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...an ecological W.F.B. DuBois (1858–1919) where the plight of black southern rural labourers and farmers were examined. Since then the field, at least where thought is at issue (Goldman 2007; Carolan 2007), has undergone major changes, in terms of its methodologies, theoretical frameworks, and analytic techniques. Yet the thing about turning to that there is the presumption of background – you cannot turn to a field or the very concepts of method, epistemology and position simply do not exist. In the case of agro-food studies this leads to the emergence of a meta-theoretical ground from which these aforementioned operations spring and against which different ones can be measured. So what are some of those meta-theoretical assumptions and what, after bringing them up to the surface, can we learn from them?