



## IESVic Seminar

- DATE:** Wednesday, December 4th, 2019
- TIME:** 2:00-3:00 pm
- LOCATION:** Engineering Office Wing [EOW] Room 430
- SPEAKER:** **Navin Ramankutty**  
Professor and Canada Research Chair  
University of British Columbia
- TITLE:** ***Soft paths to a sustainable food system***

**Abstract:** The global food system is one of the biggest drivers of global environmental degradation today, and this is only expected to worsen with future population and consumption growth. Solutions to this challenge often focus on increasing production through ‘sustainable intensification’, and include solutions such as closing yield gaps, genetic engineering, or expanding organic and urban agriculture. However, existing studies suggest that such supply-side solutions will be insufficient to meet our food and environmental goals of the future. “Soft-path solutions” that blend efficiency improvements with demand-side management are critically needed to address the magnitude of the problem.

**Biography:** Navin Ramankutty is Professor and Canada Research Chair in Global Environmental Change and Food Security at the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and the Institute for Resources, Environment, and Sustainability at the University of British Columbia. His research uses global Earth observations, geospatial analysis and ecosystem models to understand how humans use and modify the Earth’s land surface for agriculture, evaluate the global environment consequences, and explore solutions to the problem of feeding humanity with minimal global environmental footprint. He is a member of the Scientific Steering Committee of the Global Land Programme. He was a lead author of the *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment* report, a contributing author of the *Fourth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change*, and is currently contributing to the *Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. He is an Associate Editor of the journals *Environmental Research Letters* and *Land*, and was formerly an Associate Editor of the journals *Global Food Security* and *Global Ecology and Biogeography*. He is an *Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow*.

*For further information, please contact the IESVic office (250) 721-6295.*