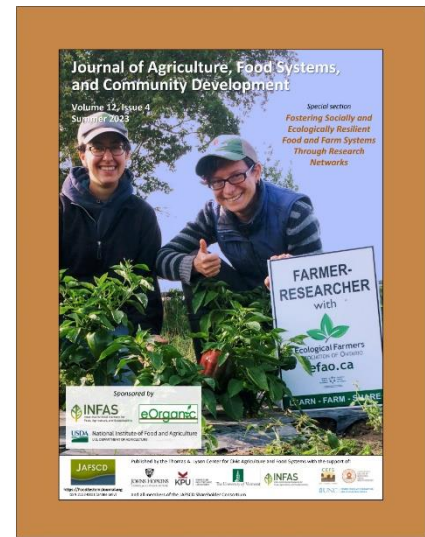


**IN THIS ISSUE**  
**DUNCAN HILCHEY**

**Fostering socially and ecologically resilient food and farm systems through research networks**



Published online September 17, 2023

Citation: Hilchey, D. (2023). In this issue: Fostering socially and ecologically resilient food and farm systems through research networks [Editorial]. *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development*, 12(4), 1–4. <https://doi.org/10.5304/jafscd.2023.124.017>

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**I**n this summer issue, we offer the first installment of a special set of papers in response to the call entitled **“Fostering Socially and Ecologically Resilient Food and Farm Systems Through Research Networks,”** sponsored by the tripartite partnership of the Inter-institutional Network for Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability (INFAS), eOrganic, and the USDA’s National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA). We appreciate their support for furthering the literature on this topic. Additional papers in response to the call will follow in the forthcoming fall issue.

On the cover of this issue, Rebecca Ivanoff (at left) and Nicola Inglefield (at right) kneel in a pepper patch that was part of Rebecca’s multifarm sweet pepper breeding project in cooperation with the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario’s (EFAO) Farmer-Led Research Program—note their farmer-researcher sign! Rebecca and Nicola also conducted a trial in cooperation with EFAO testing different methods for cabbage seed production. See more about this work in the article in this issue, *Farmer knowledge as formal knowledge: A case study of farmer-led research in Ontario, Canada*.

*On our cover:* Rebecca Ivanoff, left, and Nicola Inglefield, right, kneel with their farmer-researcher sign in a pepper patch that was part of Rebecca’s multifarm sweet pepper breeding project in cooperation with the Ecological Farmers Association of Ontario’s (EFAO) Farmer-Led Research Program. Rebecca and Nicola also conducted a trial in cooperation with EFAO testing different methods for cabbage seed production. See more in the article in this issue, *Farmer knowledge as formal knowledge: A case study of farmer-led research in Ontario, Canada*.

*Photo by Rebecca Ivanoff and used with permission.*

Network-building is a fundamental activity of food system–based community development, and the scholar and practitioner research amalgam has become the gold standard. The lead guest editors of this special section, **Michelle Wander** and **Jessica Guarino**, both of University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and assisted by **Julie Dawson** (University of Wisconsin–Madison), **Carmen Ugarte** (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), and **Alice Formiga** (Oregon State University), are curating a seminal collection of papers on the subject, providing a snapshot of state-of-the-art research on network-building and governance. You'll see their thematic editorial along with the second instalment of papers.

**John Ikerd** launches this issue with his “The Economic Pamphleteer” column, *Agri-food corporations are not real people; why does it matter?*, in which he argues that while real people suffer the social and ethical consequences of their irresponsible actions, corporations do not, and that the only power greater than corporate power is the political power of the people—working together.

Next, in their commentary *Treatment of racism and social injustice in addressing complex topics: What we learned*, **Kathryn Ruhf** and **Kate Clancy** share their experience in authoring a publication that, upon reflection, could have elevated the issue of racial justice.

Our first group of papers addressing the special topic on research networks explores the challenges and opportunities in farmer-researcher networks.

In *Farmer knowledge as formal knowledge: A case study of farmer-led research in Ontario, Canada*, **Erin Nelson**, **Sarah Hargreaves**, and **Dillon Muldoon** present a case study of a robust farmer-led research project that was successful in encouraging members to adopt and/or improve ecological practices on their farms.

Next, **Benjamin Schrager**, **Hiroki Ikeda**, and **Takahashi Yukitsugu** show how thoughtful program negotiations are required to address tensions when the goals of research institutions and stakeholders differ in *Successes and challenges of a university-based agroecological community garden and educational program in Japan*.

In the final special-topic paper in this issue, *Intellectual property exhaustion, breeder frustration, and hindered innovation: Reviewing U.S. organic corn seed development*, **A. Bryan Endres**, **Jessica Guarino**, and **Nabilah Nathani** provide an overview of the challenges in intellectual property rights surrounding seed innovation and sharing, especially regarding the closely guarded nature of private contracts that parties are reluctant to reveal.

As usual, our open call papers in this issue cover wide-ranging ground, from farmers and farmland to value-chain development to community food security.

In their paper *“We need a better system”: Maryland crop growers’ perspectives on reducing food loss through donation*, **Caitlin Ceryes**, **Kathryn Heley**, **Danielle Edwards**, **Chergai Gao-Rittenberg**, **Leah Seifu**, **Saifra Khan Sohail**, and **Roni Neff** assess the motivations, barriers, and facilitators for crop donation as a strategy for reducing food loss and waste.

**Jennifer Anne Gerhart** and **Philip Howard** then pair production cost estimates with buyer willingness-to-pay estimates to generate a more comprehensive assessment of profitability in a complex value chain in their paper, *Assessing the profitability of scaling up for retail access: Lessons from local salad mix in Southeast Michigan*.

Next, in *Raising awareness and advocating change: The work of Nova Scotia’s food security NGOs*, **Gregory Cameron**, **Julia Roach**, **Steven Dukeshire**, and **Delaney Keys** use the FAO’s four orientations of food security—food availability, food access, food utilization, and food stability—and discover that this mainstream framework may not fully capture the more complex and nuanced activities of smaller community-based nonprofits in some regions.

This is followed by two papers by Campbell et al., focused on institutional foodservice programming. In the first, *Values-based institutional food procurement programs: A narrative review*, **Catherine Campbell** puts a spot-

light on the tension between the limitations and strictures of mainstream foodservice procurement and critical social and environmental objectives of stakeholder groups in the value chain.

And in a companion paper, *Locally supported, values-based framework for a university foodservice program: Results of a Delphi study*, **Campbell**, along with **Cody Gusto** and **John Diaz** used expert and stakeholder input to generate eight core values and six categories of metrics that were supported by local and regional food systems stakeholders at the University of Florida and in the surrounding community.

This is followed by **Hannah Ramer** and **Kristen Nelson**, who argue that maximizing the level of civic participation increases the changes for racial equity in their paper *Digging in: Toward a more just urban garden land policy*.

Next, in *Engaging, empowering, and evaluating farm-to-school projects with photovoice*, **Shoshanah Inwood**, **Joy Rumble**, **Sara Meeks**, and **V. Ryan Haden** offer a reflective essay on their use of a visual narrative approach to study a F2S program in rural Ohio.

In *Reflection on the Groceries to Graduate scholarship program at Missouri Southern State University*, **Megan Bever**, **Amber Carr**, **Kamryn Colburn**, **Andrea Cullers**, and **J. P. Rutledge** present early results of a student food-security program that has promise but also shortcomings that need to be addressed.

**Natalie Call**, **Elizabeth Silber**, and **E. Binney Girdler** then conduct a GIS-based analysis to demonstrate how franchise convenience stores and dollar stores are filling gaps in the availability of food in lower income areas with no full-service grocery stores in *Food access in Kalamazoo, Michigan: A spatial analysis*.


We wrap up this issue with five book reviews. **Danielle Schmidt** reviews *The Sociology of Farming: Concepts and Methods*, by Jan Douwe van der Ploeg. **Xiaoya Yuan** reviews *Growing Gardens, Building Power: Food Justice and Urban Agriculture in Brooklyn*, by Justin Sean Myers. **Tristian Lee** reviewed *White Burgers, Black Cash: Fast Food from Black Exclusion to Exploitation* by Naa Oyo A. Kwate. **Mallory Cerkleski** reviews *Translating Food Sovereignty: Cultivating Justice in an Age of Transnational Governance*, by Matthew C. Canfield. And lastly, **Ryder Bell** reviews *Edible Economics: A Hungry Economist Explains the World*, by Ha-Joon Chang.

In wrapping up this editorial, I want to circle back to our special issue theme of networks. Despite much public investment, we have yet to fully grasp how the human brain stores and processes information. With a network of roughly 100 *billion* neurons and over 100 *trillion* synaptic connections, the average human brain is its own unfathomable universe. And much like the human brain, the food movement is a complex network of food and agricultural organizations around the Earth that is neither well understood nor fully applied. As we share a common fate in this “VUCA world”—one that is increasingly volatile, uncertain, complex, and ambiguous—we should be working harder to expand and connect our local, regional, national, and international networks. We can do that by utilizing organizational synapses (like JAFSCD and its sister program, the North American Food Systems Network<sup>1</sup>) to bridge geopolitical divides. There is simply too much at stake not to link up and work collaboratively as researchers and practitioners around the globe.

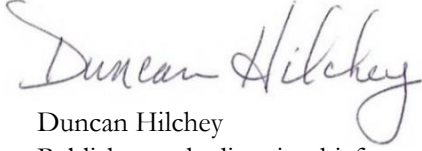
To that end, Managing Editor Amy Christian and I are traveling to Europe this fall to visit with colleagues and solicit input on a new call for papers on the subject of “community-based circular food systems.” Our objective on this trip is to help bridge what is, after all, just a large body of water that divides us. In so doing, we want to grow JAFSCD to be a truly international journal by showcasing our common challenges along with the shared opportunities and collective actions we can engage in to ensure planetary resilience.

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<sup>1</sup> See more about NAFSN at <https://foodsystemsnetwork.org>

Please contact me at [duncan@lysoncenter.org](mailto:duncan@lysoncenter.org) if you have specific ideas and recommendations on how JAFSCD can play a role in making this happen. 

Yours for a more networked world,



Duncan Hilchey  
Publisher and editor-in-chief