



Comparative Eating Practices

Longer title: Comparative eating practices in late modernity.

Description

There is a rich debate in the social and health sciences about the state of eating practices in late modernity. The available historical and statistical information in different national contexts shows that the 20th century has seen changes in eating behavior and food consumption patterns with societal and environmental changes ranging from globalization to the current climate crisis.

Despite these changes, there are also stabilities and significant cultural differences in food consumption patterns.

In this framework, the present workshop aims to explore the food practices of Chileans and Swedes from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective to examine their state in late modernity characterized by significant social, environmental, and health crises.

Some questions that could guide the workshop are the following: What are the stabilities and changes in the food practices (including purchases, food preparation etc.) in the countries? What could be the implications for social and health aspects of food in the face of climate change? How have the health and environmental crises affected the experience of food security? Among others.

Food issues have been relevant in both countries during their recent history, visible in public policies and the development of a solid interdisciplinary academic body of food studies. In this framework, a collaboration between the two contexts is fruitful, especially to share and contrast the food-related responses of both countries to the current environmental and health crises.

Expected outcomes

There are mainly two possible areas for future collaboration. Firstly, through the exchange of postgraduate students studying food practices in late modernity. Secondly, by identifying possible areas of joint work between researchers that would allow to produce collaborative articles, collaborative participation in conferences and applications for research funding.

Possible site-visits

Planned activities

We propose to organize the workshop around the discussion of three themes:

1. Change and stability in meal routines and dietary intakes – focused on national dietary surveys, time-use analyses and other forms of food-consumption data.
2. Policy, production, purchases of food in relation to health and environmental sustainability
3. Cultural and historical aspects of food, social identity, social differentiation, politics, and social movements.

Researchers from both countries will present the results of empirical studies for each topic, which will provide data to contrast food practices in Chile and Sweden. We propose to finish with a synthesis session on the comparative information and ideas for collaborative work.

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