

School/Department:	International Institute of Social Studies (ISS)
Project Title:	The Politics of Waste in China's Contemporary Food System
Abstract:	<p>Food production in China is increasingly industrialized, capitalized, and globalized. This has environmental implications including soil and water pollution; political economic implications including new trade regimes and disputes; and socio-cultural implications including transformations in the sites, forms, and meanings of food consumption. In these contexts, <i>waste</i> emerges as an important “byproduct” of food production and consumption, and a provocative lens through which to analyze food politics and foodways. From manure flowing out of industrial livestock operations, to food waste and food packaging flowing out of households and eateries, to circular economy initiatives aimed at waste reduction, waste is an integral component of agriculture and eating in China today.</p> <p>This PhD project investigates the politics of waste production, management, and contestation in China's food system. Working with Dr. Schneider, the candidate will select a food system sector (or sectors) to examine through the lens of waste. Local and global relations and materials may be considered.</p> <p>The main research questions are: How is the production and distribution of waste managed (and/or regulated), and by whom? What social institutions and conventions determine which wastes are considered valuable in China's food system? Who are the key actors and institutions involved in waste reduction and waste-to-value initiatives, and what are the leading discourses, strategies, and contestations for resisting waste at various stages of food production?</p>
Requirements of candidate:	<p>Background: sociology, critical human geography, anthropology, science and technology studies (STS), political ecology</p> <p>In addition to a background in social science (humanities is also possible), the candidate should have the ability to (or at minimum, the interest in learning how to) critically engage environmental issues as socially and historically situated, rather than as simply technical problems.</p>

	<p>Master's degree: Yes</p> <p>IELTS Grade: 7.0 (<i>minimal 6.0 per component</i>), or TOEFL: 100 (<i>minimal 20 per component</i>) (<i>or exemption if MA degree was in English</i>)</p>
<p>Supervisor information:</p>	<p>Dr. Mindi Schneider Email address: schneider@iss.nl Personal website: https://www.egsh.eur.nl/people/mindi-schneider/</p> <p>Prof. Murat Arsel Email address: arsel@iss.nl Personal website: https://www.eur.nl/people/murat-arsel</p> <p><u>Recent publication list</u></p> <p>Arsel, M., & Dasgupta, A. (2013). Structural change, land use and the state in China: making sense of three divergent processes. <i>The European Journal of Development Research</i>, 25(1), 92-111.</p> <p>Arsel, M., & Büscher, B. (2012). Nature™ Inc.: Changes and continuities in neoliberal conservation and market-based environmental policy. <i>Development and Change</i>, 43(1), 53-78.</p> <p>Mindi Schneider. 2019. Reforming the Humble Pig: Pigs, Pork, and Contemporary China. In <i>Animals Through Chinese History. Earliest Times to 1911</i>, ed. Roel Sterckx, Martina Siebert, and Dagmar Schäfer. Cambridge University Press (in press).</p> <p>Day, Alexander F. and Mindi Schneider. 2017. The End of Alternatives? Capitalist Transformation, Rural Activism, and the Politics of Possibility in Contemporary China. <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i>, doi.org/10.1080/03066150.2017.1386179.</p> <p>Schneider, Mindi. 2017. Wasting the Rural: Meat, Manure and the Politics of Agroindustrialization in Contemporary China. <i>Geoforum</i> 78(1): 89-97.</p> <p>Schneider, Mindi. 2017. Dragon Head Enterprises and the State of Agribusiness in China. <i>Journal of Agrarian Change</i> 17(1): 3-21.</p> <p>M. Jahi Chappell and Mindi Schneider. 2017. The New Three-Legged Stool: Agroecology, Food Sovereignty, and Food Justice. In <i>The Routledge Handbook of Food Ethics</i>, ed. Mary C. Rawlinson and Caleb Ward, 419-429. New York: Routledge.</p> <p>Oliveira, Gustavo de L.T. and Mindi Schneider. 2016. The Politics of Flexing Soybeans: China, Brazil, and Global Agroindustrial</p>



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CSC PhD 2019 Project Description

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	<p>Restructuring. <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> 43(1): 167-194.</p> <p>Schneider, Mindi. 2015. What, Then, is a Chinese Peasant? <i>Nongmin Discourse and Agroindustrialization in Contemporary China. Agriculture and Human Values</i> 32: 331-346.</p> <p>Schneider, Mindi. 2014. Developing the Meat Grab. <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> 41(4): 613-633.</p> <p>McMichael, Philip and Mindi Schneider. 2011. Food Security Politics and the Millennium Development Goals. <i>Third World Quarterly</i> 32(1): 119-139.</p> <p>Schneider, Mindi and Philip McMichael. 2010. Deepening, and Repairing, the Metabolic Rift. <i>Journal of Peasant Studies</i> 37 (3): 461-484.</p>
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