



In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of

**Master of Science**  
**Lyle Eric Johnson**

Will present his scientific paper

**Transferring Sustainable Regional Food Systems, A Case Study of  
Regionalwert AG, Germany**

**Abstract**

The Industrial Agricultural System has allowed humans to extend the expected carrying capacity of our planet. However, its externalities have placed our long-term sustainability in question. Sustainable Regional Food Economies (SRFE) offer an alternative system that can mitigate many of these externalities. By identifying and transferring the critical components of SRFE's we can add resilience to regional and national food economies while mitigating many of the impacts associated with the current system. However, transferring successful models presents a significant challenge, particularly in consideration of regional and cultural differences. Additionally, there is a lack of empirical evidence to guide such transfers across diverse regions. We look at a successful transfer of a sustainable regional food economy model in Germany, entitled Regionalwert AG, and develop a vision of transfer to the Phoenix metro region of Arizona. In doing so we explore the challenges and benefits associated with transferring such a model on an international scale. The lessons learned will inform future studies of transfer across regional and cultural barriers around the globe.

Wednesday, April 5, 2017  
8:00 a.m.  
Wrigley Hall, 401

Faculty, students, and the general public are invited.

Supervisory Committee:

Arnim Wiek, Co-chair  
George Basile, Co-chair  
Jantje Halberstadt, Member  
Rimjhim Aggarwal, Member