Raphaël Stephens is a Doctor in Social Sciences from AgroParisTech, ABIES Doctoral School (Agriculture, Food, Biology, Environment, Health). He prepared his doctoral thesis focussing on agrifood transitions at the Laboratoire Interdisciplinaire Science Innovation Société (LISIS) of the Institut National de Recherche pour l'Agriculture, l'Alimentation et l'Environnement (INRAE), under the supervision of Dr Marc Barbier.

His interdisciplinary background and research bring together sociology, geography and urban planning, in the study of agri-food transitions. His focus thus far has been on Alternative Food Networks (AFNs) which shorten producer-consumer food mediations, within the broader framework of sociotechnical agri-food regime transitions. His research also led him to investigate prosumption concepts applied to food. Methodologically, he uses both digital social science methods (digital data extraction and network analysis, lexicometrics) and qualitative methods (interviews, ethnography, documentation).

He holds a master's degree in urban planning and a bachelor's degree in geography from University College London, a master's degree in management from Audencia Nantes Business School, and has previously worked in finance. He has lived in France, the United Kingdom and Mexico, and speaks French, English, Spanish, German and Portuguese.

Selected Publications

Stephens, R., and Barbier, M. (2020, to be published). Digital fooding, cashless marketplace, and reconnection in intermediated third-places: metropolitan food transition in the age of prosumption. Journal of Rural Studies.