

UK-China ECR Methodological Salons

As a part of the UK-China ECR Links project: **Systematic innovation for food security and rural sustainability in China** we are organising three methodological salons for early career researchers (ECRs) to:

- Address key methodological issues related to challenge-oriented, interdisciplinary and stakeholder engaged research design and project implementation.
- Share knowledge, experience and good practices from mentors and peer ECRs.
- Explore resources and pathways for ECRs from UK and China to develop research collaboration in common interested subjects.

The three salons are:

1. Challenge Oriented Research Design and Stakeholder Engaged Fieldwork
13:20 - 15:00 GMT (21:20 - 23:00 Beijing Time), Monday 15 November 2021
2. Citizen Science for Food System Transition: How can the community participate?
09:00 - 10:30 GMT (17:00 - 18:30 Beijing Time), Friday 19 November 2021
3. Planning high quality papers to address challenges in the Global South
14:00 - 15:30 GMT (22:00 - 23:30 Beijing Time), Friday 19 November 2021

The salons are designed for registered ECRs. We welcome other young researchers to observe if your interests are related to the theme of this project. If you are interested in attending, please click the link below to apply for a place:

<https://interface.cbri.co.uk/project/aric/ecr-salons/apply>

Dr Bin Wu, Senior Research Fellow of Nottingham University Business School and Principle Investigator of this project

1. Challenge oriented research design and stakeholder engaged fieldwork

It is never easy for researchers, including early career researchers (ECRs) to design and deliver a research project which could gain interest, participation and contribution from multiple stakeholders with the potential to address complicated issues in rural communities. As a part of the UK-China ECR Links project, this methodological salon attempts to tackle this dilemma by bringing a challenge-oriented approach for research designs and local solutions in the global south. Based upon the sharing of good case studies and personal experience, the meeting aims to address two questions:

- By what criteria and scientific procedure can good questions be identified for further research?
- How can the good question to be addressed via interdisciplinary and stakeholder engaged fieldwork?

The event will be chaired by Professor Gubo Qi, College of International Development and Global Agriculture (CIDGA), China Agricultural University.

Session 1: Challenge oriented research: Approach and Practice (13:20-14:00)

- Professor Songliang Wang (Fujian Agricultural & Forestry University): Global challenges and stakeholder engaged research design: A case study of the top 100 questions to address global agriculture in the future.
- D. Bin Wu (Nottingham University Business School): Global-local knowledge system building for local challenges: my personal experience in field research design and delivery.
- Q & A

Session 2: Share of ECR experience in research design and field practice (14:00-14:30)

- Dr. Zhenzhong Si (Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada): Adjustment of research focus to reflect to the dynamics of ecological agriculture development in China.
- Dr. Ying Zheng (Glasgow University): Understanding geographic complexities and science-policy-practice interfaces in rural China: My field research experience.
- Dr. Yan Jin (Yunnan Agricultural University): Rethinking and interpreting empirical data: What I have learnt from challenge-oriented research approach?
- Sharing of experiences by other ECRs.

Session 3: Discussion and further questions from ECRs (14:30-15:00)

- Why is challenge-oriented research important for rural studies in China and beyond?
- What factors may influence young researchers to design and conduct a challenge-oriented research?
- By what mechanisms can ECRs work together to develop challenge-oriented research?

References

- Pretty, J., et al., 2010. The top 100 questions of importance to the future of global agriculture, *International Journal of Agricultural Sustainability*, 8(4): 219-236, <https://doi.org/10.3763/ijas.2010.0534>
- Wu, B. 2014. Embedding research in local contexts: local knowledge, stakeholders' participation and fieldwork design, <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/fieldresearch/2014/10/30/embedding-research-in-local-context/>
- Wu, B. 2020. Exploration of challenge-oriented research and social impact in rural China: GCRF pilot project event report, <https://blogs.nottingham.ac.uk/ingenuitylab/2020/12/08/gcrf-pilot-project-dr-bin-wu/>
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2. Citizen science for food system transition: How can the community participate?

It has been widely recognised that the participation and contribution from both farmers and urban customer groups are important for sustainable agriculture and food system transition in the world. It calls for a methodological innovation, namely "citizen science" (or community science, referring to public participation in scientific research), to attract and bring front-line farmers and urban customers representatives into research design and project implementation. While citizen science methodologies have been increasingly popular and successfully applied into EU/UK food policy research, it is relatively new in the contexts of the global south. In connection with the first ECR methodological salon on challenge-oriented research and fieldwork (15/11/2021), this workshop focuses on the necessity and pathways of citizen science methodology for food system transition and community participation in China. By bringing together citizen science experts, Dr Christian Reynolds from City University of London, and Dr Yan Shi, pioneer/founder of China's community-supported agriculture (CSA) movement and network, the meeting aims to address the following questions:

- Why is citizen science important for food security and rural transition in China today?
- How can multi-disciplinary scholars work together to design and deliver research project via participation from and benefits to local communities?
- What are common interests and pathways between ECRs and CSA members in joint research, experiment & demonstration and social impact in the global south?

The objective of this workshop is to start the writing of a group document. This document will map out the food security and rural sustainability research projects that we could carry out in China using citizen science. We aim to submit this document to a journal as a joint peer-reviewed journal article to show funders our ideas for future research projects.

Please access this shared document before the workshop

https://cityuni-my.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/christian_reynolds_city_ac_uk/EZSziFBpqxAh74aZ72Hd_YBUt6FBgRpuArssg4p-GgQ3Q?e=MeMwM1

Session 1: Citizen science and community participation: principles and rationale UK (09:00-9:30)

- Background and introduction: Dr Bin Wu, PI of the UK-China ECR Links Project
- Citizen science for food policy research in the UK and implications in China: Dr Christian Reynolds, City University of London;
- CSA movement for organic food and rural transition in China and beyond: Dr. Yan Ship, Chair of China CAS Network and Co-President of International CAS Federation
- Questions and Answers

Session 2: Rationale and Reflections to Citizen Science in China from ECRs and CSA members (09:30-10:00)

Session 3: Pathways/Roadmaps for ECR and CSA Collaboration (10:00-10:30)

- What are needs, resources and opportunities available to develop research collaboration?
- By what mechanisms or formatting can the partnership be established and sustained?
- What are the short-term arrangements for joint action including the presentation at the Workshop in December?
- What are examples of research scholars could conduct on food security and rural sustainability in China using Citizen Science?

References

Citizen Science and Food: A Review:

https://food.gov.uk/sites/default/files/media/document/citizen-science-and-food_a-review_0.pdf

The Importance of Citizen Scientists in the Move Towards Sustainable Diets and a Sustainable Food System: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsufs.2021.596594>

China Community Supported Agriculture Network Annual Report

<https://mp.weixin.qq.com/s/KJYFLuYK2n3pW7T8ozSiHA>

3. Planning high quality papers to address challenges in the Global South

Global challenges in climate change, poverty alleviation and food security call for interdisciplinary research and creative thinking to reflect exploratory practices in the global south. This methodological salon aims to facilitate the preparation and development of academic papers for high rank international journals to address challenging issues and innovative practices along the line of sustainable agriculture and rural development. It offers opportunities for early career researchers (ECRs) to learn from opinions from journal editors, to share experience between ECRs and to explore pathways for joint publications.

Session 1: Editors' Perspectives (14:00-14:30)

- Professor Oliver Morrissey, University of Nottingham, Editor of the Journal of Development Studies
- Professor Yuheng Li, Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Associate editors of the Journal of Rural Studies

Session 2: ECRs' Experience (14:30-15:00)

- Dr. Shuru Zhong, Zhongshan University
- Dr. Punita Bhatt, Nottingham University Business School
- Dr Filimonau Viachaslau, Bournemouth University
- Sharing of experiences by other ECRs.

Session 3: Discussion—Pathways for high quality publications? (15:00-15:30)

- How to develop an idea with good questions to tackle global challenges.
- Can an interdisciplinary approach be helpful to develop a high paper?
- Do you have any ideas or suggestions for ECRs collaboration in publications?

Journal weblinks

Journal of Development Studies <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/fjds20/current>

Journal of Rural Studies, <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/journal-of-rural-studies>

Chairpersons and Speakers (Mentors)

Dr Gubo Qi

Professor of CIDGA of CAU with a range of research expertise and interests in farmer-centered innovation, community-based resource management, agricultural adaptation to climate change, and circular agriculture. Her empirical researches cover more than 20 provinces in China and more than 10 countries across Asia, Africa and Latin America. She has substantial experience in conducting international consultative or comparative projects including: agricultural cooperation, action research on Sino-Tanzania agricultural innovation cooperation, and international cooperation for poverty alleviation in BRI countries.



Dr. Songliang Wang

Professor at Fujian Agriculture and Forestry University (FAFU) and Director of the institute of higher education of FAFU. He started to teach Agroecology in 1991, and has co-taught agroecology with Canadian partners since 2004. He has co-authored three agro-ecology textbooks together with his Canadian colleagues, one published by the Springer (2020). He led the establishment of the first Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) model in 2009. Currently, he serves as practitioner of the paddy-based ecological agriculture model in rural Fujian and his personal plan of “grassroots professor”.



Dr Bin Wu

Senior Research Fellow of Haydn Green Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, University of Nottingham. He has substantial experience in designing and delivering international and interdisciplinary projects in international shipping, internal and international migration, rural innovation and sustainability. Recently, he completed a GCRF project focusing on cooperative ecosystem in rural China. He is a coordinator of a UoN-China programme in rural entrepreneurship and sustainability.



Dr Christian Reynolds

Dr Christian Reynolds is Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Food Policy, City University, London. Christian is recognised as a global expert on food loss and waste and sustainable diets. He has worked on these issues in Australia, New Zealand, Indonesia, the UK, US, and Europe. He is the lead editor of the Routledge Handbook of Food Waste (2019). Christian has given evidence to UK and NZ parliaments on FLW and contributed to the Food Loss and Waste Accounting and Reporting Standard. Christian also researches sustainable cookery, food history and the political power of food in international relations.



Dr Shi Yan

Dr Shi Yan is the founder and executive director of Shared Harvest (Beijing) Agriculture Development Ltd. She is a pioneer of China's community-supported agriculture (CSA) movement with the mission to promote sustainable production and distribution of organic food through the participation of urban consumers. Her work has resulted in an establishment and development of a CSA Association, currently with over 1,000 members across China. Dr Shi is Co-President of International CSA Network (URGENCEI) with an international reputation including one of Young Global Leaders by the World Economic Forum (2016)



Professor Oliver Morrissey

Professor Oliver Morrissey is Director of the Centre for Research on International Trade and Economic Development at the University of Nottingham and Managing Editor of the Journal of Development Studies since 2005. He has substantial research experience related to economic development policies in the developing world, especially Africa. Professor Morrissey maintains primary research interests in the economic analysis of aid, taxation and trade performance and policy, especially in Africa, and analysis of African household surveys



Professor Yuheng Li

Professor Yuheng Li is a rural geographer at the Institute of Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese Academy of Sciences. His primary research focuses on rural resilience and rural revitalisation, poverty reduction in both China and the Belt and Road region. He became the associate editor of Journal of Rural Studies in 2021 and is responsible for processing China-related papers.

