

Capacity for meeting food needs with local and regional production: Tales from the Northeast U.S.

Dr. Christian Peters, Tufts University

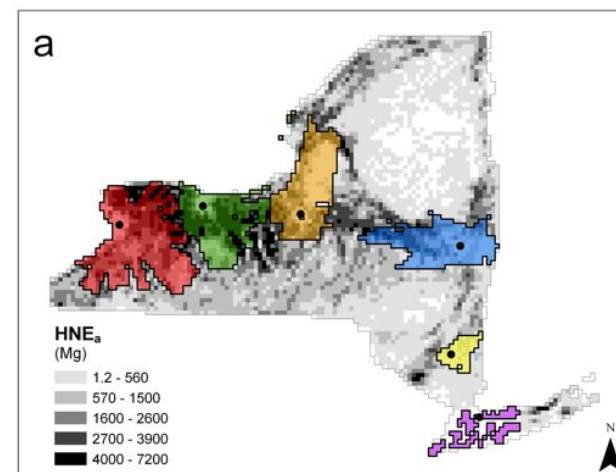
GLENN SCHOOL COLLOQUIUM - THURSDAY EDITION

Thursday, October 10, 12:30-1:30

130 (LEC) Page Hall

Event is free and open to the public. Lunch will be provided.

What is the place of local and regional foods in the United States? Despite growing public interest in the subject, the academic community has yet to provide a consensus opinion on the matter. In hopes of shedding some light on the subject, this talk will address the biological capacity for a state or region to supply its own food, using research on the Northeast U.S. In addition, this talk will address the value of computer models as tools for understanding systems and how to avoid misinterpreting their output. The talk will conclude with a summary of future directions for this area of work.



Map of potential foodsheds in New York, from Peters, et al., 2009. *Mapping potential foodsheds in New York State: A spatial model for evaluating the capacity to localize food production.* Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems.



Christian J. Peters, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor in the Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. Dr. Peters joined the faculty of the Friedman School in 2010 and teaches primarily in the Agriculture, Food, and Environment program. His research interests lie in the developing field of sustainability science, in the area of food systems. Within this broad, trans-disciplinary field, Dr. Peters currently focuses on three major topics: (1) Land requirements of the human diet, (2) Capacity for local and regional food systems, and (3) Feed needs of livestock systems. He is perhaps most well-known for his spatial analysis of potential local foodsheds of New York State, providing a concrete example of a term that has resonated with the local and regional food movements. Dr. Peters received his Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Soil and Crop Sciences from Cornell University and received his Bachelor of Science degree in Environmental Sciences from Rutgers University.