

# 2nd International Workshop

# FOOD FOR JUSTICE

**Heidelberg**

**July 23 - 24, 2024**

Marsilius-Kolleg, Heidelberg, Germany

**Organizers:**



**In cooperation with:**



**Funding:**



# FOOD FOR JUSTICE

## 2nd International Workshop

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Over the past decades, renewed research agendas related to agriculture and food have questioned long-established divisions between nature and culture, rural and urban, global processes and local phenomena, among others, bringing different research traditions and disciplinary fields into dialogue. This renewal would not have been possible if food politics and the webs of relations established through food had not increasingly become a growing object of public attention, enhancing multiple interfaces between, for instance, practitioners and researchers, producers and consumers, experts from different areas and citizens. Not least important for such dialogues and connections has been the awareness of a context marked by multiple and entangled crises – including climate, the biodiversity, financial capitalism, care, justice, a challenging scenario for democratic politics, and multiple wars. Such crises impact in different ways to the forms we produce, exchange, prepare, consume and waste food, deepening the effects of different axes of inequality, including class, race, gender, ethnicity, citizenship, urban-rural difference, interspecies inequalities, among others. At the same time, a variety of forms of resisting and cultivating food relations based on respect and solidarity have emerged, as both prefigurative forms of being the change in the food system as well as pushing the state and gaining societal support for radical political change in the way food relations are currently structured. In this context, the Second International Workshop Food for Justice aims to bring together researchers and activists who work on the multifaceted political potential of food for broader and emancipatory societal transformations. The papers discuss different dynamics of transformation in agrarian and food systems, including social mobilization of food movements, market-led dynamics of change and political transformations in food politics to share and debate their recent research and experiences on the topic. The Workshop is an activity planned within the scope of the Junior Research Group Food for Justice: Power, Politics and Food Inequalities in a Bioeconomy, whose general objective is to investigate social mobilizations that denounce injustices in the food system and promote social and political innovations in order to build a democratic, ecological and just food system. The Workshop is organized by the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies (HCIAS) at Heidelberg University in partnership with the Institute for Latin American Studies from the Freie Universität Berlin.

### Organizers

Judith Müller and Renata Motta with support of Alejandra Rojas (Junior Research Group Food for Justice at the Heidelberg Center for Ibero-American Studies, Heidelberg University), in cooperation with the Institute for Latin American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin.

### Funding

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

#### Organization:



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# International Workshop Programme **FOOD FOR JUSTICE**

**Tuesday, July 23, 2024**

**Location:** *Marsilius-Kolleg, Heidelberg (Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1, 69120 Heidelberg)*

**09:00-9:30 – Welcome coffee and registration**

**09:30-10:15 – Opening and introduction to Food for Justice** LAI, FU Berlin (**Sérgio Costa**) and HCIAS/FFJ, Universität Heidelberg (**Renata Motta**)

**10:15-12:30 – Panel 1: Food, Agriculture, and Environment**

Moderator: **Judith Müller**

We are living in times of multiple crises, such as ecological and socioeconomic crises. This panel addresses, on the one hand, issues revolving around the contributions of the food and agriculture sector to these manifold crises, in particular, the economic intensification of agriculture, manifested by an increase in worldwide pesticide use, as well as the homogenization of crops and cattle, and the conversion of food into globalized financial assets and how it relates to the ecological crises. These developments contribute to socioecological problems such as climate change, biodiversity loss, hunger, malnutrition, and obesity. On the other hand, the panel discusses important agents of change, such as a diverse network of social movements, and calls for renewal public and scholarly engagement to tackle these urgent crises. Moving beyond a solely problem-oriented approach, different social movements addressing these issues are introduced, and a theoretical discussion is initiated on overcoming sociology's focus on human societies and instead creating a "post-anthropocentric sociology". Various forms of academic, activist, and forms of knowledge come into dialogue here. Examples presented in this session span various scales, relating case studies from the global South and North and taking a global perspective.

- **Sérgio Costa** (FU Berlin, Germany): **Climate Crisis, Anthropocentrism and the Renewal of Sociology**
- **Claudia Schmitt and Bruno Azevedo Prado** (CPDA/UFRRJ, Brazil): **Navigating Socio-Ecological Change: Brazilian Agroecological Movement in Times of Multiple Crises**
- **Tomás Palmisano** (Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina): **Lessons about De-Commodification and De-Commoditization of Agrarian Production in Argentina**
- **Marco Teixeira** (Heidelberg University, Germany): **Struggles to Transform Food Systems in the Brazilian Amazon**

**12:30-13:30 – Lunch**

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**Location:** Marsilius-Kolleg, Heidelberg (Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1, 69120 Heidelberg)

**13:30-15:45 – Panel 2: Food for Justice – Conceptual Debates, Everyday Practices and Political Implications**

Moderator: **Renata Motta**

The concept of food justice was born out of environmental justice activism in the US that pointed out to structural racism in the distribution of environmental contamination, and evolved towards claims for living in green spaces and having access to environmental commons. Food justice activism denounced structural racism in the food system, including in movements for sustainable agriculture and alternative food networks, and demanded access to healthy quality food for communities of colour and low-income neighbourhoods. Food for Justice recognizes the legacy of an important activist discourse that have inspired movements around the world, while opening up an analytical framework to research varied struggles for justice through the lens of food. This includes demands for justice considerations in socioecological transformations, denouncing injustices and power relations in food systems, as well as bringing visibility to social practices that are guided by principles of respect, justice and solidarity. This panel will bring together papers highlighting the importance of everyday food and culinary practices such as nourishing the self, gathering, caring, preparing and serving. Pleasurable and poetic dimensions of those social practices are also showcased, including their political potential for activists and communities, such as women assemblies or Black people. Taking a close look at social practices does not lead to a denial of structural racism and other discriminations, but rather enables to apply lessons learned by different food justice movements. Collectively, the papers presented in this panel contribute to a more holistic understanding of food justice including cultural, social, and political dimensions in shaping fair, democratic and ecological food systems.

- **Ashanté Reese** (University of Texas, USA): **Black Gatherings: Lessons for Food Justice Movements**
- **Meike Brückner** (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany) and **Birgit Hoinkle** (Universität Hohenheim): **Culinary Justice: An Essential Ingredient of Food Justice**
- **Desiree Lewis** (University of the Western Cape, South Africa): **Rethinking Hunger and Food for Justice**
- **Thalita Kalix Garcia Santana** (Hertie School, Germany): **Good, Clean and Fair Food for All: What Food Justice Means for Slow Food in Brazil and Germany**

**15:45-16:15 – Coffee break**

**16:15-18:30 – Panel 3: Feminist, Intersectional and Decolonial Perspectives in Food Studies**

Moderator: **Lea Loretta Zentgraf**

Through a combination of feminist and decolonial theories and epistemologies, this panel brings together contributions on food politics and practices that is characterized, among other aspects, by socially situating the political subjects involved in food movements and food politics in their contexts, social networks and relationships, avoiding analytical perspectives that are intended to be abstract and universal. The papers address questions such as: What are the contributions of different feminisms (popular, peasant, indigenous, black, etc.) and feminist theory (intersectionality, ecofeminism, feminist political ecology) to the topic of food and socio-ecological transitions and transformations?

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What is the relationship between food sovereignty, ancestral knowledges, agroecology, community-supported agriculture (CSA) and feminisms? Based on research from Europe and Latin America the panel brings in critical perspectives on the roles and experiences of gendered political subjects in agriculture, focusing on migrant women farmworkers in Spain and Portugal, Andean and Chilean peasant and Indigenous women, and activists from CSA's in Germany. From their different standpoints, these actors are challenging colonial, patriarchal and capitalist narratives and practices and interrogating power dynamics embedded in food systems.

- **Rita Calvário** (Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal): **Women Farmworkers and Gender Politics Within Food Sovereignty Struggles in Europe**
- **Paola Solís Huertas** (Gießen University, Germany): **Andean Peasant Women's Other Ways of Farming**
- **Mariana Calcagni** (Freie Universität, Berlin, Germany): **From Peasant Women to Social Change: The Politicization of Identities and Materialities Towards Socio-Ecological Transitions**
- **Renata Motta** (Heidelberg University, Germany): **Solidarity Across the Rural-Urban Difference for a Feminist Politics of Food and Beyond**

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**Location:** *Marsilius-Kolleg, Heidelberg (Im Neuenheimer Feld 130.1, 69120 Heidelberg)*

**09:00-09:30 – Arrival and coffee**

**09:30-11:45 – Panel 4: Food Movements and Alternative Food Networks**

Moderator: **Juliane Dame**

Social movements around the world have fought for the transformation of food politics through different banners, such as food justice, food sovereignty, food democracy, agroecology and veganism. Often, these struggles are associated with others, such as the struggle for agrarian reform and right to ancestral territories, the defense of democracy and political participation, the struggle for climate justice, demands for collective and social rights, and many others. These dynamics of collective action connect different scales, ranging from the local-global relations, national and regional politics and also encompassing rural-urban territories and connections. Its protagonists are diverse political subjects, including social movements, unions, activists, often gathered around coalitions, alliances or solidarity actions around food. At this panel, we will debate and analyze mainly the agency of social movements towards the transformation of agrarian and food systems. From a political sociology perspective, special emphasis will be given to debates on the transformative agendas proposed by social movements and their future visions; the formation or rupture of coalitions or alliances of social movements around food policy; conflict and collaboration relations with States at multiple levels; the efforts and barriers towards democratic and diverse participation; the relationship between the demands of the social movements and lifestyle practices.

- **Paulo Niederle** (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil): **Building Coalitions from Below: a Participatory Analysis of an Initiative to articulate Rural movements on a territorial scale**
- **Birgit Peuker** (Heidelberg University, Germany): **Lifestyle and Politics in Food Movements**
- **Claudia Trinidad Giacomán Hernández** (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile): **The Way to Someone's Mind is Through Their Stomach: Vegans and Culinary Activism**
- **Eryka Galindo** (Heidelberg University, Germany): **Coexistence with the Semi-Arid: Building Practices and Coalitions for the Right to Water and Food in the Brazilian Semi-Arid Articulation (ASA)**

**12:00-13:00 - Lunch**

**13:00-13:30 - Optional:** digestive walk along the Neckar River

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**Wednesday, July 24, 2024**

**13:30-15:45 – Panel 5: Just Food Systems Transformation**

Moderator: **Marco Teixeira**

In an increasingly urbanized world facing complex food challenges, cities have emerged as crucial arenas for social mobilization, social innovation and policies in addressing food security and justice. Urban population has also joined food initiatives that aim to build bridges between food producers and consumers fairly. This panel brings together diverse case studies from different world regions to explore the dynamic interplay between urban food policies, state capacities, and grassroots innovations. One focus of this panel lies on food politics and policies in Brazilian cities: how state-society relations shape urban food policies, the role of the civil society in driving innovation and fostering inclusive food systems, the state capacities of municipal governments and the political dynamics that influence food policy outcomes. Another focus are on state-society relations, looking at how grassroots innovations facilitated food provisioning for vulnerable groups during the Covid-19 pandemic in high- to middle-income countries. Also, the panel has a presentation focused on food initiatives in the German context that aim to create alternative food practices. The contributions to this panel will discuss possibilities to create more just and innovative food politics at the intersection of governmental capacities, societal initiatives and food movements. The panel, thus, aims to exchange on insights and collaborative pathways towards building fair, democratic and ecological food systems in cities worldwide and to discuss different opportunities to methodologically approach those topics in research projects.

- **Catia Grisa** (Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil): **Food Policies and State Capacities in Brazilian Cities**
- **Lidia Cabral** (Institute of Development Studies, UK): **Grassroots Innovation for Food Justice in High- and Middle-Income Country Settings: Opportunities for Mutual Learning**
- **Federico Masson** (FU Berlin): **Challenging the Food System through Community Supported Agriculture. The construction of a Food Heterotopia**
- **Marit Rosol** (Würzburg University, Germany): **Towards Just Food Futures - Dilemmas and Strategic Orientations for Food Movements**

**15:45-16:15 – Coffee break**

**16:15-17:45 – Round Table Discussion: “Food for Justice: Alliances and Dialogues Across World Regions”**

Moderator: **Sérgio Costa**

Based on the discussions that came up during the workshop, speakers will wrap up issues that different world regions face concerning questions of power and inequalities regarding food and agriculture, as well as matters of care, resistance and solidarity. Agendas, political challenges, as well as theoretical and methodological insights for studying food for justice across the globe will be discussed at the round table and together with the plenum.

Speakers: **Ashanté Reese, Desiree Lewis, Renata Motta, Paulo Niederle**

**18:00 – Closing reception and dinner**

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