

Discover the last Newsletter of the Lascaux Program !

April 2013 (n° 36)

Upcoming Lascaux events

Conference « For a food exception », Paris, May 16th, 2013.

François COLLART DUTILLEUL will participate in this event organized by [Action Contre la Faim](#) as part of the cycle of conferences Françoise GIROUD. Lascaux's Director will present the ongoing work of the Program regarding food exception and the elaboration of an instrument, similar to those applied to the concept of cultural exception, that would contribute to the objective of international food safety.

World Forum on Human Rights, « Sustainable development - Human Rights : a common struggle ? », May 22-25th, 2013, Nantes :



A workshop on « [Law and land grabbing in Southern countries](#) », supervised by Lascaux, will gather several specialists from different countries who will share their insight on this growing phenomenon that deprive local inhabitant from an access to land and inputs essential to food safety.

Round table « adjustment of natural resources and fundamental rights », Conseil régional des Pays de Loire (Salle Comté), May 31th, 2013.

The [MSH Ange Guépin de Nantes](#), in collaboration with Lascaux, will organize a cycle of seminars entitled « the adjustment between natural resources and fundamental rights ». The identification and management of natural resources on a regional scale (a city, a region ...) can be crucial to effectively and sustainably respond to the social needs of local populations. The purpose of this cycle of seminars is to bring to light this interdisciplinary issue that is of a crucial importance for local socio-economic policies.

To start this cycle, a round table will be organized on May 31th, 2013. It will be led by Professor François COLLART DUTILLEUL, Director of Lascaux, Professor Ioan NEGRUTIU, biologist and scientific director of the [Institut International Michel Serres](#) and, Christophe CLERGEAU, first Vice President of the Conseil régional des Pays de Loire. This event will be an opportunity to introduce the concept of an « adjustment between needs and

resources » and start thinking on the possible political instruments that could contribute to managing natural resources taking into account the basic needs of people. **Participation upon registration (before May 24th, 2013): julie.burban@univ-nantes.fr .**

Recent Lascaux events

Conference « Rethinking food security », at the Faculty of legal and social sciences of Santa Fe (Universidad Nacional del Litoral - Argentina), April 25th, 2013

F. COLLART DUTILLEUL (Director of Lascaux), G. SOZZO and J. TONIOLLO ([Directors of the « programa bioregulaciones », UNL Santa Fe](#)) will present to the scientific community and the governmental agencies various propositions in favor of food security, which are the results of a four-year research work in the field of legal an social sciences.

Meeting with LILLYKUTTY VS, April 10th, 2013 at 10 a.m. – MSH Ange Guépin



Lillykuty VS is a representative of the movement [Ekta Mahila Manch](#) (the women's branch of Ekta Parishad). She is specialized in the issues of rural development. Together with Eric LEBON ([peuples solidaires](#)), she will share with the Lascaux team her knowledge on the [women empowerment movement in India](#).



Lascaux's blog

You will find below the latest entries published by the team on [Lascaux's blog](#) :

- P.-E. BOULLOT, « Le commerce local de produits agroalimentaires : un outil du développement durable ? », March 29th, 2013.
- Brice HUGOU, « Intervention de Commission Africaine des Droits de l'Homme et des Peuples pour préserver les droits d'une communauté », April 16th, 2013.

Contribute to the blog

Lascaux's blog is now open to public contributions. If you would like to write for LASCAUX, feel free to send an email to lascaux.recherche@univ-nantes.fr.

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Lascaux as seen by...



Laure Després, Professor Emeritus of Economical Sciences, Laboratoire d'économie et de management de Nantes Atlantique, University of Nantes, talks about the Lascaux Program and share her economist view on the issue of food safety.
Selected excerpts ...

What interested you in Lascaux ?

The food problem is actually THE economic, social and political problem in all societies, including ours who believe that it is no longer an issue. In all societies, the fundamental issue at stake for the politic is to produce food in a sufficient quantity. Today this problem is becoming increasingly important, and Lascaux tries to suggest ways to improve this situation.

With the recent tendency of a deregulation of capitalism, there has been a dismantling of all administrative systems that were concerned about food safety and tried to manage resources, prevent speculation from ruling over the trade of agricultural commodities. Today, markets are entirely financial-based, speculation determines the price of commodities at the international level [...]. This phenomenon of financialization has grown from 2008-2009. With the crisis, agricultural commodity markets were colonized by capitals, which exacerbated the problem of the instability. Movements in asset prices no longer reflect the imbalance between the supply and the demand.

What do you mean by « the imbalance between supply and demand » ?

Because of the population growth and the changes in food needs that come with it, we are going to produce and eat more and more meat, and therefore produce more and more wheat ; we have an imbalance supply and demand, and the trends show that this issue is aggravating, especially because of climate changes. One of the most important consequence of climate change is that it worsen food insecurity [...]. Today, agricultural lands are deteriorating, climate is becoming more and more instable, stocks of commodities are depleting, they become more rare and expensive or are only extractable at very high costs. This has an impact on the standards of living. Reverse development is not a choice, it is bound to happen soon [...].

If we do not act in a proper and dignified manner, gathering on the remaining resources for the needs of the population (sufficient and adequate food, health, etc.), and we if do not stop wasting rare commodities and lands, while paying the highest price for less abundant resources, there will inevitably be

an impact on the welfare of people. [...] And we can not count on financial markets for directing the use of resources towards the most important and most socially useful purposes.

Can the law ensure that the current economic systems turns to an objective of satisfying the basic needs of people ?

It would be necessary, and yet still not enough. Markets have always been organized according to rules issued by public authorities. It is the states which withdrawn themselves from the economic sphere during the 70's and after. Therefore it is only them which have the power to regulate the markets again. Lascaux takes part in this global movement against the unlimited development of markets - even if it is organized by the States[...]. When markets are dominated by self-interest, it necessarily causes social and political issues. I find very interesting the analysis made by Karl POLANYI of the first movement of liberalization of markets during the 19th century and the counter-movement in the 20th century which resulted in a renewing regulation of markets, with the war economies and the welfare states. Today, we are facing a second wave of deregulation of capitalism, and we can see the damages it causes. Some counter-movements are starting to emerge from civil society and researchers in order to bring back a form regulation into the markets.

What is the most important aspect of Lascaux for you ?

The desire to make concrete proposals. When we look at the issues from a global perspective, it seems that the process of regulating commodity markets is so vast that it is discouraging. What I appreciate about the Lascaux Program is the desire to take into account the reality of things to make the situation evolve and change. And even if it is not going to radically and immediately change the notion of capitalism you have to start somewhere.

To follow us

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Lascaux's website www.droit-aliments-terre.eu is regularly updated. If you want to follow the work of the Program, you can subscribe to the RSS feeds and visit us on our Facebook or Twitter accounts.

In the meantime, you can also read the collective blog of the Lascaux team.