as a driving force and inspiration for changes in society are central to the congress. However, general contributions to agricultural, animal and food ethics are also welcome.

Background

Food is at the centre of human existence. We eat every day, not only to satisfy our physical needs but also as part of cultural and social interaction. Food choices and markets shape the agricultural landscape and the cities we live in. Whereas what we choose to eat and feed our family is part of who we are, a growing number of actors compete to influence our food habits, through marketing strategies and nutritional advice. And ethical considerations are coupled with every choice over food – whether related to production, distribution, consumption, food waste, policy in general, marketing or advice.

Given the variety of implications the “food problem” entails, the construction of an inclusive society must redirect the concerns about food in the present to the imagination of future alternatives. The search for innovative solutions calls for multidisciplinary critical enquiry – and utopian thinking will be instrumental in that regard. Utopian thinking forces us, first of all, to reflect on what we would consider to be an ideal society and to set goals – even knowing that they will never be totally reached. Second, utopian thinking is informed by the awareness that societies work as systems, and that if we change one aspect, all the other aspects will have to be changed as well. Third, utopian thinking forces us to reflect on alternative forms of organization, either by recycling solutions of the past and putting them into a new context, or by devising new ones. Thinking about food through holistic and prospective utopian thinking, aiming at the construction of an inclusive society where a variety of aspects are considered – the nature of families and communities; gender and class relations; rural/urban relations; the health and well-being of humans, other animals and ecosystems; the political system; decision-making, amongst others –, such is the challenge EurSAFE sets to its delegates in 2016.

Topics

Much like how a shared meal strengthens social connections, the topic of food also bridges different academic disciplines. The 2016 EurSAFE congress welcomes proposals related to any aspect of food ethics and from scholars in all fields of research. In particular, the organizing committee aims to organize sessions focusing on:

Food policy: democracy, regulation and individual rights

Sustainability, environment and food production

Animal welfare and animal ethics;

Critical perspectives on food and the human experience (migration, culture assimilation, resistance and social dynamics)

Utopian holistic prospective scenarios;

Ways to combat food waste;

Ethics in nutrition and food policy.

You are welcome to submit abstracts for oral or poster presentations. We welcome contributions on these topics as well as general topics on food, animal and agricultural ethics from a range of fields. We are also open to the organization of workshops, as satellites as well as within the congress – please contact the Organizing Committee to that effect.

Important dates

Nov 2015	Call for papers – website opens
10 Jan 2016	Deadline for submission of abstracts (for oral or poster presentation)
1 Feb 2016	Notification of abstracts to authors
20 March 2016	Deadline for submission of full papers
5 May 2016	Notification of full papers to authors
15 June 2016	Deadline for early bird registration

Please refer to the congress website for updated information and further details:

<http://www.ibmc.up.pt/eursafe2016/>.

Venue and organization

EurSAFE 2016 will be held at the Faculty of Arts and Humanities at the University of Porto.

Universidade do Porto (University of Oporto) was founded in 1911, based on two higher education institutions created in the 19th century ("Escola Médico-Cirúrgica" and "Academia Politécnica"). At present, the university attracts a population of approximately 30.000 students, distributed among 15 schools endowed with considerable autonomy. The university confers approximately 60 different initial degrees, as well as more than 120 post-graduate programmes.

The Universidade do Porto carries out quality research in all fields of study, and it is home to three out of the nine most highly rated research units in Portugal, including Institute for Research and Innovation in Health Sciences (i3S) and Institute for Comparative Literature Margarida Losa (ILCML).

Founded in 2013, the Institute for Research and Innovation in Health Sciences (i3S) hosts researchers working in basic aspects of biology, studying disease and develop biomedical technologies with application in human health. At i3S, the development of science and technology is combined with clinical and diagnostic services and a well-defined responsible research and innovation agenda, which includes effective policies and programs in research ethics, interdisciplinary research, integrative initiatives with and for society, and advanced training for the scientific community. Ongoing research projects in ethics, science and society include [ANIMPACT](#) (animal research ethics and regulation) and [NERRI](#) (responsible research and innovation in neuroenhancement).

Over the past 15 years, the Faculty of Arts and Humanities has been strongly committed, through the Centre for English, Translation and Anglo-American Studies (CETAPS), as well as through the Institute for Comparative Literature Margarida Losa (ILCML), to the critical enquire about utopian holistic prospective futures. Its interest in food futures is evinced by its most recent project funded by the Portuguese Foundation for Science and Technology (“Utopia, Food and the Future: Utopian thinking and the construction of inclusive societies - a contribution from the Humanities”), as well as by its outreach project “PAN-Utopia 2100”.

Best regards

Anna Olsson, Fátima Vieira, Júlio Borlido Santos, Luísa Neto, Paulo Vaz-Pires, Pedro Graça,
Pedro Moureira, Rui Nunes, Sofia de Melo Araújo
The EurSAFE 2016 Organizing Committee, University of Porto

Conference secretariat: Event Management Office, Institute for Molecular and Cell Biology, E-mail rita.matos@ibmc.up.pt