Eighth Edition

Contributing Authors

Rachel Kelly  
Program Coordinator  
Center for Regional Food Systems  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Rich Pirog  
Director  
Center for Regional Food Systems  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Kyeesha Wilcox  
Former Graduate Student  
Department of Geography, Environment, and Spatial Sciences  
2017 Summer Research Opportunities Program Intern, Michigan State University

Kimberly Carr  
Former Post-doctoral Research Associate  
Center for Regional Food Systems and Center for Interdisciplinarity, Michigan State University

Anel Guel  
Former Graduate Student  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Taylor Wimberg  
Former Graduate Student  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Vanessa García Polanco  
Former Graduate Student  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Danl Babayode  
Former Undergraduate Student  
Department of Chemistry  
2018 Summer Research Opportunities Program Intern, Michigan State University

Kelsey Watson  
Former Undergraduate Student  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Emettra Nelson  
Former Undergraduate Student  
Department of Community Sustainability, Michigan State University

Jane Henderson  
Former Undergraduate Student  
University of San Diego (California)  
2016 Summer Research Opportunities Program Intern, Michigan State University
Acknowledgements

The authors would like to thank Andrea Weiss, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems (CRFS) Communications Director, for guidance and copyediting, and Outreach and Communications Specialist Lindsay Mensch for copyediting, layout, and digital publishing. Thanks also to Shane Solar-Doherty, Tufts University former graduate student and 2015 CRFS summer intern, for his assistance on several citations used for the revision of the bibliography’s second edition, and to MSU Department of Community Sustainability former graduate student Kathleen Reed for her assistance with the third edition.

Support for this publication comes in part through the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

Suggested Citation


This eighth edition includes additional citations collected from January 2020 through December 2020.

For more information, contact Rich Pirog, MSU Center for Regional Food Systems, at rspirog@msu.edu.
Introduction and Purpose of this Document

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to provide current research and outreach on structural racism in the U.S. food system for the food system practitioner, researcher, educator, and advocate. Our intention is to update this resource on a recurring basis. We suggest it be used as a companion resource for training or education sessions on structural racism in the food system.

This annotated bibliography on selected resources and publications is focused on structural racism in the U.S. food system. Structural racism in the United States has been defined as the “normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics—historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal—that routinely advantage Whites while producing cumulative and chronic outcomes for people of color.”

Our intention was to look at literature and videos that broadly cover structural racism across the entire food supply chain as well as to examine specific sectors. We also identified literature that links the social construction of Whiteness and its intentional or consequential impact on structural racism within the United States' local food movement. We intentionally focused on recent peer-reviewed and gray literature materials that are national, regional, and local in scope. We also identified materials that included significant references. Blog posts, news or media articles, and college class syllabi are not included in this bibliography; however, these writings contribute significantly to the discussion on structural racism in the food system and should be part of a more comprehensive education program on this topic.

This eighth edition contains 100 new publication citations and 6 new video resources. In this edition, our video curation includes recordings from webinars that focused on the intersection of food systems and racial equity.

The COVID-19 pandemic shed further light on existing racial disparities in the U.S. food system. Racist killings and attacks on Black Americans and the protests and demonstrations that have followed in 2020 have focused the nation's attention on the historic, ongoing, and systemic anti-Black racism that is embedded within our country and institutions, including our food system. Both the pandemic and the refocused attention on racism influenced the significant number of new contributions to the eighth edition of this annotated bibliography.

We have made an effort to include the digital object identifier (DOI) of as many of the publications as possible. The DOI is useful to track electronic documents. All references to race and ethnicity are capitalized in accordance with APA style.

The citations annotated in this document are available on Zotero, a free, online open-source management tool for collecting, managing, and citing research sources. To access the Zotero library, use the following link: https://www.zotero.org/groups/1972910/annotated_bibliography_on_structural_racism_present_in_the_u.s._food_system
Annotated Bibliography

Journal Articles, Books, and Gray Literature Resources


Examines Native American food sovereignty through the lens of 1990s Native North American literature. The author uses two creative writings to illustrate why Native Americans advocate for a rights- and culture-based approach to food. Several U.S. federal documents that acknowledge a right to food are outlined here, bringing attention to the forces threatening indigenous food systems.


Highlights the dimensions of class and race within farmers markets and the “green” economy.


Explores the interplay between race and class and the food system; the book’s 15 chapters outline these distinctions along the supply chain from production to consumption.


Traditional explanations for diet-related health problems in low-income communities of color either blame individuals for making poor food choices or attribute the problem to a lack of accessible healthy food options. However, the authors pose that foodways – defined as cultural, social, and economic food practices, habits, and desires – play a major role in food choices and that the primary barrier to accessing healthy food is cost.


Examines ways food activism can address issues of social, racial, and economic inequalities in the food system to create a more just and equitable system for all. Authors challenge the concepts of individualism, consumerism, and private property as they pertain to food activism.


Examines food justice among Black and Latin American immigrant farmers in Oakland, California, and Seattle, Washington, respectively. In conjunction with food justice, analyzes neoliberalism, an academic philosophy, to understand its impact on food movements.

Identifies and examines two case studies of prevalent, pervasive white privilege in California. Additionally suggests how farmers markets can act as catalysts for anti-racism in the future of food movements.


Develops the concept of food justice and bridges this to activism on sustainable agriculture, food insecurity, and environmental justice.


Examines causes of nutritional inequality and challenges the perception that increasing healthy food options in low-income neighborhoods adequately addresses the problem. Poses the idea of a healthy food subsidy (as part of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP) to more effectively incentivize low-income households to buy healthy groceries.


Explores how agrifood systems, and even alternative agrifood systems, have historically ignored social justice issues. Also discusses the role academics can play in addressing inequalities in the food system.


In this editorial, the author makes explicit the way labor is at the heart of the food system in ethical, political, and economic ways. Specifically, labor conditions have been produced socially through public policy, public funds, and discursive practices of racism, and they inherit the practices of slavery, indentured servitude, and exploitation.


Describes of the life of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, farmer Will Allen and his work developing urban farming techniques through his organization, Growing Power, to benefit underserved food desert communities. Growing Power seeks to prove that the food system is the solution to youth empowerment, dismantling racism, creating jobs, and bridging the urban–rural divide.

Describes through interviews the realities of current and past food system experiences from the perspective of Southern women of color.


Explores the idea of the right to food as a means of addressing food insecurity, arguing that the United States government’s current approach to food assistance is not effective. Author also discuss how rights-based food assistance might look in the U.S. and what organizations and entities would need to be involved.


The authors describe the process of building trust and centering values in a small national food systems gathering in fall 2019 in Detroit, Michigan. The authors offer reflections and resources for food system practitioners to assess one’s food system work using an equity and inclusion lens, including their personal experiences of the process, the practical event decisions they made, and feedback from participants.


Examines how Latino residents experience, think about, and address new exclusionary practices in the space of alternative food activism in Boston, Massachusetts.


Explains how urban environmental justice is at a critical juncture in its trajectory when outside investors start to value and re-invest in marginalized neighborhoods.


Provides an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Farm Bill, with a particular focus on how Farm Bill policies are shaped by corporate power and how such policies affect the lives of marginalized communities. This report provides a thorough analysis, a set of comprehensive policy interventions, and a vision for a food sovereignty movement that puts “belonging” at its center.

Discusses how various urban U.S. areas are attempting to increase healthy food access through community development.

Baker, E. A., Schootman, M., Barnidge, E., & Kelly, C. (2006). The role of race and poverty in access to foods that enable individuals to adhere to dietary guidelines. *Preventing Chronic Disease, 3*(3), A76. [https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2006/jul/05_0217.htm](https://www.cdc.gov/pcd/issues/2006/jul/05_0217.htm)

Addresses the question of whether all communities have equal access to foods in order to make healthy dietary choices.


Designed to help neighbors, resident groups, and organizations in Baltimore, Maryland, and other U.S. cities have a guided conversation through the connection between food and social justice, taking a critical look at one's own food environment.


Focuses on a group of African American farmers in North Carolina, using Photovoice methodology to explore their experiences with farming, land ownership and loss, and discriminatory lending practices. Includes the farmers' recommendations for community needs related to farming.


Traces the roots of Black agricultural history, specifically examining African indigenous understandings of the connections between the natural and the spiritual. This article looks at specific Black farmers and how they are using farming to connect with their spiritual ancestry and agricultural heritage.


Examines how the Environmental Protection Agency's Worker Protection Standard, an information-oriented approach to improving farmworker safety, is largely ineffective in that it ignores important socio-cultural and eco-biological issues farmworker women experience when faced with pesticide exposure.

Analyzes the dimensions of structural racism that create and sustain areas of limited access to healthy food in low-income communities.


Focuses on the growing number of Black female farmers in agriculture. Also features an ethnography of seven Black women in agriculture near Atlanta, Georgia.


Examines the successes and challenges of the food is medicine movement. Authors advocate for the concept of food as a basic right as a means of promoting health over the long term and creating a more equitable food system.


Focuses on Latina women and their contribution to the U.S. food supply chain.


Delves into the intricacies of the federal H-2A guestworker program, which allows foreign workers rightful employment in various farm-related jobs.


Examines associations between racial inequalities in socioeconomic status and obesity using data on number of grocery stores and fast food restaurants per county. Findings show structural racism is associated with obesity and obesogenic environments, but associations vary by socioeconomic status and racial composition.

Gives an overview of recent food access research, demonstrating why disadvantaged communities commonly lack healthy food retail options and examining outcomes and potential solutions. The report acknowledges the growth of food access research but notes the continued need for work in this area.


Provides clear data collection guidelines and assists Native communities in how to measure food access, land use, and food policy in their communities, with the ultimate goal of helping Native communities regain control over their local food systems.


Explores the author's connection with colonialism and food justice and the effects of the author's ancestors moving to the United States.


Reflection on how the food system can address and heal from colonialism and advocate for racial justice amidst the global COVID-19 pandemic.


Examines issues related to economic viability and paid and unpaid work in three alternative food initiatives in Boston, Massachusetts. Three assessment standards are used in the analysis.


Discusses the various ways that race shapes people’s lives, including racialized outcomes of food production, processing, and consumption.

Discusses food sovereignty in relation to urban Chicagoans struggling with food insecurity and shows how the concept might be used to empower communities and improve urban food access.


Presents findings from a qualitative study of 19 urban agriculture sites that assessed the socioeconomic context of project sites, nonfood benefits generated, the produce-distribution mechanism, financing mechanisms, the nature of agricultural labor, the food produced, and the productivity of the site.


Documents the scope and detail of employment abuses and safety-related issues facing U.S. crop-based farmworkers. The inventory catalogs current (as of 2016) federal workplace protections and public data on safety and enforcement of those protections.


Focuses on the challenges faced by and the resilience of Black, Latinx, Native, and Asian farmers in the United States.


Utilizes data from 2000 U.S. Census and 2001 InfoUSA to examine the availability of food stores in a neighborhood based on three factors: its racial and ethnic composition, poverty rates, and urbanicity. Results show no association between rural supermarket availability and neighborhood poverty or racial/ethnic makeup, but do indicate that high poverty neighborhoods have fewer supermarkets.


Shares the experiences of members of the Growing Resilience Community Advisory Board in promoting food sovereignty in the Wind River Reservation community in Wyoming.

Examines the food justice practices and strategies of Dig Deep Farms and Produce, located in the California Bay Area, with a focus on the organization's values, institutional relationships and foodways.


Examines the way social movements of community food security, food sovereignty, and food justice are organized in order to fight to fairly distribute food while simultaneously reinscribing Whiteness and patriarchal power. The authors argue that in order to correct this pattern, we must relocate our social movement goals and practices within a decolonizing and feminist leadership framework to highlight inclusive and just movements and scholarship.


Offers a policy analysis and historical overview of the Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program (FRTEP) with a focus on the United States government’s mismanagement of funds to support American Indian communities. Authors also discuss the potential ways FRTEP can foster traditional sustainable farming techniques and equitable practices in Indian Country.


A curation of five articles documenting evidence of racism in the U.S. restaurant industry.


When an area is designated a food desert, the typical policy response is to build a new supermarket. However, the authors argue that residents who live in food deserts have often developed their own ways to access affordable healthy food and that supermarket interventions could actually disrupt low-cost healthy food options in some cases.


Follows various food justice organizations in their work in low-income neighborhoods of color to develop community-based solutions to drive systemic social change around food. The author explores the possibilities and limitations of this approach in the age of the nonprofit industrial complex.

Master’s thesis exploring one individual’s white privilege as it relates to the food system and farming. Author outlines her own personal efforts as a White farmer to disrupt systemic racism through her work.


Analysis of policy language finds that food justice and equity are minimally addressed in the Minnesota Food Access Planning Guide.


Discusses Food Solutions New England’s (FSNE) efforts to address inequities in the food system using a collective impact model. Shares examples of FSNE’s work exemplifying its collaboration with regional partners and its commitment to racial equity and food justice.


Research commentary exploring how values-based agrifood supply chains (VBSCs) incorporate fair labor practices—one of the aspirational values of VBSCs—into their business models. Analyzing eight case studies from a USDA “agriculture of the middle” project, the authors suggest that farmworker issues (including low wages, lack of benefits, and dangerous working conditions) are largely ignored in the alternative agriculture movement, as opposed to other issues like food quality and environmentally friendly practices.


The author uses food as a tool for understanding the sociological and historical processes of the Southern U.S., outlining a complicated history of oppression and exploitation of African Americans and women.


The authors argue that it is important for scholars and practitioners to be clear on how food justice differs from other efforts to seek an equitable food system and identify four nodes around which food justice organizing appears to occur: trauma/inequity, exchange, land, and labor. It sets the stage for the second article in the same journal (Slocum & Cadieux, 2015) on the practice of food justice in the United States.

Examines incubator initiatives for new, small-scale farmers, specifically how structural barriers such as land access can impede beginning farmers’ eventual transition to independent proprietorship. The study examines how sociocultural and relational constraints impede land access for former immigrant farmworkers aspiring to practice independent farming in California’s Central Coast region.

Calo, A. (2018). How knowledge deficit interventions fail to resolve beginning farmer challenges. *Agriculture and Human Values, 35*(2), 367–381. [https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-017-9832-6](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-017-9832-6)

Demonstrates how many beginning farmer initiatives overlook structural barriers to farmer success and instead focus on providing technical information. Author analyzes the USDA’s Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program to reveal mismatches between beginning farmer needs and current funded projects.


Cautions that the beginning farmer narrative, which has been created in response to changing trends in farming in the U.S., may be limiting in its visions, ideals and inclusivity. Author explores ways to expand the narrative to promote equity, particularly across socially disadvantaged groups.


Outlines discrimination by the USDA and reviews five major U.S. agricultural discrimination court cases: two involving African American farmers and one each involving Native American farmers, Hispanic farmers, and female farmers.

Carasquillo, N. (2011). Race and ethnicity from the point of view of farm workers in the food system. *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts, 5*(1), 121-131. [https://doi.org/10.2979/racethmulglocon.5.1.121](https://doi.org/10.2979/racethmulglocon.5.1.121)

Provides an analysis of U.S. agriculture and Latino farmworkers and the obstacles the workers confront within the food system. The author draws from his experiences working with CATA (El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, or the Farmworkers Support Committee).


Explores the politics of food in African American communities and potential obstacles that producers of plant-based vegan “meat” may face when trying to expand into African American markets. The author gives a health-centered rationale as to why African Americans should strongly consider consuming plant-based meat as an alternative to animal flesh; examines three obstacles—access, marketing, and African American food culture; and offers solutions to these obstacles.

Provides a set of policy recommendations for President Barack Obama's administration that will build equity and sustainability for all in the U.S. food system.


Demonstrates how women of color who choose to breastfeed often face structural barriers, including poor medical infrastructure, restrictive workplace policies, and a lack of community acceptance.


Discusses McDonald's restaurants' discriminatory policies toward Black franchise owners during the years between the assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 and the Los Angeles riots in 1992. The article looks into how the “redlining” of these McDonald's restaurants during this time period affected the poor and minority areas of Los Angeles.


Provides a history of fast food restaurant franchises in the United States and their impacts on Black communities.


Looks at community gardens in Dubuque, Iowa and the experiences of marginalized communities participating in neighborhood revitalization efforts and the accompanying food, land, and housing issues influenced by race. Authors interview residents and analyze conversations using a Political Ecology of the Body framework.


Examines the importance of addressing systemic challenges in communities, such as historic and cultural divides, racial disparities, and poverty, in order to most effectively build equitable food systems that benefit underserved community members.
Clendenning, J., Dressler, W. H., & Richards, C. (2016). Food justice or food sovereignty? Understanding the rise of urban food movements in the USA. *Agriculture and Human Values, 33*(1), 165-177. [https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-015-9625-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-015-9625-8)

Examines food sovereignty and the extent to which it has become embedded as a concept, strategy, and practice, using examples from Oakland, California and New Orleans, Louisiana. Authors also discuss the need for the urban poor to have influence over how and where food is produced and distributed, especially in food insecure areas.


Examines policies, plans, and research strategies related to urban agriculture in New York City. The study shows that urban agriculture resource needs remain and that associated race- and class-based disparities continue to be present.


Looks at the effects of white supremacy on food insecurity and food access for Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) communities and the ways white supremacy promotes racial inequities in the U.S. food system.


Agroecosystems are different from natural ecological systems in that their goal is increased social value. The social value of any given agroecosystem is determined by the complex interplay of productivity, stability, sustainability, and equitability and the trade-offs among these components. The author includes examples of how these trade-offs played out in the origins of agriculture and continue to be seen in modern agriculture, including the impacts of land ownership, pollution, and food distribution on equitability.


Shows how a farm-based food access project called the Community Table Project at UC Davis addressed food insecurity on in campus, particularly for students of color, low-income students, and LGBTQIA+ students, all of whom are at a greater risk of being food insecure than the rest of the student population.

Shares results of the Apache Healthy Stores program, a food-store based initiative to promote healthy foods and decrease obesity rates, on two Native American Indian Reservations and the program’s impacts at the store, community and individual levels.


A mixed methodology assessment of the growing trend of Good Food Enterprises and their impacts on food movements. Using Foodlab, a non-profit Detroit, Michigan-based network of entrepreneurs, as an example, the author shares findings on general food movement values, motivations, limitations and tensions.


Book about the decline of African American farmers between 1940 and 1974, due in large part to discriminatory practices at the USDA.


Examines sustainability initiatives in the U.S. and a historic tendency to focus more on environmental justice than social and political justice. Using an urban farming program in Florida as an example, the authors show why social justice concerns must be incorporated into sustainability agendas in order to address the needs of marginalized communities.


This University of Wisconsin Extension racial equity facilitation guide shows groups, organizations, and individuals in planning how to use the “Food System Racial Equity Assessment” tool to determine whether food systems policies, programs, and plans are equitable.


This paper discusses the implications of historical and contemporary racism within the field of planning in the United States and notes the opportunity to ameliorate these inequalities in the area of food systems planning. The author explores how the Food System Racial Equity Assessment tool can be used to prioritize racial equity in food systems planning processes.

Examines the controversy surrounding “Thug Kitchen,” a vegan food blog post started in 2012 that uses excessive profanity in its recipes. The blog’s creators were assumed by some to be African American but were later determined to be White. Authors discuss the racially charged usage of the word “thug” and other language tensions that exist in food culture.


Describes how to challenge and eliminate corporate power and structural racialization in the U.S. food system and society as a whole. This article also analyzes ways that public and private institutions are structured and how government programs are administered and operated in a way that marginalizes low-income communities and communities of color. The author argues that the Farm Bill is both a reflection and a driver of inequities in the food system today.


Commentary on how the alternative agriculture movement needs to address power imbalances, such as race, class, and citizenship, that put farmworkers at a disadvantage. The author suggests ways in which this shift may happen within the alternative agriculture movement and outlines a broad policy framework for change.


Provides a useful literature review on anti-racist food scholarship and analyzes the benefits of linking organic farming work to indigenous food sovereignty.


Explores the concept of food sovereignty in comparison to its original roots in community food security, as well as how it has been reframed for context in the United States. Author finds that food sovereignty remains primarily a political concept but one that fails to address social injustices in the U.S. agrifood system.

The article chronicles the evolution of the regional food systems network Food Systems New England (FSNE) as it made a formal commitment to racial equity in its goals, values, and actions. Through this evolution FSNE has brought in many new voices that had historically not been engaged, recognized, and equally valued.


An overview of the *Garcia v. Vilsack* case, in which Hispanic farmworkers filed a lawsuit against the USDA for credit transaction and disaster benefit discrimination. The overview discusses the exhaustive measures the farmworkers took to argue their case. It also draws upon and reviews three other cases: one involving African American farmers, one involving Native American farmers, and one involving female farmers.


Makes suggestions for how the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) can work more effectively to alleviate food insecurity and poverty for low-income families in the U.S. Recommendations include increasing SNAP benefits, especially for families with children, and a universal child allowance.


This fact sheet provides a definition and history of the term “food sovereignty” and offers examples and resource links to food sovereignty in Indian Country.


These case studies focus on the process of working with recent Latino immigrants in farmer trainings. The outside organizers inadvertently strengthened a culture of Whiteness because they did not share the same goals as the Latino immigrant participants.


Uses an equity lens to examine the funding behind projects and programs related to food.

Takes a look at workers in U.S. food industry occupations: farmworkers (production), slaughterhouse and other processing facilities workers (processing), warehouse workers (distribution), grocery store workers (retail), and restaurant and food service workers (service).


Shows how food sovereignty assessments can be implemented to help Native communities reclaim control over their local food systems by centering the assessment tools around Indigenous knowledge and practices as well as community-centered strategies. Shares examples of outcomes and lessons from Native American communities who have conducted such food sovereignty assessments.


Provides a historic overview of food sovereignty and Native American food systems, with a focus on the increasing number of youth-led food and agriculture-based initiatives within Native communities.


Highlights five Hawaiian Native and Native American food enterprises working to improve their communities by reviving the economy and improving community health with increased access to fresh foods. Examines key attributes shared by each enterprise, including a focus on building strong partnerships, a comprehensive business plan, an understanding of community needs, a commitment to culture and tradition, a willingness to be flexible, transparency, and accountability.


The author uses the framework of “food oppression” to analyze the ways in which popular culture engages with the deleterious effects of fast food. Media delivering these messages often do not reach communities that are most affected, such as low-income Black and Latino communities. The author argues for an eradication of food oppression to improve health and life expectancy in these communities, suggesting that activists must lobby for drastic changes in law, policy, and education as mounted attacks on food oppression happen through litigation, education, lobbying, and community-based organizations.

Explores the concept of food oppression through the USDA's role in the milk industry.


An in-depth look at the relationship Black women have with breastfeeding and infant formula. The author examines how history shaped the problem of breastfeeding and infant formula use, beginning with slavery; the evolution of infant feeding practices; the rise of the role of pediatricians and lactation consultants as experts in relation to mothers; the medicalization and whitening of motherhood; and the relationship between overt racism and structural inequality.


Although the rapidly growing food sector in the United States has created jobs, most of those jobs are minimum-wage positions with no opportunity for advancement. By creating “good food jobs,” cities not only increase employment but also improve working conditions for food workers and increase access to healthy and affordable food. The authors use New York City as an example of a city where good food jobs are increasing and recommend strategies for other cities.


Lays out an agenda for federal food policy with goals of reducing food insecurity, eliminating systemic racism in the food system, making healthy food affordable and accessible, addressing diet-related disease and climate change issues related to agriculture, ensuring food workers are treated fairly and supporting food democracy.


This short brief from the coordinator of the Inter-Institutional Network for Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability (INFAS) delineates the way this working group has shifted its engagement with labor in the food system, concluding that it must focus on historical and institutional barriers that constrain food system sustainability.

Demonstrates how local foods can be made more accessible to low-income consumers via community-based nutrition projects. Authors use Photovoice methodology to evaluate two diet-related health programs in Madison, Wisconsin and Portland, Oregon as examples. Authors find that low-income families’ food provisioning practices were influenced by learning kitchen competence, developing quality social relationships, and gaining positive associations of fresh, local food.


Assesses the food justice movement in the U.S. using data from the United States Department of Agriculture-funded Food Dignity project. Authors employ social movement framing theory to identify prognostic, diagnostic and motivational frames.


Editorial discussing subversive and interstitial food spaces and exploring the innovative ways urban and suburban land is being used in relation to food.


Series of essays about Black food culture, examining topics such as inequities in the food system for Black growers and consumers, threats to Black cuisine and differing ideas about what constitutes a food as “healthy.” Throughout the essays are examples of Black agency including current and historic efforts to preserve Black food culture.


Provides an inside perspective on how certain cultural practices within American food justice movements perpetuate oppression in the very organizations that are fighting to end such oppression. The author suggests a shift in focus to include more activist involvement in cultural work.

Using traditional Anishinaabe botanical knowledge as an example, author discusses how knowledge systems of Indigenous cultures are commonly distorted and misrepresented by scientists and researchers who are not a part of the culture. Author calls for a new approach to such research that preserves and values Indigenous knowledge.


Presents the multi-institutional racial inequalities in the food system and looks at access, production, distribution, and labor and affordability issues in the food system.


A review of 115 sources since 1971 outlining research on Black farms and land loss.


Uses an “Indigenized environmental justice” perspective to present a history of activism and policy efforts by Native people to protect their land and sacred sites. Suggests that the mainstream environmental movement should learn from the history of Indigenous resistance in order to build a more sustainable movement.


Describes the evolution of the Cass Clay Food Partners Network, which serves Cass County, North Dakota and Clay County, Minnesota. Explores the network’s integration of project-based work and policy development as well as lessons learned.


Describes the ways that the agricultural system we have today is steeped in the legacy of plantation culture and settler colonialism. The authors posit that with direct activism, higher education faculty can support the food justice movement through scholarly work that integrates the study of agriculture, land, and labor through race, class, and gender perspectives.

Explores how Portland’s sustainability successes, which include support of local farmers and farmers markets, and commitment to renewable energy unevenly favor affluent communities in certain parts of the city and propagate systemic poverty in already poor communities, particularly along the boundary of East Portland.


Opens up the dialogue behind food justice, taking a closer look at the history of food justice and current attempts to change the system.


Examines colonial practices by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the resulting unjust agricultural policies.


Examines the condition of Black farmers in the southern United States, focusing on their challenges and successes in the face of structural inequalities as well as grassroots organizations aimed at the sustainable livelihood of Black farmers.


Argues how projects aiming at bringing “good food” to others often reflect the “White desires” of the creators of the projects rather than the communities served.


This study surveyed managers of farmers markets and community-supported agricultural enterprises and found a general discomfort and an “if they only knew” approach to the lack of involvement of people of color in the local food movement.

Critiques the current state of the alternative food movement, focusing on the cultural politics of alternative food and analyzing the coding of the alternative food movement that has led to racial inequities. The author also calls for more inclusivity than is found in current attempts to transform the food system.


Challenges the food justice concept that cites obesity and diabetes in communities of color as evidence of injustice. Given that most obesity rankings are based on White bodies, and noting the distinction between racialism and racism, this article explores ways to think about biological difference along the lines of race without reducing it to genetics.


Details how buffer zones, used around California strawberry fields to mitigate the exposure of toxic air contaminants to bystanders, nearby residents, and farmworkers, inherently favor the safety of residents over farmworkers.


Discusses how contracting partnerships between shippers and other intermediaries with former farmworkers and ranch managers compromise the livelihoods of current growers, particularly in regard to the ability to obtain rents.


Following regulatory debates over restrictions on soil fumigants in the California strawberry industry, the author examines why separating the issues of danger to farmworker health and industry livelihood is ultimately harmful for farmworkers.


Examines how labor shortages have led some California strawberry growers to focus on plant vigor and the conditions of strawberry harvesting as a labor recruitment strategy.

Discusses how the rise of young, college-educated adults working on organic farms as volunteers or interns impacts the hiring of waged laborers, including migrant farmworkers.


Focuses on the economic benefits associated with healthy food retail, particularly in low-income communities. This report looks at several types of healthy food retail strategies, including urban agriculture, community gardens, healthy corner stores, and federal nutrition assistance programs.


Examines the growth of urban agriculture in the United States. The authors demonstrate how urban farming has a plethora of benefits for communities, particularly low-income communities and communities of color, including improved access to healthy food, economic growth, and community development.


Identifies and addresses the faults found in alternative food movements as well as social injustice in the labor sector of large food corporations.


Traces the urban foodscapes of 31 migrant women living in urban poverty in Washington, DC. Demonstrates how the women's social networks and mobility throughout the city enable them to obtain affordable, quality, and culturally appropriate food, making the case that common programmatic approaches to addressing food insecurity are often over-simplified and ignore factors such as social and physical connectivity.


Demonstrates how urban migrant women worldwide use creative methods to combat food insecurity and procure healthy foods for themselves and their families. Study is based on in-depth interviews with 72 migrant women in Medellín, Colombia and Washington, DC.


Both the English and Spanish translation contain guidelines and suggestions for Migrant and Seasonal Head Start programs to purchase and use more local foods in their early care and education programs. Includes information for program providers such as determining what produce is seasonally available in their region, building connections with farmers and food distributors, and choosing food products and vendors. The guide may also be helpful for state migrant childcare programs.


Collection of essays and other works from Black- and female-identified vegans about using a vegan diet to combat a variety of social injustices such as environmental racism and diet-related health disparities.


Examines federal court cases that address marketplace racial discrimination and accompanying legal issues and relevant legislation.


Explores how a debate between urban farmers and local community activists over rewriting an outdated farm code exposed issues of race and racial inequality in East Austin, Texas, an area of the city that has seen increased gentrification. Authors also explain how this debate is representative of a larger critique that alternative food movements can be exclusionary and/or harmful towards people of color.

Harris, J.B. (2010). *High on the hog: A culinary journey from Africa to America*. Bloomsbury USA.

Provides a thorough history of African American cuisine, starting with the African Diaspora through present day, and examines the roles of important foods in African American culture, history and identity.


Looks at the situation of Latino dairy farmworkers in Wisconsin to describe how recent escalations in immigration enforcement and changes in migration practices affected the ability of the state to continue to serve two of its key “productive” functions within agriculture.

Through a case study of labor relations on Wisconsin dairy farms, the authors explore why employers engage in occupational segregation along lines of race, gender, and nativity. They ask how these workplaces have become segregated, what employers’ roles in this process have been, and why, in particular, employers have engaged in practices that contribute to workplace inequalities.


This dissertation uses a critical race theory and decolonizing lens to investigate the extent to which Cooperative Extension educators at 1862 land grant universities in the U.S. western region are collaborating with Indigenous communities. The research identifies common barriers to collaboration and the systemic supports that may be missing for successful collaborations to exist.


Uses the example of “sugar ecologies” (i.e., sociocultural systems) to demonstrate wide-sweeping racial inequities throughout the food system. Sociocultural systems in this context include the sugar supply chain, patterns of distribution and consumption, and sugar’s influence on health as it pertains to Black people in the U.S.


Explains how urban agriculture and the passage of AB 551, a California State Assembly bill that provided an innovative policy tool to incentivize the use of undeveloped urban land for agriculture and to advance food justice, may wind up simply serving the interests of propertied classes, who are usually White.


Examines ethnic segregation in the U.S. food system traced back to its roots as an output-maximizing system, calling for a systematic approach to policy making to better incorporate research and communities.


Argues that lack of healthy food access is one factor contributing to the high number of diabetes cases in communities of color.

Discusses the efforts taken by five U.S. cities to ensure healthy food access within urban communities that have minority and low-income populations.


Shares survey results from North Carolina, where the authors collected statewide data about food access and consumption during the COVID-19 pandemic. Authors explain how the pandemic has exacerbated injustices already present within the food system and highlighted disparities that exist for low-income communities and people of color. Authors also share examples of how communities provided support for each other through informal community food systems.


Shares a case study of how Prince George’s County Food Equity Council (FEC) is addressing food swamps – areas that have higher than average numbers of unhealthy food options – in Prince George’s County, Maryland. Summarizes the FEC’s policy efforts to increase access to healthy food and create an equitable local food system for residents.


A look into the role food system workers, farmers, and farmworkers play in the United States’ Northeastern food system.


Shares real life examples of tribes and Native organizations that have received grants from the Native American Food Security Project and have successfully implemented practices and policies to fight senior hunger and food insecurity in their communities. By sharing these best practices and innovative ideas, the authors hope that others in Indian Country will use the resource to address senior food insecurity in their own communities.

Compares how food system learning in the community differs from food system learning in the academy. Author explores the impacts of different learning styles on food justice work and notes that elements valued in contemporary, academic settings (e.g. technology and fast-paced innovation) can actually inhibit progress towards equitable food systems.


Discusses the causes and effects of Black rural land loss perpetrated by the USDA. Leaders and activism efforts are documented to understand how Black farmers regained their land and prosperity.


Discusses impacts of the Food & Fitness (F&F) initiative, which aims to increase access to healthy food and provide opportunities for safe physical activity for children. Authors share examples of models used in urban and rural areas as well as best practices and recommendations.


Recounts the progression from slavery to land ownership for Black Americans, showing how systemic variables undermined Black Americans’ land and farm ownership rights along the way.


Focuses on a marginalized African American neighborhood in Tallahassee, Florida and its community gardens. Examines how the residents’ practice of creating and maintaining community gardens has benefited the community in multiple ways including by connecting neighbors, creating a sense of place for residents, increasing access to healthy food, creating economic opportunities, and resisting systemic racism.


A commentary on the marginalization of migrant workers in the Okanagan Valley agriculture industry. It covers the history of racism in this particular agricultural industry and problems faced by migrant workers in the industry today. The authors recommend possible ways to ease the challenges faced by migrant workers in the Okanagan Valley.

Uses the subject of kalo (taro), a traditional Hawaiian staple food, to show how during the nineteenth century, White colonialists regarded the indigenous food with disgust in an attempt to distinguish Euro-American Whiteness from the Indigenous population.


Provides two case studies to demonstrate that there have been historically racist undertones toward Indigenous people in White descriptions of causes of and treatments for modern digestive ailments.


Examines the experience of Mexican migrant agricultural laborers, particularly the effects of anti-immigrant sentiment and racism on health and health outcomes. The author’s “embodied methodology” provides an intimate approach to migrant laborers’ experiences with border politics.


Uses data collected from a year of observation on a berry farm in Washington State to demonstrate how social hierarchies in U.S. agriculture create structural inequities, particularly for undocumented seasonal farm laborers.


Highlights social and health inequities in agricultural labor and sheds light on the normalization of migrant farmworker injury statistics.


Looks at the history of corporate food regimes and their impact on vulnerable populations.


Summarizes the concept of food justice and explains its role in influencing food systems change.

Highlights the present connection between the greater capitalist structure and the food system and how this connection has encouraged the racial and social class discrimination present in the food system today. The critique of neoliberal capitalism in the food system shows how public spaces have been changed to private ones.


The first in a series of articles about how racism and our food system have co-evolved, how present-day racism operates within the food system, and what we can do to dismantle racism and build a fair, just, and sustainable food system that works for everyone. The authors describe how racism manifests in the food system and how capitalism and caste systems are present in food justice work.


Discusses how capitalism drives the global food system and explains the detrimental social, environmental and economic impacts that it causes. Examines past and present efforts to change the food system and to challenge capitalism.


Focuses on the Mohawk community of Akwesasne, which has historically relied heavily on fish as a food source but due to industrial contamination of the area rivers has had to limit or completely avoid consuming fish from the river per the advice of health officials. Author demonstrates how fish advisories have indirectly created social and health problems for the Mohawk community and calls for environmental remediation efforts to clean up the river and revive healthy fish populations for residents.


Describes and defines food sovereignty from the perspective of thirty-nine different Native American community gardening projects, demonstrating how food sovereignty initiatives can improve the health of residents, promote sustainable food systems, and preserve tribal culture.


Opinion essay about how the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenge of food security for Indigenous communities and how they are responding.

Focusing on tribal communities, the article demonstrates how communities of color are disproportionately affected by environmental issues. Author explains how the ties between food justice and environmental justice are especially strong for Indigenous people who rely heavily on the land to grow, hunt or fish for traditional food sources. Examples are shared of three tribal communities who have been impacted by environmental contamination and who have fought for food justice.


Considers how planning for urban agriculture has the potential to foster food justice by benefitting socioeconomically disadvantaged residents, but cautions that urban agriculture can also reinforce and deepen societal inequities or restrict access to land for disadvantaged communities. Suggests key strategies for urban agriculture planners, including using an equity lens to promote food justice.

Horst, M., & Marion, A. (2019). Racial, ethnic and gender inequities in farmland ownership and farming in the U.S. *Agriculture and Human Values, 36*(1), 1-16. [https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-018-9883-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10460-018-9883-3)

Provides an analysis of U.S. farmland owners, operators, and workers to demonstrate that significant nation-wide disparities in farming by race, ethnicity, and gender persist in the U.S.


Looks at how a local food systems movement called Feast Down East (FDE) worked to develop a food sovereignty program for low-income residents and growers in a Southeastern North Carolina community. FDE’s food sovereignty initiatives have included holding “fresh markets,” teaching nutrition and cooking classes, raising awareness about healthy eating in schools, and providing produce boxes for low-income residents.


Evaluates the effectiveness of defining communities’ needs and creating solutions based on exclusive definitions. The Fresh Stop Market model is also discussed as an example of a possible solution to food access and equity issues.

A study conducted as a collaborative effort with a Native American community in northern California to assess barriers to healthy and culturally appropriate food access. Using a framework called the Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE), the community in the study determined racial injustice as a major barrier and worked to propose policy changes to improve food access.


Presents findings from a healthy retail intervention program called Tribal Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE), implemented at Tribally owned convenience stores in rural Oklahoma. Results show that THRIVE increased the availability and purchasing of healthy foods but that actual consumption of fruits and vegetables remained the same.


Informed by findings from the 2015 National Food Hub Survey, the authors outline ways that food hub operators can integrate a racial equity lens into their business models. The report makes the case that using a racial equity lens can be good for food hub businesses.


The non-profit organization KC Healthy Kids outlines six priorities they are taking action on to support racial equity in the food system.


Specifically looks at the concept of worker equity in the food and agriculture industry. This report uses the top 100 U.S. companies in food and agriculture as a way to analyze worker oversight and disclosure, equity policies and practices, compensation, health and safety, supply chain worker treatment, and access to healthy, affordable, and sustainable food.


Examines racial, social, and environmental injustices for rural citizens in eastern North Carolina and near the Fukushima Daiichi site in Japan.

Identifying and using an analysis of power and oppression structures, this commentary focuses on why studies of inclusion in food systems perpetuate both privilege and disadvantage.


Examines how food policy councils are working to achieve equity not only within their own membership but within their local food environments. Shares examples of how two food policy councils, one in Baltimore, Maryland and one in Oakland, California, are fighting structural racism in their local food systems and advocating for policies that benefit underserved communities.


Explores literature from the 1920s and 1930s when authors began writing about modern food topics including global geographies and nutritional theories. Also provides examples of several well-known authors sharing their experiences with local food cultures and “racial others.”


Examines printed records of eating in the United States, demonstrating how eating not only became an aesthetic activity over the course of the eighteenth century but also a means of expressing resistance or allegiance. Author gives examples of how enslaved men and women who prepared food for the country’s founders impacted our national culture.


Examines how the popular model of food charity programs requiring food-aid seekers to take nutrition classes is racially discriminative. Using a nutrition education program in Kansas City as an example, the author argues that such food charity models are not only ineffective at reducing urban hunger and food insecurity but also discriminate against people of color. The author includes suggestions from African American food-aid seekers for how food charity programs can be improved.


Discusses the disproportionate access to fast food rather than fresh food options in Black neighborhoods.

Provides a historical overview of the racist practice of using Black faces and bodies in restaurant branding in the United States.


Examines food deserts in Nashville, Tennessee, and their possible health effects on poor and minority communities. The article focuses on five different stores, the racial population surrounding the different stores, and the obesity rates among the various populations.


Documents the food justice efforts of two grassroots organizations in Massachusetts: Nuestras Raíces, a primarily Puerto Rican group, and Gardening the Community, a predominantly African American group. Shows how each organization is working to address food insecurity as well as create autonomous spaces to grow food and support their communities.


Explores the rich history of how farmers of color have used agriculture as a form of resistance. In this chapter, authors focus specifically on resistance strategies against policies targeting U.S.-born Black farmers, policies targeting immigrant Latinx farmers, and alternative food movement organizations. The authors use White’s “Collective Agency and Community Resilience” framework to shift the discussion from one of oppression against farmers of color to one of self-sufficiency and liberation.


Focuses on experiences of queer farmers in New England, noting how queer farmers’ access to land, credit, and knowledge are impacted by racism and sexism.


Shows how attempts to challenge the industrial food system have led to economic exploitation and political oppression of some communities. Calls for a transformative orientation, in which the root causes of current challenges of alternative food initiatives are understood and addressed through the interrelated perspectives of social justice, ecological sustainability, community health, and democratic governance.

Explores ways that community-engaged teaching and research partnerships can generate meaningful change for food worker justice. The authors note community-campus collaborations as unique opportunities to build alliances that strengthen food justice work and offer five recommendations for effective collaboration.


Shares how a grassroots organization in Detroit called Uprooting Racism, Planting Justice is fighting systemic racism in Detroit’s food system through anti-racism work and community activism.


Presents proof of the discriminatory purpose behind the exclusion of farmworkers from the maximum hours and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The author examines the full role of discrimination in excluding agricultural labor from the New Deal and presents knowledge of the roles played by, and the relationship between, agriculture and racial discrimination. Black workers, Hispanic workers, and members of other “discrete and insular” racial groups make up a majority of farmworkers affected by the overtime exclusion, positing that the continued disparate impact of the agricultural exclusion is fact.


Summarizes “good food” and “good jobs,” two movements that function parallel to one another, although the lack of both good food and good jobs negatively impacts communities of color. The report suggests that food and labor groups actually have fundamental shared interests and should work together.


Uses data and personal worker accounts to highlight and illustrate racial and gender bias in five sections of the U.S. food system: farming, food processing, food distribution, food retail, and restaurants.


Reflective essay looking at the Good Food Purchasing Policy developed by the Los Angeles Food Policy Council in 2012 and how public procurement can create a more just and equitable food system.

Examines how access to and acceptance of good quality food is shaped and changed through the process of gentrification.


The fieldbook creates new pathways for work in diversity, equity, and inclusion to be disseminated and used across Cooperative Extension educators in the United States and territories. To access this resource (and other eXtension fieldbooks) you must log in with a LinkedIn account. Related content is also available at dei.extension.org.


Examines how climate change is impacting the traditional foods of American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. Explains why certain foods are important to tribal cultures and points out how access to such foods is largely controlled by federal land regulations.


Examines how beginning farmer apprenticeship programs may reinforce inequitable structural conditions by creating barriers to entry for historically underrepresented groups of people or individuals from low socioeconomic status groups. The authors recommend several approaches for more equitable apprenticeship models.


Argues that the decimation of Native American communities after the Europeans landed in 1492 was caused not by the Native peoples’ lack of disease immunity but by a disruption to their traditional means of obtaining nutritionally dense foods (e.g. hunting, gathering) that supported their immune systems. Author suggests this framework can be used to examine causes of modern health dilemmas and encourages the concept of nutritional diversity.


Brings together academic literature centered on food and addresses racial and class inequalities as well as the concept of neoliberalism in the food system.

Provides rationale for correcting funding injustices between 1862 land grant institutions, which have benefited from land granted to them by the Morrill Act (1862) compared to 1890 and 1994 land grant institutions, which have not received comparable resources and have faced historic underfunding from the federal government.


Focuses on racialized poverty through a public health framework, noting that worsening social and economic inequities in the U.S. contribute a wide range of issues, especially for racial and ethnic minorities, including food insecurity, discriminatory policing and poor health.


Outlines a study done with focus groups of Latinx residents in San José, California to hear directly the barriers they face in purchasing healthy fresh foods, not solely limited to access issues. Participants stated that high prices determined which stores they would shop in and which types of products they would or would not buy.


Evaluates the extent to which soil lead contamination may be an issue in the expansion of urban agriculture in Oakland, California. Study shows soil lead contamination is significantly higher in West Oakland, which is home to a predominantly low-income and African American population.


Discusses the impacts of urban agriculture on ecogentrification – the implementation of an environmental agenda that produces space for progressively more affluent users – and argues that the cultural capital resulting from household-scale urban agriculture is unevenly valorized and creates social problems such as racialized othering and rent gaps.

Uses racial capitalism as an analytical framework to demonstrate how urban agriculture, capitalist development, and racial difference work through one another, creating contradictory motivations and outcomes in urban agriculture.


Uses new assimilation theory and National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey data to determine whether immigrants are more broadly impacted by food insecurity than people of color. Authors found that both foreign-born and native-born Black and Latinx people face higher rates of food insecurity than White people, including foreign-born White people.


Identifies and addresses the Whiteness that is socio-spatially created in farmers markets in California’s Central Valley region.


Demonstrates how the Nation of Islam (NOI), a well-known Black nationalist organization, uses strategies of community uplift and self-determination to unite other Black people around NOI’s message and in their work of feeding Black people in the U.S. Describes NOI’s farm in southern Georgia, Muhammad Farms, and their efforts to preserve Black agrarian history and to reclaim the farm as a space that includes the tragedies of the past but looks towards a more positive future.


Examines inequalities in the food system and particularly notes the impacts these inequalities have on urban African American communities.


Confronts the issue of defining good food and the discrepancies associated with that definition. Examines racial assumptions in food systems education, providing an alternative educational framework as a proposed solution.

Analyzes how six different social movements use education to advance food sovereignty, comparing similarities and differences between each social movement’s thematic areas and exploring the challenges they face. Authors find that student-centered research projects dealing with varied production systems are a crucial component of food sovereignty education.

Meenar, M. M. (2017). Assessing the spatial connection between urban agriculture and equity. *Built Environment, 43*(3), 364–375. [https://doi.org/10.2148/benv.43.3.364](https://doi.org/10.2148/benv.43.3.364)

The author uses an equity lens to explore the spatial relationship between urban agriculture projects and food-insecure neighborhoods as well as how urban agriculture fits within the urban built environment.


Focuses on Our Kitchen Table (OKT), a female-led organization based in Grand Rapids, Michigan advocating for food security for women with children and low-income residents. Highlights OKT’s Food Diversity Project, which empowers community members to effectively address food insecurity and environmental health disparities in their households through education, organizational activities and skill building.


Demonstrates the important role agriculture plays in the Midwestern economy and argues that the United States’ current immigration policies fail to serve the needs of the agriculture sector, including year-round immigrant labor in crop and livestock production as well as agricultural processing, handling, and manufacturing.


Broadly examines indigenous food sovereignty in the United States and looks at community efforts to revitalize ancestral gardening, hunting, gathering and seed saving practices as a way to maintain traditional food systems. The book also explores how the traditional food systems of indigenous populations in the U.S. have been affected by racism and historic mistreatment. It offers encouragement for addressing tribal health issues, preventing habitat destruction, and navigating food policy issues.

Examines racial and income composition and healthy food availability. The authors explore the extent to which physical and social isolation affects healthy food availability for groups marginalized by race and class, using Topeka, Kansas, as a site location for study. They find that low-income Black neighborhoods have the lowest levels of healthy food availability.


An exploration of unjust treatment of Asian immigrants in agriculture over the span of more than a century, starting with working-class Chinese in the late 1800s, expanding on Japanese farmers in the early 1900s, and ending with the struggles of the Hmong people from 1975 to 2009. The section on Hmong workers focuses on the burdensome implementation of workers’ compensation laws.


Evaluates the effectiveness of farmworker-led consumer-based campaigns and solidarity movements such as the Coalition of Immokalee Workers’ current Campaign for Fair Food. Based on ethnographic fieldwork with farmworkers and advocates in Florida and California.


Explores food insecurity for farmworkers in Northern California, looking at structural causes as well as different approaches farmworkers use to address the problem.


This article explores the ways that farmworkers, many of whom come from a culture deeply rooted in food and agricultural practices, cope with food insecurity by utilizing their agricultural and nutritional knowledge, which challenges racialized assumptions that people of color do not know what “good food” is.


Demonstrates how Latinx immigrant farmers in the Mid-Atlantic region have agrarian norms and practices that clash with the USDA’s standardized farming practices, thus leading to the racial exclusion of immigrant farmers from USDA opportunities.

As the number of Latinx-owned farms increases, the voice and perspectives of this group have not been addressed in discussions concerning agrarian transitions throughout the nation. Interviews with first-generation Latinx immigrant farm owners reveal their struggle to redefine their relationship to land and labor and their rationale for farming despite race- and citizenship-based challenges.


Explores Latinx immigrant farmers' transition from being farmworkers to being farm owners. Discusses the structural barriers Latinx immigrant farmers face to acquire land and opportunities and describes how immigrants' alternative farming practices, often carried over from their home countries, are contributing to a more sustainable food system.


Argues for a deeper consideration into who is included and excluded from alternative farming institutions and spaces. The authors make a case for the importance of highlighting the contributions of immigrant farmers of color as part of alternative farming institutions and spaces.


Introduces the empowerment model as an effective effort to fight food injustice within non-racial-minority communities and communities of color.


Discusses the Fresh Stop project taking place in Louisville, Kentucky. The project is designed to increase the number of healthy food options in urban communities where access to fresh fruits and vegetables is limited.


Details the stories of diverse communities and their efforts to restore America's ability to produce healthy foods and shows how these efforts have the power to unite and heal a divided country.

Study examines disparities in food insufficiency in White, African American, American Indian, and Hispanic infants in Oklahoma. Results indicate that infants from the three minority groups experience higher rates of food insufficiency than White infants due to numerous structural inequalities.


This resource is intended to help the stakeholders in the National Farm to School Network: increase the Network's capacity to identify racial and social inequities embedded within organizational, local, state, and national programming and policy advocacy initiatives; support decision making processes which maximize opportunities for advancing racial and social equity; create a community of practice to empower stakeholders to take action within their sphere of influence; and embrace the Network's collective power to address the systemic changes needed for social transformation within the farm to school movement.


Discusses the school-to-prison pipeline as a possible effect of poor food access and examines hip hop to understand its past, present, and potential uses for activism in urban areas.


A study of the Karuk Tribe of California and the hardships of their food environment. Specifically, the study examines how the Karuk people have been affected by institutional racism, racial formation, racial projects, environmental injustice, food insecurity, genocide, relocation, and forced assimilation.


Discusses how structural racism and discrimination perpetuate disparate rates of food insecurity between people of color and White people.


Explores the global roots of soul food, noting how the cuisine was shaped by different social and cultural influences as well as by slavery and freedom in America.

Discusses the essential role food has played in the fight for Civil Rights in the United States.


The findings set forth in this report are intended to give communities and policy makers insight into food access issues in Santa Clara County, California. The findings are a starting point because they suggest that people’s health and the environment can be negatively affected not only by eating too many animal products but also by eating foods tainted with agricultural chemicals, which additionally have a serious impact on the workers who pick our food.


Looks at the current state of access to healthy foods in Vallejo, California, the largest city in Solano County. The authors examine the availability of food in stores in Vallejo to understand the types of establishments that are in business and to determine the types of food available for purchasing.


Shows how during the COVID-19 pandemic, food policy councils (FPCs) have become critical resources for responding to food systems issues in their communities. Authors share early results of a Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future survey of FPCs (2020) to provide examples of some of these actions. Examples include work FPCs are doing to address racial equity in their local communities.


Calls for food systems researchers, writers, and activists to respond to food insecurity and other injustices by focusing on the systems and structures that perpetuate inequality rather than by solely advocating for providing people with more and better food.


Examines how food sovereignty discourses and activism interact with and affect low income communities of color in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, with the goal of understanding whether discourses help or hinder pre-existing efforts to alleviate hunger, overcome racism, and promote social justice.

Traces the history of the Black Panther Party’s (BPP) platform, which focuses on food justice and free food for all. The BPP's Breakfast for Children Program paved the way for other food programs in the United States and served as a form of liberation, which current food justice organizations can learn from.


A description of the Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference held in Detroit, Michigan, in 2014. The various topics of the conference engage Africanness and the food justice frame and politics in the food justice movement.


Examines gender and racial barriers linked to diversity requirements of land-grant institutions in the United States.


Demonstrates how African-heritage people have distinctly shaped sustainable agriculture in the U.S. and serves as a “how-to” guide for farmers and gardeners who want to better understand and implement small-scale farming and farm business techniques.


Shows how Latinx, non-Latinx Black/African American and non-Latinx White mothers’ experiences of discrimination with household food insecurity, physical health issues, and depressive systems are associated with their participation in public assistance programs and adverse childhood experiences.


Contains a timeline that re-examines the evolution of the local food movement in the United States in the context of the four elements of good food: healthy, fair, affordable, and “green.” The report narrative and timeline frames multiracial and multicultural contributions to “good food.”

A commentary that offers three perspectives from a land-grant university (campus staff, field extension staff, and graduate student), outlining structural racism in the local food movement, identifying the potential promise of the Michigan Good Food Charter to address racial equity issues in the food system, and suggesting tools that land-grant university food system researchers and educators can use to begin to understand structural racism.


Explores the “exceptional one percent” of people in the United States who are both farmworkers and business owners. Within this small subset, Hispanics make up a disproportionately small percentage, even though nearly 80% of U.S. farmworkers are Hispanic. The article uses two case studies as examples of how Hispanic farmworkers can gain more entrepreneurial opportunities.


Serves as a toolkit and resource guide for developing equitable food hubs in communities.


Argues that veganism inherently excludes people of color because of racist ideology and practices. Communities of color lack access to the same healthy food resources as White communities.


Looks at associations between racial segregation in neighborhoods and rates of obesity in Black men and women, concluding that Black women who live in highly segregated neighborhoods have a higher likelihood of becoming obese.


Demonstrates the role community-based food justice organizations play in supporting home and community gardening projects and outlines the resulting health, food, and cultural ecosystem benefits for communities and residents.

Analyzes two case studies of community food organizations in Seattle, Washington, to identify the ways in which inclusion initiatives fail to address power asymmetries within communities and community organizations. It includes a review of Black geographies literature and highlights ways for food activists to revamp their efforts to truly encourage racial inclusion in the food system.


Explains how food insecurity persists due to structural inequality. Calls for researchers to adopt methods that elevate the voices of those affected by food insecurity, that recognize the impacts of trauma caused by food insecurity, and acknowledge that health must be a key component in all policy sectors.


Discusses results from an ethnographic field study of a community garden in Washington, DC. Author demonstrates how the garden serves as a site for residents to navigate issues of structural inequality and to strengthen their self-reliance and agency.


Using the majority-Black Deanwood neighborhood in Washington, D.C. as an example, explores how communities of color are left behind in the urban renewal process due to structural racism, historical geographical segregation and disinvestment of Black neighborhoods.


Provides a historical account of the discriminatory practices against African American agents within the Extension service.


Describes a yearlong study of individuals selected by the Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies as research subjects for the Decolonizing Diet Project, an exploratory study of the relationships between humans and indigenous foods of the Great Lakes region. Data from this study provides insight into biological, cultural, and legal/political dimensions of these complex relationships. The author draws on regularly scheduled health checks, online journaling, video interviews, and photos to paint a picture of this collective indigenous eating experience.

Identifies the ways in which low wages in the food service industry disproportionately affect people of color and women. The report highlights the role of the National Restaurant Association and Darden, the world’s largest full-service restaurant corporation, and how an increase in the minimum wage and tipped sub-minimum wage would help increase race and gender equity in the food service industry.


Focuses on the distinctions between alleviating symptoms of injustice in urban agriculture (disparate food access or environmental amenities) and disrupting structures that underlie them. Despite their positive impacts, urban agriculture systems may reinforce inequities that practitioners and supporters aim to address. This article reports on a two-year study in New York City on the race- and class-based disparities among urban agriculture practitioners citywide. It concludes with recommendations for urban agriculture scholars and supporters to advance social justice at structural levels.


Explores issues of structural racism, gender inequity and economic disparities in urban agriculture and demonstrates how dismantling these oppressive systems within urban agriculture systems is necessary for meaningful social change.


Compared average prices of food goods in eight Native American communities against the national averages, finding that prices inIndian Country were generally higher. The report discusses potential reasons for higher food prices and potential implications on food security and community health, as well as ways that Native communities are implementing strategies to address these issues such as through community gardening and cultural food education initiatives.


Outlines the interplay between good food, good jobs, and race throughout the entire food value chain, including production, processing, distribution, retail, and waste.

Identifies metrics that can be or are currently being used to measure racial equity in the food system. This set of metrics can be used to track progress towards an equitable food system at organizational, local, and state levels. The authors divide the metrics into four themes: food access, food and farm business, food chain labor, and food movement.


Presents findings from a diverse sample of food hub interviews and identifies how and to what extent food hubs engage in racial equity work. Authors also offer suggestions for how food hubs and food hub stakeholders can work to dismantle racism in the food system with supporting examples of food hubs and food system organizations who have operationalized racial equity in their work.


Maps state-level labor standards (minimum wage, overtime, rest periods, and meal periods) for farmworkers in the United States. Whereas federal labor laws protect most workers, farmworkers are largely excluded from such protections despite the demanding and dangerous nature of the work. The authors discuss the practice of agricultural exceptionalism, which puts farmworkers at a distinct disadvantage because of their race, ethnicity, and/or citizenship status.


Explains how Native communities use tribal policy and legislation to improve overall community health and food sovereignty. Explores some of the challenges and opportunities that may come with tribal food policy development.


Collection of stories highlighting how different Native communities and organizations are working to protect Native food sovereignty within their communities and ultimately across Indian Country.

Law paper exploring how and why food access has become a policy issue. Discusses the historic narrative of food access and how persistent policies to increase food access (such as food retail development projects) often fail to address key issues like reducing diet-related health disparities.


A brief introduction to the Decolonize Your Diet project and its role in a much larger movement to reclaim traditional foodways as a form of resistance to ongoing colonization. The author explores how meals are political acts and how cooking can intervene in systems of white supremacy and capitalism.

Ryabov, I. (2016). Examining the role of residential segregation in explaining racial/ethnic gaps in spending on fruit and vegetables. *Appetite, 98,* 74–79. [Link](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.appet.2015.12.024)

Shares study results on how residential segregation impacts spending on fruit and vegetables for people of different races and ethnicities.


Shares personal stories of how American Indian farmers are using traditional agricultural practices to preserve Indigenous foodways. Covering a wide geographic range throughout the southwest U.S. and northern Mexico, author discusses how Indigenous farming practices share three main principles – a reciprocal relationship with the land, a strong cultural identity tied to the ecosystem, and a correlation between land consciousness and food consciousness.


Discusses how representations of pathologic obesity among Black and Latina women and children can reinforce racial injustices. Author suggests that race and gender obesity discourses create unfavorable images of Black women and ultimately reinforce white superiority and dominance.


Describes how the food justice movement critiques structural oppression responsible for injustices throughout the agrifood system. The article provides a detailed case study of the People’s Grocery, a food justice organization in West Oakland, California, to show how anti-oppression ideology provides the foundation upon which food justice activists mobilize.
Sbicca, J. (2015a). Farming while confronting the other: The production and maintenance of boundaries in the borderlands. *Journal of Rural Studies, 39*, 1–10. [https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2015.03.004](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jrurstud.2015.03.004)

Using the example of a group of organic farmers in San Diego, California, author explains why there is often a disconnect within the alternative food movement between the concern that exists for migrant farmworkers and the actions that are (or are not) taken to address them. Discusses how social boundaries contribute to this gap and looks at how farmworker stereotypes are internalized.


Commentary that provides a personal account of research on food systems that stresses the importance of solidarity and sweat equity in the fight for food justice. Reviews the importance of cooperation of researchers and communities to answer questions of social equity and structural inequalities that are ever changing.


Investigates food justice and restorative justice activists in Oakland, California, who are intervening at the point of reentry from the incarceration system. The author shows how the incarcerated geographies of former prisoners—that is, perspectives and experiences that are a result of the prison pipeline—motivate the formation of a restorative food justice.


Examines how two food groups, Planting Justice and East New York Farms, are working to promote food justice. The organizations are the focus of various practices and efforts used to tackle racial neoliberalism.


Discusses food activism and its historic lack of engagement with social justice issues. Author shows how and why food-focused activists should broaden their focus and commit to addressing structural inequities within and beyond the food system.


Examines the home food inventories of Oaxacan Mexican American and African American families of low socioeconomic status living in an urban area in New Jersey compared to a sample of White households. The food supplies of the White households had significantly more calcium, vitamin A, and sugar and less total fat than the other two samples.

Shows that although farmers markets are commonly recommended solutions to increasing access to fresh foods in areas labeled as “food deserts,” in actuality farmers markets rarely operate within such food deserts thus making them relatively ineffective for this purpose.


Examines the association between the density of alcohol outlets in an area, neighborhood segregation, and county alcohol policies. With a focus on Louisiana and Alabama, shows that there are high densities of alcohol outlets in predominately Black segregated counties and poses that this prevalence may be caused by racist policies meant to subjugate Black people.


Analyzes the history of land grant institutions, examining disparities around the Morrill Acts of 1862 and 1890, as well as the Hatch-George Act (1887) and the Smith-Lever Agricultural Extension Act (1914).


Discusses the efforts of Food That Connects Us All, a program in Baltimore City that aims to reduce food insecurity among low-income Black and Hispanic families. These efforts are especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic, as food insecure individuals are more vulnerable to poor health conditions. The program provides low-income families with meals that are made up of healthful foods (e.g. fruits, vegetables, and whole grains) in order to support health and more broadly to reduce health disparities faced by these communities.


Uses agri-food system examples to show the limitations of the urban-rural divide framework, demonstrating how material realities are and are not translated into U.S. rural development, farm, and nutrition policies. The authors examine how the concept of the urban-rural divide obscures the lived experiences and diversity of people in each category.

Critically analyzes and provides an extensive overview of the urban agriculture multidisciplinary scholarship in order to understand the impact of urban-produced foods. Points out gaps in the academic research that would benefit from further study. Provides recommendations for researchers, policy makers and participants in urban agriculture.


Discusses why Archaic period human-plant relations are not well understood due to biases in contemporary research and provides a thorough history and synthesis of Archaic-period plant use throughout the Midwest.


Summarizes thirty-four scientific studies on consumer food purchasing in an effort to better understand the causes of diet disparities in the United States. Authors suggest that nutritional inequities are influenced by the intersection three key factors – race/ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and geographic location. However, there is a lack of literature addressing this intersectionality.


Speaks about the unacknowledged white privilege behind community food organizations where Whiteness needs to be critically analyzed, particularly when working on projects that impact communities of color.


The author uses feminist and materialist theories to look behind progressive or liberal Whiteness around the United States’ local and organic food movement and implications for communities of color.


Describes how, among practitioners and scholars, there has been an enthusiastic surge in the use of the term *food justice* but a vagueness on the particulars. The authors argue that vagueness manifests in overly general statements about ending oppression or morphs into outright conflation of the dominant food movement’s work with food justice. In focusing on trauma and inequity in the food system, the authors urge scholars and practitioners to be clear and accountable in their food justice practice.

Discusses a pesticide exposure event near Lake Apopka, Florida, and its social and health effects on the African American farmworkers living near the site.


Explains how the pursuit of food justice is related to food power and involves not only dismantling inequitable power structures but also creating emancipatory ones. The author uses two cases of Black farm projects, one historic and one contemporary, to explore this dual process and discuss implications for the future of the food justice movement.


Uses the lens of Nancy Fraser’s “triple movement framework” to interpret food justice as an emancipatory discourse. Focuses specifically on Black farmers and queer people. Provides case studies of people working to counteract structural inequities around race, class, gender, sexuality, agriculture, and food.


Examines the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant franchise’s 2015 advertising campaign to identify and understand how the campaign perpetuates the American Dream mythology while contributing to the hunger-obesity paradox that exists in many low-income urban communities with a prevalence of fast food restaurants.


Examines the Detroit Food Justice Task Force (DFJTF), an organization designed to improve food security within the city. Discusses how DFJTF is empowering Detroiter to discover their own invisible human capital and challenges the mainstream notion that Detroit is a barren, desolate city.


Discusses the background and impacts of the water crisis in Flint, Michigan, where in April 2014 the emergency manager and other state government officials made the decision to switch the source of the city of Flint’s water supply to the Flint River in an effort to cut costs. The author argues that strategic technocracy and racism were the central causes of this tragedy.

Explores the ways in which transforming the food system will transform the health of youth. Using lessons from the Civil Rights era, the author suggests how today’s food justice movement can organize with a focus on a new, youth-led, multiracial coalition, which could unleash the voice and energy of those with the most to gain from transforming the food system—young people.


Examines the colonial origins of the Morrill Land-Grant College Act of 1862 and considers how these conditions continue to shape present-day higher education. Author argues that if efforts to resist privatization fail to address how colonialism has historically shaped U.S. public goods, then these efforts risk normalizing the imperative of capital accumulation and relations of conquest.


Explores the problematic United States poultry industry, noting its array of negative impacts on the chickens, farmers, consumers, and largely immigrant workforce.


Provides a historical account of how fat phobia emerged over two centuries ago, and how the modern day ideal of thinness has strong ties to racism, classism, and misogyny towards Black women.


Focuses on Mississippi’s poultry processing industry, which has experienced changes in its labor force starting in the mid-1990s when Latin American immigrants were recruited to fill these dangerous, low-paying jobs as America’s demand for chicken increased. Author explores how African American workers, who previously held a majority of poultry processing jobs in Mississippi, have responded to the influx of Latinx workers and how their presence has impacted the struggle for a more just workplace.


A commentary that examines place-based interventions as a means to attain equity in the food system, calling first for an equitable and inclusive environment and second for a historical understanding on which to base this transformation.

Describes the discriminatory actions of the EPA in choosing not to prioritize cleanup of hazardous waste sites on Native American lands, thereby affecting the local food supply of the affected tribes. The author reviews the history of the federal–Indian trust relationship and describes the responsibilities of the government in protecting Native people and their lands.


The Delmarva Peninsula is a Mid-Atlantic region on the eastern U.S. coast made up of 14 counties across Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Interviews conducted for this report show that access to affordable capital, infrastructure, and labor were the greatest needs of Black farmers working in the Delmarva Peninsula region.


Shares findings from interviews with Latinx gardeners and beginning farmers from rural Iowa about how and why they participate in community gardening and farming projects.


Explores the development and efforts of Migrant Justice in Vermont, a non-governmental organization working to address the challenges faced by Latinx dairy farm workers in rural Vermont.


Examines the formation of the Oktibbeha Food Policy Council (OFPC) in rural Mississippi. Explains the various factors that led to the development of the OFPC, such as the county’s high rate of food insecurity, and the resulting opportunities that arose for low-income families and underserved Black farmers.


Through qualitative analysis, this research explores the race–class tensions around food and gardening in a low-income urban neighborhood in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Illustrated volume showcasing a large collection of African American cookbooks written over the past two centuries. The work lifts up and honors the creativity and spirit of African American cooks and chefs who contributed greatly to America’s food culture.


Uses qualitative case studies to explore the experiences of young Black farmers and show how they are finding autonomy and empowerment in agriculture. Discusses historic practices that have led to underrepresentation of Black farmers in America.


Healthy and nutritious foods are often unavailable in low-income communities. This contributes to high rates of diet-related health problems for community residents. This report offers case studies of two cities—Detroit, Michigan, and Oakland, California—facing a lack of healthy food access and demonstrates ways both cities are working to improve their food systems.

Tsu, C. M. (2017). “If you want to plow your field, don’t kill your buffalo to eat”: Hmong farm cooperatives and refugee resettlement in 1980s Minnesota. *Journal of American Ethnic History, 36*(3), 38–73. [https://doi.org/10.5406/jamerethnhist.36.3.0038](https://doi.org/10.5406/jamerethnhist.36.3.0038)

Examines possible reasons for the disbandment of two farm cooperatives created for Hmong refugees and provides a general overview of the Hmong resettlement experience in Minnesota in the 1980s.


Details an action research project completed at Portland State University in 2013. The project provided Portland-area social justice activists and food systems practitioners the opportunity to collaborate, learn, network and co-produce anti-oppression strategies that can bring equity and justice concerns to the forefront of the sustainable food movement.


Food memoir and culinary history book that explores past and present food traditions of African Americans and the history of Southern cooking and identity in America.

This dissertation research examines and analyzes the historical pedagogies of Black agrarianism through a two-part historiography: 1) historiographical essay and 2) theatrical oral history representations. The oral history representation performs the life history of Wendell Paris, a Black agrarian organizer and educator. An ethnographic case study of D-Town Farm of the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network explores contemporary Black agrarian pedagogies.


This commentary calls for a combined objective and perceived view of food access to gain a more complete and accurate result from policies. The term access is broken into five categories to achieve this goal: acceptability, accessibility, accommodation, affordability, and availability.


Identifies relationships among sex, race/ethnicity, and food insecurity with the likelihood of cancer, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and lung disease for older adults in the U.S.


Highlights the need for more culturally sensitive interventions about food in the Hispanic community to eliminate food access barriers related to linguistic and cultural disconnects.


Aims to determine the extent to which sustainable food systems education (SFSE) programs in the U.S. and Canada address equity issues. They discovered that approximately 80 percent of these SFSE programs do not explicitly address equity.


Little research has been done to assess the impact of federal and state policies to assist a new generation of farmers (including socially disadvantaged farmers) to acquire land and other assets to start or expand their farming operations. This article examines existing impacts of these policies and calls for further assessment across three major types of land access policy incentive programs.

Explores local food movements and practices in the South Carolina Lowcountry and discusses the increased benefits to White consumers compared to consumers of color.


Examines the contests over agricultural land in the South Carolina Lowcountry after the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War in the United States. The author argues that Black control over land and their labor threatened the region’s racial hierarchy.


The authors describe how climate change affects culturally important fungi, plant, and animal species, in turn affecting tribal sovereignty, culture, and economy. To understand potential adaptive strategies to climate change, the article also explores traditional ecological knowledge and historical tribal adaptive approaches in resource management and contemporary examples of research and tribal practices.


Examines multiple food justice organizations in Louisville, Kentucky. The article focuses on the organizations’ efforts to address issues related to race and food access within their local food systems.

Walker, J. E. (2014). *Homegrown in Detroit: How urban agriculture has not only brought food security to Detroit but has also had social and political implications that resist the pressures of a consumer culture* (Publication No. 1525448) [Master’s dissertation, Webster University]. ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global.

Examines current urban agriculture projects in the city of Detroit, Michigan and how they have spurred social and political change. Shows how urban agriculture initiatives are a means of resisting consumerism in low-income neighborhoods and how they benefit the health, economy, environment and social networks in Detroit communities.


Explores the food habits of several generations of notable African American political leaders, arguing that these activists were all committed in their own ways to certain food habits (including food preparation and consumption) as a means of influencing Black identity and citizenry.

The book explores the historical routes of African American food traditions. The timeline covers the intellectual and culinary history of Black peoples’ struggles from the slave trade that brought them to the United States through the civil rights and freedom struggles in the 1950s and 1960s to the present time.


This book examines the contrasts between malnutrition and food abundance as a key metaphorical theme in African American writing. It draws upon the works of Black authors to show how Black characters respond to White people’s attempts at regulating access to nourishment, whether physical or intellectual.


This book traces barbecue through early transatlantic literature and culture and argues that barbecue is an invented tradition linked to colonists’ perception that native peoples in the Americas used barbaric food practices to prepare and cook their foods.


This book navigates the links between food and literary and visual culture in the nineteenth century United States. The author uses a wide array of literary resources to inform the reader how the national mythologies of Whiteness came together through food imageries and allegories.


Explores the state of knowledge of relationships between health equity (health inequalities that are socially produced) and the concepts of food security and food sovereignty within food systems, finding that health equity is much more commonly combined with food security.


Explores reasons for the limited success of food movements in engaging with migrant farmworkers. The authors also discuss actionable ideas for improving farmworker health and equity in the areas of health and safety, farmworker recruitment and mobility, community building and social integration, and immigration policy.

Includes perspectives from a series of interdisciplinary workshops on issues of food justice in a variety of contexts. Contains perspectives from philosophy, anthropology, economics, gender and sexuality studies, geography, history, literary criticism, philosophy and sociology, as well as the human dimensions of agricultural and environmental sciences.


The book is the author’s food memoir connecting important native foods from the Great Lakes that helped teach the author Indigenous values. One of these foods - *manoomin*, or wild rice - gave the Menominee tribe its name.


The author provides a narrative of the theatrical strategies used by consumers, farmers, agricultural laborers, and the federal government to negotiate competing rights to food while highlighting the moral contradictions of capitalist society in times of economic crisis. Each of the events in the book are framed as performances where conceptions of morality and citizenship were acted out, often along lines marked by class, race, and gender.


Explains how the lack of African American professionals in the field of dietetics, within the White-dominated healthcare community, results in an increased resistance to nutrition interventions intended to address diet-related chronic disease in the African American community.


This article analyzes the community building and political agency developed by the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network (DBCFSN). It describes D-Town farm in Detroit, a long-term project of the DBCFSN and lifts up the farm as a model for increasing healthy food access and political agency of the community.


Explores an agriculture cooperative called Freedom Farms Cooperative (FFC), which was founded by civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer in Sunflower County, Mississippi in 1969. The author analyzes examples of how the FFC used and taught agricultural practices to members as a means of resistance and community resilience.

Explores the complex agricultural history of Black farmers. The author maintains that although agriculture has certainly oppressed African Americans for centuries, farming has also historically been a method of resistance for Black farmers, providing opportunities to rebuild and provide food for their families and, in so doing, gain their freedom. The author shares stories and insights from some historic and contemporary “freedom farmers.”


The author shares the story of a woman in Detroit who started and maintains a community garden that is transforming her neighborhood. Many residents of Detroit have restricted access to fresh, healthy, affordable food, but the garden produces a harvest that is grown by and shared among community members. Given the state of affairs in Detroit, such as a reduction in city services and a declining population, the community garden is also a sign of strength, resilience, and self-reliance.


Focuses on the roles and contributions made by Black farmers to the black freedom movement. Shows how agriculture was a means of resistance for Black farmers and demonstrates the lasting effects of such efforts on modern day food justice and food sovereignty efforts.


Analyzes the alternative food movement and its ties to the neoliberalist regime, arguing that the movement as it stands today benefits the dominant group, White middle- to upper-class citizens who are educated, and vastly excludes underserved populations. Through a course led by students at the University of Vermont, the authors examined the potential for the creation of an inclusive food movement.


Examines the cultural politics of gaining knowledge about food-related health issues of Hmong Americans. The authors analyze and develop the power relations in science research regarding marginalized communities.

The goal of this study was to assess the impact of a healthy retail intervention on fruits and vegetables sales, as well as total sales, in tribally owned convenience stores located in areas where full line grocery stores were scarce. The THRIVE (Tribal Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments) intervention could improve diet-related disparities without reducing total store sales.


Discusses how the Noyes Foundation is responding to racial and economic injustices inherent in the modern, industrial food system. The Foundation believes it is critical for historically marginalized people to be leaders in building a more sustainable food system and provides funding for related programs.


The author explores how chicken has played the role of farm livestock and essential food source in the lives of African American women from slavery to the present. Chicken has had both negative and positive influences in shaping Black culture in America - and has played a role in shaping the self-identification of African American women.


This book examines the discourse over soul food since the 1960s to give light to the complex tensions between White people and Black people, as well as tensions within the Black community itself. The author draws on a vast array of literature to examine how food has been used to both perpetuate and challenge racial stereotypes.


Food systems education has grown in the United States, but many such programs do not explicitly focus on the structural inequities that shape food systems and the experiences of food workers. The authors propose “critical food literacy” as a means for confronting these inequities and creating a more just food system.
Annotated Bibliography

Video Resources


Shares resources and tools for Extension educators who work in the food systems space and are interested in using a racial equity lens in their work. Panelist discusses the need to create institutional change within food systems to give more opportunities to people of color. This is the first national webinar offered by the Racial Equity in the Food Systems Workgroup.


A short video about one man’s experience of living on the Wind River Indian Reservation located in the U.S. state of Wyoming. Told from the perspective of surviving a nearly deadly car accident, the narrator shares some of the serious challenges faced by those at the reservation including food insecurity, alcoholism, and health disparities as well as his efforts to tell the stories of his people.


This short film looks at the food system present in Arizona and other U.S. borderlands. Here, a diverse group of people come together and mitigate challenges the food system presents via food banks and community and home gardening.

Campbell, D. (Director). (2012). *Harvest of dignity* [Film]. Public Broadcasting System UNC TV.

Illustrates a story of intentional disenfranchisement of farm workers. Over 50 years ago, journalist Edward R. Murrow shared *Harvest of Shame*, which captured cruelty to farmworkers and their harsh living conditions. Throughout the updated documentary, farmworkers in North Carolina share stories that correlate to Murrow’s documentary.


Three Black women scholars from Historically Black Colleges and Universities in the U.S. share how they are engaged in three distinct areas of scholarship that examine inequities in the food system. Topics include land tenure and food security in Liberia; stories of food systems in Alabama’s Black Belt; and health disparities, food insecurity, and environmental injustice among Black adults in the U.S.

Presents to the Michigan House of Representatives Agriculture Committee post-doctoral work on food sovereignty, racial equity, and the state of Black farmers in Michigan.


Introduces findings from the Measuring Racial Equity in the Food System: Established and Suggested Metrics report, published by the MSU Center for Regional Food Systems. Report includes racial equity metrics in four main theme areas: food access, food and farm business, food chain labor, and food movement. Webinar also discusses the value and potential uses of racial equity data and metrics.


Comments on the transformation from 1950’s Detroit as the capital of American industry to the Detroit of today. Shows how Detroiters are transforming their city to become a sustainable, healthy metropolis. Detroit has over 1,500 farms across the city. Growing food together builds a sense of community as well as provides healthy, fresh food to families and neighbors.


Panelists discuss historical disparities across 1862, 1869, and 1994 land-grant institutions, including land treaties, research fund matching, and competitive programming. Panelists also share current efforts at these institutions to create more equitable food systems for historically underserved groups.


Explores the connection between issues of race, justice, and mass incarceration in the United States. The film looks at how an exception to the 13th amendment to the Constitution, which outlawed slavery, has contributed to structural racism in the U.S. including in the food and farming system.

Ron Finley, a native of South Central Los Angeles, discusses the importance of paying it forward to decrease the number of food deserts in his community. Finley started planting a “food forest” along the curb in the front of his home. Not too long after, members of the community started complaining about this food forest, and Finley was issued a citation. This citation led to a public outcry for environmental justice, and the city council president raised a motion to amend the Residential Parkway Landscaping Guidelines and terminate fining for vegetable gardens. Finley’s garden project has expanded to about 20 gardens throughout the city, and it not only provides neighborhood residents with access to fresh fruits and vegetables but also engages community members to participate in growing food to feed themselves and their neighbors.


Shows the realities of how local and national political processes affect people who are attempting to provide food for their families. The documentary is about a threat by the City of Los Angeles to shut down a beloved 14-acre community garden and the impassioned, organized response from residents who rely on the garden for nourishment and for connecting with others in their community.


Chronicles the life of Cesar Chavez, American labor leader and civil rights activist, showing the triumphant journey Chavez took to unionize farmworkers’ wages and revolutionize the injustice of migrant workers in the United States.


Tells the history, evolution, and impact of America’s Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), from before the end of slavery to modern day.


Examines the history of Pittsburgh’s Hill District during the early and mid 20th century. Redlining throughout the city of Pittsburgh created a foundation for racial discrimination in the Hill District. Discusses how these early forms of racial segregation have created lasting impact on the Hill District and the rest of the city and how this affects who has access to food.

Addresses underlying causes and problems of racism and inequality in the food system. Practitioners from two different organizations, a higher education institution and a grassroots organization, share their perspectives and examples of the work they are doing towards achieving a just and equitable food system by supporting sovereignty for Black and Brown farmers.


Shares key learnings and takeaways from participants of the August 2018 Coming Together for Racial Understanding workshop, where Cooperative Extension professionals from 20 states convened to better understand and address racial equity issues in their own work and institutions. Also introduces the eXtension Foundation’s Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) framework tool.

Rawal, S. (Director). (2020). *Gather* [Film]. Illumine Running, LLC.

This documentary film shares the story about the rediscovery of Native American foodways and the critical importance of food sovereignty in building the resilience of Native American peoples.


Stephen Ritz, a teacher in the South Bronx, is striving to change the lives of his students by helping make food a solution and not a problem. Ritz is the founder of Green Bronx Machine, which teaches at-risk high school youth to grow lush gardens for food in what he describes as the most migratory community in America: the South Bronx. Ritz aims to teach students these skills not only to benefit their health but also to improve their performance in school and to give them an opportunity to earn an income. He and his students helped design the first “edible wall” in New York City.


This episode, which is part of a 13-part PBS series, features some of America’s future organic farmers and farm owners. The episode features a young, entrepreneurial Hispanic organic farmer in Salinas Valley, California; a farm in Dallas, Texas that was converted from a former football field to produce fresh food for a food insecure neighborhood; and a Congolese refugee urban farmer training program in Houston, Texas.

Provides results from a qualitative study about how food hubs operationalize racial equity within their organizations and in their communities.


Shorlette Ammons discusses work that is needed and necessary in rural communities and communities of color. She also addresses the importance of working directly with people affected by issues of food insecurity and understanding the relationships they have with land. In addition, she explores the importance of creating entry points into different parts of the food system.


Introduces the collaborative Equitable Food Oriented Development (EFOD) from the perspectives of four of the collaborative’s founders. The practitioners explain how the EFOD framework is used within historically underserved communities to create social and economic opportunities. Webinar also shares new research and introduces the Wallace Center’s EFOD Regional Food Fellows.


Introduces the principle of Tribal food sovereignty and how First Nations communities implement traditional agricultural practices to shape their food system. Panelists also share an example of a collaborative partnership between University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension and the College of Menominee Nation to promote Menominee food sovereignty.


More than 20 lecture and panel discussion recordings from a University of Michigan community-academic partnership course. Featuring national and global leaders, these recordings highlight scholarship that connects theory and practice to build food systems that are more equitable, health-promoting, and sustainable.


LaDonna Redmond, founder and executive director of The Campaign for Food Justice Now, talks about food access issues in her own community on the west side of Chicago. She discusses the history of the modern industrial food system, which was built through colonialism and the exploitation of people of color, and the many injustices that continue to exist within the system.
TEDx. (2014, March 11). *The underlying racism of America’s food system* | Regina Bernard-Carreno [Video]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0XG-ETx5fk

Regina Bernard-Carreno talks about the lack of healthy food options in her urban New York neighborhood and her “hunt” for good food options and initiatives in surrounding neighborhoods. She shares her experiences of this “hunt” as well as lessons learned for creating an inclusive food movement, which must start by including voices from the ground up.


Malik Yakini talks about the many ways racism causes inequity in the food system by creating structural barriers for people of color. Yankini gives examples from his hometown of Detroit, Michigan. He also includes suggestions for creating a more equitable food system, such as changing institutional policies and practices that uphold racism and supporting people of color in leadership roles.

TEDx. (2015, March 15). *Food justice: A vision deeper than the problem* | Anim Steel [Video file]. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pmYrwsSX9Ow

Discusses the history of slavery and lays out a vision for a more just food system that includes increased land ownership by communities and community members and “ground up” leadership that allows communities to have a say in their own future.


Shares some of the challenges of and strategies for carrying out racial equity work and creating institutional change. Panelists discuss importance of building a shared language and historical understanding about structural racism in the food system, share the six phases of racial equity practice, and explain seven key principles of action.


Webinar featuring panel discussion led by lawyers fighting structural racism in the food system. Covers historical and contemporary agricultural issues including Black land loss, the connection between agriculture and environmental justice, and the role of lawyers in rooting out racism in the food system.


Explains how Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, New York is using a variety of agricultural programs to create a more just and equitable food system. Founder Leah Penniman explains the farm’s three main ways of fighting racism and inequality: growing and distributing affordable fresh foods to community members in need; offering educational courses in sustainable agriculture to new Black and Latinx farmers; and organizing to support laws that support farm worker rights, farmers of colors, and consumers.
W.K. Kellogg Foundation (2014). *What is food equity?* [Video]. YouTube. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCDfEnyjhi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCDfEnyjhi)

Examines the meaning of food equity through the lenses of different food systems leaders. Focuses specifically on Detroit, Michigan and how people from all backgrounds should be allowed access to healthy, affordable, culturally appropriate food.


Malik Yakini with the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network and Lilly Fink Shapiro with the University of Michigan’s Sustainable Food Systems Initiative discuss their partnership designing and co-leading the Food Literacy for All course. The webinar also introduces Kimberly Carr, a post-doctoral research associate in food sovereignty and racial equity at the Center for Regional Food Systems and Center for Interdisciplinarity at Michigan State University.


Captures the positive and negative externalities happening throughout the city of Los Angeles, California. Throughout this city replete with food deserts and inundated with fast food restaurants, a diverse group of urban leaders is growing food sustainably. The documentary highlights the efforts of three city residents who are striving to make urban farming a success for themselves and their communities.