

## The Future of Food *Power and Biodiversity*

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### RESEARCH QUESTION

How can harnessing biodiversity enable progressive power shifts in the food system?

### PROJECT FOR WHICH WE ARE SEEKING FELLOWS

Nearly one in ten people suffer from hunger, more than two billion people experience moderate to severe food insecurity, and more than three billion cannot afford a healthy diet. At the same time, hundreds of forgotten species, many containing essential micronutrients, could contribute to addressing access to healthy diets.

Power is reflected in the lack of diversity on our plates. Geopolitical imbalances, internal power asymmetries, market concentration in the food supply chain, and corruption determine which foods reach our stomachs (very few products); how they are produced and distributed (with high environmental costs); what their price is (cheap but less nutritious food), and what their real cost is—economic, social, and environmental—thereby determining who can access them. The economic vision of food chain efficiency that has defined our current global “food regime” decouples food production from all its interconnections with nutrition, the environment, and social inclusion.

Without a significant, proactive, and sustained long-term change in the power forces defining food, which includes recognizing the pivotal role of biodiversity and the imperative to diversify food production and consumption, it is hard to imagine achieving sustainable, healthy, inclusive, and fair food systems.

In this project, we will address these and other challenges by identifying obstacles arising from power asymmetries and offering multidisciplinary and systemic solutions. We will provide a comprehensive analysis on biodiversity and power, developing concrete multidisciplinary recommendations to promote food systems diversification. On this basis, we will produce a comprehensive report on the topic.

We will leverage the expertise of a diverse group of experts, with a special focus on the multidisciplinary practitioners and scholars working on this report at The New Institute. Additionally, we will draw upon the extensive

expertise and diverse perspectives within the Advisory Group, as well as consulting and interviewing external experts.

Ideally, the team should include four profiles of academics and scholars with academic and practical expertise on food systems, each specializing in one of the following disciplines: nutrition, environment, social inclusion, or agroecology. All team members should have experience in research and proposals that connect their respective disciplines with biodiversity. Additionally, they should have actively participated in collaborative efforts aimed at promoting policy guidelines and reforms for the transformation of food systems.

### RESPONSIBLE PROGRAM CHAIR

José Luis Chicoma, Global Expert on Food Systems, Former Minister of Production in Perú, Senior Food Policy Advisor (UNDP).

### ABOUT THE NEW INSTITUTE

THE NEW INSTITUTE aims at developing social imaginaries for future societies in light of today's challenges. How can we recouple human and non-human nature, economic and moral values, democracy as a form of governance and as a way of life, technology and ethics, social complexity and realistic utopias, and, finally, the theory and the practice of social change? Our fellowship program takes an interdisciplinary and trans-sectoral approach, bringing together academics from different disciplines with politicians, entrepreneurs, journalists, and artists.

### WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Scholars (Postdocs and experienced researchers) from all disciplines and practitioners in politics, business, media, or journalism with a commitment to the mission of THE NEW INSTITUTE, and interest in collaborating across our programs. Individuals with expertise in food systems, as well as those working in fields of biodiversity, governance, agroecology, and nutrition, e.g., with backgrounds in food studies, social and economic development, public policy, agriculture, environment, and public health are especially encouraged to apply.

### WHAT DO FELLOWS DO?

Actively participate in the collaborative fellow work concerning the program. Take part and contribute to weekly interdisciplinary and transsectoral fellow meetings.

## FACTS & FIGURES

Call closes:	April 30, 2024, 12 pm CET
Funding period:	Fellows can apply for either one, two, or three terms:
Fall term:	Mid Sep – Mid Dec, 2024
Winter term:	Mid Jan – End of March, 2025
Spring term:	May – June, 2025
Location:	Hamburg, Germany (residency required during terms)

For more information on what we offer, please click [here](#).

## SELECTION PROCESS

Fellow selection follows a two-stage selection process: After an initial review of applications, we select candidates for zoom interviews that will take place on May 22, 2024 in the afternoon.

## HOW DO I APPLY?

Please send your application - as a single PDF file - to [programs@thenew.institute](mailto:programs@thenew.institute)

The deadline for applications is on April 30, 2024, 12 pm CET.

A complete application consists of the following:

- Letter of motivation (1 page max), including statement of relevant fit to the call.
- Proposal of contribution to the program (2-3 pages) including description of the desired outcome of your participation in the group. Explain what is state of the art in your field of research and to what extent your contribution is innovative, advances research or provides a particular impact with respect to the Program's aims. The proposal should clearly spell out the project's relationship to the Program theme, described above. Proposals should be preceded by a one-paragraph abstract.
- Brief CV (please include in the header: current location including time zone, current affiliation, last university or higher education degree, discipline and institution from which you received the degree, nationality, gender, birth date, and indication of which terms you are applying for). The CV should give a rough overview of the main stages in your career.
- List 5 of your main publications that are relevant for your project.
- For academic applicants: A completed PhD and two years of post-doctoral experience are required. Non-tenured faculty must provide two letters of reference.

## EVALUATION CRITERIA

Early to mid-career scholars must already have made outstanding, innovative contributions to the field they are applying for.

- Publications (first-authored articles or major monographs, reviews in significant academic journals or cultural/art magazines).
- Awards or prestigious prizes.
- Practitioners/Art scholars: Single exhibitions in renowned museums or art institutions, performances held on renowned stages or concerts played in renowned concert halls.
- Fit of the research project to the respective program and suitability to driving positive social change.
- Feasibility of the research project and its desired outcome within the timeline of the program.
- Since transsectoral work and interdisciplinarity are central to our mission, our fellow groups are carefully curated along these criteria.

Organizational questions may be directed to [programs@thenew.institute](mailto:programs@thenew.institute)  
Content related questions may be directed to  
[academicdirectors@thenew.institute](mailto:academicdirectors@thenew.institute)

By submitting your application, you consent to the processing of the personal data contained therein. This data will be passed on to THE NEW INSTITUTE's selection committee and, if necessary, to external assessors. Furthermore you agree that THE NEW INSTITUTE saves your application data for 5 years.

THE NEW INSTITUTE strives to create an environment where everyone feels valued and respected. Diversity in our fellowship programs is important to us. We welcome people regardless of social and geographic origins, religion, skin color, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, disability or other legally protected characteristics.