



Greetings from Cambridge!

As winter turns to spring (with alarming speed) we are looking forward to a busy month of March.

Along with Cambridge Zero we are organising the '**Sustainable and Healthy Food Production**' Symposium on the 21st March 2024 at the West Hub in Cambridge to highlight ground-breaking research within the food security sphere happening across the University of Cambridge.

Building on the outcomes of our symposium '**Towards a Better Food System: challenges and opportunities**' held in July 2023, our event in March will challenge and stimulate new ideas about growing, synthesising, and managing existing and alternative food and protein sources; integrating biodiverse and sustainable cropping systems and increasing the sustainability and resilience of diverse small and large food production systems through economics, policy, and outreach as well as healthy food consumption.

The whole-day event will include presentations in the morning and targeted workshops in the afternoon aimed at defining the future at Cambridge, with participants from Cambridge and national and local institutions and associations. The goal of the symposium is to provide the foundation for a white paper on how the University of Cambridge through GFS and CZ will develop its research on food security and connections to industry and producers nationally and globally.

The symposium will feature a number of keynote presentations from senior Cambridge academics and external speakers. Early Career Researchers (Cambridge Postdocs and PhD students) are invited to present their research and can [submit their abstracts here](#). To register for the event, please click [here](#).

Details of other GFS events in the next few weeks can be found below in the 'Save the Date' section.

We look forward to seeing you soon!



## Steering Committee and Member News

We interviewed GFS Steering Committee member, [Dr Rachael Garrett](#), for our website's 'meet the researcher' interview series. Dr Garrett is Moran Professor of Conservation and Development in the Department of Geography at the University of Cambridge.

She told us about her work, her favourite research tools and how she would like to be remembered. [Read the interview here.](#)

## ECR Event News

### LAUNCH EVENT: ARTS HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES (AHSS) EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ERC) ASSEMBLY

- Friday 1st March
- 16:00 - 18:00
- Room SG1, [Alison Richard Building](#) 7 West Road, CB3 9DP

The Assembly provides Early Career Researchers (ECR) with a platform from which to advocate for improved research culture, professional opportunities, and working conditions, as well as an academic and social network across which to share experiences and ideas. It is particularly focused on supporting ECR across the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (AHSS), and in making legible the

crunch points and highlights of the hugely varied career paths to help change them for the better.

The panel for this event includes: Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Research and International Partnerships Prof Anne Ferguson-Smith; the Head of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Prof Tim Harper; Deputy Head of the School of Arts and Humanities, Emily So; Steve Joy, Head of Postdoc Academy; Liz Simmonds, Head of Action Research on Research Culture; Joanna Page, Director of CRASSH, and Nino Läubli the President of the Postdocs Of Cambridge Society.

Please [register for the meeting](#) and attend!

## Save the dates!

### Upcoming GFS Events

#### **Going hungry in the UK: our 'food desert' problem**

Our next Food for Thought webinar will take place on Wednesday, 6 March at 5.30pm. Chaired by Dr Jag Srai, our expert panel will discuss why it's so hard to find affordable, healthy food in some areas of the UK, and what can be done about it, particularly in relation to UK food supply chains.

[Find out more and register here.](#)

#### **Lent Term Coffee Break Seminars**

Our weekly on-line coffee break seminars continue on Fridays at 2pm this Friday 1st March, when **Elisapeththu Hoole** (PhD Candidate, Department of Land Economy, University of Cambridge) will be talking about *Supporting women farmers: optimizing climate-adaptive organic agriculture policies in Sri Lanka's Dry-Zone*. You can find the full programme [here](#).

The seminars are a relaxed online learning, networking, and discussion platform for our food security community. [To sign up to receive reminder e-mails with the link and our newsletter, please e-mail us.](#)

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## Our GFS Network

We're always keen to grow connections amongst our global food security community, to promote your work and encourage research collaborations. Please mail us at [coordinator@globalfood.cam.ac.uk](mailto:coordinator@globalfood.cam.ac.uk):

- with your news, publications and research outcomes so we can publicise and share them amongst our members,
- ideas for activities or events that would benefit from GFS involvement,
- to join the mailing list and send us your profile for inclusion on our website!

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## LISTINGS

### UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE EVENTS

The **Cambridge Festival** runs from Wednesday 13th to 28 March 2024 and includes free talks, films, exhibitions, walks and family events. Food-security related highlights include:

Sunday 24 March 14:00 – 16:00

#### **Climate Café with Abbey People | Cambridge Festival**

East Barnwell Community Centre, Newmarket Road, CB5 8RS

A Climate Café is a welcoming space to join the conversation about climate change and your local environment.

Saturday 16 March 11:00 - 12:00

#### **Longevity and nutrition: can we all really live to 100 and beyond?**

Online.

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Following on from his Netflix series, Professor Justin Roberts and Dr Mark Cortnage delves deeper into whether simple nutrition and lifestyle changes can really increase our life expectancy. This event includes opportunities for the audience to participate in polls and quizzes.

Wednesday 20 March 20:00 – 21:00

### **Cambridge Conversations: What climate change can do for you**

Cambridge Union Society, 9A Bridge Street, CB2 1UB

Much public talk about climate change is framed around an ever-diminishing time window within which climate change must be stopped. In this conversation, PhD supervisor Professor Mike Hulme and supervisee Madeleine Ary Hahne explore other ways of framing the challenges and opportunities of climate change.

Thursday 21 March 18:00 – 19:30

### **How can we prepare students for a different future? Getting climate and sustainability education into the classroom**

Museum of Zoology, Downing Street, CB2 3EJ

This hybrid panel session, led by Cambridge University Press & Assessment's Global Director for Climate Education, Christine Özden, will discuss ideas and opportunities from the different perspectives of educators, researchers and students. Christine will share insights on the latest thinking on education reform to tackle these global issues, derived from her contribution to the debate at Climate Change COP28.

Monday 25 March 18:00 – 19:00

### **Ultra-processed foods: What do we really know?**

St John's College Old Divinity School, All Saints Passage, CB2 1TP

Ultra-processed foods (UPF) are a hot topic, with growing calls for tighter regulation. But what do we really know about them? Are they all bad for us, and if so what can we do about it?

Join Professor Jean Adams from the MRC Epidemiology Unit, and a panel of experts, as they examine what UPF are and their potential health implications.

Thursday 28 March 18:00 – 19:00

### **Hunger: how what we eat - or can't eat - affects our mental and physical health**

Cambridge Union Society 9A Bridge Street, CB2 1UB

Nazia Mintz Habib, Founder of the Centre for Resilience and Sustainable Development at the University of Cambridge, and biologist Professor Giles Yeo, author of books including Why Calories Don't Count, are in conversation about the long-term impact of diet and hunger on our physical and mental development.



Friday 22 March 2024 09:30 - 18:30

## **Bennett Institute for Public Policy Annual Conference: Disruption | Infrastructure | Resilience | Governance**

Churchill College, Cambridge / Online

This hybrid event will bring together delegates from the worlds of government, business, civil society and academia to discuss some of the most pressing challenges facing governments around the world. Henry Dimpleby MBE, co-founder of Leon, food campaigner, speaker and non-executive director, will deliver the keynote lecture and discuss the impact of food systems on society in conversation with Deborah Prentice, Vice-Chancellor, University of Cambridge.

## **The Cambridge Centre for Environment, Energy and Natural Resource Governance**

CEENRG runs weekly seminars on Thursdays.

Find out more here: [CEENRG Seminar Series](#)

## **EXTERNAL EVENTS**

Wednesday 13 and Thursday 14 March

## **Transforming the agri-food system for a net zero future: FN Network+**

Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Sheffield, Victoria Station Road Sheffield S4 7YE

Transforming the agri-food system for a net zero future: AFN Network+ The AFN Network+'s Second 'Big Tent' Event the annual meeting of the Network and an opportunity for participants to hear from, and engage with, researchers, business leaders, policymakers and voluntary organisations working for change in the agri-food system to meet the UK's net zero 2050 goal.

Friday 15 March 2024

## **Global Academy of Agriculture and Food Systems First Annual Symposium**

Roslin Institute, University of Edinburgh

The theme for this inaugural event is 'Supporting Food Systems Transformation with Data'. The symposium will highlight some of the work by researchers and their global collaborators, to support our vision of healthy people and a healthy planet, through regenerative and ethical food and land use systems.

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Saturday 16 March 12:00

## **Stuffed: A History of Good Food and Hard Times in Britain**

Food writer Pen Vogler tells the story of the food and drink at the heart of social upheaval in Britain and how they have led to today's extremes of plenty and want, of roast beef and food banks, of allotment-fresh vegetables and ultra-processed food.

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## PUBLICATIONS

### Publications by GFS members:

da Cruz GL, da Costa Louzada ML, Silva JT da, et al. [The environmental impact of beef and ultra-processed food consumption in Brazil](#). *Public Health Nutrition*. 2024;27(1):e34. doi:10.1017/S1368980023002975

Avoiding conflicts of interest and reputational risks associated with population research on food and nutrition: the Food Research risk (FoRK) guidance and toolkit for researchers. Cullerton K, Adams J, Forouhi N, Francis O, White M. *BMJ* 2024. <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2023-077908> (See also: [Food Research risk \(FoRK\) Toolkit launched to help researchers navigate industry interactions - MRC Epidemiology Unit](#))

### Other notable recent publications and media:

[Government underlines commitment to British farmers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[I have your back, Rishi Sunak tells farmers at NFU conference | Farming | The Guardian](#)

[Food Security | Rising Food Insecurity \(worldbank.org\)](#)

[Meat and dairy industry giants hold the plant power behind many vegan brands \(theconversation.com\)](#)

[ORFC 2024: Highlights from this year's conference - Sustainable Food Trust](#)

[Regenerative agriculture sparks venture capital interest \(ft.com\)](#)

[Denmark leads the way in incentivising low-meat diets \(ft.com\)](#)

[Agri-climate report 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

[Health of England's children at risk from policy inaction on obesity, report finds | Children's health | The Guardian](#)

[Parliamentary reaction to the announcement and implementation of the UK Soft Drinks Industry Levy: applied thematic analysis of 2016-2020 parliamentary debates | Public Health Nutrition | Cambridge Core](#)

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# OPPORTUNITIES

If you are a University of Cambridge researcher interested in putting together an interdisciplinary application and would like assistance in finding suitable collaborators/coordinating a group meeting, please [contact us](#).

Useful information for ECRs: [Fellowships for Early Career Researchers](#)

Please [click here](#) to see Table's listings for food-security related job vacancies.

## Useful links:

[Internal funding opportunities | Research Strategy Office \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

[Research Operations Office | \(cam.ac.uk\)](#)

[Opportunities – UKRI](#)

[Funding Latest - Agri-TechE \(agri-tech-e.co.uk\)](#)

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[Join our mailing list!](#)

