

Emily Charlotte Dowding-Smith

Investigating the Urban Agriculture (UA) system, which in an absence of foreign imports contributes to food security and food sovereignty of the people.

Havana, Cuba

2011

Emily Charlotte Dowding-Smith is studying a Masters in Environmental Science, Policy and Management (MESPOM) at Central European; Lund and Aegean Universities. Emily has had a strong interest in Latin America and for her project she travelled to Cuba to undertake a case study on the role that seeds play for urban gardeners and growers in the country.

She interviewed Cuban farmers to see how people share knowledge, advice and even physical items associated with seeds and see how this contributes to the social-ecological memory and resilience of urban gardening ecosystems in Cuba.

She hopes that showing how urban farmers retain and share seed knowledge with their community will strengthen the case for farmers to secure their rights to save, use and exchange seeds.

Below is Emily's powerpoint presentation on her work.



Resilience at the margins:

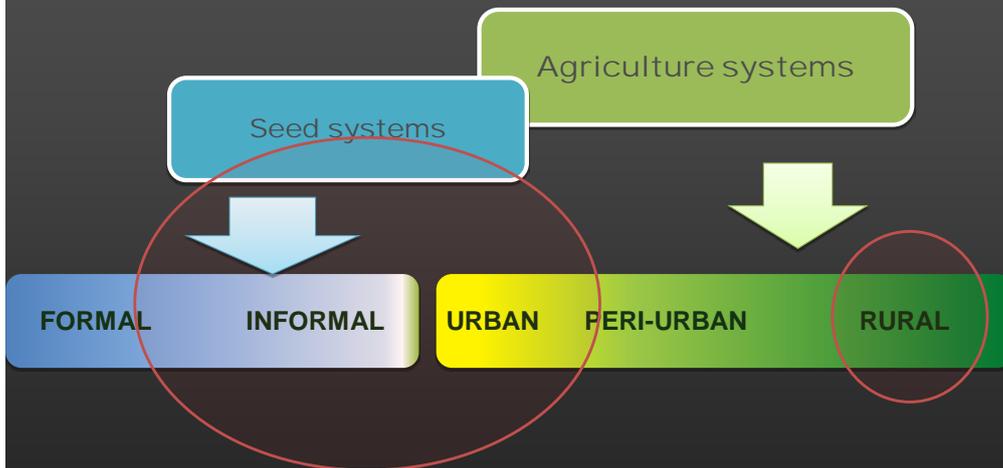
Stories of seed practices in city gardens
Havana City, Cuba

EMILY DOWDING-SMITH: MESPOM 2009-11
Thesis defense: 14 June 2011

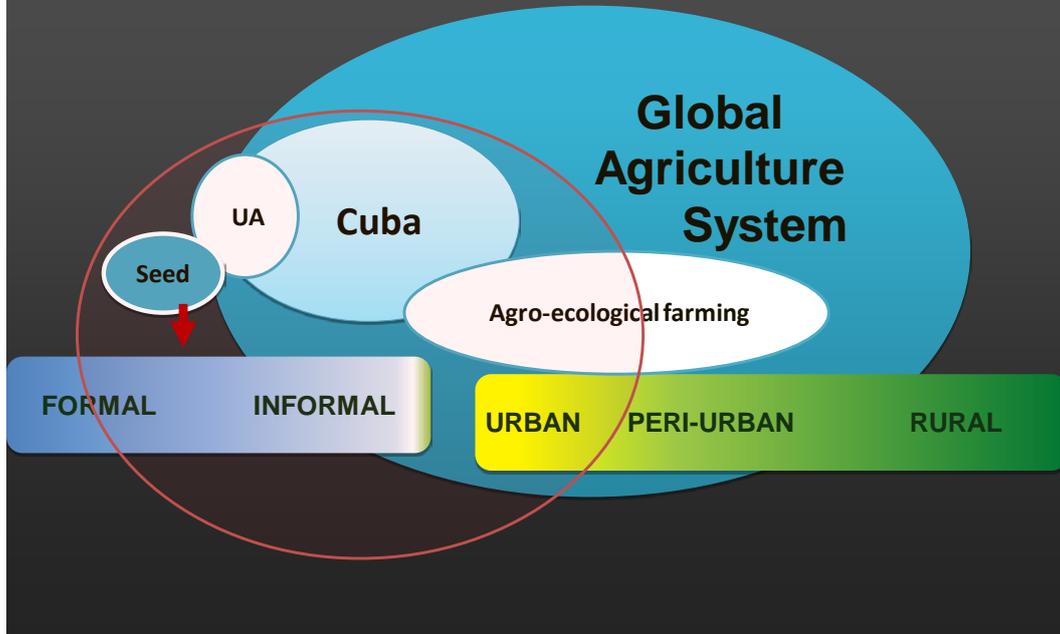
Problem definition



Research gap



Scope of study



Theoretical framework

Resilience approaches



Marginality



Research aim & questions

To explore the **seed practices** in city gardens of Havana City, Cuba to highlight the importance of seed practices as a factor to be taken into account in resilience studies.

1. How do the **knowledge** and **memories** of seed practices influence gardeners in their gardens today? (Research Question 1: Chapter 4)
2. In light of the answers to the above, what, if any, seed practices are **marginalised**? and (Research Question 2: Chapter 5)
3. How does the **marginalisation** of certain types of seed practices influence the **resilience** of a community? (Research Question 3: Chapter 5)

Methodology



Source: Google Maps 2011

Before

During

After

CUBA



Types of gardens

Organipónico

Huerto intensivo

Patio & parcela

Permaculture



Organipónico



Huerto intensivo



Patio & parcela



Permaculture

11. Use edges & value the marginal 

10. Use & value diversity 

9. Use small & slow solutions 

8. Integrate rather than segregate 

7. Design from patterns to details 



6. Interact 

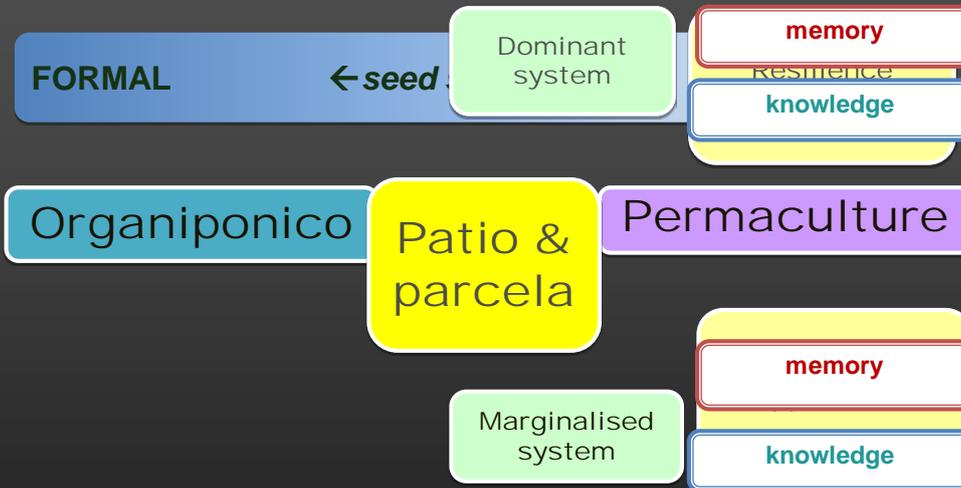
5. Obtain a yield 

4. Apply self-regulation & accept feedback 

3. renewable resources & services 

permacultureprinciples.com

Findings



Conclusions

Value and importance of margins

Connections between permaculture principles and resilience

Seed practices are present and important in urban settings