

UP 269  
Dr Hecht  
2-5 Thursdays

**FOOD Systems: From Wild Things to Agropolis, and the stuff in between.**

This class reviews the array of food and production systems, systems of distribution and systems of consumption to address what are among the most widespread human impacts on planetary biodiversity, landscapes, climates and social systems. Everyone eats, food is as full as meaning as calories, so the questions of how these food production systems unfold, why they unfold the way they do and the array of alternatives of many kinds require more in terms of analytics than food and identity, the existence of food deserts or the realities of exploitation in Arkansas chicken abattoirs. These are of course part of the story, but hardly capture the longer term questions. Food systems are also the gateway into understanding our current environmental dynamics, which cannot be solved without addressing Ag. Further, the domains of urban planning increasingly have to take urban production systems of many kinds into account, and we are not just talking about farmers markets here. While providing a general overview, the class requires research teams to analyse and assess some of the impacts and debates of particular topic weeks. The class is more about the debates and politics than normative directives (“Eat organic”), but there is a great deal of policy that comes out of the discussion. There is a lot of reading. This class looks at the questions in terms of larger systems, local consequences and environmental implications. We start from the wild and least known, to the realm we think we know, that is, the city as production arenas for producing domesticated and wild stuff.

**Requirements:**

An analytic book review on a non required book ;

Research Project paper

Class presentation of research project materials. We do this the last hour of class

Class participation.

A **SHORT!!** social history and commodity food chain analysis on a commodity (1-3 pages)

**Required Books**

Paul Greenberg 2010. *Four Fish*. New York . Penguin

Eric Schlosser 2005. *Fast Food Nation*. Harper Collins

Hal Herzog 2010. *Some we love, some we hate, some we eat: why its so hard to think straight about animals*. New York, Harper Perennial

Robbins, Paul. 2004 *Lawn People* Temple Univ. Press.

Perfecto Y and J.Vandermeer 2010. *Natures Matrix* Earthscan

Julie Guthman 2011. *Weighing in. Obesity, food justice and the limits of Capitalism*. Berkeley. UC Press

Eastabrook, B 2011. *Tomatoland*

**Recommended Books** ( Chose one to review or decide on something else but check with me)

**BUT THERE** is a NEW SLEW of food stuff all the time, although most of it hews to pretty well known terrain.

Charles Mann 2011. 1493.

Howard, E. 1920 *Garden cities of the Future*. (Optional

Sinclair Lewis *The Jungle*

Emil Zola *La Terre*

Carey McWilliams: *Factories in the Field* (The Classic of California Ag)

Michael Pollin 2006 *Omnivores Dilemma*

Miguel Altieri *Agroecology*

Sophie Coe. *Americas First Cuisines*

**Monthly Review July-August 2009 is quite interesting and devoted to food politics  
Volume 61, Number 3 Really worth a a look.**

**ALSO: Journal of Peasant Studies Biofuel special issue Vol 37(4) ( and actually ist  
worth looking at all the time.) but the food-fuel trade off is a serious issue and this  
is a really good round up by very serious scholars.**

**Also; check out: Journal of Peasant Studies and Journal of Agrarian Change**

**Course requirements:**

1. Do the reading.
2. Depending on enrollment a research “team” will take a particular topic and present it. This doesn’t have to be a power point: might be better if it weren’t, but it has to be a researched thing, organized logically and with a biblio, and not just from the internet. This must get to me by the end of the quarter.
3. You have produce an analytic book review.
4. Each class begins with the “News of the Food week” in review. So you should be reading NYT or LAT and combing it for food related news to contribute at the beginning of each class
5. History of a particular food: From domestication through its social history to your plate or cup. Whats the deal then, how is it that we know it now. Again: a quick presentation in class

**Week 1.**

Hi. Format of the class, where we are going with all this and what it means. Organization of teams and class logistics. Introduction to each other.

**Part 1: Where the Wild things aren’t, or maybe are... Harvesting natural ecosystems and their implications**

**Week 2. 1. The end of the fish, perhaps. The story of shifting baselines, socio-natures of the wilds**

**Read Paul Greenberg. *Four Fish***

Belton, B., D. Little, and K. Grady. "Is Responsible Aquaculture Sustainable Aquaculture? Wwf and the Eco-Certification of Tilapia." *Society & Natural Resources* 22, no. 9 (2009): 840-55.

Joyce, A. L., and T. A. Satterfield. "Shellfish Aquaculture and First Nations' Sovereignty: The Quest for Sustainable Development in Contested Sea Space." *Natural Resources Forum* 34, no. 2 (2010): 106-23

Barbier, E. B., S. D. Hacker, C. Kennedy, E. W. Koch, A. C. Stier, and B. R. Silliman. "The Value of Estuarine and Coastal Ecosystem Services." *Ecological Monographs* 81, no. 2 (2011): 169-93.

Greenberg, P 2009. Cat got your Fish? NYT editorial  
[www.nytimes.com/2009/03/22/.../22greenberg.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/03/22/.../22greenberg.html)

David Foster Wallace "Consider the Lobster".  
 "http://www.gourmet.com/magazine/2000s/2004/08/consider\_the\_lobster">Consider the Lobster:  
 2000s Archive : gourmet.com

**WeekThree:"Wild Thang, you make my heart sing...** Wild products are a huge source of calories, proteins, perfumes, resins, livelihood and monies and people consume A LOT of this stuff all over the world, and you do too, probably. For the two billion people in the world who are "forest dependent" (actually we are all forest dependent but imagine we are not) the question of "wild products" is key to their livelihoods. These linkages function between the rural-urban and the humble and elite at many levels, and these areas are at a complex interstices because tenurial regimes that underpin them are really complicated and changing, and because the institutionalities of forests are changing they relate to questions of conservation and transitions into domestication. This a broad selection of readings. Browse them but do read Perfecto and Vandemeer chapter 1-2. Also Neuman for a background on ideologies. I think the mushroom articles are all pretty great. Read the Açai article. Here's the big point: "Wild" landscapes are really manipulated and highly globalized. And we don't even broach the "essences" and floral markets.

### **Read "Natures's matrix" 1-2**

Neumann, R 2012. Stories of natures Hybridities in Europe: Implications for the Global South. In Hecht, Morrison and Padoch: *The Social Lives of Forests*. U Chicago Press

Lewis, J. A. "The Power of Knowledge: Information Transfer and Acai Intensification in the Peri-Urban Interface of Belem, Brazil." *Agroforestry Systems* 74, no. 3 (2008): 293-302.

Miguel N Bugalho, Maria C Caldeira, João S Pereira, James Aronson, and Juli G Pausas. 2011. Mediterranean cork oak savannas require human use to sustain biodiversity and ecosystem services. *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment* 9: 278–286.

McLain, R. "Constructing a Wild Mushroom Panopticon: The Extension of Nation-State Control over the Forest Understory in Oregon, USA." *Economic Botany* 62, no. 3 (2008): 343-55.

Montoya, A., N. Hernandez, C. Mapes, A. Kong, and A. Estrada-Torres. "The Collection and Sale of Wild Mushrooms in a Community of Tlaxcala, Mexico." *Economic Botany* 62, no. 3 (2008): 413-24.

Calama, R., M. Tome, M. Sanchez-Gonzalez, J. Miina, K. Spanos, and M. Palahi. "Modelling Non-Wood Forest Products in Europe: A Review." *Forest Systems* 19 (2010): 69-85.

Veuthey, S., and J. F. Gerber. "Logging Conflicts in Southern Cameroon a Feminist Ecological Economics Perspective." *Ecological Economics* 70, no. 2 (2010): 170-77.

These systems are really dense in terms of indigenous knowledge systems both in the biotics and the uses. And services.

**Relevant extra readings** for your general interest: Emphasis here is on knowledge systems and the ambiguity between the wild and the tame. This is more a FYI: the central point though is there are very different epistemes about constructing production systems: such as domesticated landscapes versus the wild. The US system is actually rather odd compared to the rest of the world.

Anderson, Kat. *Tending the Wild : Native American Knowledge and the Management of California's Natural Resources*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2005.

Charles Mann. 2007. *1491*. New York Random House. The American indigenous world.

Balée, William L., and Clark L. Erickson. *Time and Complexity in Historical Ecology : Studies in the Neotropical Lowlands, The Historical Ecology Series*. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.

**Part 2 Dr Vavilov I presume: The political ecologies of agriculture ( well, in the most brusque way possible)**

**Week Four:** Domestication to industrializations: A mere 12,000 years in an instant—well a couple of hours. Obviously an overview of traditional systems,

What is a Vavilov center why are they important and why questions of agrobiodiversity are not trivial exercises in nostalgia. And what do mean by domestication? Maybe a bigger concept is in order. This particular section could embrace several classes on its own, and actually does elsewhere but , whatever... Most of the class deals with the late 20<sup>th</sup> century changes in Ag, and the political ecologies of these changes

*Fast Food Nation* section1;  
*Tomatoland* 1-70;  
Guthman: Chapters 6 and 7

Harwood, J. "Peasant Friendly Plant Breeding and the Early Years of the Green Revolution in Mexico." *Agricultural History* 83, no. 3 (2009): 384-410.

McAfee, K. "Beyond Techno-Science: Transgenic Maize in the Fight over Mexico's Future." *Geoforum* 39, no. 1 (2008): 148-60.

**WEEK 5 Alternatives, possibly;**

**Tomatoland 73-191**  
**Natures Matrix Chaps 4,5,6**

- Liang, L. H., M. Stocking, H. Brookfield, and L. Jansky. "Biodiversity Conservation through Agrodiversity." *Global Environmental Change-Human and Policy Dimensions* 11, no. 1 (2001): 97-101.
- Badgley, C., and I. Perfecto. "Can Organic Agriculture Feed the World?" *Renewable Agriculture and Food Systems* 22, no. 2 (2007): 80-82.
- Spielman, D. J. "Pro-Poor Agricultural Biotechnology: Can the International Research System Deliver the Goods?" *Food Policy* 32, no. 2 (2007): 189-204.
- Wield, D., J. Chataway, and M. Bolo. "Issues in the Political Economy of Agricultural Biotechnology." *Journal of Agrarian Change* 10, no. 3 (2010): 342-66.
- Perfecto, I., and J. Vandermeer. "The Agroecological Matrix as Alternative to the Land-Sparing/Agriculture Intensification Model." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* 107, no. 13 (2010): 5786-91.
- Martinez-Torres, M. E., and P. M. Rosset. "La Via Campesina: The Birth and Evolution of a Transnational Social Movement." *Journal of Peasant Studies* 37, no. 1 (2010): 149-75.
- Altieri, M. A. "Agroecology, Small Farms, and Food Sovereignty." *Monthly Review-an Independent Socialist Magazine* 61, no. 3 (2009): 102-13.
- Rosset, P. "Fixing Our Global Food System Food Sovereignty and Redistributive Land Reform." *Monthly Review-an Independent Socialist Magazine* 61, no. 3 (2009): 114-28.
- Lipton, M. "Plant Breeding and Poverty: Can Transgenic Seeds Replicate the 'Green Revolution' as a Source of Gains for the Poor?." *Journal of Development Studies* 43, no. 1 (2007): 31-62.

## Week 6 The Livestock Sector

Herzog: some we love...

Also *Fast Food Nation* chaps 6,7,8,9

- McAlpine, C. A., A. Etter, P. M. Fearnside, L. Seabrook, and W. F. Laurance. "Increasing World Consumption of Beef as a Driver of Regional and Global Change: A Call for Policy Action Based on Evidence from Queensland (Australia), Colombia and Brazil." *Global Environmental Change-Human and Policy Dimensions* 19, no. 1 (2009): 21-33.
- Walker, R., J. Browder, E. Arima, C. Simmons, R. Pereira, M. Caldas, R. Shiota, and S. de Zen. "Ranching and the New Global Range: Amazonia in the 21st Century." *Geoforum* 40, no. 5 (2009): 732-45.
- Barona, E., N. Ramankutty, G. Hyman, and O. T. Coomes. "The Role of Pasture and Soybean in Deforestation of the Brazilian Amazon." *Environmental Research Letters* 5, no. 2 (2010).

Hecht, S. B. "The Logic of Livestock and Deforestation in Amazonia." *Bioscience* 43, no. 10 (1993): 687-95.

### Part 3. Agropolis

#### Week 7

*Fast Food Nation*

Guthman: Chapter 2-5

Morland, K. B., and K. R. Evenson. "Obesity Prevalence and the Local Food Environment." *Health & Place* 15, no. 2 (2009): 491-95.

Chen, S. E., and Rjgm Florax. "Zoning for Health: The Obesity Epidemic and Opportunities for Local Policy Intervention." *Journal of Nutrition* 140, no. 6 (2010): 1181-84.

Fraser, L. K., K. L. Edwards, J. Cade, and G. P. Clarke. "The Geography of Fast Food Outlets: A Review." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 7, no. 5 (2010): 2290-308.

#### Week 8 SBH out of town

#### Week 9 Urban ag

De Bon, H., L. Parrot, and P. Moustier. "Sustainable Urban Agriculture in Developing Countries. A Review." *Agronomy for Sustainable Development* 30, no. 1 (2010): 21-32.

Grau, H. R., M. E. Hernandez, J. Gutierrez, N. I. Gasparri, M. C. Casavecchia, E. E. Flores-Ivaldi, and L. Paolini. "A Peri-Urban Neotropical Forest Transition and Its Consequences for Environmental Services." *Ecology and Society* 13, no. 1 (2008).

Ilbery, B. "Agriculture in Urban Planning: Generating Livelihoods and Food Security." *Geographical Journal* 176 (2010): 184-84.

Losada, H., R. Bennett, R. Soriano, J. Vieyra, and J. Cortes. "Urban Agriculture in Mexico City: Functions Provided by the Use of Space for Dairy Based Livelihoods." *Cities* 17, no. 6 (2000): 419-31.

Madaleno, I. "Urban Agriculture in Belem, Brazil." *Cities* 17, no. 1 (2000): 73-77.

Maxwell, D. G. "Highest and Best Use? Access to Urban Land for Semi-Subsistence Food Production." *Land Use Policy* 13, no. 3 (1996): 181-95.

Maxwell, D., W. O. Larbi, G. M. Lamptey, S. Zakariah, and M. Armar-Klemesu. "Farming in the Shadow of the City - Changes in Land Rights and Livelihoods in Peri-Urban Accra." *Third World Planning Review* 21, no. 4 (1999): 373-91.

Week 10: What's ag anyway:  
Robbins, *Lawn people*

