

Saving the World with Fork & Knife

Animal Politics World Conference

10 – 11 July 2021

Online (from Amsterdam)



Programme

Times: CEST time zone

Conference hosts: Elze Boshart and Barbara van Genne (board members Animal Politics Foundation)

Scroll down for more info about the speakers.

DAY 1: SATURDAY 10th of JULY

- 09.30 – 09.45 Opening and introduction
- 09.45 – 10.20 **Lecture and Q&A: The Eco-centric Political Movement**
*by **Esther Ouwehand**, party leader of the Dutch Party for the Animals*
- 10.20 – 10.45 **Lecture and Q&A: The rise of the Animal Politics Movement**
*Presentation on the political movement for animal rights by **Elsa Miedema**, political historian and researcher*
- 10.45 – 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.00 – 11.40 **Lecture and Q&A: Food and the ecological and climate crisis**
*by **Dr. Helen Harwatt**, Senior Research Fellow at Chatham House Food and Climate Policy and fellow at Harvard University*
- 11.40 – 11.45 Short recap
- 11.45 – 12.15 Lunch break
- 12.15 – 12.25 Welcome back and introduction next on programme
- 12.25 – 13.25 **Masterclass Food Impact: Ecocide & Food**
*by **Jojo Mehta**, co-founder and executive director of Stop Ecocide International and MP **Lammert van Raan** of the Dutch party for the Animals*
- 13.25 – 14.25 **Interview and Q&A on food transition with pioneer entrepreneur Kees Kruythoff, CEO of The LIVEKINDLY Collective**
*Interview with **Kees Kruythoff**, ex-Unilever, now CEO of The LIVEKINDLY Collective of plant-based food brands, by **Sophie Kevany**, journalist, writing on animal agriculture and the future of food production for The Guardian.*
- 14.25 – 14.40 Coffee break
- 14.40 – 15.00 Wrap up Day 1 – followed by Eco Pub Quiz on food, health & animal rights

DAY 2: SUNDAY 11th of JULY

- 09.30 – 09.45** Opening
- 09.45 – 10.30** **Lecture and Q&A: Food & Health: Pandemics and protecting our health in the future**, by professor **Hans Zaaijer**, medical doctor and microbiologist, professor of blood-borne infections at the University of Amsterdam
- 10.30 – 10.40 Coffee break
- 10.40 – 11.40** **Masterclasses I & II: Food & Health** (parallel sessions)
- I: A doctor's perspective: Benefits of a plant-based diet**
by **Dr. Shireen Kassam**, Visiting Professor of Plant-Based Nutrition, Winchester University
- II: Community change**
by **Seb Alex**, animal rights advocate at Lebanese Vegans and **Georges Hayek**, founder of Hayek Hospital, Beirut, the world's first vegan hospital.
- 11.40 – 11.55 Short recap (plenary)
- 11.55 – 12.30 Lunch break
- 12.30 – 12.35 Welcome back + introduction next on programme
- 12.35 – 13.35** **Masterclasses III & IV: Lobbying** (parallel sessions)
- III: Pushing states to protect humans, animals and the planet**
by **Natascha Kooiman**, Transition Coalition Food, a network of food, nature and health organisations
- IV: Effective lobbying**
by **Lara Pappers** & **Silvia Alunni** from Proveg International and European Alliance for Plant-based Foods, international food awareness organisation lobbying for a sustainable plant based food system.
- 13.35 – 13.55** **Lecture and Q&A: Behaviour Change and the concept of 'Plant-based by default'**, by professor **Henriëtte Prast**, economist, senator for the Dutch Party for the Animals and initiator of the 'Plant-based by default' initiative
- 14.05 – 14.30 Wrap up

- End of programme -



- Scroll down for more information about the speakers -

Speakers

DAY 1

Esther Ouwehand



Esther Ouwehand is a Member of Parliament (MP) in The Netherlands and leader of the world's first successful Party for the Animals. She studied Policy and Communication and used to work in marketing before she decided to help Party for the Animals grow in 2002.

She is known as one of the strongest debaters in the Dutch House of Representatives and as a passionate animal rights and nature protector. One of her many successes was an early ban on fur farming in The Netherlands and getting the Dutch parliament to speak out against a destructive trade deal with countries like Brazil (so called EU-Mercosur trade agreement).

This year she published her highly praised book *A Plague on Both our Houses* on how animal exploitation is driving pandemics and what to do to change that.

Elsa Miedema



Elsa Miedema studied History at the Dutch University of Leiden and specialized in political culture and national identities. She successfully completed her Master's degree, graduating cum laude. She is now a researcher and editor. Last year she completed a research on the Animal Politics Movement.

Dr. Helen Harwatt



Dr. Helen Harwatt is a senior research fellow in the Energy, Environment and Resources programme at Chatham House, one of the most prestigious think tanks on international affairs in the world. She completed a research fellowship at Harvard Law School, exploring dietary shifts from animal to plant-based as an option for meeting climate goals and restoring native ecosystems, and remains a visiting fellow.

Helen focuses on food system shifts to identify pathways towards creating Paris-compliant food systems that minimize adverse environmental impacts, maximize public health benefits and address ethical issues.

Jojo Mehta



Jojo Mehta is co-founder and Executive Director of Stop Ecocide International, with a mission to support the establishment of ecocide as a crime at the International Criminal Court, alongside war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and the crime of aggression. With her work she wants to change international law in a way which could put an end to environmentally-destructive activities on the planet.

Jojo is a graduate of Oxford and London universities and has a background in communications, entrepreneurship and on-the-ground environmental campaigning.

Lammert van Raan



Lammert van Raan is a Member of Parliament (MP) in The Netherlands for the Party for the Animals. He used to work as an e-commerce consultant and an economics teacher. Lammert gained political experience by first working in politics on local and regional levels.

As MP he now focuses on protecting the planet and all its inhabitants by submitting proposals for a fundamentally different economic policy. An economic policy no longer having economic growth as the main goal, but ensuring the welfare of humans and animals, within the ecological boundaries. Last year Lammert submitted a proposal in the Dutch House of Representatives to criminalise ecocide. This proposal contains a 10-step plan with concrete measures, and is also available in [English](#), [French](#), and [Arabic](#), so people in other countries can use it to push for change in their own countries as well.

Kees Kruythoff

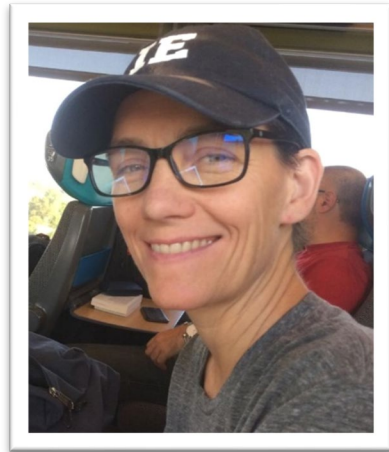


Kees Kruythoff is a Dutch businessperson who for 27 years has been one of the head people of the big multinational food company Unilever.

Kees is passionate about using the private sector as a force for good. He left Unilever in the middle of 2019 and became part of the founding team of IMAGINE. A for-benefit business and foundation, which helps shift global industries to combat climate change and inequality.

At the beginning of 2020, Kees became the chairman and CEO of The LIVEKINDLY Collective. His intent is to make plant-based living the new norm.

Sophie Kevany



Sophie Kevany is a freelance journalist, writing on animal welfare, animal agriculture, climate impact of the meat, dairy and poultry industry and animal rights for The Guardian and other international media. She is based in Spain, and has lived and worked in France, Ireland, Norway, the US, South Africa and Peru.

She is currently working on the revision of Peter Singer's famous book *Animal Liberation*.

DAY 2

Prof. dr. Hans Zaaijer



Prof. dr. Hans Zaaijer is Professor of Blood-Borne Infections and Medical microbiologist at the University of Amsterdam's Faculty of Medicine.

Prof. Zaaijer has been involved in blood-borne infections research since 1992 and was one of the initiators of national guidelines for the prevention of iatrogenic hepatitis B, treatment of needle stick injuries and screening of blood, organ and tissue donors.

He is one of the people who years ago warned about the relationship between activities such as factory farming industry and wildlife trade and the advancement of dangerous zoonotic diseases such as COVID-19.

Dr. Shireen Kassam



Dr. Shireen Kassam is Visiting Professor of Plant-Based Nutrition at the University of Winchester, Faculty of Health and Wellbeing. She is also a Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer at King's College Hospital. Shireen's role at the University of Winchester is to deliver high-quality evidence-based education in the field of plant-based nutrition.

As a medical doctor, Shireen is passionate about promoting plant-based nutrition for the prevention and reversal of chronic diseases and for maintaining optimal health after treatment for cancer. She founded the community interest company [Plant-Based Health Professionals](#) UK in 2017 to bring evidence-based education on plant-based nutrition to the UK. In January 2021, Shireen co-founded and launched the UK's first CQC-registered, online, multi-disciplinary, plant-based lifestyle medicine healthcare service, [Plant Based Health Online](#).

Seb Alex



Seb Alex is born and raised in Lebanon. He started off with a career in Sustainable Architecture. After some time working in the corporate world, he decided to dedicate all his time to what really speaks to his heart: Animal Rights Advocacy.

Seb gives talks and makes videos on animal rights activism and has a huge following on social media. He is also helping out with the organization of grassroots activism events, preparing a [FREE ebook](#) for animal rights and helping run the world's first Animal Rights & Vegan Support center, the [Lebanese Vegans Social Hub](#) in the heart of Beirut, Lebanon.

Georges Hayek



Georges Hayek is born in Lebanon and has a Business Science, Management degree. He is the founder of Lebanese Vegans and the first Vegan Social Hub in the region. The Hub was founded after the devastating Beirut explosion on August 4th, 2020. Their mission is to help the less fortunate by offering free vegan meals as well as providing a free working space for vegan activism. Conferences, working area, vegan cafe and boutique are all part of the Hub.

Georges is also the owner of Hayek Hospital and has turned it into a hospital serving exclusively plant-based vegan food from March 1st, 2021. They are tackling the root cause of major chronic diseases and cancers, not just treating symptoms.

Natascha Kooiman



Natascha Kooiman for many years worked in communications and as a brand strategist in several NGOs. She noticed that everyone was talking about sustainability, but everyone was still eating unsustainable, animal-based meals. She decided to take action and start her own project: *Smaackmakers*, a consultant organization dedicated to inspire and guide caterers, hospitality, food and non-food companies, government and educational institutions to lower their 'food print': lowering the environmental impact of what they eat.

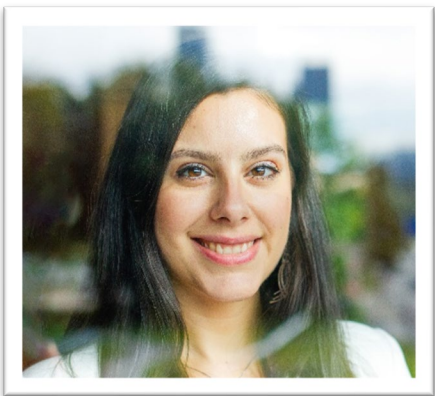
In the *Food Transition Coalition*, her latest enterprise, she joined other Dutch leaders in the world of agriculture, food, nature and health to work together on new solutions for the current agricultural and food system that are becoming increasingly ecological, social and economic. They are generating knowledge and skills to make the transition towards a sustainable food system.

Lara Pappers



Lara Pappers studied Philosophy and Transnational Legal Studies at the Free University of Amsterdam. She now works as the head of communication for ProVeg International, a growing international food awareness NGO working across four continents. With ProVeg, Lara strives for a world where everyone chooses delicious and healthy food that is good for all humans, animals, and the planet.

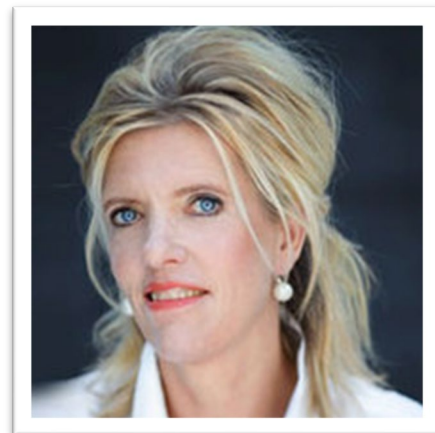
Silvia Alunni



Silvia Alunni has a degree in Political Science and International Relations and in Environmental Science. She works in the field of EU affairs, food policy, circular economy and agriculture. Currently, she is Advisor EU Affairs at Hague Corporate Affairs.

Silvia was one of the coordinators of [an advocacy campaign](#) with the European Alliance for Plant-based Foods, which successfully prevented a "plant-based dairy ban" in the European Union. The campaign focused on enabling effective and transparent consumer communication on the environmental and health benefits of plant-based alternatives to dairy products.

Prof. dr. Henriëtte Prast



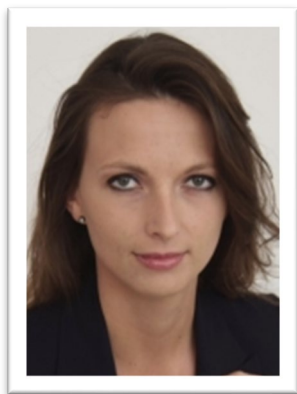
Prof. dr. Henriëtte Prast is a professor at Tilburg University, Department of Finance. Her expertise is behavioral economics and its policy implications, with a focus on personal finance (notably, pensions, aging and retirement), health related behavior and sustainability.

A couple of times Henriëtte was mentioned as one of the top 200 most influential people in the Netherlands. She has held various advisory positions in both commercial and not for profit institutions.

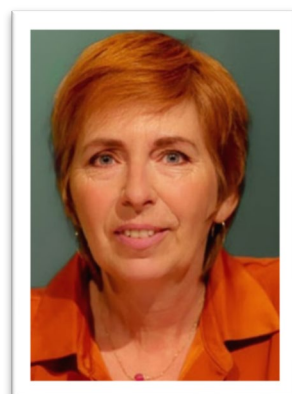
She is the initiator of the '[Plant-based by default](#)' initiative: the idea to serve plant-based meals at workplaces as a standard, and only serve meat or fish when people ask for it in advance.

This year Henriëtte became a senator for the Dutch Party for the Animals.

Conference hosts

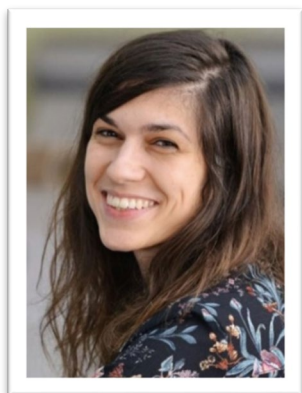


Barbara van Genne



Elze Boshart

Conference Organisation



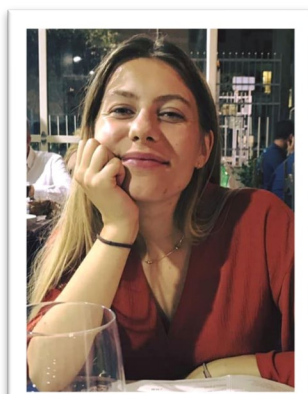
Ines Kostić



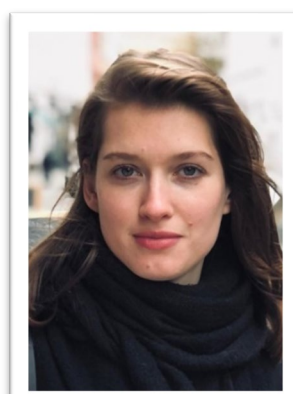
Vera Sýkora



Stella Pieterse



Rosa van der Heide



Elsa Miedema