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Computational Approaches in Eating Behavior <https://workshop.inrae.fr/florence2020/Program>

# 12:30 - Exploring sustainable European gastronomy and recipes using Natural Language Processing

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Dr Christian Reynolds

*Centre for Food Policy, City, University of London*

**@sartorialfoodie** 

# Who am I? Christian Reynolds

Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Food Policy



Focus: healthy sustainable diets and food consumption (including waste)

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**Food Policy**

ELSEVIER journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/foodpol](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/foodpol)

Review

**Review: Consumption-stage food waste reduction interventions – What works and how to design better interventions**

Christian Reynolds<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, Liam Goucher<sup>c</sup>, Tom Quedsted<sup>b</sup>, Sarah Bromley<sup>b</sup>, Sam Gillick<sup>b</sup>, Victoria K. Wells<sup>d</sup>, David Evans<sup>e</sup>, Lenny Koh<sup>e</sup>, Annika Carlsson Kanyama<sup>a</sup>, Cecilia Katzeff<sup>e</sup>, Åsa Svenfelt<sup>f</sup>, Peter Jackson<sup>g</sup>

*Public Health Nutrition*: 22(8), 1503–1517 doi:10.1017/S1368980018003774

Healthy and sustainable diets that meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets and are affordable for different income groups in the UK

Christian J Reynolds<sup>1</sup>, Graham W Horgan<sup>2</sup>, Stephen Whybrow<sup>1</sup> and Jennie I Macdiarmid<sup>1,\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The Rowett Institute University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB25 2ZD, UK; <sup>2</sup>Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland, Aberdeen, UK

Previously: Food waste politics/history, social sciences approaches

Just publish: Sustainability and cooking (16% of UK food GHGE!) 60%+ of some foods!

## Context

- Project: Communicating the environmental impact of plant based recipes – funded by the Alpro foundation (2021).
- Article:



frontiers  
in Artificial Intelligence



**Using Natural Language Processing and Artificial Intelligence to Explore the Nutrition and Sustainability of Recipes and Food**

*Marieke van Erp<sup>1\*†</sup>, Christian Reynolds<sup>2</sup>, , Diana Maynard<sup>3</sup>, Alain Starke<sup>4</sup>, Rebeca Ibáñez Martín<sup>5</sup>, Frederic Andres<sup>6</sup>, Maria C. A. Leite<sup>7</sup>, Damien Alvarez de Toledo<sup>6</sup>, Ximena Schmidt Rivera<sup>8</sup>, Christoph Trattner<sup>4</sup>, Steven Brewer<sup>9</sup>, Carla Adriano Martins<sup>10</sup>, Alana Kluczkovski<sup>10</sup>, Angelina Frankowska<sup>10</sup>, Sarah Bridle<sup>10</sup>, Renata Bertazzi<sup>11</sup>, Fernanda Rauber<sup>11</sup>, Jacqueline Tereza da Silva<sup>10</sup> and Ulbe Bosma<sup>12</sup>*

# Problem 1 – We need to shift towards sustainable dietary patterns

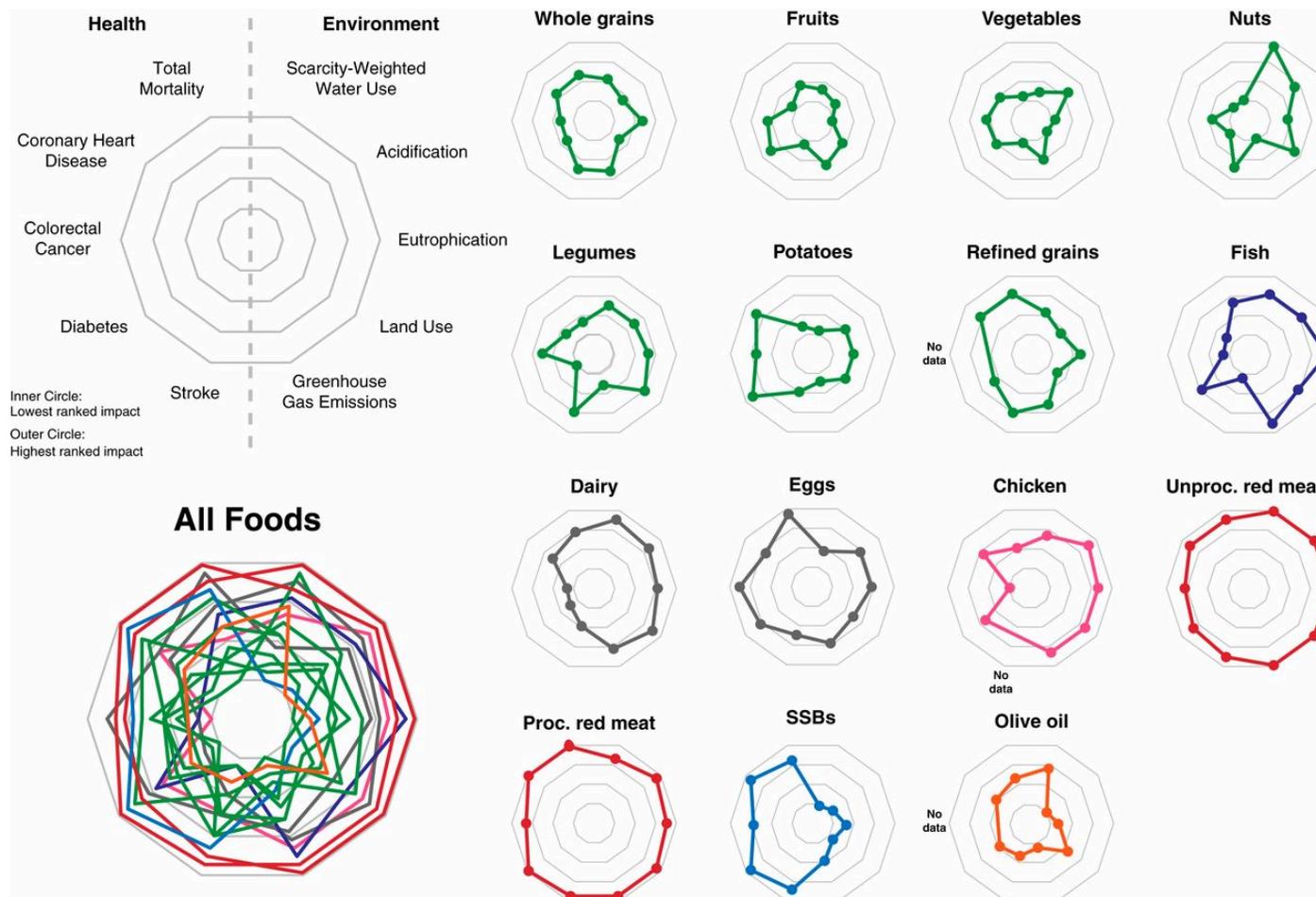
- Current sustainable dietary guidance is given as ingredients
- No translation of sustainable diets into sustainable gastronomy

The Planetary Health Plate



# Problem 2 – People do not think in ingredients, they think in recipes

# Each ingredient has different health and environmental impacts.



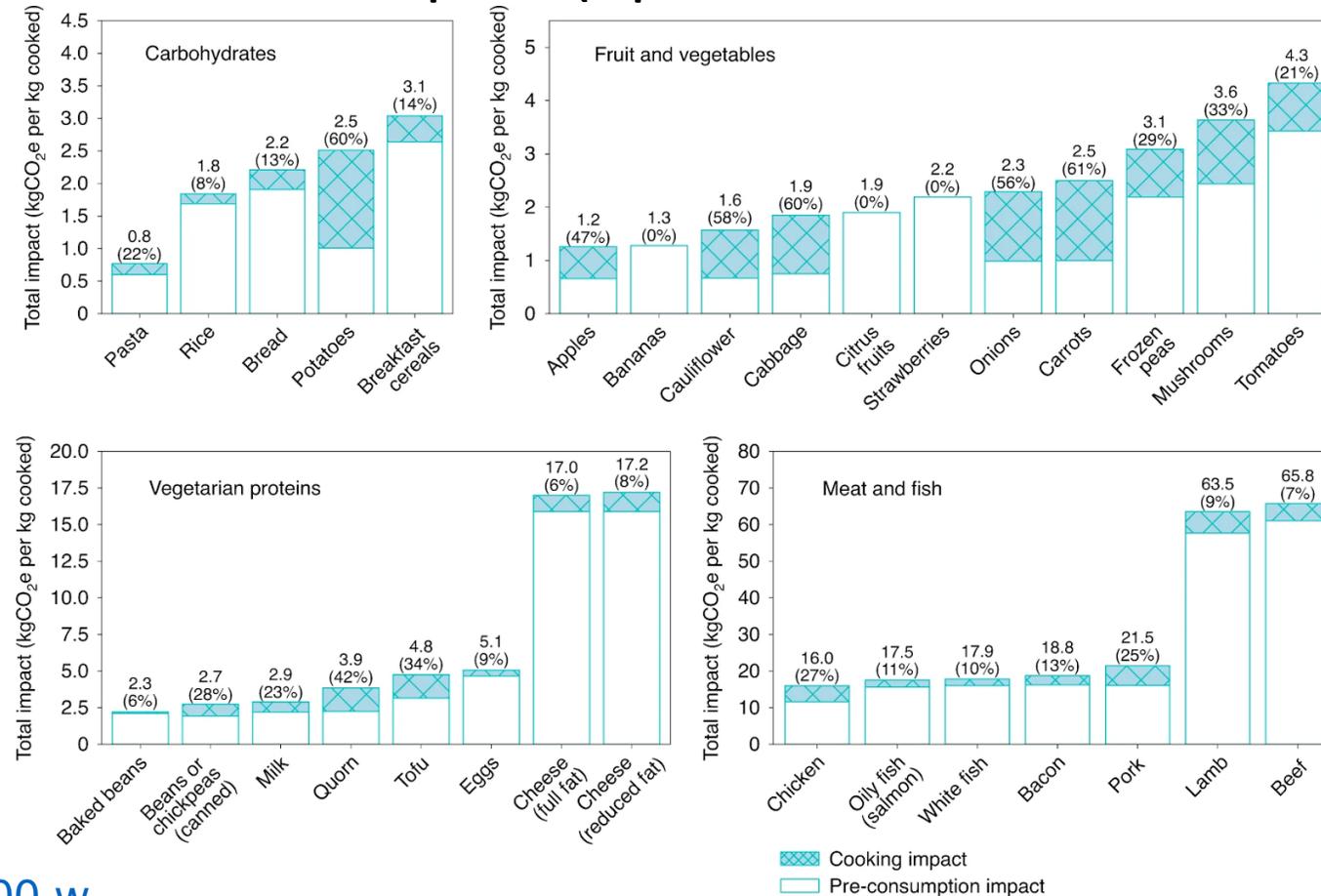
# Solution – recipes to be analysed for sustainability. Use Natural Language Processing

## Project proposal

- Analysis of ‘sustainable’, ‘plant based’, ‘vegan’ or ‘vegetarian’ recipes from different European gastronomic traditions or cultures (UK, Dutch, and German), assessing the ingredients used, and the methods of cooking.
- What are the differences between different cultures sustainable recipes?
- Add in cooking impacts.

# Cooking, recipes and impact

- Cooking methods described in recipes have not been investigated – but recent research shows that cooking method can make a considerable environmental impact (up to 60% of some ingredients).



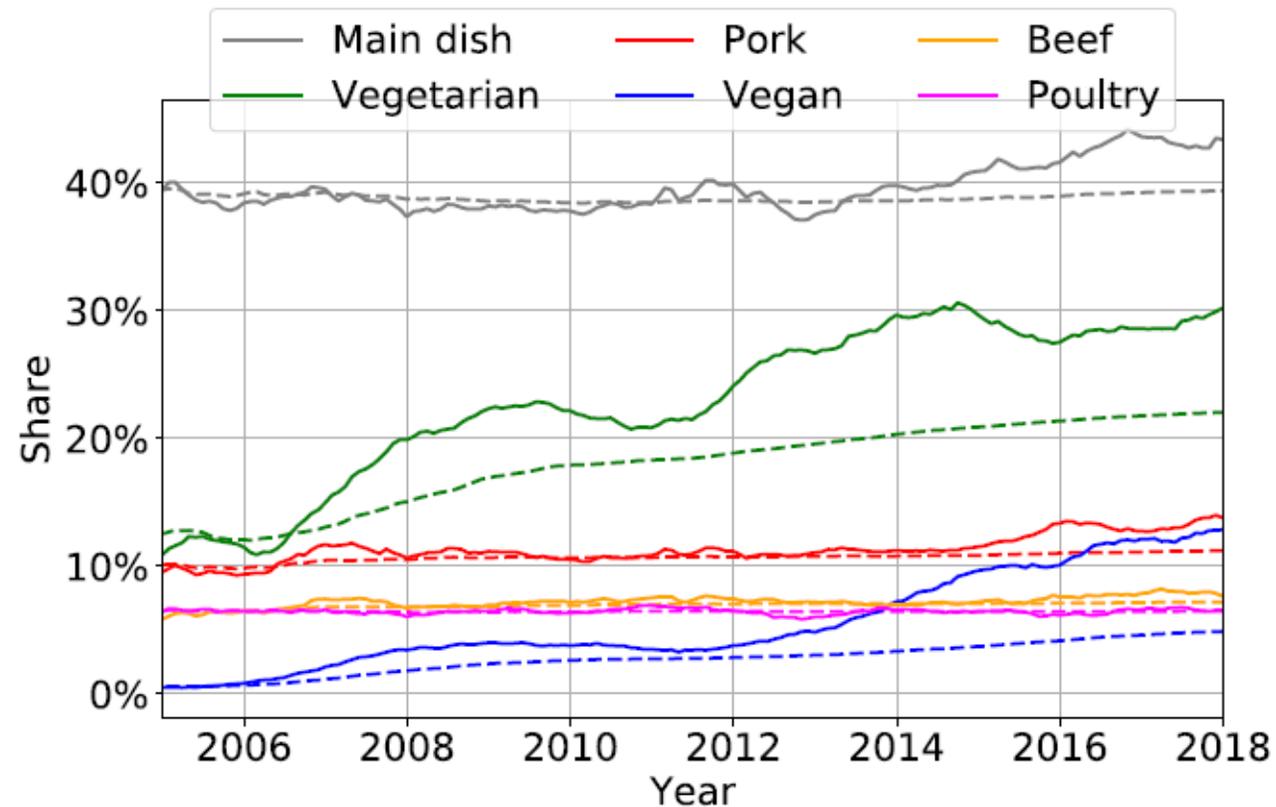
# Recipe analysis and Natural Language Processing

Multiple uses already

- Nutritional and health studies (Reinivuo et al., 2009; Trattner et al., 2017)
- Computational linguistics (Jurafsky, 2015),
- Computational gastronomy (Jain et al., 2015)
- Online shopping recommendations (Aiello et al., 2019)
- Semantic web (Hausmann et al., 2019)

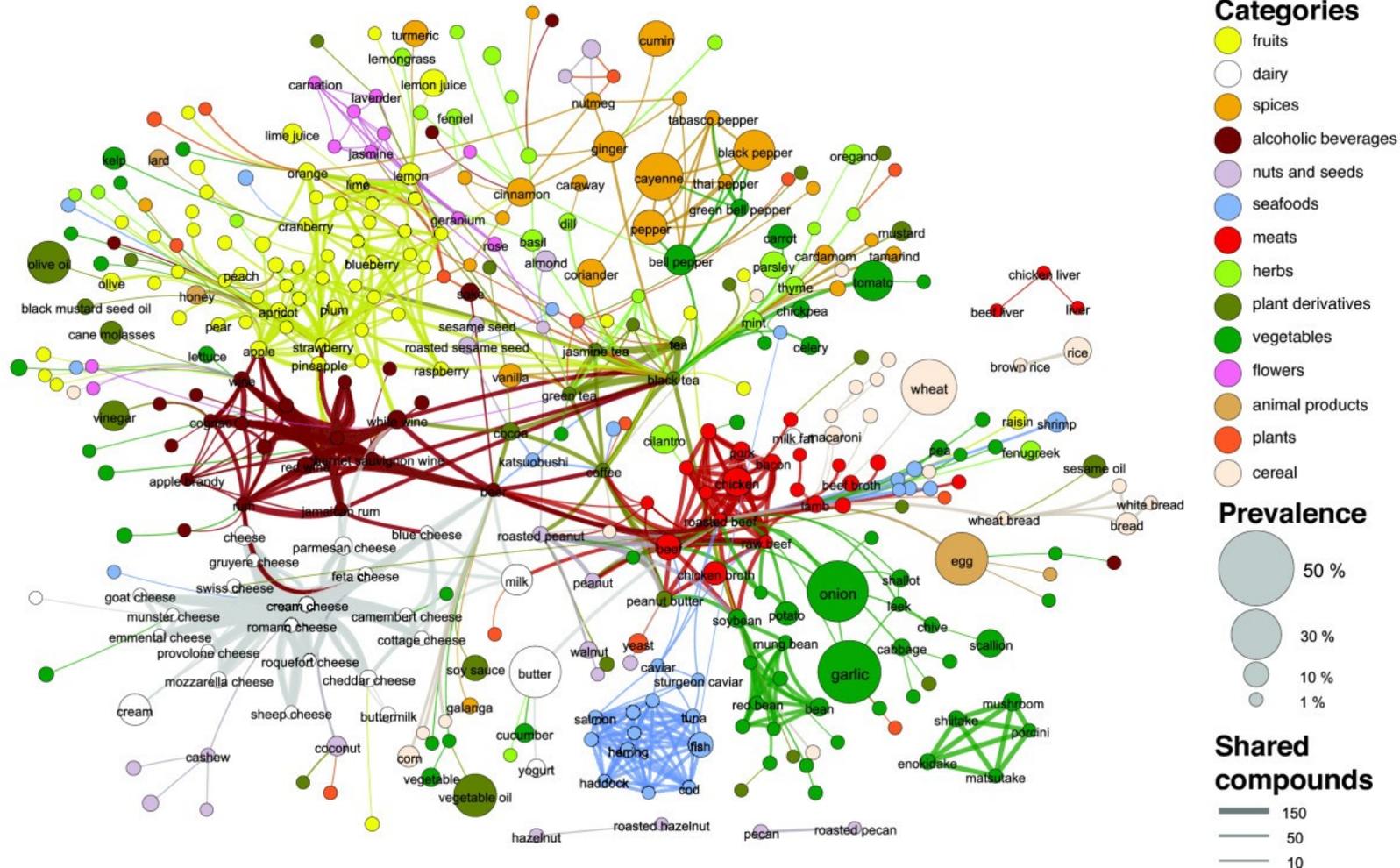
This is still a young field of investigation!

## Analysis of submitted recipes (Asano and Biermann, 2019)



Share of submitted recipes containing different tags from 2005-2018 as a time-series.  
(Asano and Biermann, 2019), <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-019-0316-0>

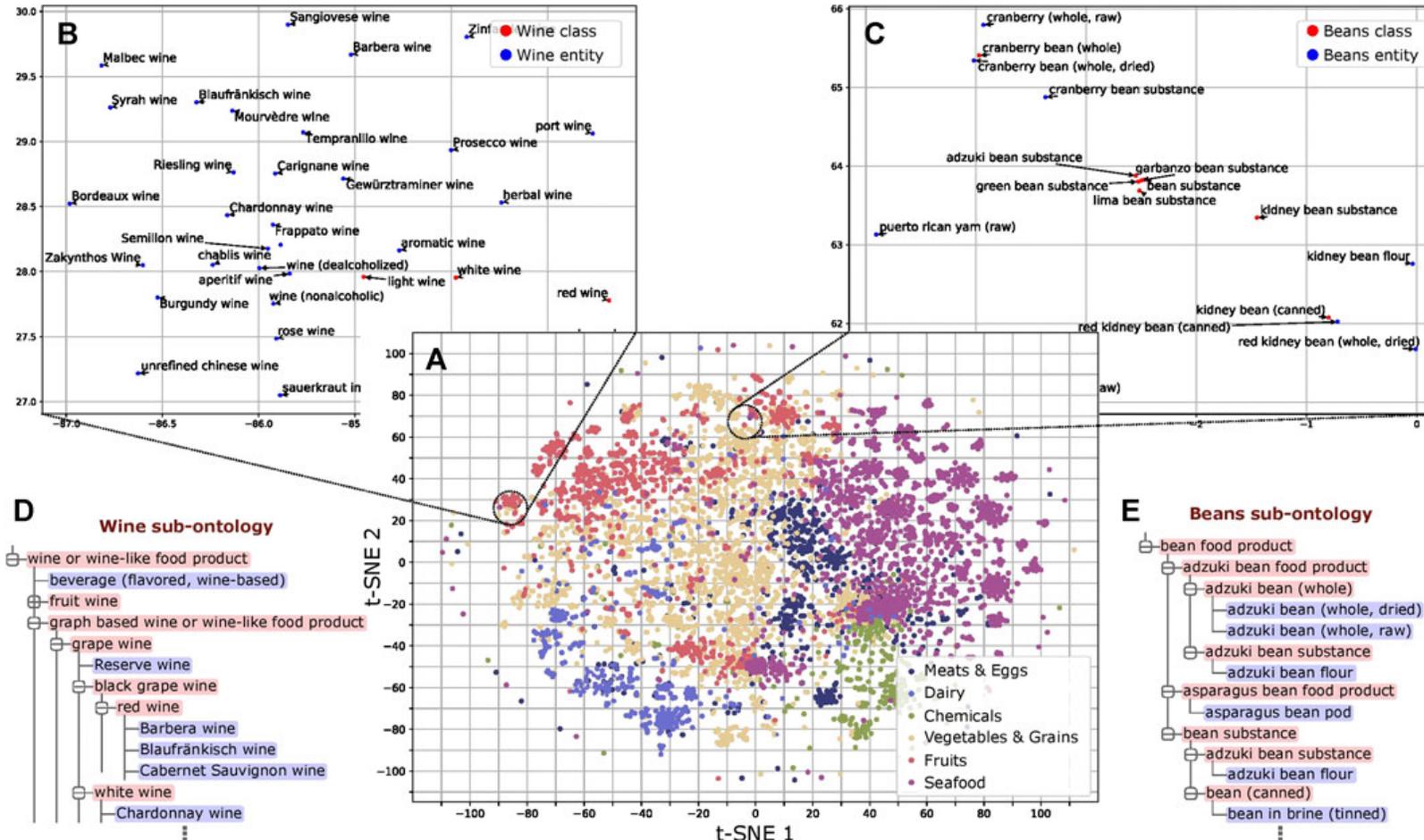
# Flavour networks Ahnert 2013 [10.1186/2044-7248-2-4](https://doi.org/10.1186/2044-7248-2-4)



## How would these differ by diet type and cuisine?

‘sustainable’, ‘plant based’, ‘vegan’ or ‘vegetarian’ recipes from different European gastronomic traditions or cultures (UK, Dutch, and German),

# Existing food ontology groupings



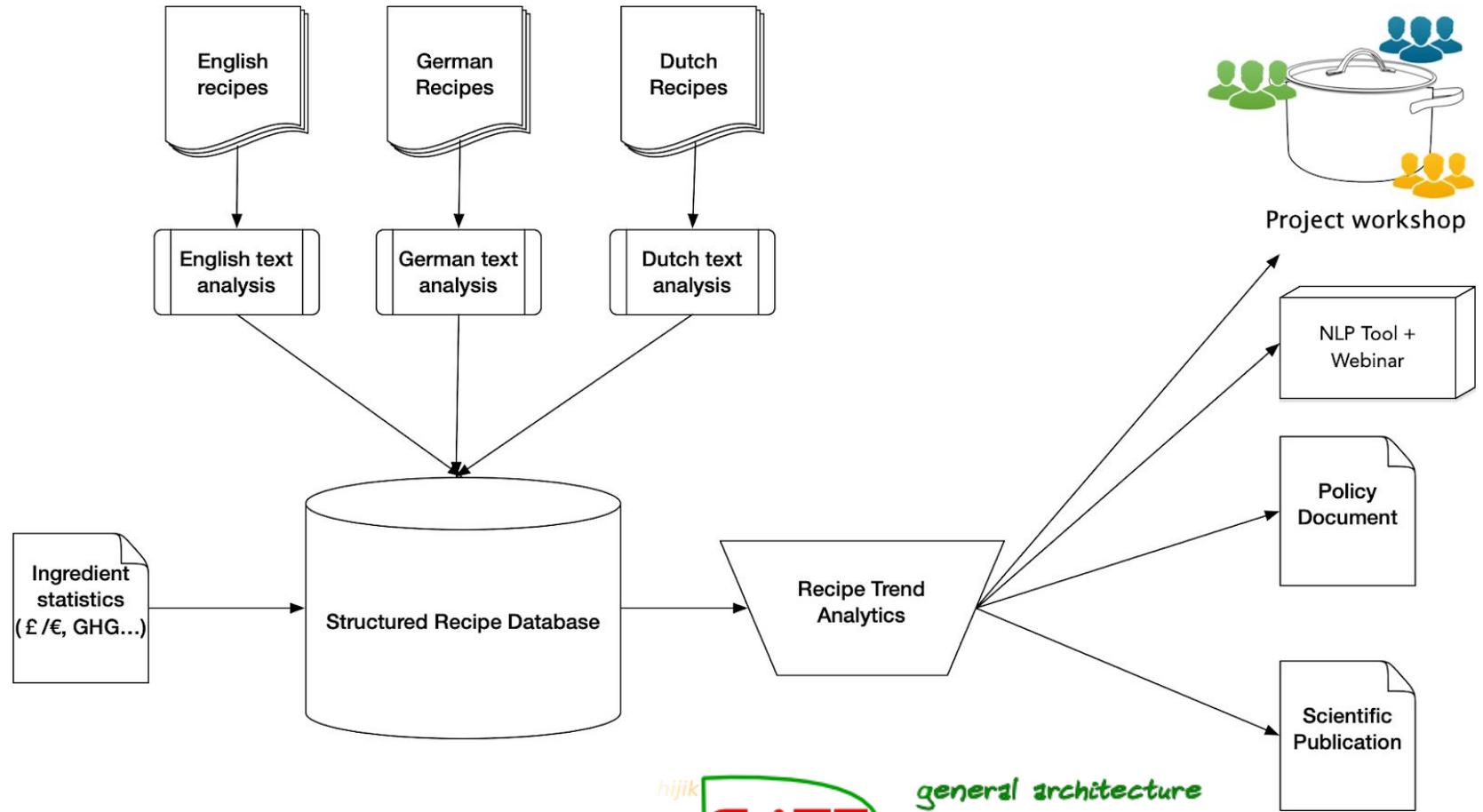
Using Word Embeddings to Learn a Better Food Ontology Front. Artif. Intell., 26 November 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.3389/frai.2020.584784>

## How would these differ by diet type and cuisine?

‘sustainable’, ‘plant based’, ‘vegan’ or ‘vegetarian’ recipes from different European gastronomic traditions or cultures (UK, Dutch, and German),

# Project Plan

Allrecipes.com(n=4,900), Kochbar.de (n~29,000), and Albert Heijn (n~18,000)

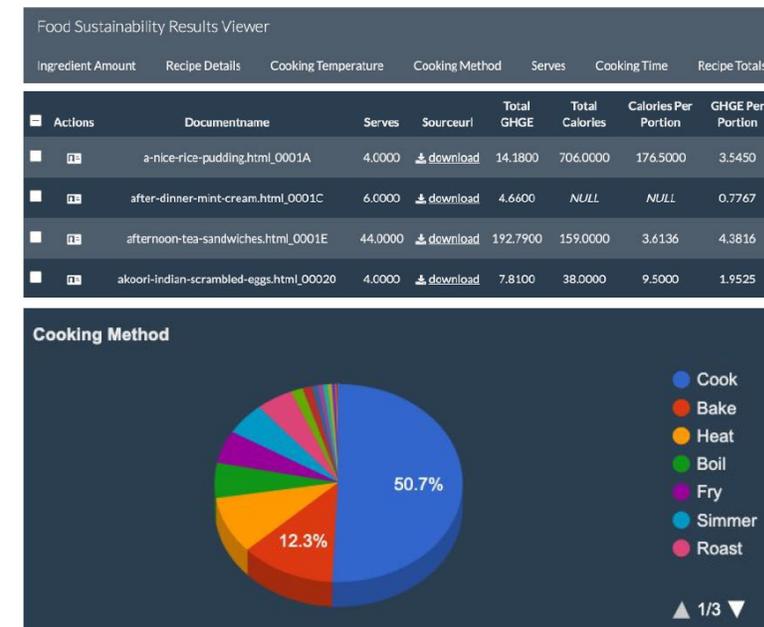
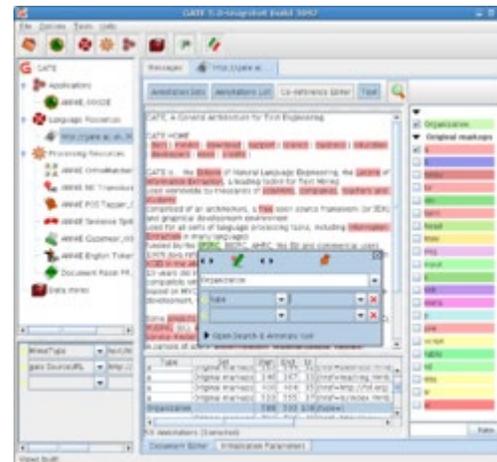


hijk **GATE**<sup>011</sup> *general architecture for text engineering*  
stu x

## GATE and NLP



- **General Architecture for Text Engineering** or **GATE** is a [Java](#) suite of tools



# Recipe example – a potato soup

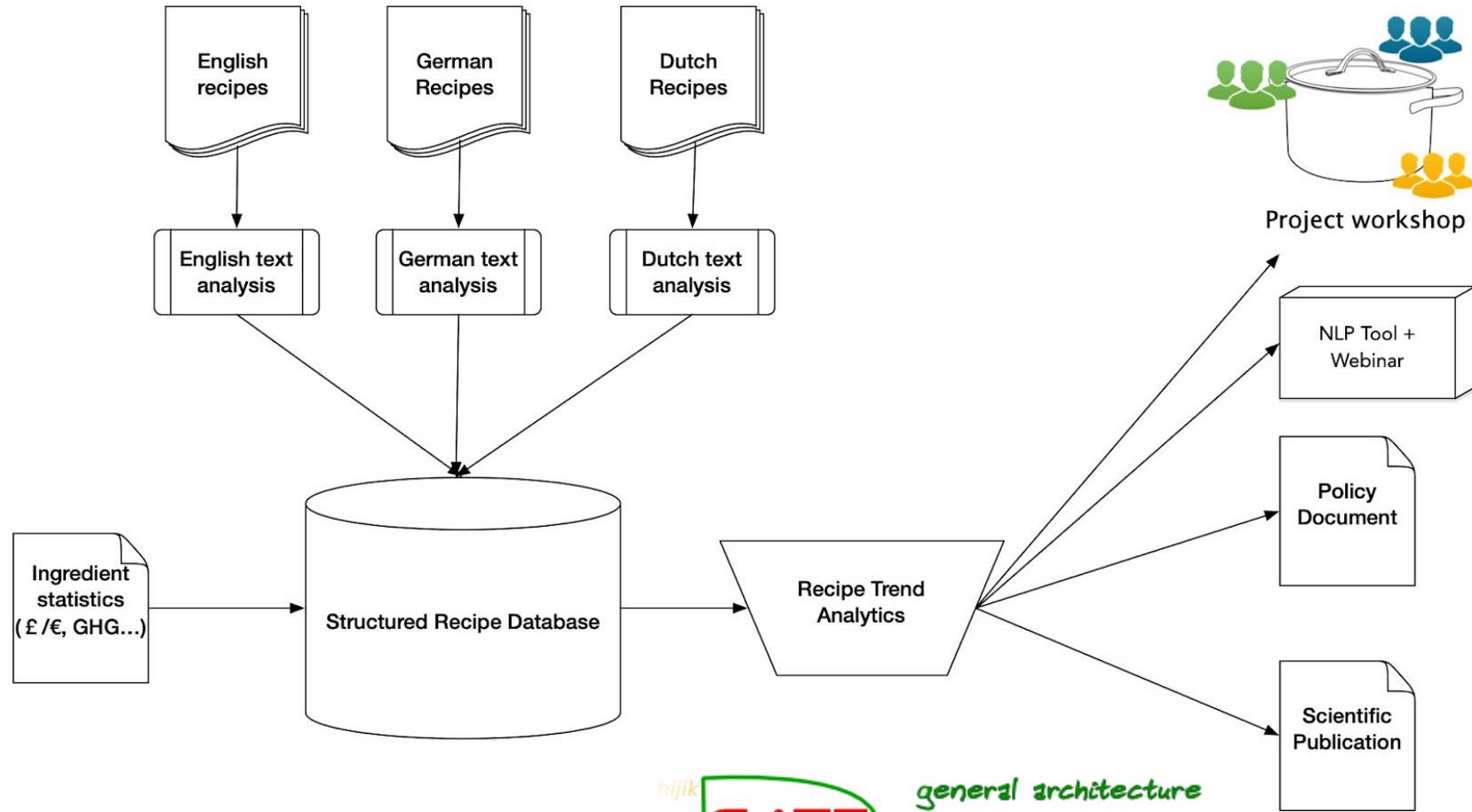
Nutrient database

LCA database

Mass (g)	Ingredient	Calories	Adjusted Calories	co2e	Adjusted GHGE
0.616125	1/8 teaspoon salt			0.42	0
0.616125	1/8 teaspoon chopped fresh parsley			0.42	0
110.11	1 onion	35	39	0.41	0.05
21	dash garlic powder	98	2	0.489	0
236.6	1 cup milk	46	109	2.572816	0.61
236.6	1 cup chopped carrots	34	80	0.4	0.09
42	potatoes	82	3	14.71	0.12
473.2	2 cups buttermilk	37	175	1.4	6.62
709.8001	3 cups water			0	0
				<b>Total GHGE</b>	<b>7.49</b>

# Project Plan

Allrecipes.com(n=4,900), Kochbar.de (n~29,000), and Albert Heijn (n~18,000)



**Can we integrate recipe optimisers and recommender systems?**



Comments?  
Questions?

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integrated and inclusive food policy

# Linking and analysis of Life Cycle Analysis data using NLP

- Ghose et al., (2019) and Ghose (2020) proposed NLP methods for semantic investigation of LCA databases.

## Vision

*Community driven Open-data platform,  
for data ingestion, integration, validation, and sharing.  
+ Connected application for LCA calculations.*

