

# **Surrealing MEAT**

**Making meat realer (and better?) through technoscience**

**MEATigation final meeting 22nd of November 2024,  
ONLINE**

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Functions of Categories in the Agricultural  
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# Thesis : reality

Reality is performatively constituted.

Reality is a process

- of performing the real
  - of realing
- of achieving realness

# Thesis : meat surreality

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Scientific work to produce meat analogues is a process of surrealing meat.

Surrealed meat is in some ways realer, and it can be better, than conventional meat.

# Efstathiou 2022

“Performing ‘meat’: Meat replacement as drag”

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MEAT reality is performatively constituted  
--and it can be constituted differently.

# Efstathiou & Kendig

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meat REALITY is performatively constituted  
--and it can be constituted differently.

# What is real?



- Standard position: the ‘noumenal’ , ‘out there’, mind-independent, correspondence
- Non-foundationalist approaches
  - Pragmatic realism (Chang): ‘phenomenal’, operational, coherence, ‘suck it and see’ (2016, 2022)
  - Perspectivism
    - Perspectival realism (Massimi 2022)
    - Amerindian perspectivism (Viveiros de Castro 1998)
- just conventionalism? (Chakravartty 2023)

# Realing

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Realing is the process of performing and achieving realness.

# Executive realness

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# Reality vs. Realness



- Concept of realness: key to Ballroom
    - How close one is to “blending in” or “passing” as real
  - Realness assumes reality as something that can be achieved
    - Achieved through performance: work
- KEY for emancipatory/revisionary work aimed at remaking and resisting oppressive realities

# Realing as always already surrealing

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Realing is a process of performing and achieving realness.

This can be analysed as surrealing:

building on a vision, or dream of reality, vs. reality “itself”  
(what is that anyway?)

### 3. Applying to meat

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Meat replacements as achieving meat realness.

OR --

Meat replacements as realing and surrealing  
meat.

# 'Meat' performed in food science

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- **Structure - fibrous**
- Composition – proteins, lipids, water, ....
- Functionality – cooking loss and textural changes
- Mouthfeel – melting, crystallization
- Flavour – umami taste
- Odour – aroma when cooked
- Colour – red turns brown when heated







(He et al 2020; McClements & Grossmann 2021)

# Achieving 'meat' realness through food science and biotech

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**Table 2**

Structures obtained after heating and simultaneous heating and shearing of blends made from SPI, WG and the SPI-WG blend.

	30% SPI	30% WG	15% SPI + 15% WG
Not sheared	<p>Brittle, porous gel</p> 	<p>Short, thin fibers (multidirectional)</p> 	<p>Gel with short, thin fibers (multidirectional)</p> 
Sheared	<p>Firm dense gel</p> 	<p>Long, thick fibers in a shear direction</p> 	<p>Gel with long, thick and thin fibers in a shear direction</p> 

E.g. Shear cell technology (since 2000s)

Soy-Protein Isolate (SPI) and Wheat Gluten (WG) mixes in Grabowska et al. (2014, p. 745)

# Surrealing meat – achieving realness for a desired, plant-based meat

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Couette cell technology – Birgitte Dekkers, WUR; Co-founder of Rival Foods



**4. Is surrealed meat realer and better?**

# surreality as hyper-reality

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Surrealed MEAT explicitly considers,  
Performs, and achieves  
meat realness ---  
on the plate



# surreality as better?

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If part of the design features are “better”.

- Cruelty-free?
- Sustainable?
- Affordable?

## 5. Conclusion

Scientific work to produce meat analogues is a process of surrealing meat.

Surrealed meat is in some ways realer, and it can be better, than conventional meat.

# Thank you!

Comments – QUESTIONS

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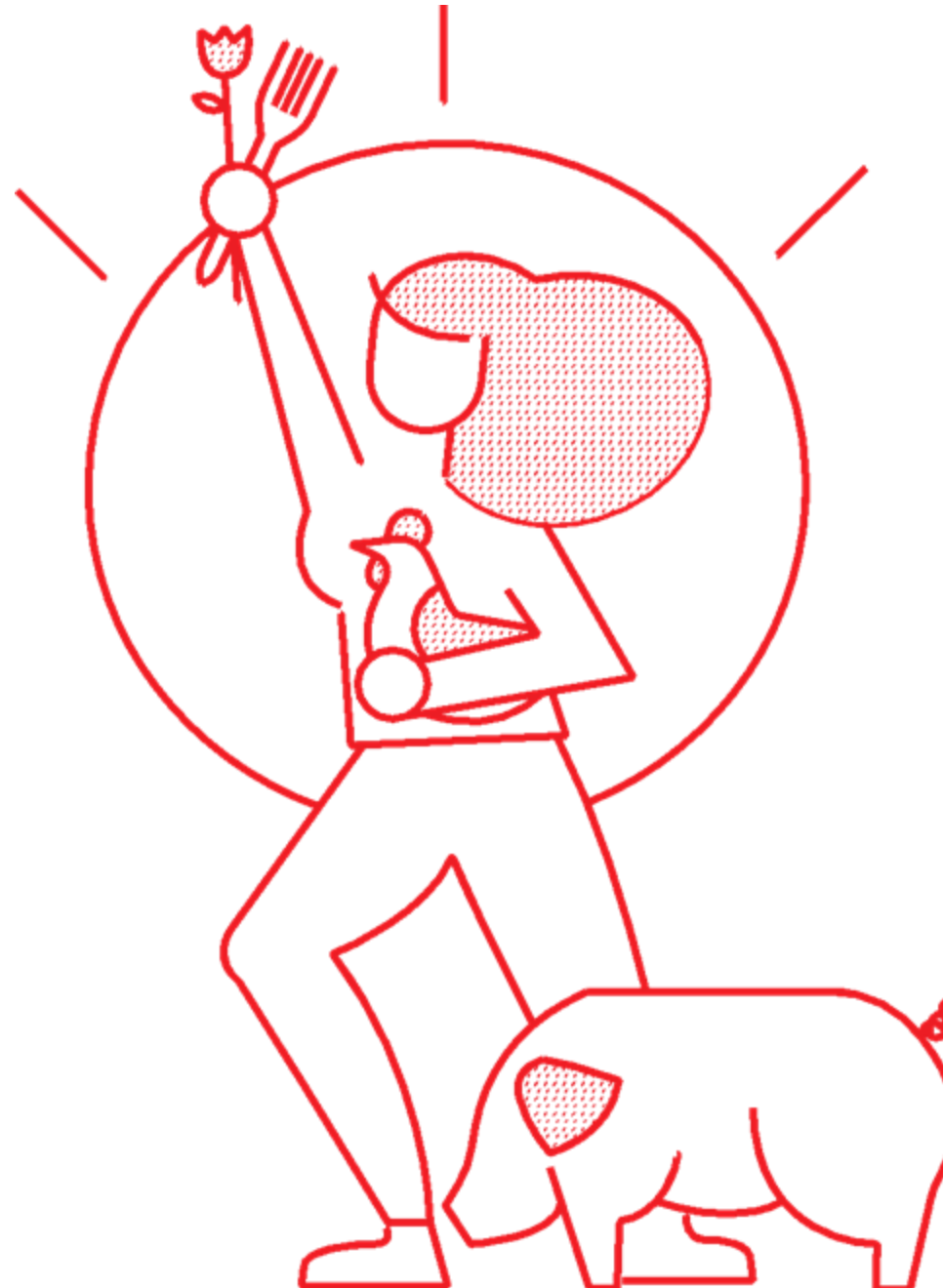
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