

**STUDENTS AND DOCTORAL STUDENTS INTERNATIONAL  
INTERDISCIPLINARY CONFERENCE**

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# **THINKING FOOD**

**THE FUNCTIONS OF FOOD  
IN AMERICAN CULTURE  
AND SOCIETY**

**MAY 16-17, 2014  
AMERICAN STUDIES CENTER  
UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW**

**AL. NIEPODLEGŁOŚCI 22  
ROOM 317 AND 319**

**ALL EVENTS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
VISIT US AT:**

**[HTTPS://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/THINKINGFOOD2014](https://www.facebook.com/thinkingfood2014)**

**[HTTP://WWW.ASC.UW.EDU.PL/THINKINGFOOD/INDEX.HTML](http://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/thinkingfood/index.html)**

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Benefiting from the increasing interest in Food Studies, the Students and Doctoral Students International Interdisciplinary Conference Thinking Food: The Functions of Food in American Culture and Society opens an academic discussion on various aspects of food in the United States. Contemporary American culture is saturated with representations of food and food practices. They are present in advertisements, culinary shows, online foodie communities and blogs, films and TV series, magazines and journals, and holiday tour options. Americans are also setting up urban gardens and organizing food cooperatives about which they blog and form grassroots communities. What is more, the US governments constant involvement in citizens' food consumption and production methods, as well as regulation and availability of food products, have made food a political issue on par with war or energy crises. Mimicking the approaches employed by the food movements, the conference attempts to combine the academic with the practical, the scientific with the popular, and the corporate with the local to showcase the relations of domination and strategies of resistance.

### Concept and organization:

Karolina Krasuska (coordinator), Marta Usiekiewicz, Paulina Kakareko, and the participants of the BA-elective in Food Studies at the ASC

### Roundtable Participants:

**ALEKSANDER BARON** is the creator and owner of Solec 44, one of Warsaw's gastronomic landmarks. He learned the secrets of cooking in Scotland and the Caribbean, and later was the chef at Nowy Wspaniały Świat. Lokal.Bistro, which he created, started the "slow food fast" trend in Warsaw. He promotes small, local food producers and suppliers. His columns and articles were published in Zwierciadło and Kukbuk.

**CLIFFORD ANGEL BATES** received his B.A. in Political Science from Providence College, Providence, Rhode Island, M.A. in Politics from the University of Dallas, Irving, Texas, and Ph.D. in Political Science from Northern Illinois. He is interested in classical political philosophy and how it offers a critique of modern political thought, especially contemporary democratic theory. He has been a member of the ASC faculty since 2000 and Professor at the Center since 2002.

**KATARZYNA BIERNACKA** is vegan, board member and former president of Empatia (Polish animal rights association); translates and writes articles on veganism, animal rights and relations between people and non-human animals.

**MAGDA GENDŹWIŁŁ** graduated from the American Studies Center of the University of Warsaw. She is a food blogger (crustanddust.pl) and runs Warsaw food tours.

**URSZULA NIEWIADOMSKA-FLIS** is assistant professor at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. Her scholarly interests hover around representations of foodways in literature and film, fiction of regional America, American short story, and ethnic/immigrant literatures of the USA. She is the author of Aristocratic Ethos in Ellen Glasgow's and Walker Percy's Fiction (Wydawnictwo KUL, 2011) and The Southern Mystique: Food, Gender and Houses in Southern Fiction and Films (Publicacions de la Universitat de Valencia, 2012). Her post-doctoral research project aims to explore how food is used as a trope to code class, race and gender in American literature.

**TADEUSZ PIÓRO** teaches American literature at the University of Warsaw. His book, *Frank O'Hara and the Ends of Modernism*, was published in 2013. He is also known as a food critic and cookbook author, as well as a poet: his collected poems were published in 2011 (*O dwa kroki stąd*). He contributes regularly to the culinary monthly *Kuchnia* and the bi-monthly *Wino*.

**ANNA ŻYWEK** studies American Studies at the University of Warsaw. She is interested in healthy diet and fitness, and works at a local soccer league. She is currently conducting field research about hamburger restaurants in Warsaw.

#### Conference Participants:

**NINA AUGUSTYNOWICZ** is a Ph.D. student and a teaching assistant at the Institute of English Cultures and Literatures, University of Silesia. Her research interests include food studies and Victorian studies. She is currently working on her dissertation on scientific and religious metaphors of consumption in 19th century Britain and USA.

**HALINA GAŚIOROWSKA** is a Ph.D. student at the Institute of Applied Social Sciences, University of Warsaw. She graduated from Polish Studies, American Studies, and postgraduate studies in Journalism at the University of Warsaw. She is interested in new social movements, alternative media, counterculture and theory of comics, and participated in various informal pro-equality groups.

**ALEKSANDRA HOŁUBOWICZ** is currently studying literature studies at the Philological Doctoral Program, Gdańsk University. She earned her MA at the American Studies Center, Warsaw University, specializing in Sociology of Culture, preceded by a BA at Gdańsk University in English Philology with the specialization: Teaching English as a Foreign Language. Her research interests center around Chicana Literature, Polish literature written by young female authors, Sex and Gender, Queer Studies as well as Postcolonial criticism.

**KATARZYNA HORDEJUK** received M.A. in English Studies (University of Warsaw) and in American Culture (American Studies Center, University of Warsaw). She is currently working on her Ph.D. dissertation at the Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. She works for Warsaw School of Computer Science.

**BETUL KAT** is an M.A. student of American Studies at the University of Tübingen. Her main academic interests include gender studies and ethics.

**OLGA KORYTOWSKA** is an M.A. student at the American Studies Centre, University of Warsaw, where she is working on a master's thesis about surrogate motherhood and its representations in popular culture.

**WERONIKA KRAKÓWKA** is student of American Studies and Applied Linguistics at the University of Warsaw. In 2013, she completed her B.A. degree in Applied Linguistics. She is interested in legal and economic translations and American politics. In her free time, she likes to read travel reportages and watch American television series.

**KATARZYNA EWA KRÓL** is a cultural anthropologist and an art historian. Her major academic interests focus on food anthropology, gender studies and postsocialism. She is currently working on a research project concerning food production and politics in Georgia.

**MAGDALENA MAKSIMIUK** is currently a Ph.D. student at Graduate School for Social Research, Polish Academy of Sciences. Her academic background includes studies at the Faculty of Law and American Studies Centre at the University of Warsaw. During her studies she spent one semester in Berlin at Freie Universität and Humboldt - Universität. In her academic research, she is interested in the role of media and its influence on society.

**MARTA MAZUR-MALEK** comes from Białystok. In 2013 she graduated from Warsaw School of Economics, obtaining a Bachelor Degree in Management and Entrepreneurship. She is currently a second year student at the University of Warsaw, at the American Studies Center. Her main research interest is American business culture.

**ALEKSANDRA MICHALAK** is an M.A. student at American Studies Center, working on her thesis about the depiction of African Americans in press advertisements. She received her B.A. degrees in Teaching English and Egyptology, her lifelong passion. Her academic interests include also African American culture and music, and the English language.

**DOROTA MIHULKA** is a lecturer in the Department of English at Państwowa Wyższa Szkoła Zawodowa in Krosno, Poland. She is currently working on her Ph.D. dissertation devoted to the examination of contemporary Jewish American women's fiction about the role of Jewish foodways in the process of formation and preservation of Jewish identity, in both Orthodox and secular Jewish communities in the USA.

**ANNA MONASTERSKA** is an M.A. Student in the Department of English, Nicolaus Copernicus University, Toruń, specializing in Literary and Specialist Translation. She wrote her B.A. thesis on Flannery O'Connor's "Greenleaf," and is currently writing the M.A. thesis on the same author, comparing O'Connor with other southern writers of the era. She is an admirer of classic American literature, especially Flannery O'Connor, and English-speaking writers from other countries, such as Canadian Alice Munro.

**MARTA MORAWSKA** is a student of American Studies at Jagiellonian University. She also graduated from the Faculty of Law, where she specialized in international humanitarian law.

**JOANNA MROCZKOWSKA** is an anthropologist and a PhD candidate at the Faculty of Artes Liberales, University of Warsaw. She conducted research in Poland, Lithuania and Kyrgyzstan. Her dissertation is devoted to the patterns of food consumption and production in Eastern Poland. Her academic interests include anthropology of food, postsocialism, and gender studies.

**KATERINA NUSSDORFER** is a PhD student at the Department of American Studies, University of Vienna. She is writing her thesis on food as national identity in contemporary North American non-fiction.

**MAŁGORZATA OLSZA** is a Ph.D. student at the Faculty of English at Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań. She received M.A. in Art History (AMU) and English Studies (AMU). Her research interests focus on exploring the intersections of literature and visual arts, American performance art and American modernism.

**ALEKSANDRA PASZKOWSKA** is a student of the University of Warsaw. She received her BA in American literature and culture at the Institute of English Studies, and continues her undergraduate studies at the Institute of Polish Culture and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Her current interests include contemporary visual culture of the United States and Polish cinema of the 1960s.

**JAN PAWŁOWSKI** is a 2nd year BA student at the American Studies Center. With a childhood spent in the USA and Sweden, Jan holds a great sentiment for the States and their food. Aside from cooking, his interests include politics, history, drawing and chihuahuas.

**ANAHITA ROUYAN** is a Ph.D. student participating in an interdisciplinary program of 'Science, Cognition and Technology' at the University of Bologna, Italy. Her main academic interest is the intersection of history of science and STS with cultural and literary studies of Great Britain and America.

**MARTA WERBANOWSKA** is a Ph.D. candidate and academic instructor at the University of Warsaw's Institute of English Studies. Her research comprises African American and late 20th/early 21st century literature and culture, as well as literary criticism with a focus on feminist, queer, postcolonial, psychoanalytical and neo-Marxist theories.

**JOANNA WRÓBEL** is a Ph.D. candidate and student at the University of Gdańsk. Her academic interests include gender stereotypes, gender-focused narratives in Polish TV series, American TV series, from both comparative and fan perspective, as well as food culture.

**MARTYNA ZIGOURAS** is a student of American Studies at American Studies Center, Warsaw University. Her fields of interest include: Jewish American culture, food in culture, American TV series, gender and sexuality. She is currently writing her BA thesis on the New Jewish Food Movement.

**Program:**

**Friday, May 16**

**14:00**

**REGISTRATION OPENS (THIRD FLOOR FOYER)**

**15:00 - 17:45**

**WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY (ROOM 317)**

Screening of *Fantastic Mr. Fox* (2009), dir. Wes Anderson and roundtable with Magdalena Gendźwiłł, Urszula Niewiadomska-Flis, Tadeusz Pióro

Moderators: Magdalena Maksimiuk, Sebastian Smoliński)

A 15-minute break will take place between the screening and the roundtable

**17:45 - 18:00**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**18:00 - 19:30**

**FOOD DE RÉSISTANCE: FOOD ACTIVISM AND IDENTITY (ROOM 317)**

Olga Korytowska (University of Warsaw), "Is it Local?: Locavorism as a Marker of Cultural Identity in Portlandia"

Halina Gąsiorowska (University of Warsaw), "Dynamics of Power at Food Not Bombs Feasts"

Anahita Rouyan (University of Bologna), "Radical Acts of Cultivation: Organic Utopia and GMO in Ruth Ozeki's All Over Creation"

Moderator: Marta Usiekniewicz

#### **THE NEXT COURSE: EVOLUTION OF ETHNIC FOOD AND IDENTITY (ROOM 319)**

Martyna Zigouras (University Of Warsaw), "The New Jewish Food Movement and Its Significance in the Twenty-First Century."

Aleksandra Michalak (University of Warsaw), "Soul Food □ The Short Story of How Black Food Survived Harsh Slavery Times but its Future may be at Risk"

Dorota Mihuka (University of Bialystok), "Food and the (Re)making of Jewish Female Identity in The Ladies Auxiliary by Tova Mirvis"

Moderator: Paulina Kakareko

**19:30**

#### **RECEPTION (ROOM 313)**

### **Saturday, May 17**

**9:30 - 11:00**

#### **WHAT RHYMES WITH FOOD?: FOOD AS A MEANS OF EXPRESSION (ROOM 317)**

Anna Monasterska (Nicolaus Copernicus University), "American Poets of Everyday Life: Food Culture in the 1950s"

Malgorzata Olsza (Adam Mickiewicz University), "Food for Thought: Conceptual Art's Reclaim of the Material"

Marta Werbanowska (University of Warsaw), "The Great Repast: Kevin Young's Food Poems"

Moderator: Antoni Górny

#### **HISTORY ON A PLATE: FOOD IN HISTORY (ROOM 319)**

Marta Mazur (University of Warsaw), "Political Tea"

Katarzyna Ewa Król (University of Warsaw), "From Patriotic Act to Civic Disobedience: A Brief History of Urban Gardening in the United States"

Jan Pawlowski (University of Warsaw), "The Great War Food Propaganda"

Moderator: Chris Korten

**11:00 - 11:45**

#### **COFFEE BREAK**

**11:45 - 13:15**

**TV DINNERS: FUNCTIONS OF FOOD IN FILM AND TELEVISION SERIES (ROOM 317)**

Weronika Krakówka (University of Warsaw), "Delicious New York City According to Sex and the City"

Aleksandra Paszkowska (University of Warsaw), "The Function of Casserole Dishes and Tupperware Containers in The Sopranos"

Joanna Wróbel (University of Gdansk), "Pie Maker, Undead Girl, and Detective who Knits: The Meaning of Food in Pushing Daisies"

Moderator: Urszula Niewiadomska-Flis

**ALL YOU CAN EAT: FOOD AND CONSUMPTION (ROOM 317)**

Katarzyna Hordejuk (Polish Academy of Sciences), "Freegans"

Marta Morawska (Jagiellonian University), "Obesity in Houston: How Does the Urban Culture Determine Dietary Habits?"

Magdalena Maksimiuk (Polish Academy of Sciences), "Hamburger Nation: Facts and Myths Behind the All-American Favorite Food in Selected Post-9/11 Documentaries"

Moderator: Ludmila Janion

**13:15 - 14:30**

**LUNCH (ROOM 313)**

**14:30 - 16:00**

**DO THEY REALLY EAT THAT?: ETHNIC FOOD AS RESISTANCE (ROOM 317)**

Katerina Nussdorfer (University of Vienna), "Persian Foodways □ a Source of Pride and Resistance toward Americanization: The Case of Iranian-Americans as Represented in Three Contemporary Memoirs"

Aleksandra Holubowicz (University of Gdańsk), "Food as Absent in Erased Faces by Graciela Limon."

Joanna Mroczkowska (University of Warsaw), "Food in a Parcel □ Gastro-Nostalgia or Subversiveness? The Case of Polish Temporary Migrants in the US"

Moderator: Ewa Hauser

**FOOD AND THE BODY (ROOM 319)**

Betul Kat (University of Tübingen), "Feederism."

Nina Augustynowicz (University of Silesia), "Calories in Consumer Culture"

Moderator: Sylwia Kuźma

**16:00 - 16.15**

**COFFEE BREAK**

**16:15 - 17:30**

**CONFERENCE CLOSING PLENARY (ROOM 317)**

**HAMBURGER REVOLUTION IN WARSAW**

Roundtable with Aleksander Baron, Clifford Angel Bates, Katarzyna Biernacka, Anna Żywek

Moderator: Karolina Krasuska