

Name: Sheona Foley



Title of Research Project: Exploring alternative food networks in fostering a sustainable food system.

Name(s) of Supervisory team: Dr Catherine Gorman

School of Hospitality Management and Tourism, TU Dublin - City Campus

Brief overview of the Thesis topic: The overarching aim and driver of the thesis is to contribute to the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG 12 as regards sustainable food consumption. With about 97% of climate scientists agreeing that the rise in global temperatures has a human fingerprint (Areskes, 2004, Cook et al, 2013), seeking out behavioural change is an approach to addressing such anthropogenic contribution. Globally, approximately 20-30% of global anthropogenic greenhouse gases are attributable to the food system. The EAT-Lancet Commission Report (Willet et al., 2019) drew attention to food consumption and production and calls for a shift in what we eat, recognising that the globalised nature of our food system creates challenges and contributes high carbon and water impacts. Moving towards shorter supply chains, buying more locally produced food and buying food when it is in season could potentially contribute to lower anthropogenic emissions. Through a food systems lens, this study seeks to explore the motivations and barriers of different stakeholders to engage in pro-sustainable food consumption and examine the efficacy of local/regional/alternative food networks as an impetus for pro-sustainable food purchasing behavioural practices in Ireland.