



The American University of Rome

[Master in Food Studies](#) and [Center for Food Studies](#)

With the scientific patronage of the [European Society for Rural Development](#)

Conference

Rome, Friday, 11 October 2019

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Assorted beans and pulses. Credit: Bioversity International/C. Zanzanaini

There is now ample evidence that food provisioning is a major determinant of the unprecedented and possibly irreversible changes in ecosystems. With high-input, resource-intensive agriculture and overfishing, the planet is facing very serious challenges in terms of freshwater availability, soil degradation, continuing deforestation, loss of biodiversity and depleted marine life. Agriculture, and related land use change contributes around one fifth of total global GHG emissions, at the same time as farming is threatened by climate change. The dysfunction of the contemporary food system is also evinced by the co-existence of more than 800 million people in the world who are chronically undernourished and over 1.9 billion people who are overweight or obese.

With global population projected to reach 9.2 billion people by 2050 and with large parts of the world likely to experience higher household income, agricultural demand is expected to increase by 50% compared to 2013 (FAO, 2017) with an acceleration of the dietary transition amongst many low- and





Aims of the Conference

In the context of the environmental challenges raised above, the aim of the Conference is to invite contributions that are both theoretically and empirically informed that address:

efforts across different contexts to change food consumption practices in sustainable directions

policies, research and investments conducive to fostering the desirable transformations of the food system and dietary practices

critical assessments of the potential of social and technological innovations (e.g. novel foods) to shape production and consumption practices towards greater sustainability

Keynote speakers	Harriet Friedmann , Professor Emerita of Sociology, University of Toronto Tim Lang , Professor of Food Policy, City, University of London
Invited discussant	Colin Sage , Senior Lecturer in Food Geography, University College Cork

Organizing and Scientific Committee

Maria Grazia Quieti (Chair), Program Director, Master in Food Studies, The American University of Rome

Maria Fonte (Chair), Associate Professor, Economics, Management and Institutions Department of the University of Naples Federico II; Adjunct Faculty, Master in Food Studies, The American University of Rome

Harriet Friedmann, Professor Emerita of Sociology, University of Toronto

Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy, City, University of London

Colin Sage, Senior Lecturer in Food Geography, University College Cork

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Emily Pierini
Laura Prota
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Paola Termine

English will be the working language of the Conference.