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The future of sustainable food in Kirklees: the development of a strong and sustainable food economy

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University of Huddersfield Business School

The future of sustainable food in Kirklees:
the development of a strong and sustainable
food economy



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Research
Project

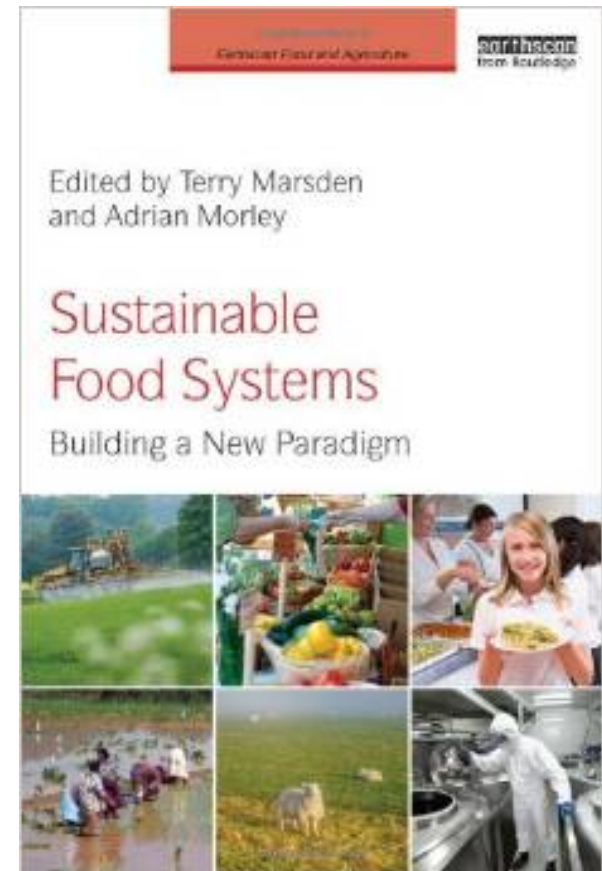
About me...

Lecturer in sustainability – I teach on UG & PG modules focused largely on the food industry

Worked for Oxfam in fair trade food for 5 years

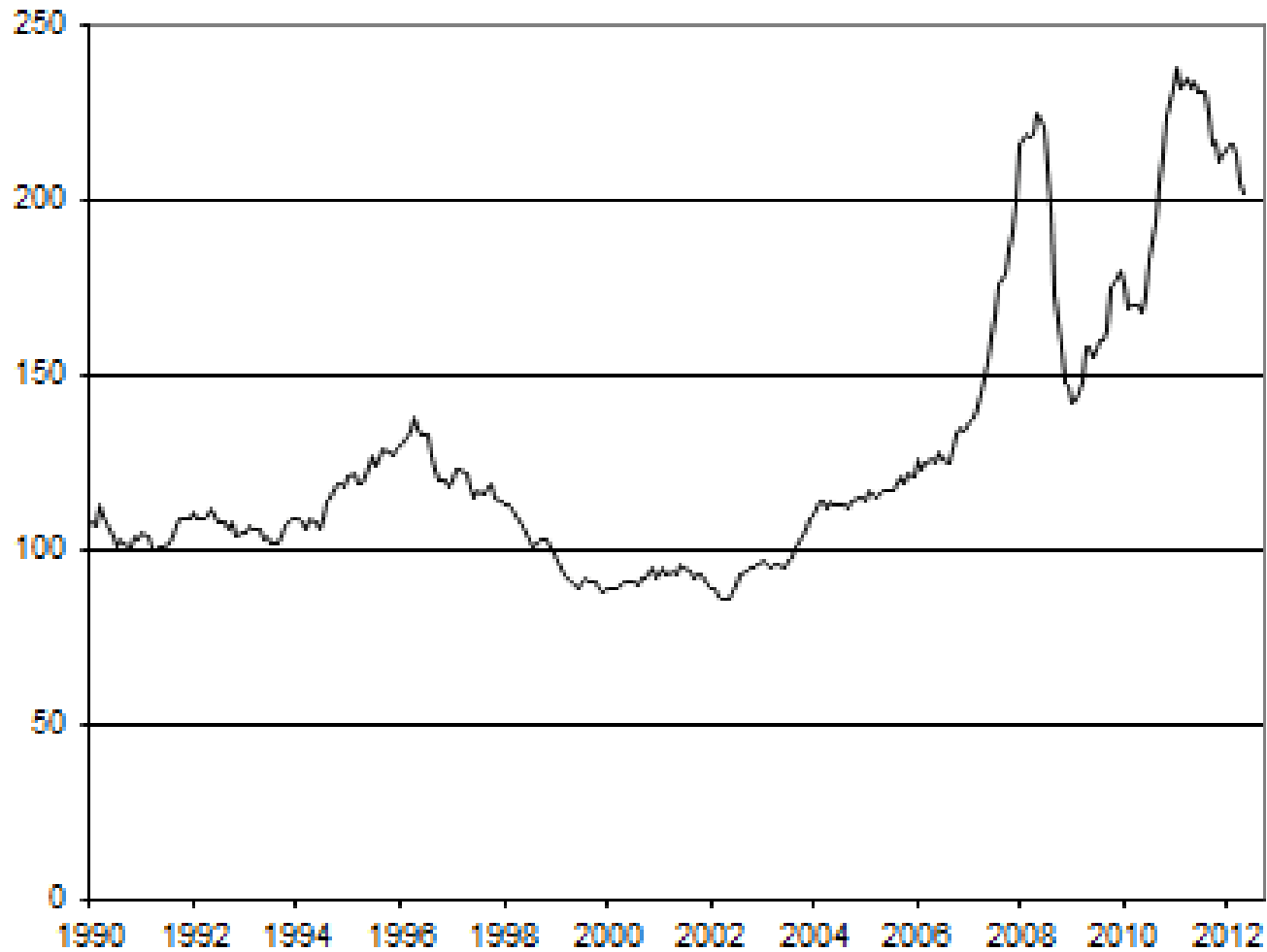
Research & consultancy on local governance issues such as state–civil society relations & change in the 3rd sector

Research on food industry – issues such as organic food, free range chicken farming, farm animal welfare and halal meat markets.



This book is based on research undertaken by the Environment Research Group at Cardiff University, where I worked for 5 years until October 2013.

Figure 1-1. World Monthly Food Price Index,
January 1990 - June 2012



Source: FAO

Are food prices approaching a violent tipping point?

A provocative new study suggests the timing of the Arab uprisings is linked to global food price spikes, and that prices will soon permanently be above the level which sparks conflicts

- [Climate cycles linked to civil war, analysis shows](#)



A Tunisian protester holding bread confronts riot policemen during a demonstration in Tunis on January 18, 2011. Photograph: Martin Bureau/AFP/Getty Images

Seeking simple explanations for the Arab spring uprisings that have swept through Tunisia, Egypt and now Libya, is clearly foolish amidst entangled issues of social injustice, poverty, unemployment and [water stress](#). But asking "why precisely now?" is less daft, and a [provocative new study](#) proposes an answer: soaring [food prices](#).

Context: Food price inflation and food crisis

- Recession, drought, harvest failures + energy issues, speculation & trading activity
- New impetus to the importance of locally grown food & community food enterprise
- Urban Food Strategies (UFS) & Food Policy Councils (FPC) promoting collaboration between communities & local food producers, suppliers & processors
- New relations between civil society food activists & UFS/FPCs important for development of new governance structures capable of scaling up local food production
- Places attempting to reconfigure food policies in line with the complex connections between food and a range of social and economic issues
- Health, local labour markets, transport, land use planning & economic development, public procurement, & infrastructure development

Kirklees has developed a food charter and strategy to transform local food culture



The project: The future of sustainable food in Kirklees – the development of a strong and sustainable food economy

- This research is intended to provide evidence for how the current Kirklees food system contributes to the aim of making people, the local economy and the environment more resilient.
- Over the next 9 months, the project will examine:
 - possible frameworks/ models for an independent food partnership
 - the potential impact of community food on local economic development
 - how to generate awareness of the significance of these issues

Research design

- The project will make use of use of participatory mobile methods, interviews and documentary research
- Interviews with key informants and local food entrepreneurs
- Spending time with key players to understand the pressures and barriers they face
- Visiting other towns and cities across the UK to observe what is working in these places

Outcomes



- A project report outlining findings and possible ways forward
- A local community enterprise skills workshop at University of Huddersfield Business School in June 2015
- Evidence to help move Kirklees towards the Sustainable Food Cities Award criteria
- Evidence on which to build a larger collaborative research partnership/ bid
- This is just the start of the process...



Thank-you for listening...

Any questions?

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