

Call for Papers: Experiencing Institutional Food
Annual Meeting of the American Association of Geographers
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Sponsored by the Geographies of Food & Agriculture Specialty Group

Theme: Institutions such as schools, universities, hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons feed millions of people every day and are responsible for hundreds of billions of dollars of spending on food (Thottathil 2018). As such, these spaces have become a site for interventions by those interested in changing systems of food production and consumption to be more ecologically sustainable and socially equitable (Jones, Pfeifer, and Castillo 2018; see, for example, Health Care Without Harm, National Farm to School Network, Farm to Institution New England, Anchors for Resilient Communities). Much of this work has attempted to better understand and influence procurement, that is, which foods institutions buy and serve (Thottathil and Goger 2018; Fitch and Santo 2016; Kimmons et al. 2012). Some research investigates the effect of such changes to food availability on client choice as well as how institutions can encourage their patrons to choose certain foods (Tsui et al. 2015; French and Stables 2003; Briefel et al. 2009). However, less attention has been paid to the day-to-day experience of these feeding spaces and the connections between the setting, practices, and people preparing, serving and eating meals there. Such understanding provides the context for designing, implementing, and analyzing interventions into the food system via institutional foodservice. In this session, we seek to highlight and interrogate the issues that manifest in these spaces through discussion among researchers and scholar-activists studying these settings and the people in them across a range of institutional food service environments. The conversation may include but is not limited to:

- Labor issues facing workers
- Built environment
- Institutional food cultures, policies, and practices
- Approaching/constructing individual tastes, preferences, habits, and bodies
- Participation by stakeholders (especially those involved in provisioning and consumption) in determining foodservice menus and policies
- Issues of care, social reproduction, and emotional labor
- Crossover with other social movements such as labor organizing, prisoner rights, and gender equity

If interested: Please send your name, affiliation, paper title, and abstract (250 words or less) to Amy Rosenthal (amy.rosenthal@rutgers.edu) by October 12, 2018.

Organizers: Christine Caruso, University of St. Joseph, and Amy Rosenthal, Rutgers University

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