



## Geography of Food

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### Introduction

The geography of food is an emergent and growing subfield within human geography. Often distinguished from older literature in agricultural geography, writings in the geography of food tend to be critical (and in some cases, radical) in their political framing, focusing on the many ways in which food systems are connected to, and potentially disruptive of, entrenched systems of oppression and social and economic inequality. In part, this critical framing arose in response to a lack of critical food systems engagement in other disciplines, and to agricultural geography's focus on spaces of production; geography's persistent interest in spatial relationships and systems of power that cross spaces and scales made the discipline well-suited to critical interrogation of food and agricultural systems. Geographers who study and write about food demonstrate interest in scales ranging from the body to the global economy, and indeed the ways in which global processes become inscribed on and metabolized by individual bodies in disparate spaces. Literature in this subdiscipline is often theoretically robust, drawing on complex biopolitical formulations, state theory, and multi-scalar analyses of political economic change to link global processes with local places, and to situate alternative food systems within a dominant industrial agro-food system. The geography of food shares many theoretical and empirical interests with other food studies subdisciplines, including rural sociology and the anthropology of food. This article primarily features contributions by geographers, or by scholars who make use of geographic concepts (often emphasizing scale or place in their analysis). There is also a robust literature in agricultural geography (see the separate Oxford Bibliographies article "Agricultural Geography"); this article aims to focus instead on geographies of food "beyond the farm gate." As such, the article is organized by sections according to scale (global/national/urban/rural/home and body), and then focuses on a variety of food movements and responses to corporate/industrial global food systems.

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### General Overviews and Reference Texts

Because it is a relatively recent subfield, foundational literature in the geography of food works to shape the boundaries of this emergent area of interest. The overviews cited here include older and more recent writings, articles, monographs, and edited volumes. The earliest of these is Bell and Valentine 1997, which is among the first geographic monographs to focus on food consumption rather than agricultural practices. Likewise, Atkins and Bowler 2001 is attentive to the spaces of food consumption, but the primary focus is on the political economy, political ecology, and globalization of food systems. The journal *Progress in Human Geography* has lent space to multivocal discussions of the scope and evolution of scholarship in the geography of food with two three-part articles. Winter 2003, Winter 2004, and Winter 2005 presented reports on the status of the field, while Cook 2006 and Cook 2008 did additional boundary-framing by topic, and Cook, et al. 2011 provided a space for other food geographers to share alternate perspectives. Mandelblatt 2012 is also included here as a useful reference. More recent edited volumes explicitly situate food in place and advocate for geographic approaches to food studies. Fitzpatrick and Willis 2015 and Joassart-Marcelli and Bosco 2017 both advocate for interdisciplinary approaches but emphasize geographic concepts of scale and sense of place for framing scholarly examinations of food systems.

**Atkins, Peter, and Ian Bowler.** *Food in Society: Economy, Culture, Geography*. 1st ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2001.

Provides a social science perspective on food systems and demonstrates the variety of disciplinary and theoretical contexts of food studies. Addresses different global understandings of food through thematic chapters and a wide range of material. Each chapter contains a guide to further reading and to websites of relevance to food studies.

**Bell, David, and Gill Valentine.** *Consuming Geographies: We Are Where We Eat.* London and New York: Routledge, 1997.

Draws on anthropological, sociological, and cultural readings of food consumption, as well as empirical material on shopping, cooking, food technology, and the food media. Demonstrates the importance of space and place in identity formation. Organized by scale (body, home, community, etc.).

**Cook, Ian.** “Geographies of Food: Following.” *Progress in Human Geography* 30.5 (October 2006): 655–666.

First of three-part series on the geographies of food. Attempts to bridge the divide between agricultural geography—dominated by political economy and quantitative methods—and cultural studies of food, a literature dominated by poststructuralism and qualitative research. Comments on resources about the geographies of production and consumption of food and discusses the need to do more ethnographic participant observation, the use of different approaches to theory and empirics, and the effects of connective knowledge.

**Cook, Ian.** “Geographies of Food: Mixing.” *Progress in Human Geography* 32.6 (December 2008): 821–833.

Discusses “ethnic” food trends and questions of authenticity. Explores possibility of eating foods in ways that are antiracist and anticolonial.

**Cook, Ian, Kersty Hobson, Lucius Hallett, et al.** “Geographies of Food: ‘Afters.’” *Progress in Human Geography* 35.1 (02/01/2011): 104–120.

Third and final “geographies of food” review, based on an online blog conversation provoked by the first and second reviews in the series (Cook 2006, Cook 2008). A fragmentary, multi-authored text aiming to convey the rich and multi-stranded content, breadth, and character of ongoing food studies research within and beyond geography.

**Fitzpatrick, Kevin M., and Don Willis, eds.** *A Place-Based Perspective of Food in Society.* 1st ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

Interdisciplinary and international essays examining the relationship between food and place. Explores the importance of place in the history of food and agriculture and the globalization and localization of food and food systems, and also the spatial manifestations of globalized food systems.

**Joassart-Marcelli, Pascale, and Fernando J. Bosco, eds.** *Food and Place: A Critical Exploration.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2017.

Textbook with a clear discussion of key concepts and theoretical foundations in the geography of food. Sections focus on food regimes, foodscapes, and bodies.

**Mandelblatt, Bertie.** “Geography of Food.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Food History.* Edited by Jeffrey M. Pilcher, 154–171. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Useful short overview of scholarship in the geography of food, organized according to scale: global and transnational, national and regional, urban, rural and agricultural, domestic and individual.

**Winter, Michael.** “Geographies of Food: Agro-Food Geographies—Making Reconnections.” *Progress in Human Geography* 27.4 (August 2003): 505–513.

The first of three “progress reports” on the state of food studies in geography. Identifies the emergence of an agro-food geography that seeks to examine issues along the food chain or within systems of food provision, owing in part to the strengthening of political economy approaches in the 1980s.

**Winter, Michael. “Geographies of Food: Agro-Food Geographies—Farming, Food and Politics.”** *Progress in Human Geography* **28.5 (October 2004): 664–670.**

Discusses the role of politics in shaping the relationship between farming and food, highlighting the influence of trade liberalization and globalization, and also resistance to those trends.

**Winter, Michael. “Geographies of Food: Agro-Food Geographies—Food, Nature, Farmers and Agency.”** *Progress in Human Geography* **29.5 (October 2005): 609–617.**

Examines the reconnections of “food and nature” and “farmers and agency” in rural geography. Notes that the reconnection of food and nature leads to current debates on the relationship between nature and society. Situates this phenomena within broader theoretical debates.

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## Journals

There are several interdisciplinary food studies journals that publish geographic research, such as *Agriculture and Human Values*, *Food and Foodways*, and *Food, Culture & Society: An International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research*. A few geography journals, such as *Applied Geography*, have devoted special issues to the study of food. Some journals, such as the *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* and *Gastronomica*, work to bridge the interests of academics and practitioners or popular audiences. *Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability* is an example of an academic journal that situates food studies at the nexus of justice and the environment.

**Agriculture and Human Values. 1984–.**

The journal of the Agriculture, Food, and Human Values Society. Publishes interdisciplinary research that critically questions the values that underlie and the relationships that characterize both conventional and alternative approaches to the agrifood system—from production, processing, distribution, access, and use to waste management.

**Applied Geography. 1981–.**

In particular, special issue on Local Food Systems and the Applied Geography of Food (vol. 31.4, October 2011).

**Food and Foodways. 1985–.**

A peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary, and international journal devoted to publishing original scholarly articles on the history and culture of human nourishment. Explores the ways in which food has shaped, and shapes, our lives socially, economically, politically, mentally, nutritionally, and morally.

**Food, Culture & Society: An International Journal of Multidisciplinary Research. 2004–.**

The quarterly, multidisciplinary journal of the Association for the Study of Food and Society. An international peer-reviewed publication dedicated to exploring the complex relationships among food, culture, and society from numerous disciplines in the humanities, social

sciences, and natural sciences, as well as in the world of food beyond the academy. Formerly known as the Journal for the Study of Food and Society (1998–2003) and the Journal of the Association for the Study of Food and Society (1996–1997).

**Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies. 2001–.**

Quarterly journal that bridges the divide between academic publishing, journalism, and art to appeal to multiple audiences. Features original research, research briefs, critical commentaries, book reviews, creative reflections, photo essays, interviews, and artistic pieces.

**Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development. 2010–.**

An online, international, peer-reviewed, and open-access journal focused on applied research related to local and regional agriculture and food systems. For both academics and food systems development practitioners and activists.

**Local Environment: The International Journal of Justice and Sustainability. 1996–.**

A peer-reviewed international journal that focuses on local environmental, justice, and sustainability policy, politics, and action with a focus on multi-scalar approaches toward “just sustainability.”

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## **Agro-Food Scholarship at Various Scales**

Geographic scholarship on food system processes and problems has focused on scales ranging from the global to the individual and has drawn on wide-ranging theoretical frameworks. At global scales, geographers use political economy frameworks and regime theory to analyze the multiple flows linking states, corporations, and other powerful institutions with producers and consumers in the Global North and the Global South. Much of this scholarship constructs the industrial food system as a commodity chain, arguing that food is in many ways indistinguishable from other industrially produced commodities which utilize efficiencies that generate negative externalities for the environment, labor networks, and consumers; at the same time, however, food is articulated as an exceptional commodity characterized by particular biological and ecological constraints. At national and regional scales, literature focuses on the role of food in place-making/place-marketing, and the ways in which that process can be both inclusionary and exclusionary. Within urban scales, there has been long-standing geographic interest in and, more recently, critique regarding the concepts of food access and food deserts. Other geographers see cities as important sites for enacting food justice (see the section on Food Justice and Food Sovereignty). Studies of rural and agricultural scales are more within the realm of agricultural geography, but we highlight a few sources that explicitly link rural and agricultural spaces with a broader geography of food. Finally, there is recent and growing interest among food geographers on embodiment and viscerality—the ways in which both food itself, and the food system, are inscribed on and metabolized by individual bodies and communities. See also the separate Oxford Bibliographies article “Agricultural Geography.”

## **Global Restructuring: Agro-Food Systems and Food Regimes**

As scholarship in the field of agricultural geography broadened to emphasize the systemic nature of industrial food production and distribution in the 20th century, the term “agro-food system” (alternately termed “agrofood” or “agrifood”) came into vogue. Agro-food scholarship typically traces much of its theoretical foundation to sociologists such as the author of Friedmann 1982 and later works on food regimes. McMichael 2013 utilizes and extends the food regime concept to account for 21st-century problems and processes. Beyond the food regime concept, Goodman and Watts 1997 explores the implications of globalization on the food system more broadly, and on agrarian livelihoods specifically. Goodman and Redcliff 2002 examines the agro-food system’s ecological impact, and the ways in which localized practices contribute to or challenge the modern food system. Inglis and Gimlin 2009 takes a multi-scalar approach to understanding the causes and consequences of globalization of and through the food system, while Morgan, et al. 2008 utilizes the “food chain” concept to explore the geopolitics of food in different spatial arenas: the World Trade Organization, the European Union, and the United States.

**Friedmann, Harriet.** "The Political Economy of Food: The Rise and Fall of the Postwar International Food Order." *American Journal of Sociology* 88 (1982): S248–S286.

Often credited with the development of the food regime framework—conceived as broadly coherent assemblages of industrial, social, and economic aspects of food production, distribution, and consumption.

**Goodman, David, and Michael Redclift.** *Refashioning Nature: Food, Ecology and Culture*. 1st ed. London: Routledge, 2002.

Explores how food, agriculture, the environment, and the household contribute to the development of the modern food system.

**Goodman, David, and Michael Watts, eds.** *Globalising Food: Agrarian Questions and Global Restructuring*. 1st ed. London and New York: Routledge, 1997.

Discusses the political economy of agriculture, food, and consumption through investigation of the globalization and restructuring of localized agricultural sectors and food systems.

**Inglis, David, and Debra Gimlin, eds.** *The Globalization of Food*. Oxford and New York: Berg, 2009.

Comprehensive overview of several key issues involving globalization and the production, distribution, and consumption of food. Features contributions from leading experts in a range of disciplines.

**McMichael, Philip.** *Food Regimes and Agrarian Questions*. *Agrarian Change and Peasant Studies*. Halifax, NS: Fernwood, 2013.

Extends the original conception of the food regime and details new dimensions of the succession of imperial, intensive, and corporate food regimes. Explores the relationships between contemporary food, energy, climate, and financial crises and food regime restructuring, which includes agrofuels, land grabbing, the bioeconomy, agro-security mercantilism, and the food sovereignty movement.

**Morgan, Kevin, Terry Marsden, and Jonathan Murdoch.** *Worlds of Food: Place, Power, and Provenance in the Food Chain*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Explores the geopolitics of the global food chain in different spatial arenas: the World Trade Organization, the European Union, and the United States. Considers local impacts of these global trends.

**Whatmore, Sarah.** "From Farming to Agribusiness: The Global Agri-Food System." In *Geographies of Global Change: Remapping the World*. 2d ed. Edited by Peter J. Taylor, Michael J. Watts, and R. J. Johnston, 57–67. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2002.

Uses the food regime concept to trace the development of contemporary agro-food systems in the United States. Situates alternative food practices within a lattice of differentiation, but as marginal to the corporate food regime. A useful chapter for introducing geographic concepts to food studies students. First edition published in 1995.

## Agribusiness and Food Supply Chains/Commodity Chains

Commodity chain analysis has been central to anthropological and geographic studies of food production and distribution. Friedland 1984 and Jackson, et al. 2006 provide an overview of the commodity chain concept in agriculture and food studies, respectively, while the edited volume Hughes and Reimer 2004 similarly presents a demonstration of the breadth of commodity chain analysis among geographers of food. Fine 2002 develops the systems of provision approach to the study of consumption. Mintz 1986 was arguably the first and most influential of a number of commodity chain analyses, which use a particular commodity to trace and critique power relations across time and

space. Mintz did this with sugar; Freidberg 2004 used french beans to examine the invisible commodity trade between Africa and Europe, and the postcolonial framing of value and quality within the food system. Carney 2001, a classic study of the development of rice cultivation in the Americas and its links to the transatlantic slave trade, is a historiographical account of ecological, social, political, and economic processes. Cook 2004 uses the papaya supply chain to demonstrate the often intentionally invisible actors and sites required for the global trade in foods.

**Carney, Judith Ann.** *Black Rice: The African Origins of Rice Cultivation in the Americas.* **Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2001.**

Traces the migration of rice cultivation from West Africa to the Americas through the forced removal and enslavement of African agriculturalists. Reveals how racism has shaped our historical memory and neglected the critical African contribution to rice in the Americas.

**Cook, Ian.** "Follow the Thing: Papaya." *Antipode* **36.4 (September 2004): 642–664.**

Multi-sited ethnography of the papaya supply chain, presented as a series of overlapping vignettes of people connected through the international trade in fresh papaya. An engaging and provocative contribution to geographic debate on the politics of consumption.

**Fine, Ben.** *The World of Consumption: The Material and Cultural Revisited.* **2d ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2002.**

Introduces the "systems of provision" approach to the study of consumption, emphasizing the social and economic organization of commodity chains. Situates the analysis of consumption within historical context while highlighting processes of production, distribution, and points of sale. First edition published 1993.

**Freidberg, Susanne.** *French Beans and Food Scares: Culture and Commerce in an Anxious Age.* **1st ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.**

Classic study of commodity trade between Africa and Europe, illuminating the daily work of exporters, importers, and other invisible intermediaries in the global fresh food economy. Shows how postcolonial ties shape not only different societies' geographies of food supply, but also their conceptions of "good" food.

**Friedland, William.** "Commodity Systems Analysis: An Approach to the Sociology of Agriculture." In *Research in Rural Sociology and Development.* **Edited by Harry K. Schwartzweller, 221–235. London: JAI Press, 1984.**

Introduces commodity systems methodology within agricultural sociology. Extends analysis of individual commodities to understand the social, political, and cultural aspects of commodity systems. Instrumental in establishing systemic approach to the study of commodities.

**Hughes, Alex, and Suzanne Reimer, eds.** *Geographies of Commodity Chains.* **1st ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2004.**

Provides an overview of geographers' use of commodity chain analysis, including analysis of the transnational relationships resulting from the production, exchange, and consumption of commodities, including foods.

**Jackson, Peter, Neil Ward, and Polly Russell.** "Mobilising the Commodity Chain Concept in the Politics of Food and Farming." *Journal of Rural Studies* **22.2 (April 2006): 129–141.**

Survey of commodity chain literature. Proposes concept of the circuit in contrast to that of the chain, arguing that the chain metaphor is too linear to be accurate in describing complex food system flows and processes.

**Mintz, Sidney W.** *Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History*. Reprint ed. New York: Penguin Books, 1986.

Mintz was an anthropologist, not a geographer, but this text is seminal, one of the classics of food studies. Shows how Europeans and Americans transformed sugar from a rare foreign luxury to a commonplace necessity of modern life, and how it changed the history of capitalism and industry. First published by Viking Penguin in 1985.

## National and Regional Scales: Multiculturalism and “Ethnic” Foods

Scholars from many disciplines, particularly anthropology and sociology, have shown enduring interest in the role of food in nationalist projects. This interest has been slightly less well-developed in geography, with some notable exceptions. Zelinsky 1985 explored the world of “ethnic” cuisines in North American restaurants in a pioneering study. Shortridge and Shortridge 1998 is a reader that similarly examines the place and role of regional and ethnic cuisine in the United States. Cook, et al. 1999 utilized geographic concepts of social and spatial imaginaries to examine the identity politics of food in Great Britain. Pilcher 2012 follows transnational migration and evolutions of “Mexican food” and the implications for Mexican identity and culture. Garcia, et al. 2017 is also a transnational study that highlights connections between food consumption and geopolitical processes. As a study of national identity formation, Bobrow-Strain 2012 uses white bread as a lens to better understand and illuminate the various “dreams” that become embedded in particular industrially produced foods.

**Bobrow-Strain, Aaron.** *White Bread: A Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf*. Boston: Beacon Press, 2012.

Accessible analysis of the social, cultural, economic, and political stories embedded in the history of white bread. Utilizes concepts from social theory and geography, such as biopolitics, to argue that breadmaking was about separating populations and producing ideas of modernity. Theoretically robust yet accessible to undergraduate and popular audiences.

**Cook, Ian, Philip Crang, and Mark Thorpe.** “Eating into Britishness: Multicultural Imaginaries and the Identity Politics of Food.” In *Practising Identities: Power and Resistance*. Edited by Sasha Roseneil and Julie Seymour, 223–247. Basingstoke, UK: Palgrave Macmillan, 1999.

Questions the notion of culinary authenticity and examines the social imaginaries associated with multicultural foods in Britain.

**Garcia, Matt, E. Melanie DuPuis, and Don Mitchell, eds.** *Food across Borders*. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press, 2017.

Highlights connections between individual eating decisions and broader geopolitical processes. Contributions by geographers and other scholars, focusing on immigrant foodways in the United States, Mexico, and Canada. Useful treatment of fundamental geographic concepts (boundaries and borders).

**Pilcher, Jeffrey M.** *Planet Taco: A Global History of Mexican Food*. 1st ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2012.

Traces the history of Mexican food and its implementation as a culturally acceptable cuisine in Mexico, the United States, and throughout the world.

**Shortridge, Barbara G., and James R. Shortridge, eds.** *The Taste of American Place: A Reader on Regional and Ethnic Foods*. Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 1998.

Reader designed for classroom use, with essays on various US food topics from sociology, anthropology, geography, nutrition, and other disciplines. Slightly dated, but a good primer.

**Zelinsky, Wilbur.** “The Roving Plate: North America’s Ethnic Restaurant Cuisines.” *Geoforum* 15 (1985): 51–72.

Pioneering geographic study of American food multiculturalism.

## Urban Scales

As studies in the geography of food have moved beyond the farm gate—that is, away from explicit focus on rural and agricultural scales—cities have become increasingly prominent sites for investigation and analysis. As sources in this section demonstrate, the urban scale has become increasingly important for situating food justice questions in particular. Bell 2002 presents a framework for studying “culinary geography” in and of cities, with a focus on consumption practices. Atkins, et al. 2016 provides a historical account of the role of food in shaping 19th-century European urbanization, and on the effects of urbanization on diet and access to food. Other geographers have been interested in how concepts from urban geography can be mobilized to study food security, food access, and food justice at urban scales. Heynen, et al. 2012 reviews literature on these intersecting movements to consider the relationship between hunger and food justice in cities. Sonnino 2014 analyzes food security strategies in North American and European cities to highlight the interdependence of urban and rural processes. Passidomo 2014 uses post–Hurricane Katrina New Orleans as a case study for examining the emergence of food justice activism at the scales of the city and the neighborhood, and critiques the whiteness of urban food justice activism in this post-disaster context. Reynolds and Cohen 2016 also focuses on social justice activism through a study of urban agriculture in New York City, and Tornaghi 2014 proposes an initial agenda for critical urban agriculture geographies. The call for critical urban food geographies is in many ways a response to critiques of the food desert concept; Wrigley 2002 is one early example of geographic analysis of food deserts. See the separate Oxford Bibliographies article “Urban Geography.”

**Atkins, Peter J., Peter Lummel, and Derek J. Oddy, eds.** *Food and the City in Europe Since 1800*. 1st ed. New York: Routledge, 2016.

Contributions investigating the effect of urbanization on diet and related changes in access to food; urban food quality and food adulteration; restaurants, food shops, and other food retail outlets; and the effect of immigration on urban diets in Europe. First published in 2007 by Ashgate.

**Bell, David.** “Fragments for a New Urban Culinary Geography.” *Journal for the Study of Food and Society* 6.1 (2002): 10–21.

Somewhat fragmented, as the title implies, but an interesting early effort to rethink how food and urban space come together in particular contexts, from the work of the chef to the scavenging of feral animals.

**Heynen, Nik, Hilda E. Kurtz, and Amy Trauger.** “Food Justice, Hunger, and the City.” *Geography Compass* 6.5 (2012): 304–311.

Review essay on the intersecting concepts of community food security, food sovereignty, and urban agriculture and how they are related to issues of hunger and justice in cities.

**Passidomo, Catarina.** “Whose Right to (Farm) the City? Race and Food Justice Activism in Post-Katrina New Orleans.” *Agriculture and Human Values* 31.3 (September 2014): 385–396.

Uses Lefebvre’s “right to the city” framework to analyze food justice activism in post-Katrina New Orleans. Critiques the role of mostly white young people who came to the city after the storm, and argues for the importance of neighborhood-scale organizing led by local residents.

**Reynolds, Kristin, and Nevin Cohen.** *Beyond the Kale: Urban Agriculture and Social Justice Activism in New York City*. Reprint ed. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2016.

Argues that urban agricultural projects must be focused explicitly on dismantling oppressive systems if they are to make substantive social change. Prioritizes the voices of people of color and women, and examines the roles of scholarship in advancing social justice initiatives. Part of the Geographies of Justice and Social Transformation series from UGA Press.

**Sonnino, Roberta.** “The New Geography of Food Security: Exploring the Potential of Urban Food Strategies.” *The Geographical Journal* **182.2 (27 November 2014): 190–200.**

Analysis of urban food strategies from Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Highlights the centrality of the relationships between urban and rural areas. Raises the need for a tighter scholarly and policy focus on the role of food exchange nodes and of governmental coordination in the design and implementation of more effective food security strategies.

**Tornaghi, Chiara.** “Critical Geography of Urban Agriculture.” *Progress in Human Geography* **38.4 (1 August 2014): 551–567.**

Aims to define the scope of and an initial agenda for a critical geography of urban agriculture.

**Wrigley, Neil.** “‘Food Deserts’ in British Cities: Policy Context and Research Priorities.” *Urban Studies* **39.11 (1 October 2002): 2029–2040.**

Provides an introduction to the concept of food deserts in the United Kingdom and demonstrates how the concept became mobilized by various stakeholders for different reasons. An early example of food desert scholarship in geography and urban studies, though somewhat outdated in its framing.

## Rural and Agricultural Scales

Early writing in the geography of food emphasized growing interest in studies of food beyond those coming out of traditional agricultural geography. In a discipline-shifting paper, Bowler and Ilbery 1987 called for a broadening of scholarship in agricultural geography to encompass elements of the food supply system beyond the production sector. The following year, Atkins 1988 offered a response to the Bowler and Ilbery piece, arguing that the latter’s argument for redefining agricultural geography was insufficiently radical. Atkins called for a radical reworking of agricultural geography focused on the political economy of food. Niles and Roff 2008 also recognized developments in the field of “agrifood studies” and the changing role of rural spaces for situating them. Mitchell 1996 situates a study of agricultural migrant labor in the rural California landscape. Robinson 2008 presents a collection of studies of sustainable agricultural practices, primarily in the United Kingdom. See also the separate Oxford Bibliographies article “Agricultural Geography.”

**Atkins, P. J.** “Redefining Agricultural Geography as the Geography of Food.” *Area* **20.3 (1988): 281–283.**

Marks the scholarly transition from the study of agricultural geography to more holistic systemic approaches of a “geography of food.” Calls for a radical reworking of agricultural geography that should consider the political economy of food within specific ecological and cultural contexts, particularly within the subsistence economies of less developed countries and regions.

**Bowler, I. R., and B. W. Ilbery.** “Redefining Agricultural Geography.” *Area* **19.4 (1987): 327–332.**

Calls for a broadening of scholarship in agricultural geography to encompass elements of the food supply system beyond the production sector.

**Mitchell, Don.** *Lie of the Land: Migrant Workers and the California Landscape.* **1st ed. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996.**

Examines the way the California landscape was built on the backs of migrant workers, focusing on migratory labor and agribusiness before World War II. Focuses on labor movements, social/material environments, and social struggle.

**Niles, Daniel, and Robin Jane Roff.** "Shifting Agrifood Systems: The Contemporary Geography of Food and Agriculture: An Introduction." *GeoJournal* 73 (2008): 1–10.

Introduction to special issue on progress in the field of "agrifood studies." Situates scholarship within contemporary global economic, political, and environmental contexts. Traces the development of food studies in geography toward political economic models and analysis of complex global industrial commodity chains.

**Robinson, Guy, ed.** *Sustainable Rural Systems: Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Communities*. 1st ed. Aldershot, UK: Ashgate, 2008.

Draws on case studies to analyze progress toward sustainability within rural agricultural systems. Includes chapters on agriculture in the United Kingdom, with content on productivism versus post-productivism, genetically modified organisms, farming choice, and other topics.

## The Home and the Body

Domestic spaces and the body have drawn increasing interest from food geographers. Among the earliest studies is Grigg 1995, which offers a review of early academic writing on the geographies of food consumption. Embodiment and viscosity have been central to more recent investigations of encounters between food and bodies. Abbotts and Lavis 2013 is a collection of papers on these encounters and their material, social, and political implications. Carolan 2016 presents an explicit study of the ways in which food politics become embodied in material ways. Hayes-Conroy and Hayes-Conroy 2008 uses feminist theory to generate a framework for understanding the "visceral politics" of food. Lavis 2017 considers viscosity through a study of virtual spaces and their presentation of "food porn" and "pro-anorexia" messaging. Guthman 2011 and Guthman and DuPuis 2006 use a biopolitical theoretical framework to critique the neoliberal discursive construction of obesity.

**Abbotts, Emma-Jayne, and Anna Lavis, eds.** *Why We Eat, How We Eat: Contemporary Encounters between Foods and Bodies*. 1st ed. Farnham, UK, and Burlington, VT: Routledge, 2013.

Argues that "encounters" between food and bodies can be both haphazard and intentional, and can happen in ways that are simultaneously material, social, and political. Presents a multidisciplinary dialogue through which to produce new understandings of these encounters. Part of the Critical Food Studies series published by Routledge.

**Bauch, Nicholas.** *A Geography of Digestion: Biotechnology and the Kellogg Cereal Enterprise*. 1st ed. Oakland: University of California Press, 2016.

Focuses on the Kellogg corporation, and uses the metaphor and the materiality of digestion to draw connections among food, body, and environment. Sites of analysis include the stomach, the sanitarium, and the broader physical and social landscape.

**Carolan, Michael S.** *Embodied Food Politics*. 1st ed. London: Routledge, 2016.

Discusses the materializations or embodiments of food politics—the physical connection between bodies and the politics made possible through food consumption. Presented as a collection of case studies. Part of the Critical Food Studies series published by Routledge.

**Grigg, David.** "The Geography of Food Consumption: A Review." *Progress in Human Geography* 19.3 (1 September 1995): 338–354.

A review of early (pre-1995) academic writing on the spatial dynamics and features of food consumption.

**Guthman, Julie.** *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism.* 1st ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

A look into the neoliberal perspective and thoughts on obesity through presumptions made about environments, the human body, and socioeconomic relationships.

**Guthman, Julie, and Melanie DuPuis.** "Embodying Neoliberalism: Economy, Culture, and the Politics of Fat." *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 24.3 (2006): 427–448.

Recasts the politics of obesity discourse in the United States. Identifies a neoliberal shift in personhood from citizen to consumer, which encourages (over)eating at the same time that neoliberal notions of discipline vilify it.

**Hayes-Conroy, Allison, and Jessica Hayes-Conroy.** "Taking Back Taste: Feminism, Food and Visceral Politics." *Gender, Place and Culture* 15.5 (2008): 461–473.

Uses feminist theory to enliven a discussion of what the authors call visceral politics, and thus initiates a project of illustrating the mechanisms through which people's beliefs about food connect with their everyday experiences of food.

**Lavis, Anna.** "Food Porn, Pro-Anorexia and the Viscerality of Virtual Affect: Exploring Eating in Cyberspace." *Geoforum* 84 (1 August 2017): 198–205.

Engages with eating both as the subject of inquiry and also as a productive pathway into an interrogation of cyberspace and its place within the affective productions of the everyday. Suggests that this is a key site in which to explore the intimate socialities, materialities, and biopolitics of food.

**Shaw, Hillary J.** *The Consuming Geographies of Food: Diet, Food Deserts and Obesity.* 1st ed. London: Routledge, 2014.

Part of the Routledge Studies of Gastronomy, Food, and Drink series. Wide-ranging text focusing on food access and philosophies about food consumption and deprivation. Includes chapters on mapping food access and obesity, strategies (including biopolitical) for "getting back into shape," and physiological as well as psychic elements of food consumption.

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## Food Movements and Activism

One distinguishing feature of geography of food scholarship is a pronounced and growing interest not just in the industrial agro-food system, but also in the many alternatives to it. There is a robust and growing literature on the geography of food movements and activism. This section contains citations that focus on alternative food networks (AFNs); local food systems; food justice and food sovereignty; anti-hunger, vulnerability, and resilience; and race and racism in the food system and within food movement activism. Increasingly, much of this work may be categorized as critical food geographies, owing to its focus on systems of oppression, social and economic inequality, and power imbalances within complex food systems.

### Alternative Food Networks

Early interest in what became known as "alternative food networks" emerged coincident with the development of a robust literature on the 20th-century global restructuring of the food system (see the separate section *Global Restructuring: Agro-Food Systems and Food Regimes*). Watts, et al. 2005 presents an early overview of alternative systems of food provision, and considers what "alternativeness" may imply or make possible. Maye, et al. 2007 critically reflects on the breadth of efforts to transform the food system, and considers the relationships between alternative food projects and public policies that may constrain them. Goodman, et al. 2012 provides an overview and critical review of the emergence, growth, and limitations of alternative food networks within the constraints of the dominant agro-food

system. Bryant and Goodman 2004 focuses on the political ecology of alternative food projects or networks, while Allen 2007 attends to efforts to promote social, ecological, and economic sustainability within alternative food systems. Goodman and Sage 2016 labels alternative food spaces as spaces of “transgression” and evaluates food politics within these spaces.

**Allen, Patricia.** Together at the Table: Sustainability and Sustenance in the American Agrifood System. **New ed. University Park: Penn State University Press, 2007.**

Offers early analysis of the community food security and sustainable agriculture movements in the United States.

**Bryant, Raymond L., and Michael K. Goodman.** “Consuming Narratives: The Political Ecology of ‘Alternative’ Consumption.” *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* **29.3 (2004):344–366.**

Examines and critiques how political ecology themes of tropical conservation and social justice become representational practices underpinning “alternative” consumption in the North. Argues that “alternative” consumption movements are weakened as a form of social and political “caring at a distance” due to an uncritical acceptance of consumption as the primary basis of action.

**Goodman, David, E. Melanie DuPuis, and Michael K. Goodman.** *Alternative Food Networks: Knowledge, Practice, and Politics.* **1st ed. New York: Routledge, 2012.**

Provides a critical review of the growth of alternative food networks, and their struggle to defend ethical and aesthetic values in the context of globalized food and agriculture. Offers a unique geographic breadth in its case studies.

**Goodman, Michael K., and Colin Sage, eds.** *Food Transgressions: Making Sense of Contemporary Food Politics.* **1st ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2016.**

Critically interrogates and evaluates what stands for “food politics” in spaces of transgression (“alternative” food spaces). Considers the evolving position of the corporate food system vis-à-vis alternative food networks, as well as prospects for economic, social, cultural, and material transformations led by an increasingly powerful and legitimated alternative food network. First published in 2014 by Ashgate.

**Maye, Damian, Lewis Holloway, and Moya Kneafsey, eds.** *Alternative Food Geographies: Representation and Practice.* **1st ed. Bingley, UK: Elsevier Science, 2007.**

Critically reflects on the breadth of efforts to reform contemporary food provision. Considers the relationship between public policies and alternative food projects, and addresses perspectives and practices from different actors and spaces in the food chain. Includes analysis of spaces within both the Global North and the Global South.

**Watts, D. C. H., B. Ilbery, and D. Maye.** “Making Reconnections in Agro-Food Geography: Alternative Systems of Food Provision.” *Progress in Human Geography* **29.1 (1 February 2005): 22–40.**

Reviews research into alternative systems of food provision, considering what the concept of “alternativeness” might mean. Discusses food relocalization and the turn to “quality” food production, arguing that both are “weaker” alternative systems of food provision because of their emphasis on food. Argues that “stronger” alternative systems of food provision emphasize the networks through which food passes.

## Local, Organic Food Systems

Geographic scholarship on local food systems presents critical analyses of the widespread popular embrace of locality as a sought-after feature of produced and procured food items. Kloppenburg, et al. 1996 popularized the “foodshed” metaphor as the space within which local food systems generate meaningful biological and social relationships. This argument gained wide popularity in the 1990s, particularly in

rural sociology and within food studies more broadly; geographers have been somewhat more critical of the veneration of local food systems. Guthman 2014 was an early critique of the valorization of organic agriculture, and contemporary confluences of organic and local food systems. Delind 2006 takes a multi-scalar approach in her analysis of local food to situate it within bodies, communities, and broader cultural discourses. Feagan 2007 offers early critical analysis of the veneration of local food movements by taking seriously the spatial constraints and implied meanings of “the local.” Similarly, Fonte 2008 examines the ways in which local food movements and discourse valorize certain forms of knowledge production and proliferation, while dismissing others. Hedegaard 2018 offers a philosophical perspective on the concept of terroir, or the taste of place, to investigate how links between food and place are established.

**Delind, Laura B. “Of Bodies, Place, and Culture: Re-Situating Local Food.”** *Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics* **19.2** (1 April 2006): 121–146.

Offers questions and conceptual tools with which advocates and activists may “ground,” and thereby revalue and restore, the promise and practice of local food.

**Feagan, Robert. “The Place of Food: Mapping Out the ‘Local’ in Local Food Systems.”** *Progress in Human Geography* **31.1** (1 February 2007): 23–42.

Offers early critical analysis of “local food movements” by focusing on the social meanings of spatial concepts within these movements.

**Fonte, Maria. “Knowledge, Food and Place: A Way of Producing, a Way of Knowing.”** *Sociologia Ruralis* **48.3** (1 July 2008): 200–222.

Examines the dynamics of knowledge in the valorization of local food.

**Guthman, Julie. Agrarian Dreams: The Paradox of Organic Farming in California. 2d ed. Oakland: University of California Press, 2014.**

Refutes popular portrayals that pit “small organic” against “big organic” and offers an alternative analysis that underscores the limits of an organic label as a pathway to transforming agriculture. First edition published in 2004.

**Hedegaard, Liselotte. “(Re)tasting Places.”** *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies* **18.1** (1 February 2018): 66–75.

A philosophical investigation into how links between food and place are established. Its intent is to pave the way for a renewed understanding of overlooked perspectives in the existing interpretations of the relationship between places and food.

**Kloppenborg, Jack, Jr., John Henrickson, and G. W. Stevenson. “Coming in to the Foodshed.”** *Agriculture and Human Values* **13** (1996): 33–42.

From rural sociology, utilizes the concept of a “foodshed” as an organizing framework for facilitating critical thought about the food system. Somewhat dated argument in favor of linking production and consumption in local food systems, but useful for thinking through the biological and social relationships embedded in food systems.

## Food Justice and Food Sovereignty

As literature in the geography of food has become increasingly critical and, in many cases, oriented toward social justice, much writing has focused on the emergence and flourishing of movements that link food systems to broader systems and processes of oppression, discrimination, and inequality. Movements for food justice and food sovereignty, particularly as they intersect with struggles over access to land or other productive space, have been of growing interest within the geography of food. Interest in these movements is quite

interdisciplinary, however, and much research and writing on food justice and sovereignty comes from outside of geography. Alkon and Agyeman 2011 is an example of an influential edited volume that conceptualizes and provides examples of food justice activism; it includes contributions from geographers and scholars from other disciplines as well as practitioners. Alkon and Guthman 2017 similarly presents case studies from numerous disciplines and activist contexts to explore how food activism can more deeply engage with movements for social, economic, and racial justice. The movement for food sovereignty is similar to that for food justice, but contains more radical calls for territorial control by marginalized peoples. Wittman, et al. 2011 was among the first academic texts to sketch out a framework for food sovereignty. Trauger 2015 contains interdisciplinary and international contributions that generate a composite understanding of the politics and practice of food sovereignty. Desmarais, et al. 2017 also draws together disparate voices to engage food sovereignty movements with public policy discourse and action. Finally, Trauger 2017 is a theoretical consideration of food sovereignty as an explicitly spatial political movement.

**Alkon, Alison Hope, and Julian Agyeman, eds.** *Cultivating Food Justice: Race, Class, and Sustainability.* **Food, Health, and the Environment.** Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2011.

Documents how racial and social inequalities are built into our food system, and how communities are creating environmentally sustainable and socially just alternatives. Authors draw on and contribute to studies of environmental justice, sustainable agriculture, critical race theory, and food studies to highlight the ways race and class inequalities permeate the food system. Part of the Food, Health, and Environment series published by MIT Press.

**Alkon, Alison, and Julie Guthman, eds.** *The New Food Activism: Opposition, Cooperation, and Collective Action.* **1st ed.** Oakland: University of California Press, 2017.

Explores how food activism can be pushed toward deeper and more complex engagement with social, racial, and economic justice and toward advocating for broader and more transformational shifts in the food system. The authors challenge and advance existing discourse on consumer trends, food movements, and the intersection of food with racial and economic inequalities.

**Desmarais, Annette Aurelie, Priscilla Claeys, and Amy Trauger, eds.** *Public Policies for Food Sovereignty: Social Movements and the State.* **1st ed.** London and New York: Routledge, 2017.

Analyzes diverse institutional processes related to food sovereignty, ranging from community-supported agriculture to food policy councils, direct democracy initiatives to constitutional amendments, the drafting of new food sovereignty laws to public procurement programs, as well as Indigenous and youth perspectives, in a variety of contexts including Brazil, Ecuador, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Canada, the United States, and Africa.

**Trauger, Amy.** *We Want Land to Live: Making Political Space for Food Sovereignty.* **Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2017.**

The first of its kind to analytically and coherently link a dialogue on food sovereignty with case studies illustrating the spatial and territorial strategies by which the movement works in the margins of the corporate food regime. Discusses community gardeners in Portugal; small-scale, independent farmers in Maine; Native American wild rice gatherers in Minnesota; seed library supporters in Pennsylvania; and permaculturists in Georgia. Theoretically robust for a relatively slim volume.

**Trauger, Amy, ed.** *Food Sovereignty in International Context: Discourse, Politics and Practice of Place.* **London and New York: Routledge, 2015.**

This book is a collection of empirically rich and theoretically engaged papers across a broad geographical spectrum reflecting on what constitutes the politics and practices of food sovereignty.

**Wittman, Hannah, Annette Aurlie Desmaris, and Nettie Wiebe, eds.** *Food Sovereignty: Reconnecting Food, Nature & Community.* **Oxford: Pambazuka, 2011.**

Interdisciplinary contributions to the development of a food sovereignty framework, through both conceptual analysis and case studies. Straddles scholarship and activism as it promotes and advocates for the ideology and practice of food sovereignty worldwide.

## Anti-Hunger/Vulnerability/Resilience

Included in this section are a variety of interdisciplinary texts that explore the geographies of hunger, vulnerability, and resilience. The oldest of these is de Castro 1952, which argues that global hunger is a product of social and political conditions that could be overcome. Similarly, Watts 2013 found that famine in Northern Nigeria was a result of British colonial policies, rather than overpopulation or drought. Dando 1980 explores the contradictions of places experiencing famine, where food is often produced for export while local residents go hungry. Jarosz 2011 examines the phenomenon of world hunger and problematizes the concept of food security by focusing on the ways it has been mobilized at a variety of scales. Hunger is also the focus of Kotz 1969, which explores the politics of hunger in the United States. Poppendieck 1998 is an influential text on the limitations of emergency food aid institutions in the United States. The focus of Leichenko and O'Brien 2008 is not strictly hunger, but vulnerability to broader environmental change. The authors argue that in some places an inability to adapt to global environmental and economic change leads to hunger as one manifestation of economic instability.

**Dando, William A.** The Geography of Famines. 1st American ed. Silver Spring, MD, and New York: Wiley, 1980.

One of the first to observe that food was often available on the market during famines, and even being exported.

**de Castro, Josue.** The Geography of Hunger. 1st ed. Boston: Little, Brown, 1952.

Translated into twenty-six languages; one of the classic works on food and population. Argues that hunger is socially and politically created and demonstrates that hunger, rather than being the result of overpopulation, is the cause of it.

**Jarosz, Lucy.** "Defining World Hunger." Food, Culture & Society 14.1 (1 March 2011): 117–139.

Problematizes the concept of food security by showing how its definition and its scale have changed over time. Uses scale as an analytic frame to highlight how changing definitions of food security serve neoliberal ideology.

**Kotz, Nick.** Let Them Eat Promises: The Politics of Hunger in America. Garden City, NY: Doubleday, 1969.

Definitive and groundbreaking text on the issue of hunger in America. Widely cited and foundational.

**Leichenko, Robin, and Karen O'Brien.** Environmental Change and Globalization: Double Exposures. 1st ed. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press, 2008.

Focuses on the case of India, where livelihood adjustments to markets and modifications related to shifting rainfall patterns are not always compatible, a problem the authors frame as "double exposure."

**Poppendieck, Janet.** Sweet Charity? Emergency Food and the End of Entitlement. New York: Penguin Books, 1998.

Argues that institutions like food banks are band-aids for bigger issues and allow governments to shed responsibility for the poor. Somewhat dated but hugely influential text, though not strictly "geography."

**Watts, Michael.** Silent Violence: Food, Famine, and Peasantry in Northern Nigeria. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 2013.

Seminal work shows how famine in Northern Nigeria was not a result of overpopulation, drought, or inefficient farming techniques, but rather of British colonial policies and subsequent engagement with global markets.

## Race and Racism in Food Systems and Food Movements

Much of the literature on food justice and food sovereignty movements focuses specifically on how those movements work to interrupt entrenched racism within the food system (see the separate section on Food Justice and Food Sovereignty). There is also a growing literature on racism within “the food movement” itself, and the ways in which alternative food practices are often coded as white or otherwise controlled by people who identify or read as white. Slocum 2006 and Guthman 2008 are among the earliest and most influential of this writing in geography; both focus on the reproduction of whiteness and white privilege within the alternative food movement. Ramirez 2015 also considers how white food activists may engage in work that does not fuel the displacement and dislocation of communities of color. Slocum and Saldanha 2016 explores the intersection of race and food within the socio-physical spatialities of fields, bodies, and markets. Other work, such as that by Meek and Tarlau 2016, focuses on pedagogical approaches to link food and race through collective social action. McCutcheon 2013 provides an example of geographic analysis of the connections among food, land, race, and spirituality through a study of the Nation of Islam’s Muhammad Farms.

**Guthman, Julie. “Bringing Good Food to Others: Investigating the Subjects of Alternative Food Practice.”** *Cultural Geographies* 15.4 (1 October 2008): 431–447.

Provides insight into the production and reproduction of whiteness in the alternative food movement, and how it might be disrupted.

**McCutcheon, Priscilla. “‘Returning Home to Our Rightful Place’: The Nation of Islam and Muhammad Farms.”** *Geoforum* 49 (October 2013): 61–70.

Analyzes the ways in which the Nation of Islam uses notions of community, race, and nationhood to reimagine the farm, while using farming to reinforce spiritual and racial identity.

**Meek, David, and Rebecca Tarlau. “Critical Food Systems Education and the Question of Race.”** *Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development* 5.4 (4 October 2016): 131–135.

Argues that food systems education is in need of a critical intervention and proposes critical food systems education (CFSE) as a theoretical framework, set of pedagogies, and vision for policy that moves beyond teaching students about the food system, and helps them realize their potential to structurally transform it through collective action.

**Ramirez, Margaret Marietta. “The Elusive Inclusive: Black Food Geographies and Racialized Food Spaces.”** *Antipode* 47.3 (June 2015): 748–769.

Considers how white food activists might reframe their work so that their efforts are not fueling the displacement of residents of color.

**Slocum, Rachel. “Anti-Racist Practice and the Work of Community Food Organizations.”** *Antipode* 38.2 (1 March 2006): 327–349.

The paper provides evidence of how the community food movement reproduces white privilege and proposes ways it might engage with antiracism.

**Slocum, Rachel, and Arun Saldanha, eds.** *Geographies of Race and Food: Fields, Bodies, Markets.* 1st ed. London: Routledge, 2016.

Building on case studies from across the world, advances the conceptualization of race by emphasizing embodiment, circulation, and materiality. Within the three socio-physical spatialities of food—fields, bodies, and markets—the collection reveals how race and food are intricately linked.

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## Science, Technology, and Food Futures

Geographic scholarship on science and technology studies (STS) has addressed a variety of topics within the political ecology of food, such as the use of Actor Network Theory (ANT) in food chain analyses (Cook 2004 and Stuart 2011), a critique of rhetoric of the “obesity epidemic” (Guthman 2011), an examination of the concept of “freshness” in food (Freidberg 2009), and the microbiopolitics of raw dairy (Paxson 2008). Earlier work such as Goodman 1999 included theoretical engagements with biopolitics and corporeality, and was fundamental for bridging agro-food scholarship with STS and ANT. Kloppenburg 2005 was also a relatively early example of the use of political economic approaches to the study of biotechnology in agriculture. See also the separate Oxford Bibliographies article “Science and Technology Studies (STS) in Geography.”

**Cook, Ian.** “Follow the Thing: Papaya.” *Antipode* 36.4 (September 2004): 642–664.

Cook’s engaging ethnographic depiction of the papaya commodity chain is suitable for undergraduate audiences, though some may bristle at his unconventional writing style in this piece, which is written primarily in sentence fragments. Still, a useful entry point for discussions of ANT and commodity chain analysis.

**Freidberg, Susanne.** *Fresh: A Perishable History*. Cambridge, MA: Belknap Press, 2009.

Traces the history of the concept of freshness in the United States to reveal anxieties and dilemmas resulting from industrial capitalism and a culture of mass consumption. Explores themes of novelty, nostalgia, obsolescence, “shelf life,” indulgence, and discipline.

**Goodman, David.** “Agro-Food Studies in the ‘Age of Ecology’: Nature, Corporeality, Biopolitics.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 39.1 (1999): 17–38.

Challenges the “nature-society” dualism and demonstrates the use of ANT through three case studies. Argues that agro-food networks represent biopolitical struggles at human and ecological scales.

**Guthman, Julie.** *Weighing In: Obesity, Food Justice, and the Limits of Capitalism*. 1st ed. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2011.

Guthman challenges most conventional thinking around obesity and the framing of obesogenic environments. Her analysis of endocrine-disrupting chemicals in the environment, in particular, suggests a need to reframe contemporary debates about both fatness and human-environment interactions.

**Kloppenburg, Jack Ralph, Jr.** *First the Seed: The Political Economy of Plant Biotechnology*. 2d ed. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 2005.

Traces the history of plant breeding and the development of biotechnology. A classic text linking STS with political economy approaches to the study of agriculture. The second edition adds a chapter to include recent developments in genetic engineering of crops. First edition 1998.

**Murdoch, Jonathan, and Mara Miele.** “‘Back to Nature’: Changing ‘Worlds of Production’ in the Food Sector.” *Sociologia Ruralis* 39.4 (1999): 465–483.

Analyzes discursive public concern over the “natural” component of food in the context of industrial food systems and extended supply chains. Argues that contemporary food systems are fragmented and often contradictory.

**Paxson, Heather. “Post-Pasteurian Cultures: The Microbiopolitics of Raw-Milk Cheese in the United States.”** *Cultural Anthropology* 23.1 (2008): 15–47

Situates raw-milk consumption within a “post-Pasteurian” movement to resist biopolitical efforts of the state to regulate consumption. Utilizes ethnographic research with cheese-makers and purveyors to complement a theoretically robust discussion of microbiopolitics.

**Stuart, Diana. “‘Nature’ Is Not Guilty: Foodborne Illness and the Industrial Bagged Salad.”** *Sociologia Ruralis* 51.2 (April 2011): 158–174.

Combines ANT and political economy approaches to critically examine foodborne illness, particularly in the case of E. coli outbreaks in bagged salad greens. Argues that such outbreaks are “co-produced by humans and nonhumans,” and especially blames industrial production processes for the emergence and spread of pathogens.

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## Cultural Histories/Anthropology

There is a vast literature within anthropology on the cultural histories or practices of food and food systems. The citations included in this section are not meant to be broadly representative of that literature, but rather to showcase some work within the anthropology of food that makes strategic and effective use of geographic concepts and theories. Appadurai 1981 is a classic anthropological study of the connections among food, place, and power in South Asia, and is widely cited by geographers of food. Flammang 2009 also provides historical analysis to examine the table as a site for the development of civilization. Barndt 2008 uses the “tomato trail” to draw connections among globalization, gender, class, and other social issues. Many edited volumes and textbooks also draw on geographic themes. Counihan and Van Esterik 2007 is a widely used textbook for food studies classes, and contains several pieces that would be of interest to geographers. Forson and Counihan 2011 is another reader, this one focusing on the ways people around the world are making new sense of the place of food in public spaces. Watson and Caldwell 2005 and Wilk 2006 both explore the globalization of food and the food system as well some implications for disparate local cultures and economies. Finnis 2012 similarly considers the effects of global processes on localized food practices through a presentation of ethnographic studies. Freedman, et al. 2014 utilizes geographic, chronological, and topical organization to present studies from numerous countries about local food practices throughout history. Gabaccia 2000 is an influential text exploring “ethnic” food and communities in the United States and how culinary practices are preserved or, more often, interpreted and adapted, in new spatial contexts.

**Appadurai, Arjun. “Gastro Politics in Hindu South Asia.”** *American Ethnologist* 8 (1981): 494–511.

Classic anthropological study. Explores social relations, power, and symbolism of food in South Asia.

**Barndt, Deborah.** *Tangled Routes: Women, Work, and Globalization on the Tomato Trail.* Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008.

New edition of a book widely used in food studies classes. Using the tomato trail, Barndt explores globalization, gender, class, and other social issues.

**Counihan, Carole, and Penny Van Esterik.** *Food and Culture: A Reader.* 2d ed. New York: Routledge, 2007.

Updated version of widely used food studies compilation. Many useful essays, including Levi-Strauss and Mary Douglas.

**Finnis, Elizabeth, ed.** Reimagining Marginalized Foods: Global Processes, Local Places. **1st ed. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 2012.**

Collection of ethnographic articles describing marginalized foods' boundaries as dynamic and existing between groups within a single food system.

**Flammang, Janet.** The Taste for Civilization: Food, Politics, and Civil Society. **Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 2009.**

Argues that the table has been one of the best sources of civilizing behaviors and that the reduction in opportunities for leisurely dining has been harmful to civility in societies.

**Forson, Psyche Williams, and Carole Counihan, eds.** Taking Food Public: Redefining Foodways in a Changing World. **1st ed. New York: Routledge, 2011.**

Anthology with sections on consumption, performance, diasporas, and activism. Focuses on innovative ways people are recasting food in public spaces to challenge hegemonic practices and meanings.

**Freedman, Paul, Joyce E. Chaplin, and Ken Albala, eds.** Food in Time and Place: The American Historical Association Companion to Food History. **1st ed. Oakland: University of California Press, 2014.**

Reader designed to provide information on food cultures using geographic, chronological, and topical lenses. International in scope.

**Gabaccia, Donna R.** We Are What We Eat: Ethnic Food and the Making of Americans. **Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2000.**

Explores how ethnicity affects eating habits in the United States. Considers efforts to maintain culinary identity in multiethnic societies, as well as notions of culinary hybridity and authenticity.

**Watson, James L., and Melissa L. Caldwell, eds.** The Cultural Politics of Food and Eating. **1st ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell, 2005.**

Essays about food distribution, globalization, political economy, etc., with ethnographic examples from many cultures.

**Wilk, Richard, ed.** Fast Food/Slow Food: The Cultural Economy of the Global Food System. **Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2006.**

Wilk and his colleagues draw upon their own international field experience to examine how food systems are changing around the globe. The authors offer a cultural perspective that is missing in other economic and developmental studies, and provide rich ethnographic data on markets, industrial production, and food economies. This new book will appeal to professionals in economic and environmental anthropology: economic development, agricultural economics, consumer behavior, nutritional sciences, environmental sustainability, and globalization studies.

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