

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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Ostrom Workshop Visiting Scholar*

“New Governance in Food systems? Alternative Food Networks in Poland”



Wednesday, February 12, 2020

12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park

Contestation of the existing food system and the need to establish some alternative solutions have been key drivers for the creation of various forms of Alternative Food Networks (AFNs). This term covers different types of formal and informal institutions, which aim to propose changes to the system of food provision. One way to achieve change is through a new model of governance explored by the polycentric systems of AFNs. Shift in governance is aided by the reciprocal process of building agency in actors involved in the food networks. Individual and collective agency is, in turn, linked to the concept of food citizenship.

Based on extensive qualitative research done in 2019, I attempt to assess whether AFN's – operating in the specific conditions of Central and Eastern Europe Countries (CEE) – aim for essential change in the food system through change of governance model, or they rather respond to individual needs that corporate-based food markets fail to satisfy.

~ TM

[Ruta Spiewak](#) is an assistant professor in the Polish Academy of Sciences, Institute of Rural and Agricultural Development, Warsaw. She is a sociologist and a scholar-practitioner engaged in different projects concerning development of sustainable food systems in Poland. Ruta has done numerous research projects on development of Polish rural areas after the country's accession to the EU. Her recent research explores the sustainability of the food systems in Central and Eastern Europe. In the academic year 2019/2020, Ruta is a visiting scholar at IU's Ostrom Workshop.

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).