

Nordic Association of Agricultural Science (NJF)
Continuous international scientific conference
“Challengers of Economics, Education and Society Development in the Nordic – Baltic Countries and beyond” organised by Section of Economy, Education and Society
Programme for the virtual seminar on March 3rd, 2021 (Wednesday)
12:00 to 13:30 Central European time (13:00 to 14:30 Eastern European time)
Web address: <https://ac.vdu.lt/vk1>

Presentation 1

Title: The future of agriculture from a perspective of entrepreneurial thinking.

Speaker: Peter Österberg, Ph.D., Department of Economics and Management, University of Helsinki, Finland.

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Annotation: There is a negative attitude towards agriculture based on propositions that agriculture in general and livestock in particular, are bad for the climate. In that context, animal source food is associated with being unhealthy. But are these claims true?

Humans exist because our ancestors put animal source food (ASF) on their plate 4-3.6 million years ago (Mann, 2018; Thompson et al. 2019). Standing waiting on the Savannah to take a bite of what's left after the predators had taken their share likely meant they developed a perception-based intuition to avoid risk (Baumeister et al. 2001). The nutrient-dense diet started an expansion of their brains that gave room for cognitive abilities like spatial and social cognition, and later, the executive functions including disjunctive reasoning, epistemic vigilance, goal-setting, and mental simulation, all general to humans (Coolidge & Wynn, 2018; Pringle, 2016; Sperber et al. 2010; Stanovich, 2015). We use this 'entrepreneurial thinking' to scrutinize the claims above.

Climate is a complex phenomenon where gases move between the atmosphere, hydrosphere, cryosphere, lithosphere and biosphere in a cyclic fashion (Riebeek, 2011). Emissions from agriculture circulate via a Biogenic carbon cycle where methane is eliminated within 12 years by hydroxyl oxidation (CLEAR Center). GHG from livestock in the western countries are marginal (Liebe, White & Hall, 2020; White & Hall, 2017). The main contributors of GHG are transportation, energy production and industries (Hristov et al. 2014; Mottet & Steinfeld, 2018).

Consumption of meat, eggs and full-fat dairies is risk-free (Astrup et al 2020; Johnston et al 2019) and rather be crucial for maintaining physical and mental health (Adesogan et al. 2019; Balehegn et al. 2019; Iannotti, 2018; Tong et al., 2020; Ylilauri et al. 2019), because of the many micronutrients (Leroy & Cofnas, 2019). Abstaining from animal source food may inhibit the mental abilities associated with entrepreneurial thinking (Ede, 2019), and may be the reason why we fall victim of negativity bias (Forestell & Nezelek, 2018).

The idea of agriculture emerged from an entrepreneurial mind during epipalaeolithic times. Future agriculture is a climate-smart resource we can use to eradicate malnutrition and poverty among children across the globe.

Presentation 2

Title: Blockchain Technology Adoption Factors and Trends in the Baltic States

Speaker: Natalija Kostrikova, Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies, Latvia

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Abstract: Blockchain technology is a recent ICT innovation, which can be classified as a technological or process innovation as per Schumpeter's (1912) classification, which guarantees trust, assures immutability, transparency, and supports disintermediation in addition to providing extra security for transactions executed over the Internet. Blockchain technology is viewed as a general-purpose technology by numerous researchers due to its disruptive nature and possible transformative applications for transaction implementation and data exchange in both private and public sectors (Yli-Huumo et al, 2016, Webb, 2015, Janssen, 2017, Davidson et al, 2018). Blockchain technology adoption shows different paths and rates in different regions and countries. Also, in the Baltic States Blockchain technology adoption levels and directions vary. Therefore, it is important to study factors facilitating Blockchain technology diffusion and imitation process in order to understand its adoption trends and potential applications. The study examines various Blockchain solutions, summarizes statistical data on activities associated with cryptocurrencies and virtual assets, analyzes its interconnections with economic development, digitalization and prosperity indicators, outlines actions undertaken by public and regulatory authorities and summarizes Blockchain technology adoption factors and trends in the Baltic States.