



UiO : **Centre for Development and the Environment**
University of Oslo

Global food governance: The influence of non-state actors



Ph.D. course organised by

Oslo Academy of Global Governance at the Centre for Development
and the Environment (SUM) and SUM Research School,
University of Oslo, Norway

15 – 17 August, 2016

Application deadline: 15 April, 2016

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Course description

The objective of this interdisciplinary course is to critically analyse the changing nature of global food governance: the norms, rules and institutions that govern international political and economic interactions in our globalised food system.

In recent decades, Transnational Corporations (TNCs) have played an increasingly dominant role, largely at the expense of national governments and international agencies such as the Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). At the same time, other non-state actors such as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and philanthropic foundations have become increasingly significant.

Against this background, the course will address questions such as:

- What role do non-state actors play in the governance of the global food system?
- What is the source of their power, and how is this exercised?
- What are the wider implications of private power in global food governance for the legitimacy and sustainability of the global food system?

The ambition of the course is to assist students to locate their own research within a wide perspective: viewing the food system 'from farm to fork' encourages a comprehensive picture that includes issues of both food security and food safety, agriculture and nutrition.

Learning outcomes

Students will:

- Obtain a nuanced understanding of global food governance in theory and in practice.
- Be well acquainted with the major theoretical and empirical approaches to studying food governance at national and global levels.
- Gain a good understanding of the role and power of transnational corporations, and other non-state actors such as private foundations and non-governmental organisations.

Lecturers

- [Jennifer Clapp](#), Canada Research Chair in Global Food Security and Sustainability and Professor, School of Environment, Resources and Sustainability, University of Waterloo, Canada
- [Nora McKeon](#), Adviser, Terra Nuova; former civil society director, U.N. Food & Agriculture Organization; and Lecturer, Rome 3 University
- [Jan Aart Scholte](#), Professor, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- [Desmond McNeill](#), Research Director, Centre for Development and the Environment, University of Oslo, Norway and member of The International Panel of Experts on Sustainable Food Systems (IPES-Food)

Objectives and Focus

The course will enable doctoral students to better understand key concepts, debates and perspectives on global food governance, based on up-to-date literature – and on recent developments ‘on the ground’.

In addition to lectures, the course will allow those conducting Ph.D. research to present their own work and comment on that of others, guided by senior experienced academics who are themselves working in this field.

Course capacity: 18 students

Language of instruction: English

Syllabus: Approx. 1000 pages of compulsory readings.

Application

Who may apply?

The interdisciplinary nature of the course will appeal to doctoral students from several different disciplines within the social sciences – political science, international relations, geography, political ecology, sociology, law, development studies and anthropology – as well as those studying nutrition and health policy.

Doctoral students will be prioritised, although other applicants may be considered *only if space permits*.

Funding

The course is free.

Lunch will be provided.

The organisers have some funds available to cover the cost of accommodation (meals not included) for selected students from outside Norway; if you are in need of such support please state this in your application.

Similarly, there is funding available for a limited number of travel scholarships for selected students (please consult point 3 under 'Application procedures').

Application procedures

Interested students should state their motivation and upload the following via the [Application Form](#):

1. **A cover letter** signed by your Ph.D. supervisor or another person at your institution/workplace, stating your academic background and academic degree(s) held, your research interests and current research projects (if any), including estimated date of submission of doctoral thesis.
2. **CV**
3. Students from outside Norway may apply for a modest travel scholarship and/or accommodation support, **in a separate document** along with their course application. If you wish to apply for a travel scholarship, please also attach a **budget** based on minimum cost travel.

Applications are invited from **February, 2016**.

The application deadline is **15 April, 2016**.

An early application is highly recommended due to space constraints.

Successful applicants will be contacted by **30 April, 2016**.

Preparations

A major purpose of the course is to provide participants with comments on their on-going work. It is therefore obligatory for all participants to submit a draft paper which will be discussed during the course. The paper should be approximately 10 pages long (4000 – 5000 words, excluding the bibliography).

Students who are admitted to the course should submit their draft paper electronically to the course secretariat by **20 June, 2016**.

This paper may be revised and resubmitted for evaluation and approval after the course (please consult the section on 'Credits' below).

All draft paper submissions will be posted on the course's password protected intranet site. All participants are expected to read all draft papers in advance and provide feedback during the course.

Syllabus and programme

A complete reading list (with links to online publications, when possible) of approximately 1000 pages will be available on the course's intranet site by **30 April, 2016**.

Participants are expected to read the syllabus in advance of the course.

Participants are expected to attend morning and afternoon sessions, and evening sessions when relevant, on all three days.

Credits

Course participants will receive a Course Certificate, **recommending** either 10 or 3 ECTS credits, but your own institution must approve credits for the course. We therefore recommend that you contact your Ph.D. coordinator about the issue of credits prior to your participation.

For a Certificate recommending 10 credits, a revised paper of 15 – 20 pages (6000 - 8000 words) must be submitted to the course organisers no later than 8 weeks after completion of the course, and the paper must be graded with 'pass'. (The paper will be evaluated by a course lecturer and assessed within eight weeks after submission).

3 ECTS credits will be recommended for those who participate in full but choose not to submit a revised paper for evaluation (or for those whose revised paper does not pass).

Contact information

Should you have any practical enquiries, please do not hesitate to email the course secretariat at foodgov2016@sum.uio.no.

Check for updates

Please check for updated information at the [Ph.D. course's web pages](#) at the Centre for Development and the Environment (SUM).

