

## **Assignment: Analysis of equity and justice in food system transformation in a specific context (group report)**

**(Weight: 25% of the final grade)**

**Deadline: 17 May, 23:59**

**Submission: As a single PDF file in BrightSpace**

### **Purpose**

This assessment is intended to evaluate the following learning outcomes:

- Your ability to collaborate with classmates and international students in a manner that adds value to your learning process;
- Analyse a concrete case of a completed, ongoing, or envisioned food system transformation applying social-ecological systems thinking, equity, and justice as key analytical lenses; and
- Propose practical and strategic solutions for prioritising equity and justice in food system transformation in the selected case study.

### **Essential points to cover**

- A clear boundary of the food system part/s that your group will examine in depth and a justification for this. For instance, if you focus on production inputs and the production process, this should be clearly stated in your report and justified why your group selected this.
- Description of how this food system has transformed (or changed if not a full transformation), or how it is envisioned to transform in the future
- Documented social, economic, and ecological impacts of past or ongoing transformation (or changes), or potential impacts in the case of envisioned future transformation
- Whether and how justice and equity are prioritised (or not) in the transformation process
- Emerging justice and equity issues
- Solutions currently being taken to address challenges in the food system (including those that do not mention justice or equity)
- Strategic or practical recommendations for advancing justice and equity in the case study

### **Process**

You will be working with your groupmates (LUC and HNEE) to collect information from scientific literature and to analyse the case study that you selected. Some group meetings will happen in class, but you will also need to plan meetings outside of class hours. Guiding questions will be provided for the group meetings during class hours, and outside of class hours, you are free to structure the work as you see fit. Our aim in bringing LUC and HNEE students together is to create opportunities for you to learn from each other. This means that process is of paramount importance. Your group

discussions should be a time when you share thoughts, ideas, and information you know from your readings. It should be a process of learning from each other. After submission of the report on or before the deadline, each group will prepare a creative presentation that is intended to share their findings and stimulate discussion during the Justice Fest in week 7 (instructions for the presentation will be provided as a separate file). Prof. Matias and I are going to support you in this process. If you have questions or you'd like to discuss your project with us in a small group meeting, we can communicate by email or set up meeting times for you. During course meetings, I will ask about your progress. For instance, if we're discussing distributive justice in class, I may ask about distributive issues in your case study. This means that you should work on your project throughout the block, **not** when the deadline is near.

As you will be collaborating with masters students studying a course that is distinct from our course, take the opportunity to ask questions and learn from them, as they also learn from you. Read, and come prepared to meetings. Engage and speak up. The learning process is your responsibility and should be co-created by you.

While this is a collaborative process and you will be graded as a group, I will grade LUC students, while Prof. Matias will grade her students.

## Guidelines

- The report should follow the IMRaD structure (introduction, conceptual framework, methods, results or findings, and discussion and conclusion) which I explain below.
  - **Introduction** – by now, you are already familiar with what an introduction in a paper is meant to do. For this report, your introduction should be able to situate your analysis of equity and justice in food system transformation in your case study within the broader academic literature. Your introduction should provide a convincing justification for the value of your study. For this, you can draw on the required readings of this course. The introduction should make clear why such an analysis as the one you are doing is relevant particularly for your case study, and it should provide a short description of the case study. The introduction should explicitly indicate the aim (general and broad), and objectives (specific, they indicate the steps of analysis did to accomplish the aim).
  - **Conceptual framework** – This section will focus on the framework and key concepts that you have applied in your analysis. You will also describe how you operationalised the framework you applied and clearly define any key concept that you used. You can draw on existing definitions from other papers, but in addition to that, carefully describe how you applied the concepts. What aspects of it did you focus on and why? If you applied a specific conceptual framework which you adapted from a scientific paper, discuss this framework and explain how you adapted or adjusted it for your own analysis.
  - **Methods** – In this section, you will have 3 subsections namely background on case study, data collection, and data analysis. The sub-section titles are intuitive. You will provide a general description of the case study. You will describe the systematic process you followed in collecting data. You will also describe how you did the analysis. This can include whether and how you did the coding of the literature you used, how you analysed the data (qualitative or quantitative that you collected), how

you ensured consistency and validity of the analysis particularly because there are several of you doing the analysis which may lead to different understandings and interpretations, and the limitations of your methods. This section should also adequately draw on existing literature. You can add other details I did not mention here which you deem relevant.

- **Results** – This is where you present your findings. The structure of this section should adequately reflect and address your indicated aim and objectives.
  - **Discussion and conclusion** – Start the section with 2-3 sentences that summarise the findings in the previous section. You can also provide a 1 or 2-sentence roadmap of the discussion section so the readers can anticipate the structure of the section that they are about to read. Here, you will unpack your findings. You will reflect on how your findings compare or connect with relevant findings of other studies, key learnings (3-4 points), potential explanations for your findings, potential implications for research or pointers for future research, implications for policymakers, and for other stakeholders in the food system studied or comparable food systems elsewhere. The discussion section basically addresses the question of *So what?* for your findings. Now that we know what you found, so what? What do the findings imply? What should be acted on? The recommendations or actionable points should be firmly based on the findings you generated. The conclusion then highlights the most important findings and key implications or takeaways.
  - **References** – see below for some details.
- Tables and figures may be used. Make sure you developed the tables and figures on your own and were not copied and pasted. If you use/adapt a figure from another author(s), for example in the conceptual framework part, indicate the source below the table. Provide informative captions for all tables and figures. Ensure that the tables and figures are of a size in which all elements can be read with ease.
  - Materials that you think should be shared but is not of critical importance to the report can be placed in the appendix.
  - The word limit is between 3500 to 4500 words excluding title page, references, bibliography, and appendices/supplementary materials.
  - The title page should contain an informative title of no more than 12 words, the names of the members (LUC and HNEE), an abstract of no more than 250 words, and 5 keywords that reflect the key contents of the report.
  - The abstract should contain a few lines providing the aim of the report and the research questions addressed, the framework used in the analysis, the method applied, the key findings, and a line about why these findings are important or what they imply.
  - The key words could include the topics you focused on, the framework or concepts you used, and the country you focused on.
  - Each report should cite no less than 30 references which are either peer-reviewed scientific papers or relevant government or organisation reports. The references that are not peer-reviewed scientific publications (e.g. government reports) should not be more than 5.
  - Consistently cite sources in the text. Include all cited references in a bibliography using the APA citation format.
  - Use Arial font, size 11.
  - The text should be single-spaced.
  - First level headings (e.g. Introduction, Conceptual framework) should be in **bold** letters.
  - Second level headings (e.g. heading for a sub-section under Introduction) should be in **bold and italicized** letters).

- Insert page number in the bottom-right side of each page.
- Add a **final page** that includes your answers to the following questions:
  - Describe how you collaborated and worked together as a team. Did you encounter challenges related to working together? How did you resolve those?
  - What did you learn about collaboration through making this project?
  - Did the group work in a manner that justifies everyone getting the same grade for this project or is a grade variation in order? Why is that? What grade difference do you all suggest? Does everyone respectfully agree about this difference?