

Edited by Dorothy Chansky, Sarah W. Tracy

Conversations With Food

SERIES IN SOCIOLOGY

“Conversations With Food” is an edited volume like no other. . . . [T]hese thirteen chapters comprise a choose-your-own-adventure for food studies, as the editors invite readers to mix and match chapters to tease out unexpected, synergistic connections. Authors, too, link their own chapters to others in the volume, providing multiple routes through the text. Such an arrangement illuminates the bonds between seemingly disparate phenomena. Readers can discover the relationships between hotdogs in Houston and the globalization of French cuisine, the role of race in Ancel Keys’s starvation experiments and U.S. permaculture, or how notions of impurity guide both the theorization of fermentation and early twentieth-century food manufacturing practices. . . . [T]his volume showcases food studies at its best, its most inclusive, and its most exciting: as a truly interdisciplinary home for conversations with and about food.

Emily J.H. Contois, University of Tulsa

Author of “Diners, Dudes, and Diets: How Gender and Power Collide in Food Media and Culture”

Summary

“Conversations With Food” offers readers an array of essays revealing the power of food (and its absence) to transform relationships between the human and non-human realms; to define national, colonial, and postcolonial cultures; to help instantiate race, gender, and class relations; and to serve as the basis for policymaking. Food functions in these contexts as items in religious or secular law, as objects with which to bargain or over which to fight, as literary trope, and as a way to improve or harm health—individual or collective. The anthology ranges from Ancient Greece to the posthuman fairy underworld; from the codifying of French culinary heritage to the strategic marketing of 100-calorie snacks; from the European famine after the Second World War to the lush and exotic cuisines of culinary tourism today. “Conversations With Food” will engage anyone interested in discovering the disciplinary breadth and depth of food studies. The anthology is ideally suited for introductory and advanced courses in food studies, as it includes

essays in a range of humanities and social science disciplines, and each author draws cross-disciplinary linkages between their own work and other essays in the volume. This thematic and conceptual intercalation, when read with the editors’ introduction, makes the collection an exceptionally strong representation of the field of food studies.

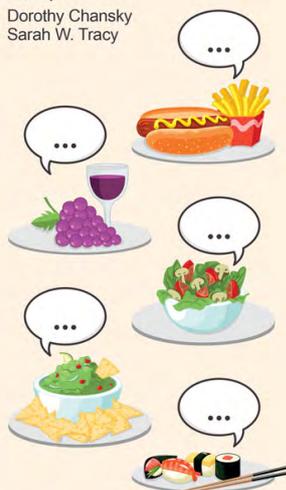
About the editor

Dorothy Chansky is Professor of Theatre History, Theory, and Criticism in the School of Theatre and Dance at Texas Tech University. She is the author of “Composing Ourselves: The Little Theatre Movement and the American Audience”; “Kitchen Sink Realisms: Domestic Labor, Dining, and Drama in American Theatre”; and co-editor of “Food and Theatre on the World Stage.”

Sarah W. Tracy is Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor of the History of Medicine and Food Studies at the University of Oklahoma Honors College. She is author of “Alcoholism in America from Reconstruction to Prohibition” and co-editor of “Altering American Consciousness: The History of Alcohol and Drugs in the United States, 1800-2000.”

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