



## Cosmopolis

has the honor to invite you to the public defense of the PhD thesis of

**Alessandra MANGANELLI**

to obtain the degree of Doctor of Sciences

**Joint PhD with KU Leuven**

Title of the PhD thesis:

*Unlocking Socio-Political Dynamics of Alternative Food Networks through a Hybrid Governance Approach: Highlights from the Brussels-Capital Region and Toronto*

### Promotors:

Prof. Bas van Heur  
Prof. Frank Moulaert

The defence will take place on

**March 15th 2019 at 17:00h**

in the Aula Wolfspoort (room 00.08), Huis Bethlehem, KU Leuven, Schapenstraat 34, 3000 Leuven, and will be followed by a reception.

### Members of the jury:

Prof. Hugo Hens (chairman, KUL)  
Dr. Annette Kuhk (secretary, KUL)  
Dr. Nele Aernouts  
Prof. Pieter Van den Broeck  
Prof. Constanza Parra Nova  
Prof. Olivier de Schutter (UCL)  
Prof. Kevin Morgan (Cardiff Univ.)  
Prof. Cecilia Rocha (Ryerson Univ.)

### Curriculum vitae

Alessandra Manganelli obtained her MSc in Urban Planning and Policy Design from the Politecnico di Milano in 2013. In 2014, she started her FWO-funded PhD research at the KU Leuven and the VUB.

During her PhD, Alessandra Manganelli was a visiting researcher at Ryerson University in Toronto, participated in various conferences and workshop and has published various journal articles on the basis of her PhD results.

### Abstract of the PhD research

This dissertation focuses on the governance of alternative food networks (AFNs). The aim is to identify, conceptualize and empirically investigate the critical governance tensions conditioning the genesis and the life-course of alternative food initiatives. To this purpose this dissertation develops a Hybrid Governance Approach (HGA) which identifies three types of governance tensions - i.e. organizational, resource and institutional - and analyses the interrelations among them in different case-studies of local food initiatives in the Brussels-Capital Region. An international case study - Toronto - is investigated to learn from similarities and differences in the ways local food networks experience and address governance tensions in the two city-regions' food policy trajectories.

The empirical findings of this dissertation help to unravel the contradictions and dilemmas that AFNs face in their dynamic reproduction. The need to cope with their own spatial-material growth, to secure necessary material-operational resources - among which arable land to feed (alternative) food systems - as well as the necessity to deal with often contradictory multi-level socio-institutional environments are among the key factors of governance tension in AFNs. The analysis is also attentive to the outcomes of the governance tensions in the life-course of local food initiatives and thus to the promising organizational strategies, self-reflexive and co-learning dynamics put into place by AFNs to cope with the experienced tensions or to channel them into sustainable directions.