

Book Talk: “Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social and Organisational Challenges”

About the Guest Speakers and Moderator

Guest Speakers



Mark Stein worked for many years in municipal economic development at Tameside Council in Greater Manchester, trying to develop new economic activity amid the decline of

long-established manufacturing industries. Mark’s work included supporting larger employers, securing finance for small business development, promoting e-commerce, and developing sustainable procurement policies. On retiring from local government, he carried out a survey of sustainable food procurement policies for school kitchens in the north of England which was written up in an M Phil thesis. He then went on to complete his PhD comparing sustainable food procurement for public kitchens in the UK with Denmark and Sweden. He is now a research associate at the University of Salford, Manchester, UK, writing up his research for publication. He co-edited a recent book with Maurizio Mariani, Roberto Caranta, and Yiannis Polychronakis: Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social and Organisational Challenges.



Maurizio Mariani is an Italian professional with over 30 years of experience in finance and marketing within the hospitality and food sectors has developed a profound expertise in research and writing related

to sustainable food systems. Currently residing in France, he directs Risteco, an NGO managing the Eating City Platform, where he oversees various European Commission-funded projects like FOOD WAVE, SAPIENS, SCHOOL FOOD 4 CHANGE, and GREENPATHS. These projects focus on climate change, sustainable procurement, and food system transformation.

Maurizio is a skilled researcher and project manager, coordinating initiatives that emphasize public food services, social dialogue, and human rights within the catering sector. His publications include co-authoring "La Ville Qui Mange" (2013), "City Food Policies, securing our daily bread" (2015), and "Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social, and Organisational Challenges" (2024), showcasing his deep involvement in bridging academia, research, and practical solutions for food sustainability.

Additionally, he curates the book series "Affrontare insieme le sfide del pianeta" in Italy. Through Risteco, he connects various global stakeholders to promote innovative food governance, striving for healthier, more sustainable food systems, while participating as a speaker in numerous international conferences and fostering youth leadership through initiatives like the Eating City Summer Campus.



Urszula Ala-Karvia is a Doctoral Researcher who, next to the scientific work, enjoys strongly cross-border networking and international project planning. Her current scientific interests start with

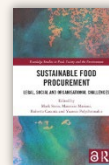
demographic changes, especially in rural Finland, via the provision of public meals, up till sustainable food chains as a whole. I’ve co-created the Sustainable Public Meal Toolkit funded by Interreg BSR projects StratKIT and StratKIT+. I’m the main author of scientific publication “COVID-19 driven adaptations in the provision of school meals in the Baltic Sea Region” and co-author of Chapter 4 in the Sustainable Food Procurement book. Coming from Poland and living in Finland, for over a decade, adds to the comparative perspective of her research interests. She’s a voluntary administrator of a local social-media-based farmers’ market belonging to Finnish innovative REKO rings (Rejäl konsumtion/Fair Consumption).



Minna Mikkola developed her interest in food sustainability while teaching food hygiene and environmental protection to trainee chefs. Her PhD thesis in 2011 examined social dynamics for sustainable

food systems. She has since worked in several Finnish and European research projects, at Helsinki University’s Ruralia Institute – examining food and sustainability in public kitchens, farming, food processing, supermarkets and independent retail.

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Moderator



Craig Willingham is the Managing Director of CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute where he oversees a diverse portfolio of food policy-related research. Previously he worked for the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene’s Center for Health Equity where he developed and implemented strategies to make it easier for consumers to buy healthier products in food retail venues throughout the City. He has a diverse professional background that includes business management, secondary school education, regional agriculture, and technical training.

About the forum: *Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social and Organisational Challenges* (Routledge, 2024) taps into the global discussion on public food procurement as a means to achieve multiple social and environmental goals and examined new and creative ways to create value through public food purchasing. While there is a growing recognition that public authorities can use public procurement as a policy tool to pursue multiple environmental, health, and socio-economic objectives, contracting authorities still face many challenges. The book explores international cases of sustainable food procurement policies and practices and the extent to which sustainability and other values-based standards have been achieved and evaluates the new developments taking place at the EU and national levels. Guest speakers will discuss the lessons they learned about food procurement in writing the book and that could inform city, state, or national-level policy in the coming years and reflect on key ideas for researchers, advocates, and policymakers, to focus on in the next few years.

From the publisher: Use discount code **AFLY03** for 20% off [Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social and Organisational Challenges](#)

Additional Resources:

- **Stein, M., Mariani, M., Caranta, R., & Polychronakis, Y. (Eds.) (2024).** “Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social and Organisational Challenges.” Taylor & Francis <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003393023>
- **Stein, M & Polychronakis (2023)** Food waste issues of universal infant free school meals in south-east England schools: A cautionary tale in GS Lalli, A Turner & M Rutland “Food Futures in Education and Society,” Taylor & Francis <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003294962>
- **Stein, M & Polychronakis, Y (2021),** Sustainable food procurement in British school catering. In L. Swensson, D. Hunter, S. Schneider & F. Tartanac (Eds). Public food procurement for sustainable food systems and healthy diets- Volume 2, pp. 227-246. <https://www.fao.org/publications/card/en/c/CB7960EN>
- Krausz, N, Lacourt, I., **Mariani, M. (2013)** “La Ville qui Mange Pour une gouvernance urbaine de notre alimentation”. Published by ECLM: Paris – France <https://www.eclm.fr/livre/la-ville-qui-mange/>
- Lacourt, I., **Mariani, M. (2015)** “City Food Policies – Securing our daily bread in an urbanizing world”. Published by Lechateau,- 2015 - Aosta (Italy) <https://www.libreriauniversitaria.it/city-food-policies-securing-our/libro/9788876371868>
- **The Sustainable Public Meal Toolkit,** <https://www.sustainable-public-meal.eu/en/>
- **Mikkola, M. (2009).** [Shaping professional identity for sustainability. Evidence in Finnish public catering.](#) *Appetite*, 53(1), 56-65.
- **Mikkola, M. (2008)** [Organic and conventional public food procurement for youth in Finland,](#) Bioforsk Report
- **Mikkola, M. (2011)** [Social Dynamics for Sustainable Food Systems: Actors’ Orientations Towards Sustainability In](#)
- [Primary Production and Public Consumption](#), Doctoral Dissertation, Ruralia Institute, University of Helsinki, Finland
- **Mikkola, M., Ala-Karvia, U., Stein, M., (2024)** Public meal provision in the Baltic Sea Region: Analysis of issues and challenges towards sustainable public food systems, in Stein, M. et al. (Eds.). “Sustainable Food Procurement: Legal, Social and Organisational Challenges.” Taylor & Francis <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003393023>
- **Public Plate Report Working Group.** [The Public Plate in New York City: A Guide to Institutional Meals.](#) New York City Food Policy Center at Hunter College, 2014.
- **Willingham, C., Flechsig C, Freudenberg N.** [A Guide to Growing Good Food Jobs in New York City.](#) CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute, 2018.
- Ames M, Ilieva RT, Rauh L, Shapiro S, Wolf S, **Willingham C,** Capers T, Freudenberg N. [Barriers and Facilitators to Local Food Procurement at Institutions Serving Children, Seniors, and Food Insecure Adults in Central Brooklyn.](#) CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute and Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, 2019.
- Repasy K, Ilieva RT, **Willingham C,** [Bringing the Good Food Purchasing Program to New York City: Barriers and Facilitators for Select Institutions.](#) CUNY Urban Food Policy Institute, New York, 2019.
- **NYC and NYS Good Food Purchasing Program Campaigns,** <https://www.foodadvocates.org/good-food-purchasing-program>
- **NYC Food Policy,** Food Purchasing Data and Dashboard, <https://www.nyc.gov/site/foodpolicy/good-food-purchasing/citywidedata.page>
- **The City Food Policy Project,** <https://www.nyc.gov/site/foodpolicy/good-food-purchasing/city-food-policy-project.page>