



# FOOD & the GLOBAL ASIAN CITY

8-9 April 2015

NUS FASS Faculty Lounge, The Deck (Level 2)

Food plays a central role in everyday social life. Taken together, food and foodways constitute the manner in which people relate to urban space and to each other. As cities transform, the ways that people eat and procure food also change, along with the sociocultural meanings of food itself. The multifarious ways in which food has shaped and continues to shape our lives socially, economically, politically, morally, and nutritionally attest to the importance of studying gastronomic practices that connect people across regions, time, and social groups.

By reflecting upon the role that food plays in human relations and across different spaces, this workshop serves as a platform towards unravelling the enduring everyday culinary habits, rituals, creativity, and sensory experiences that are collectively used to nurture shared senses of cultural identity and economic livelihoods. Through connective, comparative, and historical perspectives, academics and urban stakeholders can together articulate a deeper meaning of food in cities so as to encourage stakeholders to consider its cultural significance as well as the economic centrality it represents to migrant communities and food enthusiasts.

The workshop aims to deliberate upon three key lines of inquiry:

1. How do people perceive their positioning in the urban social order through their culinary practices, particularly amid the urban manifestations of global political-economic restructuring and sociocultural change?
2. How do the politics and sensescapes of gastronomy relate to the transformation and redevelopment of urban spaces? How is modern urban life shaped by immigration and migratory foodways?
3. Most pertinently, we ask, how are processes related to food and foodways, senses and urban change intertwined?

Co-organized by the FASS Cities Research Cluster &  
TG07 Senses and Society (International Sociological Association),  
with support from the Office of the Deputy President (Research & Technology), NUS



Faculty of Arts  
& Social Sciences



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<b>DAY ONE PROGRAMME</b>		
9:00 – 9:30	REGISTRATION & TEA	
9:30– 10:00	INTRODUCTION - Kelvin Low & Elaine Ho (National University of Singapore) OPENING REMARKS – Tim Bunnell (National University of Singapore) & Daniel Bender (University of Toronto)	
10:00 – 11:15	KEYNOTE ADDRESS: <b>Mapping Singapore’s Culinary Landscape: Is Anyone Cooking?</b> Chaired by Daniel Bender (University of Toronto)	Vineeta Sinha, National University of Singapore
<b>PANEL ONE</b> <b>GLOBAL FOOD SYSTEMS &amp; CULINARY INFRASTRUCTURES</b> CHAIRED BY KELVIN LOW (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)		
11:15 – 11:35	Culinary Infrastructure: The Markets That Shape City Foods	Jeffrey Pilcher, University of Toronto
11:35 – 11:55	Taste, Culture and Nature: Connecting Cities with their Food Sources	Richard Wilk, Indiana University
11:55 – 12:15	Scarborough Stories: Homeland Foods, Diasporic Practices, and Transnational Flows	Jayeeta Sharma, University of Toronto
12:15 – 12:45	Q & A / Discussion	Kelvin Low, National University of Singapore
12:45– 14:00	LUNCH	
<b>PANEL TWO</b> <b>THE POLITICS AND POLICIES OF STREET FOOD</b> CHAIRED BY INDIRA ARUMUGAM (DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)		
14:00 – 14:20	Disreputable Cuisine: Street Food, Middle Class Hegemony, and Cultures of Masculinity	Krishnendu Ray, New York University
14:20 – 14:40	Moveable Feasts: Celebrating Shanghai’s Street Food	Anna Greenspan, NYU-Shanghai
14:40 – 15:10	Q & A / Discussion	Indira Arumugam, National University of Singapore
15:10– 16:00	TEA	

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<b>PANEL THREE</b> <b>MAKING SENSE OF GASTRONOMIC HISTORY &amp; HERITAGE</b> CHAIRER BY NOORMAN ABDULLAH (DEPARTMENT OF MALAY STUDIES, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)		
16:00 – 16:20	The Taste of Retro in the Global Asian City: Nostalgia, Commensality and Cosmopolitanism in Singapore	Jean Duruz University of South Australia
16:20 – 16:40	Culinary Linkages: Historical Sketches of the Foodways of Twentieth-Century Sydney, Shanghai and Singapore	Cecilia Leong-Salobir University of Wollongong
16:40 – 17:00	Tasting the Past: The Politics of Edible Heritage	Kelvin Low, National University of Singapore
17:00 – 17:30	Q & A / Discussion	Noorman Abdullah, National University of Singapore
19:00	WORKSHOP DINNER FOR SPEAKERS, CHAIRS, AND ORGANISERS	

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<b>DAY TWO PROGRAMME</b>		
9:00 – 13:00	<b>MAKANSUTRA WORLD STREET FOOD CONGRESS</b> (Off-campus for Workshop Speakers Only) Hosted by KF Seetoh (Makansutra)	
<b>PANEL FOUR</b> <b>EATING ONLINE: DIGITAL FOODSCAPES &amp; ARCHIVING</b> CHAired BY ELAINE HO (DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)		
14:00 – 14:20	Trending Heritage: Theorizing Food and Food Blogging in Singapore	Amy Tan, National University of Singapore
14:20 – 14:40	Creating a Digital Archive of Taste	Donna Gabaccia, University of Toronto
14:40 – 15:10	Q & A / Discussion	Elaine Ho, National University of Singapore
15:10– 16:00	TEA	
<b>PANEL FIVE</b> <b>FOOD ON THE MOVE: MIGRATION &amp; DIASPORIC FOODWAYS</b> CHAired BY SIDHARTHAN MAUNAGURU (SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMME, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE)		
16:00 – 16:20	Tracing their Steps: Race and Body-Work on Ethnic Food Tours	Rick Flowers & Elaine Swan, University of South Australia & University of Technology, Sydney
16:20 – 16:40	The Politics of Provisioning: Envisioning the History of Halal Food in Toronto	Ken MacDonald, University of Toronto
16:40 – 17:00	Africans in China and the Transformation of Urban Space through Food	Elaine Ho, National University of Singapore
17:00 – 17:30	Q & A / Discussion	Sidharthan Maunaguru, National University of Singapore
17:30 – 17:45	BREAK	
17:45 – 18:30	Discussion: Publication Plans & Further Grant Applications	Daniel Bender, University of Toronto