



Project Information Sheet

Project Title

"Making provisions: anticipating food emergencies and assembling the food system"

Project Details

We are researching how public, private and third sector organisations within the food system anticipate and plan for possible problems. We are interested in:

- tools, techniques and forms of anticipation;
- the collection of information around foodstuffs and how this is managed and used (e.g. traceability);
- how those involved in all aspects of food production, distribution, retail and regulation form communities and networks to identify, assess and plan for potential risks and emergencies.

The project is funded by the Economic & Social Research Council (ESRC) as part of a joint programme with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and we aim to identify steps towards building a more resilient food system which can be fed back to policy-makers. We will provide information on our findings via a project website and we will hold a feedback event in London for industry representatives and policy makers at the end of the project.

We are gathering data mainly through face-to-face interviews (using digital audio recordings) and direct observations carried out in all parts of the UK food system. This means that we may ask some of the people we interview for permission to visit operational areas of their organisations and/or shadow key personnel for short periods of time and/or conduct multiple interviews with different people from within the same organisation. Interviewees will also be invited to carry out an online statement sorting exercise later in the project.

The data collected by the project team will be used in the production of research reports, conference presentations and academic publications such as journal articles and book chapters. However, the anonymity of all project participants will be maintained within these outputs. During the life of the project all data will be stored securely on Newcastle University's servers, and accessed only by the project team. After the project we may be required as recipients of public funding to deposit some data in a secure data archive for potential use by other researchers. Any such data will be anonymous and have all personal identifiers removed.

Project Team

If you have any further questions please contact one the project team.

The project is based in the Global Urban Research Unit in Newcastle University's School of Architecture, Planning and Landscape. The research is led by Dr Andrew Donaldson (Principal Investigator) and involves Dr Jane Midgley (Co-Investigator) and Dr Jeremy Brice (Research Associate).

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