

Seminar in political ecology

Political agronomy: Knowledge production and policy framing in the era of super and miracle food

5-6 June 2019

WEDNESDAY

Geopolis - 2227

- 9h00 -10h30 **Knowledge production and contestation in agronomy: situating political agronomy**
- 11h00-13h00 **A political economy of super and miracle food**
- 14h00-16h00 **Young scholars workshop**
- 16h00-18h00 **Plenary session**

THURSDAY

8h30-14h00 **Field visit: Uncontested quinoa production in Switzerland?**

15h00-17h00 **Roundtable**
Geopolis - 2227

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WEDNESDAY 5 JUNE

Geopolis - 2227

8h15-8h45
8h45-9h00

Registration

Welcome words

Christian Kull (University of Lausanne, Vice-dean in charge of Research, Faculty of Geosciences and the Environment), **Valérie Boisvert** (University of Lausanne, Institute of Geography and Sustainability),

9h00-10h30

Knowledge production and contestation in agronomy: Situating political agronomy

James Sumberg (University of Sussex, Institute of Development Studies, UK)
Why a political agronomy?

Elise Demeulenaere (CNRS, Paris, F)

A political ontology of seeds. Farmer's movements and epistemic communities for seed sovereignty and the reframing of plant breeding (case study in France)

Valérie Boisvert (University of Lausanne, Institute of Geography and Sustainability)

Political agronomy and political economy

10h30-11h00 *Coffee break*

11h00-13h00 A political agronomy of super and miracle food

Sheila Rao (University of Ottawa, School of International Development and Global Studies, Canada)

A feminist political ecology analysis of bio-fortified crop production: sweet potato promotion in Mwanza, Tanzania

Florence Bétrisey (University of Lausanne, Institute of Geography and Sustainability)

Framing the 'rediscovery' of Amaranth in Mexico and its promises

Emma McDonell (Indiana University, Department of Anthropology, USA)

'Under-utilized' for whom? Boundary objects and conjuring potentiality in visions of quinoa development

Didier Bazile (Cirad, Montpellier)

Beyond the new face of quinoa production: Gaps and needs for building on quinoa for marginal environments

13h00-14h00 *Lunch (Geopolis Cafeteria) not included*

14h00-16h00 **PhD / Young Scholar Workshop**
(Geopolis 3899 / 3799 / 4899 / 3611)

16h00-16h30 *Coffee break*

16h30-17h30 **Plenary session**

18h00- **Cocktail buffet, 'Da Nino' restaurant, Unithèque Building**



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THURSDAY 6 JUNE

8h30 *Departure by bus for the visit
(meeting point: East entrance of the Geopolis building)*

9h00-14h00 **Uncontested quinoa production in Switzerland?**

«Local quinoa» project team, Institute of Geography and Sustainability, University of Lausanne and FiBL

Quinoa is a pseudo-cereal, originating from Andean region of South America. It has been domesticated 7000 years ago and continuously selected thanks to the effort of generations of South American farmers.

Once a "neglected" "food of the poor" quinoa has seen its popularity and demand rapidly increase when labelled as a "superfood" thanks to its agronomic and nutritional properties.

In parallel with the increasing import of quinoa, several initiatives to breed quinoa varieties suitable for production outside the Andes have been launched. In 2015, quinoa varieties were cultivated or tested in 95 countries worldwide (Bazile et al., 2016).

In 2014, IP-Suisse, started testing and promoting the production of quinoa in Switzerland, with financial support of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. In 2017, 34 Swiss farmers (14 in French speaking Switzerland) affiliated to IP-Suisse were producing quinoa on a total of 42ha (IP-Suisse, 2017) and a new food chain had established. In the frame of our exploratory research project, we question the socio-political configuration that led to the promotion of quinoa production in Switzerland as well as the socio-political and agro-ecological effects of this new crop.

We will visit two farms that have been involved in quinoa cultivation projects.

Farm visits (picnic included)

- Elodie Freymond, Montricher, VD
- Christina de Raad Iseli and Christian Iseli, La Sarraz, VD

14h30-15h00 *Coffee break*

15h00-17h00 **Roundtable with academics and practitioners**

(Geopolis 2227)

Didier Bazile (Cirad, Montpellier)

Elise Demeulenaere (Centre Alexandre Koyré, CNRS, Paris)

Elodie Freymond (IP Suisse, VD)

Lilia Levy (Agroscope, Changins, VD)

Marina Wendling (FiBL, VD)

