

General

# Professor Tom Oliver



Professor Tom Oliver is the Research Dean for Environment at the University of Reading and a Professor of Applied Ecology. He has advised Defra in the UK government, helping them to set up a '[Systems Research Programme](#)', and the Cabinet Office on '[chronic risks](#)' to complement the UK National Security Risk Assessment. He regularly advises the European Commission and was previously a member of the European Environment Agency scientific committee, working on sustainability transitions. Oliver's research helps understand the mechanisms by which [food systems become locked](#) into undesirable states, and how they [change over time](#) across the world. His recent work shows how food system change requires a deeper focus on [sociocultural factors](#) beyond technological and economic interventions, and he is co-author on a [UNDP report](#) on this topic. He has led UKRI consortium projects developing methods to appraise [systemic risks to food security](#) and is a founding member of the international [ASRA network](#) developing approaches to assess complex risks. He has published more than 100 scientific papers in world-leading interdisciplinary journals and enjoys communicating science through popular writing and speaking at public events.

An up-to-date record of member interests can be found on the [register of interests page](#)