

Cambridge Global Food Security Symposium Thursday 6th July 2023

Towards a Better Food System: challenges and opportunities

**Post-agrarian pathways in the Anthropocene:
Anticipating new structures of global inequality**

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Post-agrarian Pathways in the Anthropocene:
Anticipating New Structures of Global Inequality

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Food-Systems Pathways in the Anthropocene

- ‘Fourth Agriculture Revolution’:

Technological adaptation of land-based food-production toward ‘sustainable agriculture’ (from industrial to smart farming)

- ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution’:

Technological ‘hacking’ toward decoupling of food-production from land/ecology (from industrial to synthetic ‘farming’)

The 'Hacking' Pathway

- **Alternative Proteins**

Plant-based natural proteins

Engineered: biomass/precision fermentation

Engineered: cellular agriculture

- **Vertical Farming**

Problematic Characteristics

- **‘Farms’ without either ‘farming’ or ‘farmers’**
Fate of labour force in countries with various production profiles?
- **Skewed structure of production:**
Decentering of farming and higher-ed communities
→ biotech sector and food-industry R&D

Concentration in countries with specific socio-economic/political profiles
→ geopolitics of knowledge
- **Skewed culture of ‘expertise’:**
‘Futurist imaginaries’ of philanthropists, technologists, etc.
Epistemic injustice
→ Problem of public governance of knowledge?

Thank you.