

Can food be cheap, healthy and sustainably produced? Why is there so much food waste? How do corporations shape the way we consume? Can individual consumption choices affect change? Is fair-trade the answer? Is organic the answer? Big farms or small farms? Why do we consume what we consume? Thinking and eating. How possible is it to feed Bristol from the Bristol City Region? What role do campaigning organisations play in creating local food cultures? Where are all the young farmers going to come from? How might we reconnect city and countryside? How important is the small to you? Can food be cheap, healthy and sustainably produced? Why is there so much food waste? How do corporations shape the way we consume? Can individual consumption affect change? Is fair-trade the answer? Is organic the answer? Big farms or small farms? Why do we consume what we consume? Thinking and eating. Can food be cheap, healthy and sustainably produced? Why is there so much food waste? How do corporations shape the way we consume? Can individual consumption choices affect change? Is fair-trade the answer? Is local always better? Why do we consume what we consume? Thinking and eating. Can food be cheap, healthy and sustainably produced?

## **An open dialogue on the politics and economics of food consumption and production**

**18:00-19:45, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January**

**Hamilton House (ground floor meeting room – next to reception)**

**International Initiative for Promoting  
Political Economy**



# WE ARE WHAT WE EAT; WE'RE ALL IN TROUBLE

This is the first of what we hope will become a series of events aimed at promoting constructive dialogue between the spheres of academia and activism across a range of issues and viewpoints.

All are welcome to participate.

For further information about iippe, visit [www.iippe.org](http://www.iippe.org)

For more information about this event or if you have suggestions of themes and topics for future events, please contact [susanamynewman@gmail.com](mailto:susanamynewman@gmail.com)

## Information about the panellists:

**Sally Brooks** is development social scientist with more than 20 years experience in international development as a researcher, lecturer and practitioner. Sally is interested in how decisions are made in international development efforts to improve food security, health and well-being in the Global South: and the extent to which these decisions respond to lived realities and local knowledge in diverse contexts. Her research has focused on: donor-funded programmes for the development of nutritionally enhanced rice (biofortification) in Southeast Asia; the politics and processes shaping responses to climate change in Kenya - from donor-funded biotechnology research programmes to farmers' innovations and adaptive strategies; politics and policy processes surrounding GM crop regulation in Kenya and the Philippines; and understandings and uses of the concept of 'choice' in food and health policy.

**Ben Fine's** study of consumption began in the late 1980s, examining the relationship between ownership of consumer durables and growing labour market participation in the UK. He then undertook a major study of food consumption as part of the ESRC's Nation's Diet research programme. In June, 2008, he was appointed to the newly-founded Social Science Research Committee of the UK's Food Standards Agency of which he continues to be a member and for which he chaired the Working Group on Reform of Meat Slaughtering. His relevant publications include *The World of Consumption*, with Ellen Leopold, London: Routledge, 1993, *Consumption in the Age of Affluence: The World of Food*, with M. Heasman and J. Wright, London: Routledge, 1996, *The Political Economy of Diet, Health and Food Policy*, London: Routledge, 1998, *The World of Consumption: The Material and Cultural Revisited*, London: Routledge, second edition (but essentially new book), 2002.

**Richard Spalding** is a Senior Lecturer in Human Geography in the Dept. of Geography and Environmental Management at UWE-Bristol. He has been working with (and helping to create) a number of local food campaigning organisations such as the Blue Finger Alliance and more recently Beacon Farms Ltd. Both organisations are seeking to secure the future of high quality agricultural land in the north Bristol fringe.

**Elisabeth Winkler** is a freelance journalist, communications consultant, food writer and campaigner. Magazine editor of the Soil Association for eight years, her award-winning food blog champions healthy and sustainable alternatives to intensive agriculture and supermarkets. A core member of the No Tesco in Stokes Croft campaign, she helped raise awareness about the importance to the local economy of supporting independent food shops.