

BOOK PROPOSAL
CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

Food, the Senses and the City

*What is the role of the senses in the co-production of food and place?
How do situated foods evoke memories of the past or aspirations for the future?
How do sensorial aspects from community gardens, shared meals or ritual feasts
foster old or new communities?
How do smells, sights, sounds and tastes of food accompany life transitions?*

Food nourishes our bodies and minds: through sharing and shifting into different social, physical, symbolic and sensual spaces, it creates and maintains social relations and distinctions, embodying various social, cultural, and moral values. Food settles in cities in novel ways: with trends including urban gardens, health food shops and freegan movements to street food, food trucks and food delivery. Studies of food practices and the senses provide insights into how the city and its dwellers are being reshaped, and demonstrate how food, memory and materiality connect past, present, and future imaginaries. The planned book, 'Food, the Senses and the City' builds on panel presentations and discussions from popular panels at EASA and SIEF to explore the entangled relationships nested within urban food practices through the senses. We propose a scholarly book based in the social sciences that will explore cross-cultural understandings and engagements with urban food practices. Recognizing that cities are dynamic and diverse, we welcome contributions that explore how food and the senses instil, or alternatively reject, senses of place and identity across the changing city. We ask: What boundaries are created or dissolved through sensing food practices? How can food provide a means for understanding 'the other'? How are social relations and distinctions reproduced and reshaped through newly-introduced and diverse cooking styles? In uncertain times, what food practices stay, go, or return revised and how are these remembered?

As co-editors, we welcome abstracts that show chapters exploring:

A range of senses

We welcome contributions that apply experimental approaches
in which to sense both food and place.

A range of places

Including urban to peri-urban, small villages and towns,
we seek contributions from all around the world.

A range of actors and practices

To include food practices from production (urban gardens, foraging sites), distribution (markets, food trucks), consumption (the shared table to specific food types) and waste (from freegans to decomposition). Actors can include both human and non-human entanglements.

Would you like to contribute a chapter?

From this initial call for contributions we will select proposals based on the relevance, strength and depth of the topic or theme and overall fit to the book project more broadly.

Abstract deadline: 31 January 2019.

We expect to decide on successful contributors by end of February with first drafts of 4,000–5,000 words due in at the end of June. Meanwhile, we co-editors will submit a proposal to a reputable publisher such as Bloomsbury Publications. A peer-review process will inform second draft revisions during 2019, with final drafts due in October.

We are looking for contributions from social science researchers in any relevant disciplines and fields such as: environmental humanities, sociology, anthropology, geography, environmental studies, design, political ecology, permaculture and political economy.

Contacts: Ferne Edwards, Roos Gerritsen and Grit Wesser

We encourage you to engage by email with us with any questions regarding the formation of your abstract.

Ferne Edwards (Research Fellow, EdiCitNet, RMIT Europe, Barcelona)

I am a cultural anthropologist who specializes in sustainable cities, food systems and social change. My research includes edible nature-based solutions, food sharing and ICT, food waste, alternative food networks, social innovation in the food system, sustainable urban governance, and urban beekeeping. I have conducted ethnographies in Australia, Venezuela, Ireland and Spain. I am currently the Lead for Work Package 1 for the Horizon2020 project, EdiCitNet, to help support the establishment of an international edible food cities network.

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Roos Gerritsen

I am an anthropologist whose research focuses on popular visual culture, media, food, urban spaces and the senses in south India. My current project explores new urban food practices in India. It looks at new hands-on, small-scale food initiatives and everyday practices in South India that aim to rethink the role of food in everyday life.

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Grit Wesser

I am a social anthropologist; working at the intersection of kinship and the state, with a regional focus on eastern Germany. In my doctoral research, I explored the role of food and the senses in urban and peri-urban contexts as essential components of life-cycle rituals for (re-)creating kin relations across generational and socio-political divides, and for reshaping personhood.

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