

Four Archetypes for Future Food Systems

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Light refreshments served just before 3pm
discussion to follow at 4pm.

This paper sketches four archetypal characterizations of how food will be produced, processed, distributed and consumed over the coming half century—a time in which all manner of social association will be influenced by climate change, growing scarcity of resources relative to human population and climate change. The archetypes are offered as scenarios that facilitate advance thinking at the level of total food systems, and are not represented as exhausting all the forces and possible adaptations that are relevant. They are intended to provoke a critical attitude toward certain presumptions that may be widely shared, especially among advocates of alternative food systems. The analysis places special emphasis on how each scenario reflects and incorporates a response to environmental sustainability and to food justice.