

Food Brexit: The realities of Disruption

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Summary of this talk

- Disruptive management is trendy speak
- Food disruption is realities
- Brexit restructures food flows
- Alters the 'Settlement' of UK society
- Public health not central – food safety a bit
- Food infrastructure loss is serious

Disruptive management

- Schumpeter (1942) “creative destruction”
 - Draws on Karl Marx
 - Ceaseless product / process *innovation*
 - new production units replace outdated ones.
 - “the essential fact about capitalism”
- Modern use:
 - part management babble, part serious analyses
- Reality = financialisation / food as value

Food & health in Brexit discourse

- Political silence...
 - ...until chlorinated chicken
 - <https://foodresearch.org.uk/publications/food-brexit-chlorine-washed-turkey-for-christmas/>
- Bigger picture of international standards
 - EU / USA / Codex Alimentarius
 - Role of health / impact of health in trade deals



In Food Brexit, 2 major variants...

- *V 1. Globalist*
 - Post Washington Consensus
 - neo-liberal radicalism
 - anti-regulation
- *V 2. Nationalist*
 - corporatist
 - voice of periphery
 - regulation to serve home industries

Will Brexit disrupt UK food sourcing?

Countries supplying UK food in 2016

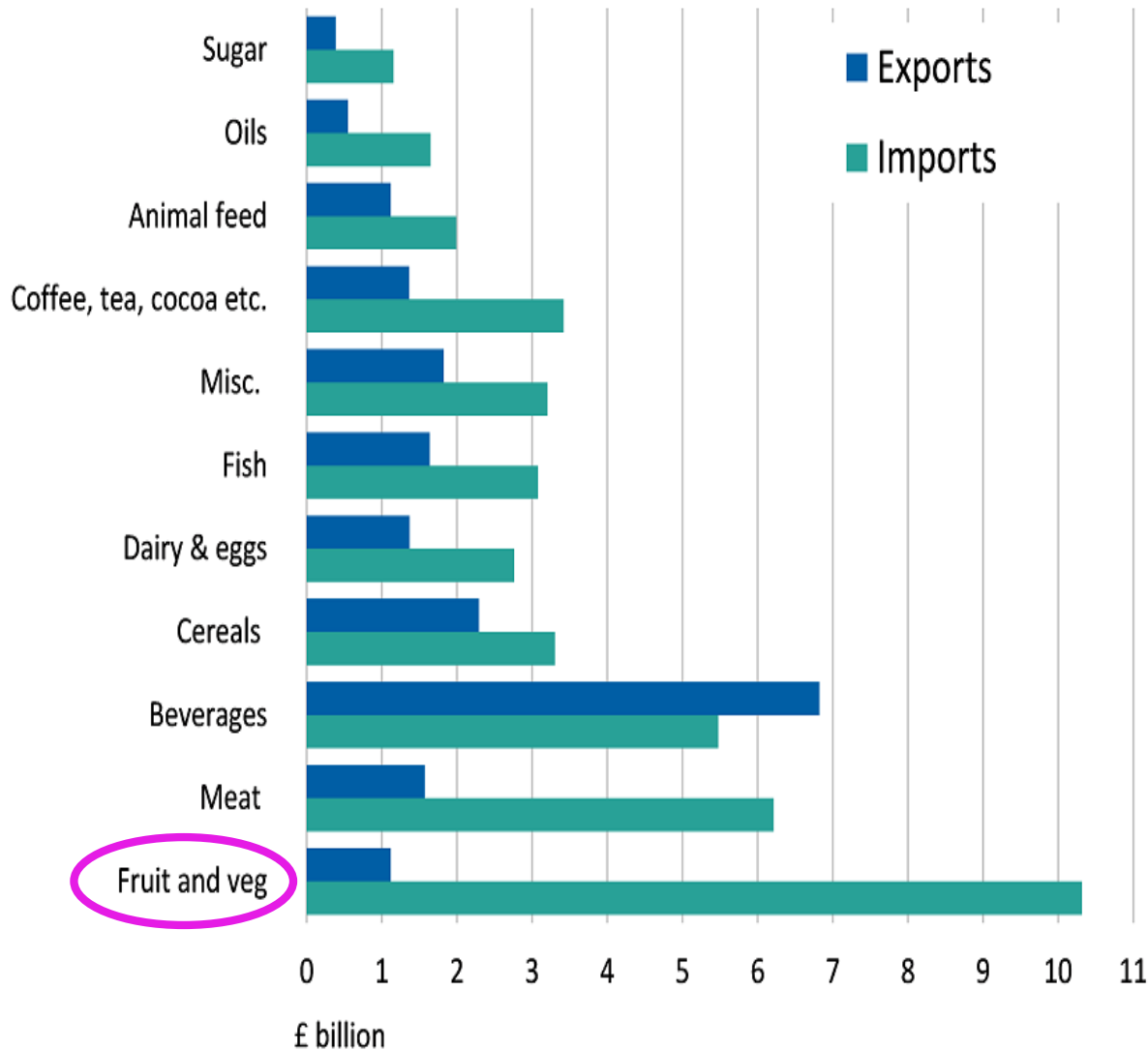
GLOBAL

- UK – 49%
- EU - 30%
- Africa – 5%
- N America – 4%
- S America – 4%
- Asia – 4%
- Rest of Europe – 2%
- Australasia – 1%

Of the EU 30%:

- Netherlands - 5.9%
- Spain - 5.1%
- France - 3.3%
- Irish Republic - 3.2%
- Germany - 2.6%

UK Imports & Exports, by commodity, £bn



source: (HMRC data) in Defra *Food Statistics Pocketbook 2017* Fig 3.4
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/food-statistics-pocketbook-2017/food-statistics-in-your-pocket-2017-global-and-uk-supply>

The 'invisible' food infrastructure

- 50 years of legal / standards integration
 - Food Safety White Paper 2000
 - Acquis Communautaire: 40% = food
 - directives, regulations, communiqués, decisions...
- https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/policy/glossary/terms/acquis_en
- 35 Scientific frameworks, agencies, etc:
 - EFSA, Medicines/Pharma Agencies, Vets, Food & Feed safety, RASFF, Plant Health, Europhyt, etc
- Trade agreements
 - EU 28 member states = 550m consumer market
 - 50 external trade treaties

Realities of just-in-time food flows

- **Food trade flows are vulnerable:**
 - Port inspections av. 2 mins
 - Dover estimate of rise to 4 mins → 17-20 mile tailbacks in 24 hrs
- **UK PM has been briefed but remains silent**



Port in Ireland	Port in Britain	Shipping lines	Sailings	Duration (approx.)
Larne (NI)	Cairnryan (Scotland)	P&O	7 daily	2 hours
Belfast (NI)	Cairnryan (Scotland)	Stena	5 daily	2 hours 15 mins
Belfast (NI)	Liverpool Birkenhead (England)	Stena	2 daily	8 hours
Belfast (NI)	Heysham (England)	Stena	2 Daily	8 hours 15 mins
Warrenpoint (NI)	Heysham (England)	Seatruck Ferries	16 weekly	8 hours
Dublin (ROI)	Holyhead (Wales)	Stena; Irish Ferries	5 daily; 4 daily	2-3 hours
Rosslare (ROI)	Fishguard (Wales)	Stena	2 daily	3 hours 15 mins
Rosslare (ROI)	Pembroke (Wales)	Irish Ferries; Stena	14 weekly; 14 weekly	4 hours
Dublin (ROI)	Cherbourg (France)	Irish Ferries	4 weekly	18 hours
Rosslare (ROI)	Roscoff (France)	Irish Ferries	2 a week	17 hours 30 mins
Cork (ROI)	Roscoff (France)	Brittany Ferries	1 a week	14 hours
Rosslare (ROI)	Cherbourg (France)	Irish Ferries; Stena	2 per week; 3 per week	18 hours; 17 hours

Possible food system models

<i>Possible model</i>	<i>What it means</i>
Neo-imperialist	Food from (former) colonies + green UK
Mercantilist	Special food trade agreements
Atlanticist	Special food trade deal with USA ('roll over')
Quasi-European	Join EEA (Norway) or EFTA
Special deal	One-off deal e.g. Canada ++, Switzerland,
Little Britain	Rebuild home production, regional/local
Devolved difference	England, Wales, Scotland, NI do their thing
Bio-regional	Sustainable localism

HOUSE OF LORDS

European Union Committee

14th Report of Session 2017–19

Brexit: food prices and availability

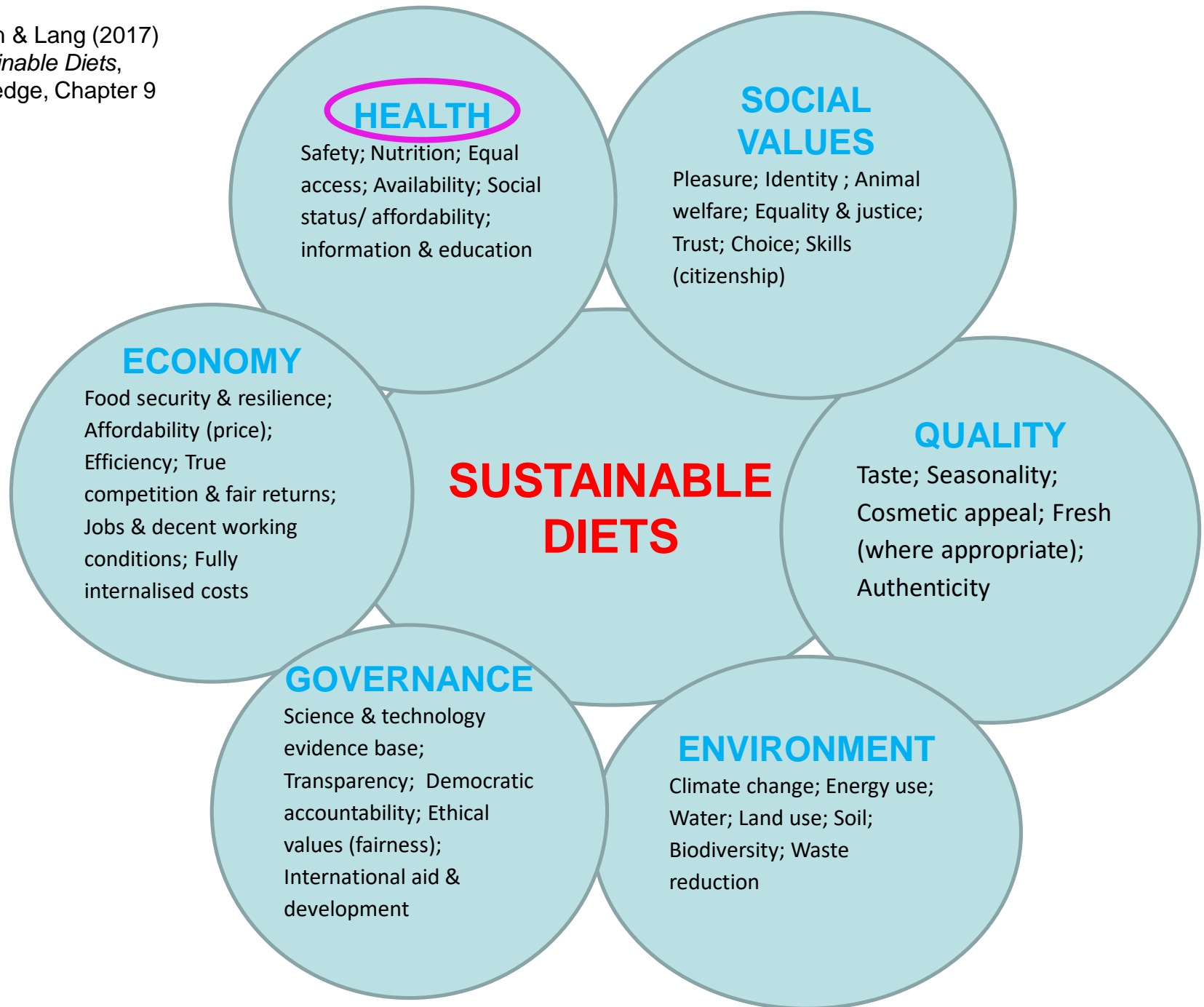
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**Food Research
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Food Brexit papers**

<https://foodresearch.org.uk/food-brexit-briefings/>



Food Brexit papers

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Pre-Referendum 2014-16 papers

Post Referendum 2016 ff include:

- **What Local authorities can do**
- **Chlorine use in poultry, salads etc**
- **Hormone use in beef-rearing**
- **Pesticide standards**
- **National food security**
- **Animal welfare standards**
- **Northern Ireland**
- **UK food safety regulatory change (ROF)**
- **Health and the Agriculture Bill**



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Sustainable Diets from Sustainable Food Systems: the ecological route to public health

