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## **The Local Food System as a Field of Practice and Knowledge**

My thesis is an integral part of the transdisciplinary research project "KERNiG ", which has the overall goal to initiate and monitor a sustainability transformation of the food system in two small cities in southern Germany. In this context, the focus of my research is set on different behavioral routines and related types of knowledge. With the help of social practice theory, I plan to identify and reconstruct elements of food practices and their structural development in an urban setting. Furthermore, I intend to investigate, what role knowledge plays within food practices and how it is distributed through social networks. My research will provide information about the challenges of knowledge diversity within governance strategies on a local level. Finally, results can be used to promote sustainable food practices with regard to knowledge integration and social learning processes. In cooperation with local stakeholders, I will begin by identifying potential cases: direct marketing, involvement with national organizations, societal initiatives (e.g. urban gardening, food sharing), or educational activities for sustainable development. On this basis, practices related to topics of agricultural land use, food distribution and preparation, or food waste management will form my potential research objects. Therefore, meanings, rules, as well as explicit knowledge can be collected by qualitative methods such as semi-standardized interviews and document analysis. In addition to these categories, ethnographical observation methods are used to gather the implicit knowledge and the material dimension of social practices.