

Transdisciplinary Learning for Food System Transformation: A Global, Collaborative Approach from the Feed–Protect–Care FOODS PhD Platform Initiative

By Ariane B. Barrette and Ana Maria Quiroga-Arcila



Why do we need this platform?

The current global polycrisis on food demands:

- Urgent agroecological transitions
- Food system transformation
- Enhanced dialogue among science, society, and public policy

Feed–Protect–Care platform addresses these needs through a global, transdisciplinary initiative by:

- Strengthening the science–policy interface
- Converting shared knowledge into actionable solutions
- Mobilizing collective intelligence

What is our purpose?

- Provide engaging learning experiences and policy analysis through field trips, presentations, group activities, and collaborative writing.
- Organise field training in Montpellier, France; Piracicaba, Brazil (2024); and Cape Town, South Africa (2025), with a future event planned in Quebec City, Canada (2025).
- Collaborate with stakeholders such as farmers' associations, government agencies, and universities.
- Emphasize the evaluation of agroecological and food policies to gain practical insights into complex food systems.



Who are the members?

- 34 PhD students
- From 15 universities
- Nationalities from across 20 countries
- Over 20 disciplines

Governance

Steering Committee

- An elected body responsible for guiding the platform's strategic direction.
- Oversees membership, funding, outreach, and governance processes.
- The steering committee has a point of contact with the Student Committee*.

Student Committee (Self-Organized)

- Established by and for PhD students within the platform.
- Representatives serve one-year terms, 2 members per positions.
- Ensures that student perspectives are prioritized in decision-making.
- Leads specific working areas:

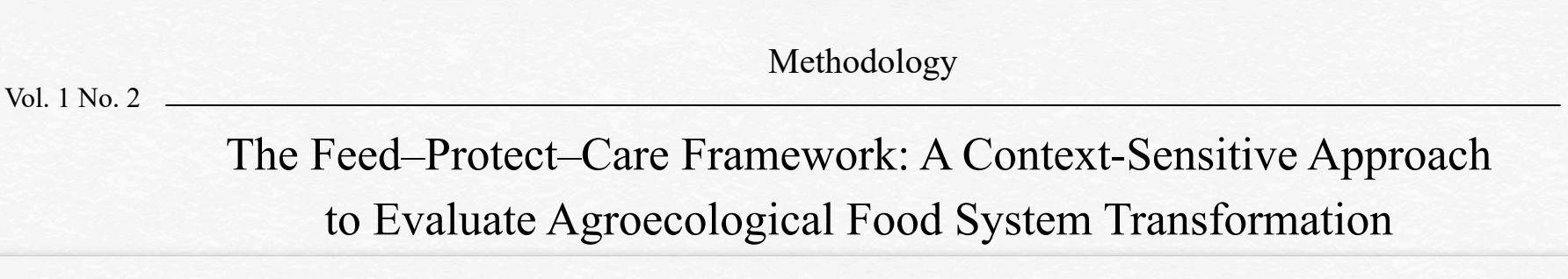
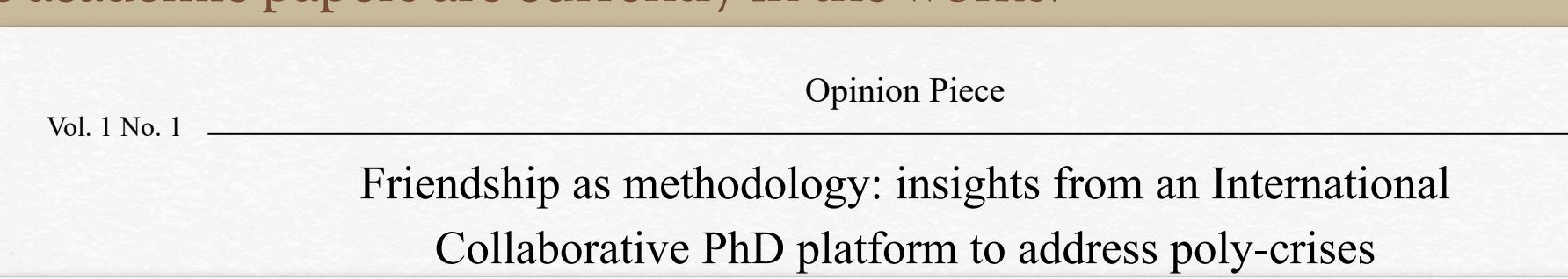


What is our impact?

Networking and long term friendship to be translated into long term collaborations

Academic Papers

- Three academic papers are currently in the works:



Authors : Feed–Protect–Care FOODS PhD Platform Collaborative

Abstract:

The first investigates the potential, challenges, and effects of establishing an interdisciplinary community focused on transforming food systems. The second introduces a context-sensitive framework that encompasses ontological, epistemological, and methodological aspects to evaluate the implementation and integration of agroecological policies at local, national, and global levels. The third examines how government and municipal policies influence the structure and operation of local food systems.

Who made it possible?

