

Just Transition Frames: Recognition, representation, and distribution in Irish beef farming

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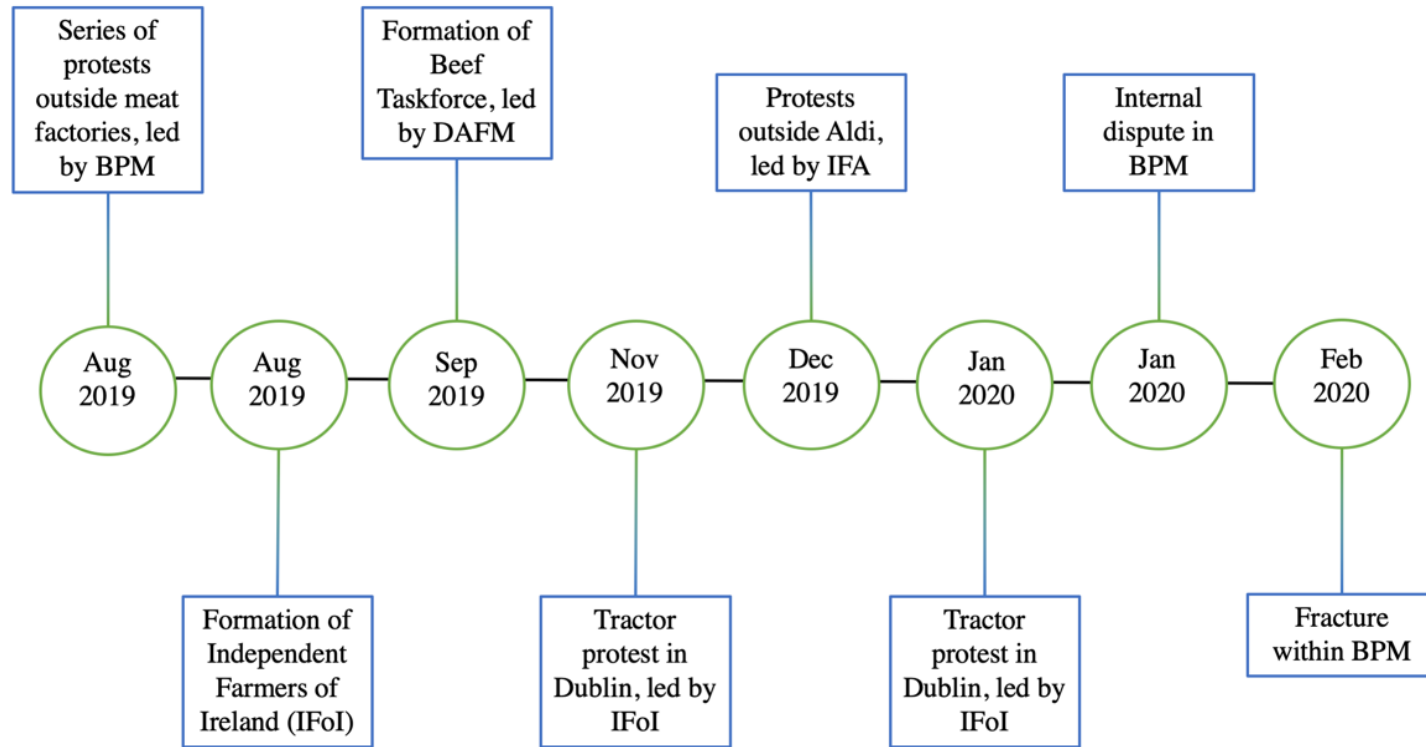
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Figure 1: BPM protests in August 2019 (RTE, 2019)



Mounting
pressure
through protest

Figure 2: Timeline of events surrounding the 2019 and 2020 protests

Research design

THE CONCEPTUAL AND ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK

Just Transition Frames and Functions Model

Functions:			
Frames:	Diagnostic	Prognostic	Action
Distribution	The extent to which benefits and burdens of cooperative action and changes in production processes are shared fairly and appropriately by all actors in the value chain?	Risk of unfair distribution of burdens with benefits flowing to the most powerful actors.	Agreed fair principles to guide in the distribution of all benefits and burdens of cooperation;
Participation	Who is involved in deliberations and decision making on policies, processes, and distribution of the benefits and burdens of cooperative action; to what extent are participants in decision making and deliberative processes representative of all those affected by these decisions and actions?	Exclusion from relevant deliberative processes on matters concerning the effects of the industry; exclusion and marginalisation of voices of relevant populations	Participatory parity and explicit focus on the degree to which all those affected can participate in the action planning processes.
Recognition	What is considered relevant in deliberations? To what extent are social and cultural values and identities considered in deliberative actions and decision-making process? What social, economic, cultural, and environmental values and norms are affected by these processes, policies, and actions?	Loss of identity; loss of cultural heritage; end of a way of life; spill-over effects to the wider political economy of the community; declining rural lives and livelihoods	Recognition of the significance of social and cultural values and identities during change processes; protection of cultural heritage and supports for communities through change processes; engagement with affected populations during design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation stages of change processes.

Methodology & Methods



Desk-based study to compile timeline of events and to identify key actors involved



Document analysis of key actor (n=18) publicly available materials information

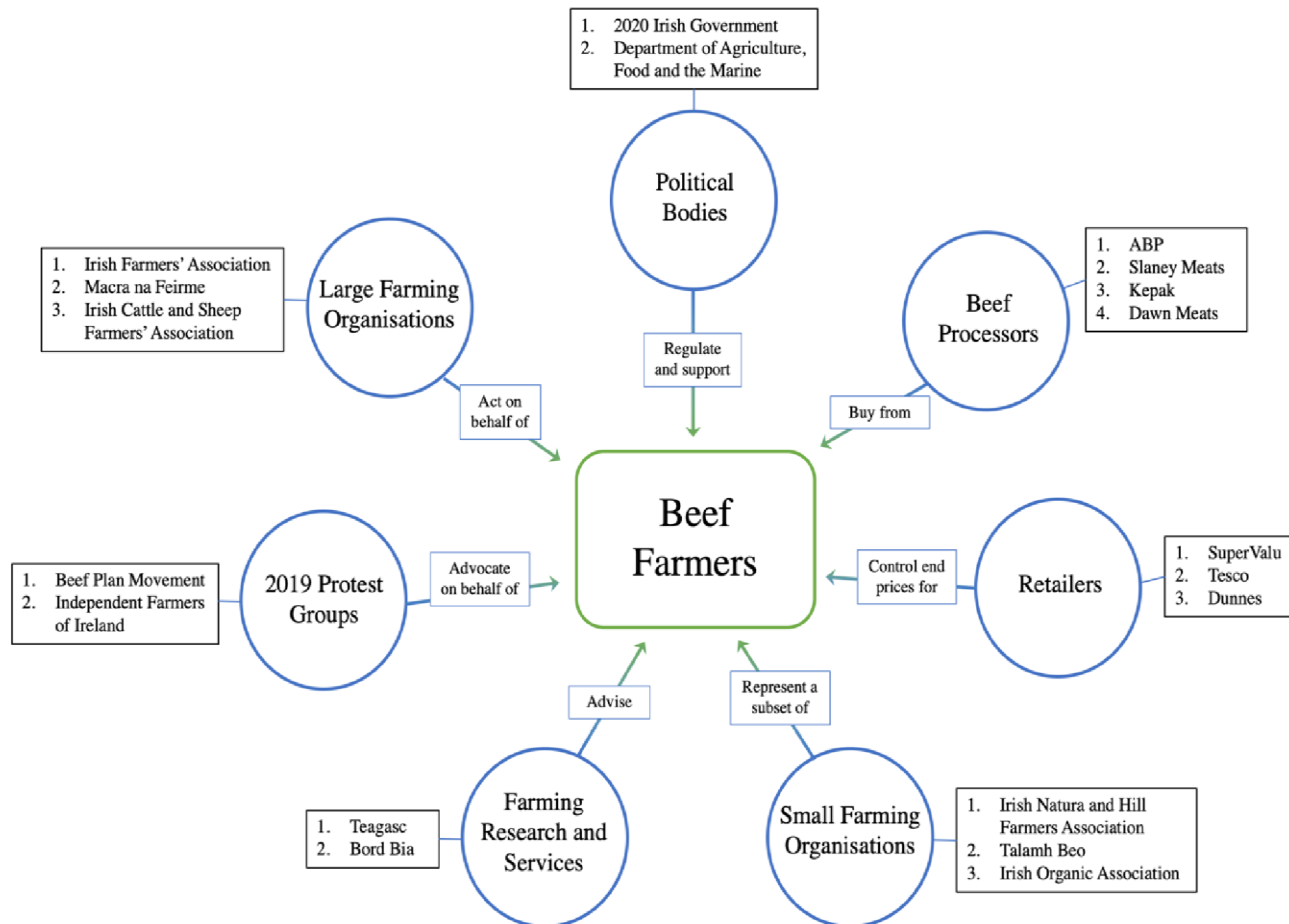


Semi-structured interviews with a) small beef farmers (n=8) and b) key actor representatives (n=5)



Data analysis through an application of the Just Transition frames and functions model

Key actors



So, what did we find?



Functions: Frames:	Diagnostic	Prognostic	Action
Distribution	Unequal distribution of benefits and burdens of social cooperation and the effects of climate action, with small farms carrying the greatest burdens and benefits flowing through to the most powerful actors including processors and large farms.	Benefits continue to flow to the most powerful actors. Financial and economic hardship likely to continue for small farmers; possible loss of land and livelihood; possible food insecurity and hardship; possible need to migrate contributing to rural social, economic, and cultural decline.	Ensure fair price for the product and a fairer distribution of the benefits across the supply chain. Support small farmers to transition to sustainable practices; Where viability of farms is no longer feasible, ensure fair compensation for financial and other losses; policies and programs to support re-training and alternative livelihoods.
Participation	Lack of representation in decision making of small farmers; representative bodies do not accurately represent the interests of all actors in the value chain and in some cases are felt to be deliberately excluding the voices of the most marginalised and least powerful farmers.	Absence of excluded actors results in decision making about the transition or change process to be inadequate or illegitimate in the eyes of those directly affected.	Ensure participation of all stakeholders in decision making. Create new representative bodies or address the problems with existing ones.
Recognition	Declining social status of small farms and farmers; shifting identities; the decline of rural Ireland	Loss of cultural heritage; end of a way of life; sense of failure, powerlessness, and grief; increasing mental health and well-being concerns with small farming households and communities	Policy and programs to protect and celebrate cultural heritage. Acknowledge collective loss. Provide household and community psychosocial supports focused on coping mechanisms and well-being. Cultural and symbolic responses like memorials or artistic testaments.

Implications & Future Research

- If transitions in the sector are to be just, they must move from a single axis focus on economic effects to reflect on social and cultural implications also.
 - Review of institutional structures and appropriate mechanisms for inclusive participation required
 - Recognition of non-market matters and effects of changes to the sector – concerns and opportunities
- How key actors might be encouraged to recognise power asymmetries and open up to inclusive participation and recognition? Suggest deeper engagement with the research on **responsible innovation and comprehensive governance frameworks to support sustainable transitions**

Thank you

Questions

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