

Between 'urban gardening' and villages. Warsaw suburb gardens.

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My paper seeks to catch the phenomenon which eludes the binary alternative/conventional food networks approach. I want to examine space of food production which has been consequently omitted in analysis of Polish food networks. Considering significant difference in the history of Central and Eastern Europe I would like to show the inadequacy of the binary approach. During after Second World War period of Polish People's Republic we could note considerable migration from villages to big cities and their suburbs. Some of migrants never changed the core of their habits related to food by producing their own vegetables and fruits in home gardens. Whereas articles try to concentrate on some new trends usually associated with Western Europe and picked up by cities middle class or more traditionally on problems or novelties in farm food production I would like to show practices between popular and trendy 'urban gardening' and traditional village food production in Warsaw suburbs.

In suburb cities near Warsaw like Żąbki or Komorów with the heritage of garden- city movement social meaning of such practices becomes even more complicated. While 'urban gardening' is associated with creativity and consciousness, suburb food production has been for years accused of backwardness and maladjustment to city realities. Such practices challenge not only opposition between village and city but also questions 'freshness' of 'urban gardening' phenomenon in post-socialist countries.