



Alternative agricultures in academia: is justice a cleaving issue?

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Alternative agricultures in academia: is Justice a cleaving issue?

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IRSA Congress 2016



Introduction

Many alternative agriculture propositions emerged since the 1970's, as social movements and/or in academia: organic, sustainable farming, agroecology... (Ollivier, Bellon, 2013)

Some of them have strong revendications about justice, in academia and social movements: e.g. in agroecology or organic agriculture

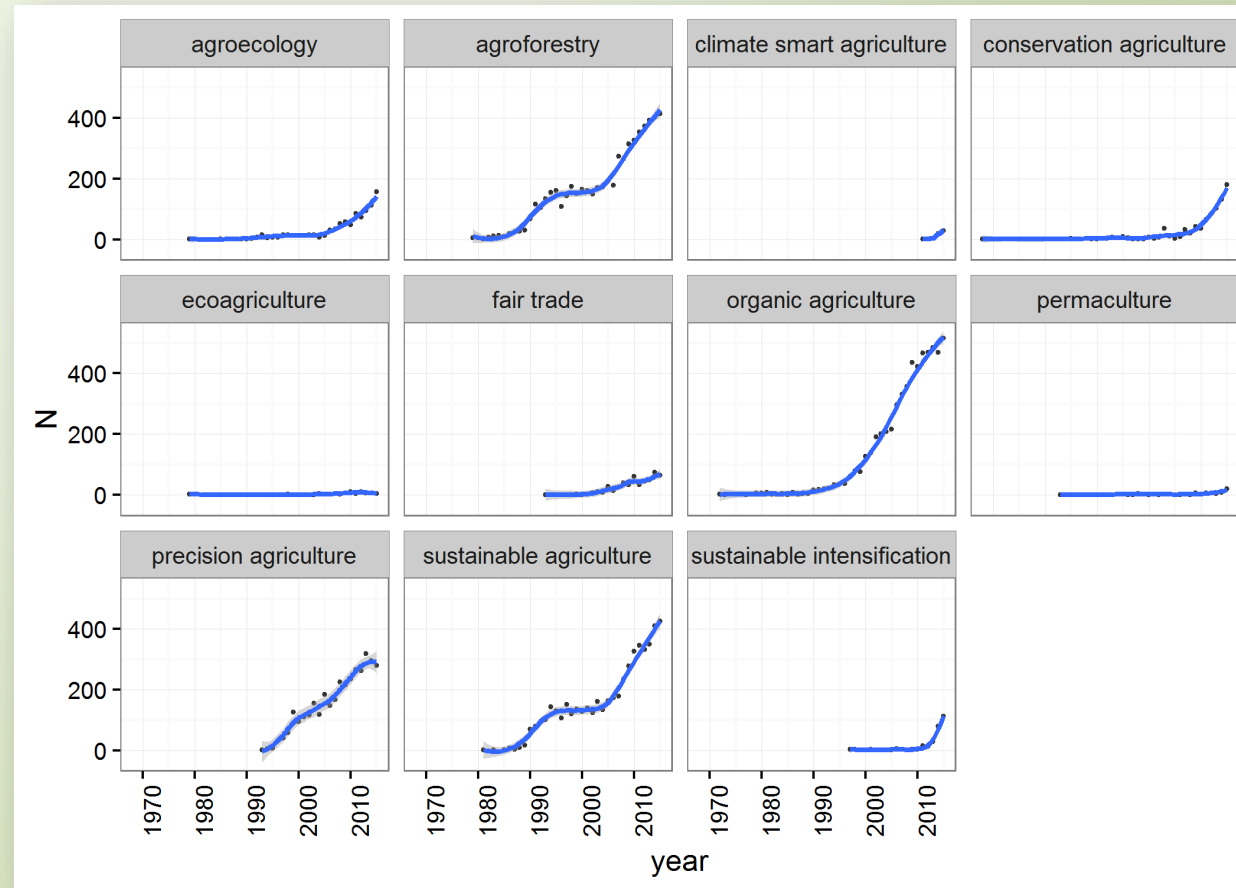
Questions: What about Justice issues in this proliferation of forms?

- *What are their relative positions about Justice in academia?*
- *Are these issues a cleavage?*
- *What is the specific contribution of Agroecology?*

Material & Methods

Web of Science corpus:

- most significant Alternative Agriculture forms in volume and/or in their recent evolution
- 23908 records (Title, Abstract & Keywords) with heterogenous size and dynamics



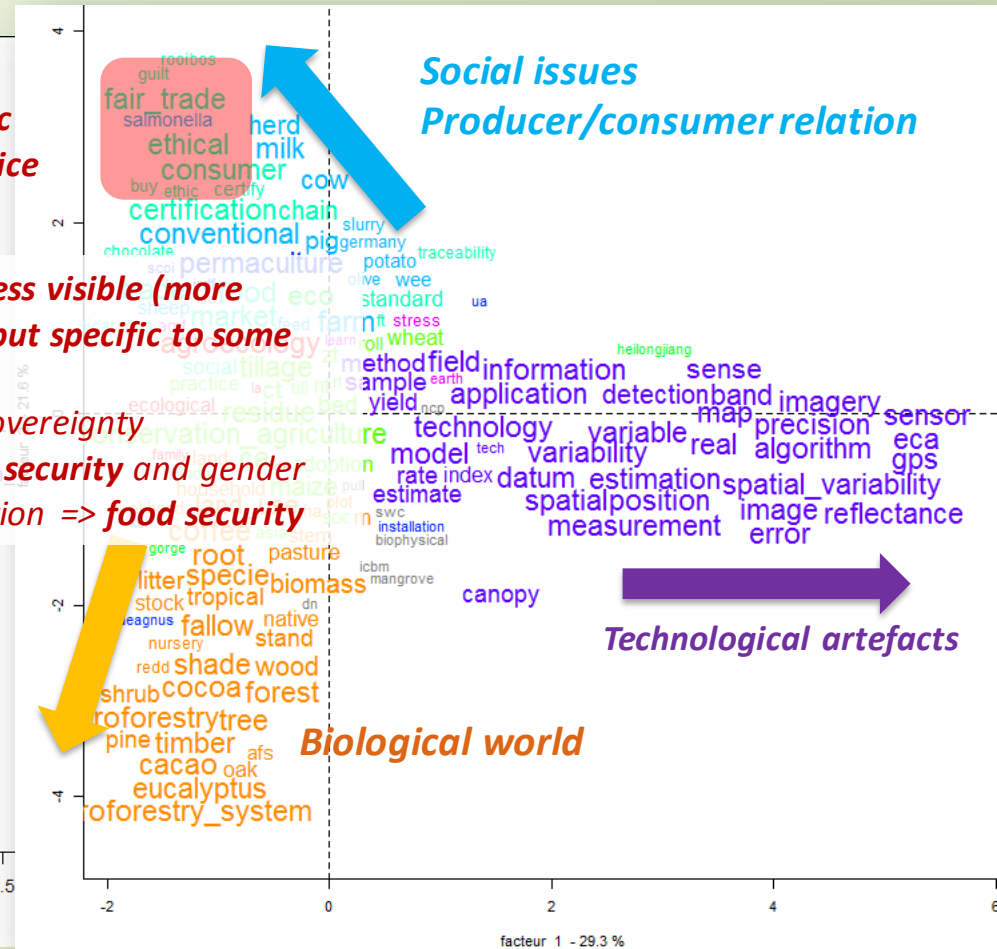
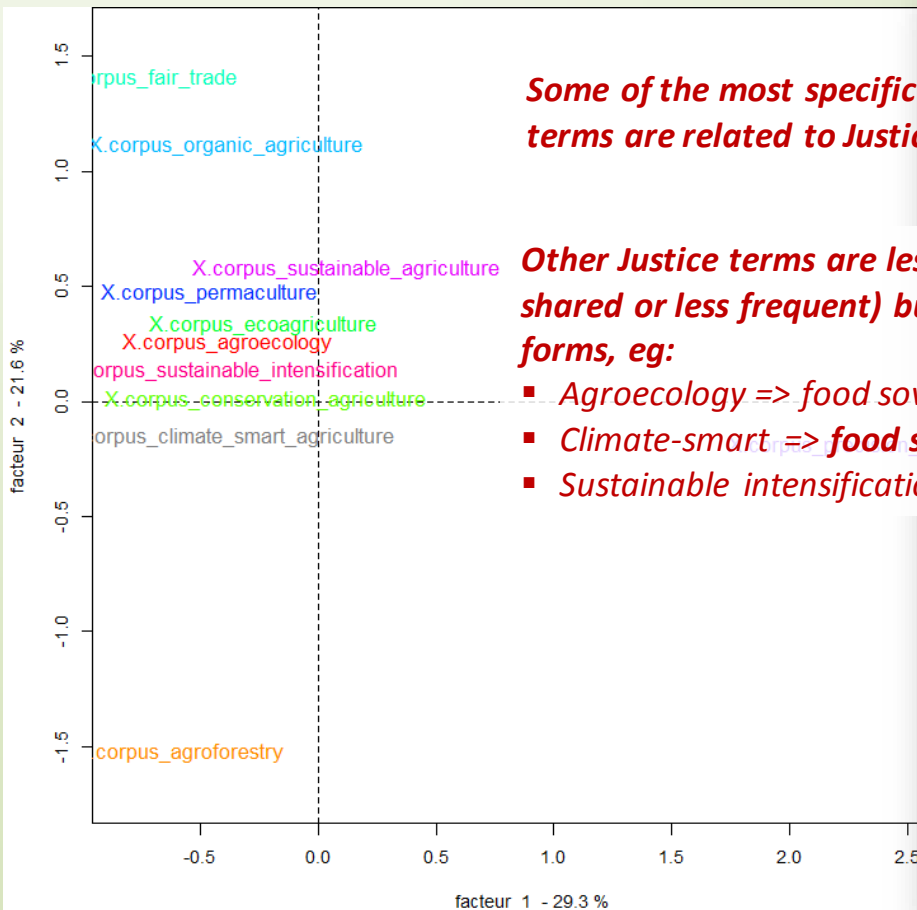
Exploratory statistical text analysis:

- R packages and Iramuteq software => descriptive and multivariate statistics
- ***Most salient and specific structural characteristics of discourses***

1- Big picture of relative positions ... and the place of justice

A- Lexical Correspondence Analysis: Forms x Terms

(most salient and specific features via χ^2)



B- Another insight: thematic classification with the Reinert algorithm (*robust hierarchical clustering of co-occurring words, then statistical measure of cluster/forms relation*)

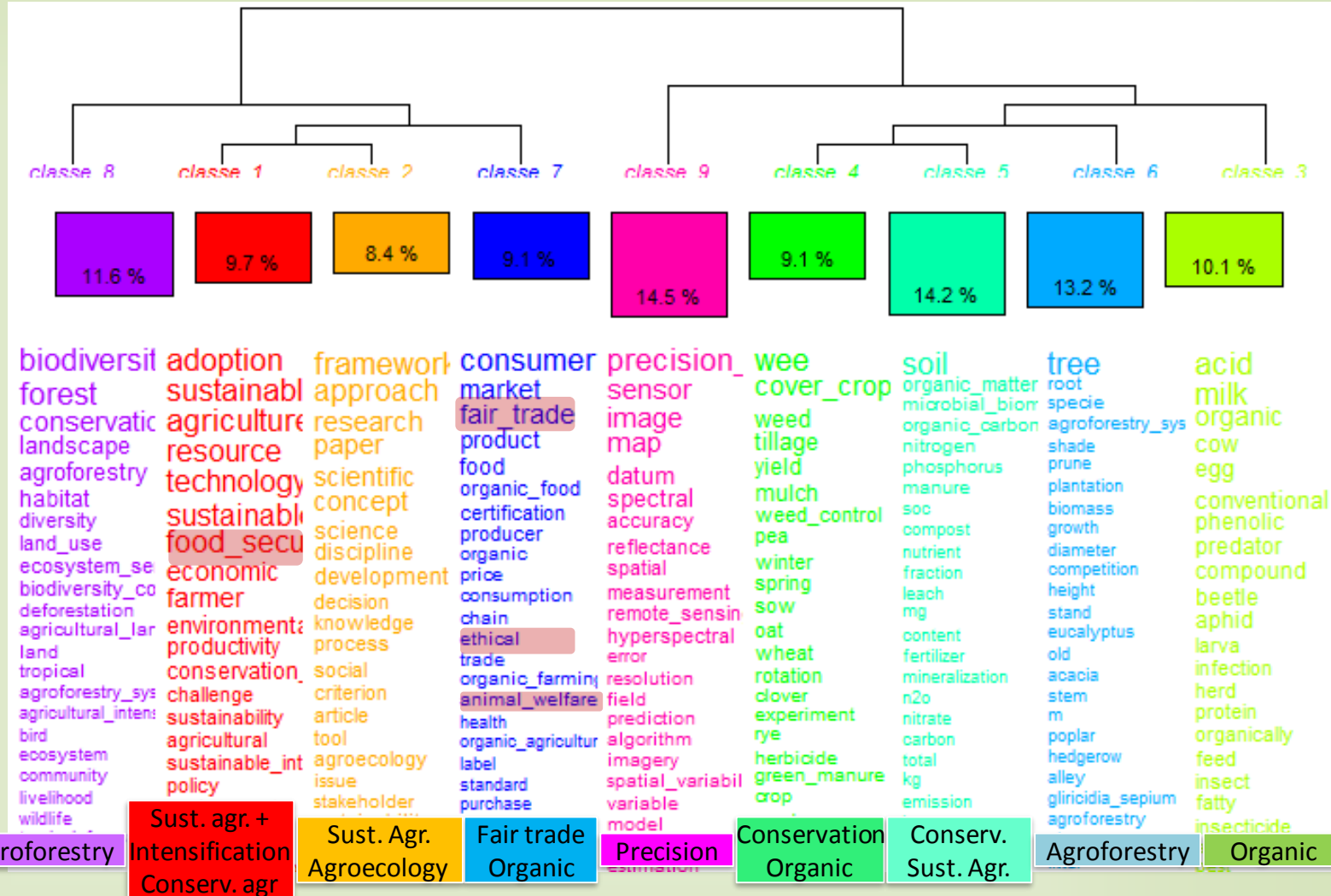
Detected clusters of co-occurring terms

% of total corpus

Most specific terms of clusters (chi2)

Significantly linked to forms:

At this scale:



- Agroecology is not distinct about Justice
- Most prominent issue: **producer/consumer relation**, by Fair Trade and Organic literature
- Very few references to Justice terms,
- As a **cross-cutting issue with many déclinaisons** => **need to be analyzed at a lower level**

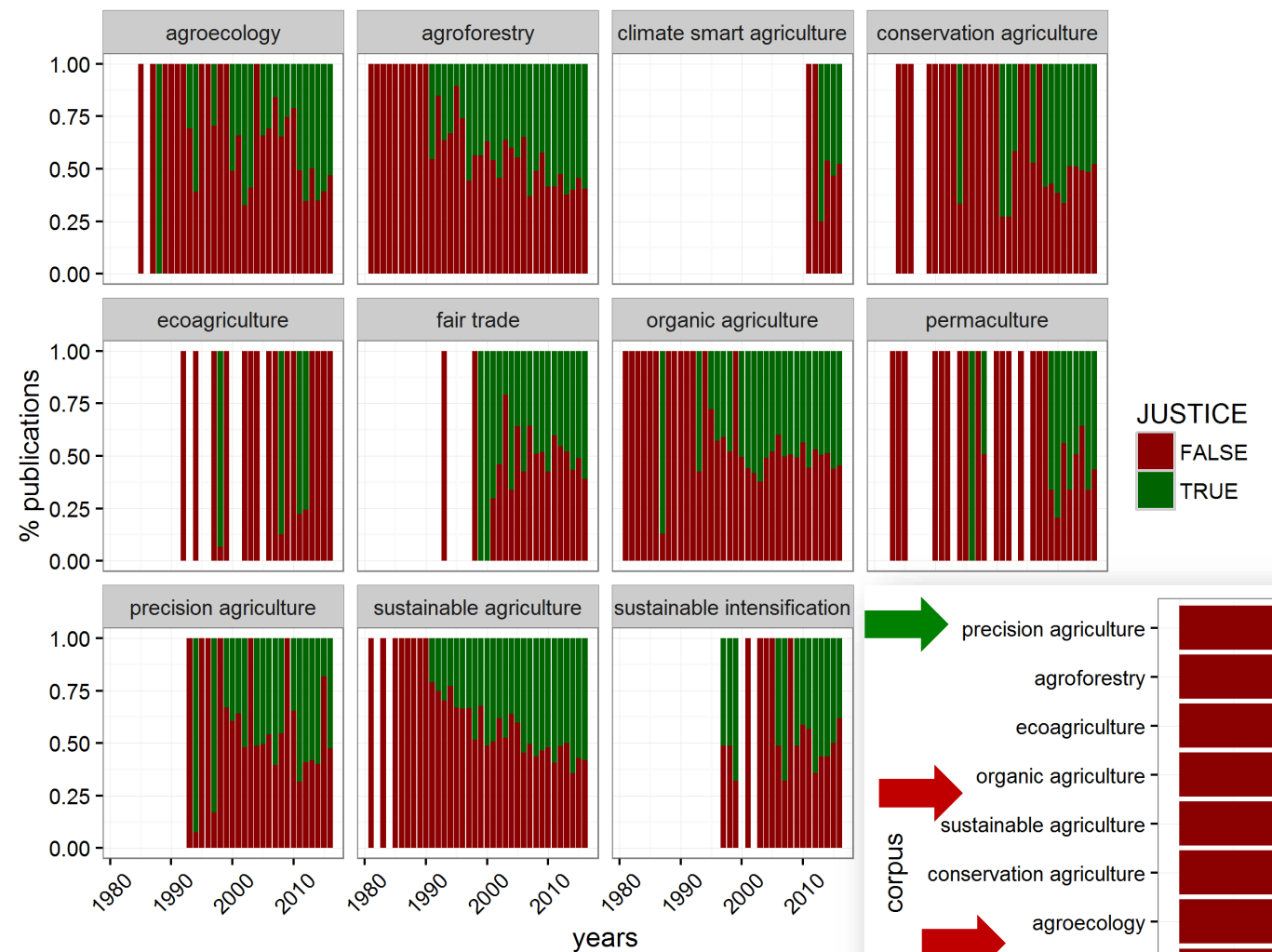
2- Focusing on a Justice corpus

A- Design of a query to encompass various aspects of Justice:

- set of relevant keywords identified via iterative visual exploration of texts and computational help (*eg* expressions with polysemous words: *right, value, principles ...*)
- choice of abstracts containing at least 2 occurrences of words to limit irrelevant results

"justic|injustic|oppression|dispossession|ecojustice|socially
just|moral|equity|equitable|equalit|egalit|dignity|inequit|inaequal|justness|goodness|sovereignty|fairness|unfair|fair condition|fair
access|access to food|food access|access to land|access to water|access to safe|fair globali|fair distrib|fair price|fair relation|fairer
distribution|unjust|security|insecur|social safet|food safet|environmental safet|gender|socially just|principles and right|social law|social
legisl|social polic|social right|charter of right|legal right|equal right|communal right|human right|civil right|religious right|individual
right|womens right|material right|farmers right|farmer right|workers right|worker right|farmworker right|labour right|consumer
right|ownership right|utilitarian right|property right|property-right|property regim|land right|tenure right|tenural right|animal right|civil
right|water right|resource right|user right|use right|indigenous right|custom right|customary right|traditional right|plant
right|development right|pogge's right|rights to|right of|right to food|right to bargain|restricted right|usufruct right|pro-poor|poor
farm|precautionary principl|stewardship|ethic|bioethic|macroethic|axiolog|welfare|responsibilit|accountability|responsible
action|responsible produc|responsible trad|responsible institut|socially responsib|quality of life|good life|wellbeing|well-being|wealth
distribution|redistribut|dignity|empowerment|emancipation|self determination|self-determination|self-relian|self relian|self-sufficien|self
sufficien|autonomy|rural exclusion|social exclusion|political exclusion|inclusiveness|transparency|openness|social accountability|work
quality|intrinsic value|rawls|bentham|kitcher|de schutter|Ziegler|callicott|bryan norton|john seymour|ideals|human value|social
value|environmental value|value judgment|normative value|personal value|value theor|rights theory|organic value|value-based
agriculture|farming value|duty|duties|illegal|legal|courthouse|law court|legitimacy|legislation|lawfulness|monism|social
cost|democrat|undemocratic|citizenship|workload|workfare|labor law|labor welfare|labor condition|labour condition|working
condition|work condition|workers' health|penibility|fair labor|fair labour|jurispruden|jurisdictio|judicial|court
system|legislature|agrarianism|desirability|socio-ethical|virtue|criminal|benefit sharing|consumption value|fair initiative|value of
life|sustainable value|health care|health provision|consumers care|care farming|caring practice|conscious farm|
altruis|philantrop|freedom|food access|unethical|non-ethic|social mindedness|guilt|social cost|social outcome|social
consequenc|externalit|imbalance of power|hunger|non-discrimination|decent livelihood|equal exchange|poverty|societal value|power
back to|core value|values and motivation|social issue|unequal distribution|civic value|civic agric|civic standar|civic engagement|social
protection|anthropocentric values|organic philosoph|ecological philosoph|environmental philosoph|farming
philosoph|anthropocentrism|ecocentrism|utilitarian|socially inclusive|socially-inclusive|benefits to the poor"

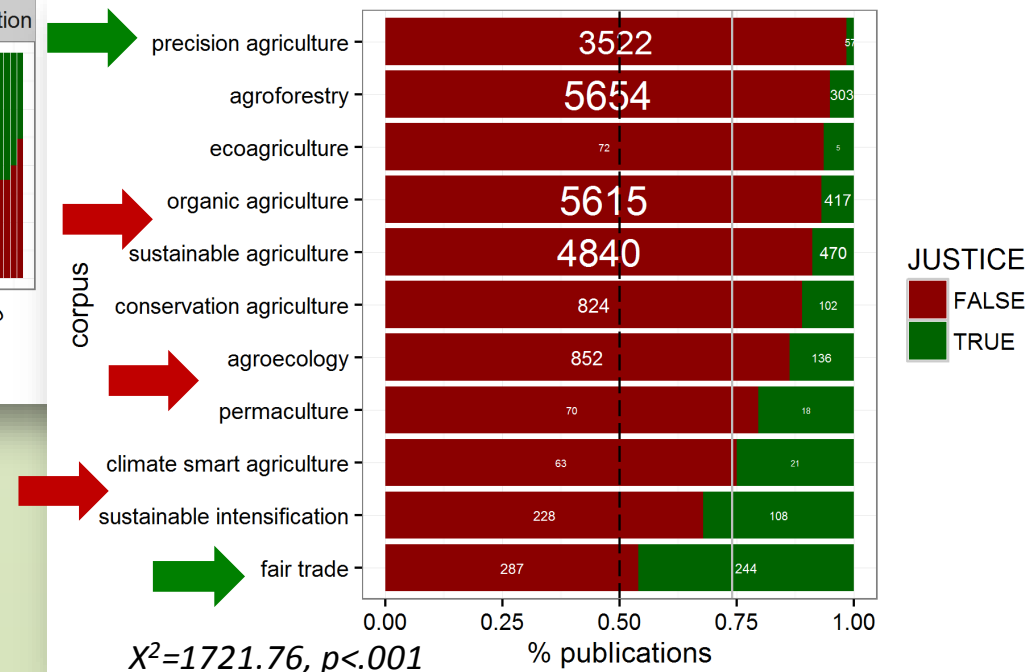
B- Importance of Justice across Alternative Agricultures



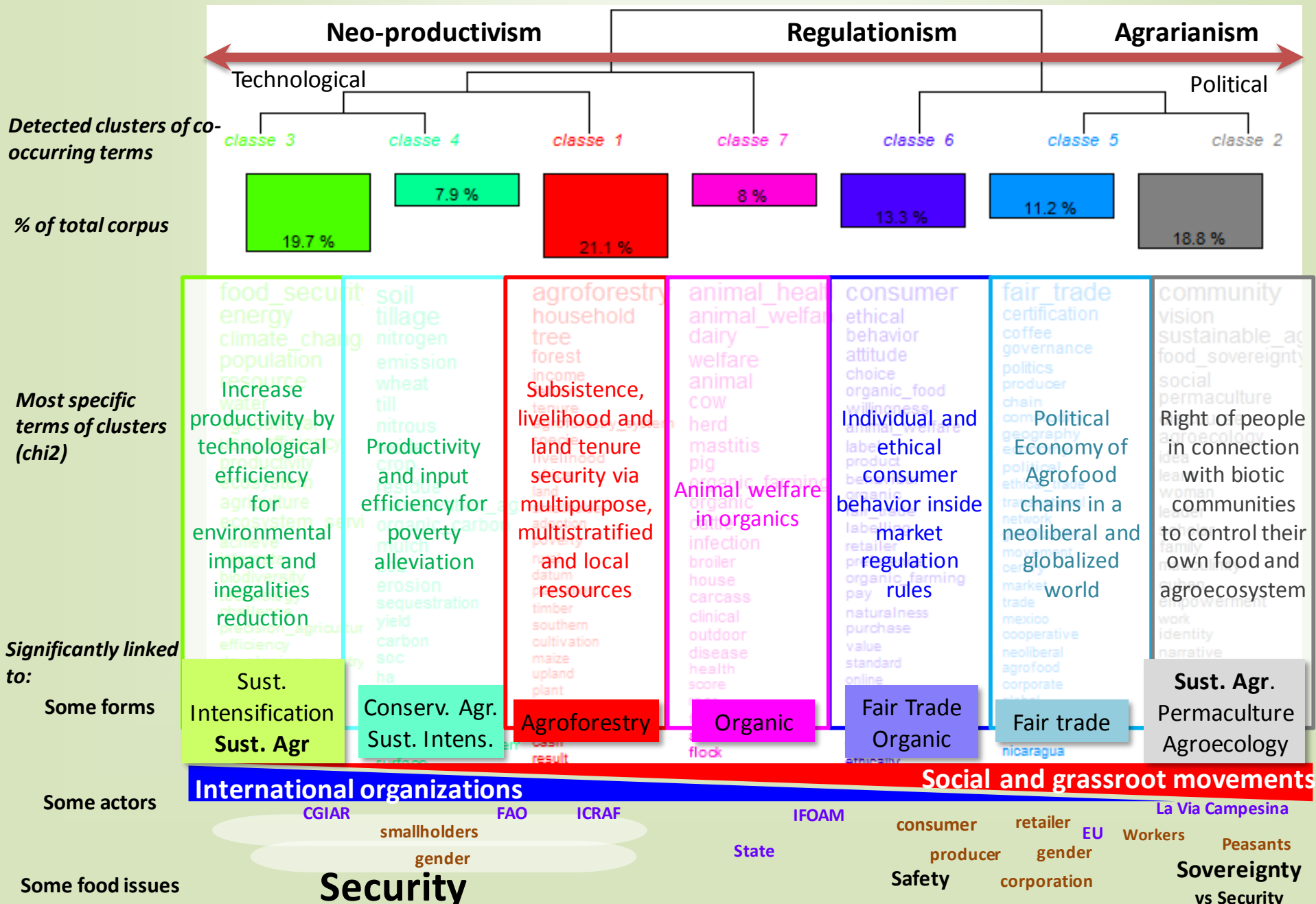
An increasing issue since the 90's ...

...in most of academic literatures

An uneven distribution across forms
Some met expectations...
Some surprises also...



C- The framings of farming justice



3- Agroecology: a critical role to other forms

1- Agroecology in the search for a truly Sustainable agriculture

- Agroecology defined as *‘the scientific basis for sustainable agriculture’* (Altieri, 1988, Gliessman, 1990...)
- But in the same time, some agroecologists question some appropriations of sustainability:
 - promote a *‘truly sustainable agriculture’* in UNDP (Altieri, 1995) and UNEP reports (Altieri, Nicholls, 2005)
 - recognize social Justice in a balanced view of interacting sustainability dimensions (Allen... Gliessman, 1991)
 - silences of sustainability: hunger, farm labor, race and gender issues... (Allen & Sachs, 1992, 1993)

2- Conventionalization of organic practices based upon agroecological principles (Buck, Guthman, Rosset & Altieri...) and ethical criticism also:

- *“the fundamental social responsibility of organic agriculture is improving the **health of the soil** (...). But there is **no consensus on the nature of justice and what equity is**”* (Allen, 2004)
- IFOAM formalized **Organic Principles** in 2005 and implemented them through its standards, even if **Social Justice in not at the top level of hierarchy** (Schreck, 2006, COROS, 2011)
- Increasing influence of Agroecology inside IFOAM, even if there are **still tentions**:
 - *e.g. debates in OWC on certified vs non-certified agroecological peasants => third-party vs participatory certification => North vs South => export vs domestic market*

Conclusions

Justice: difficulties to track, due to blurred and contested semantics, for our analysis but also for scholars and other actors

Justice cleaves: An uneven distribution of Justice issues over Alternative Agricultures, with 3 main competing framings of justice

=> Cleavages about hierarchy of objectives, publics and means, about Technology, State and people self-organization

The particular role of Agroecology: a spur inside the alternative agriculture field, questioning others, but not the single to have justice claims

From Discourses to Practices:

- Possible mismatches between (possibly incantational) narratives and implementation
- Interest to invest situations that deal pragmatically with Justice, with debates on devices, instruments, indicators and standards to implement Justice