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Eating Food Systems

An Anthropological Guide to Food

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www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aftexts.html#title
Biocultural Framework for the Study of Diet and Nutrition

Food Systems

Next Steps
Food System

“A chain of interconnected activities that take place in order to get food from the environment into the mouths of people”

“The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 14
Food System includes . . .

food production
processing
distribution
marketing
preparation . . .

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 14
“Setting the Table for a Cultural Feast”

Food System also includes . . .

the knowledge and customs that surround food and food consumption

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 14
Food System

“. . . it is convenient to view the components in our model as a food system — a set of mutually interacting components.”

*The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 14*
Figure 1.1
Biocultural Framework for the Study of Diet and Nutrition

Source: Authors

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 4
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Biocultural Framework for the Study of Diet and Nutrition

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The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 4
Food System

“If change occurs in one component, the others must change in order for the system to maintain balance.”

• e.g., pigs and pork in the Scottish cuisine

*The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed.*, p. 14
Food System

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• e.g., pigs and pork in the Scottish cuisine

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 14
“The rise and fall of pig raising and pork consumption [in Scotland from prehistoric times to the present] and the changing value place on pork as a food in Scottish cuisine, suggests the important interactions between several factors . . .”

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 15
• the physical environment
• the technologies used to exploit the environment
• the relationship between colonizers and the colonized
• the meanings and values placed on foods

*The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed.*, p. 15
no one factor alone accounts for the presence or absence of pork on the dinner plates of Scots either currently or in the past

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 15
however, all factors have contributed to patterns of food production, distribution, and consumption that influence Scottish diets

*The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed.*, p. 15
One of the main messages of Frances Moore Lappé is . . .

“solve for pattern”

(to borrow a term from Wendell Berry)

Lappé is famous in the food world — in the whole world, for that matter — for her work *Diet for a Small Planet*, and, more recently, for *Hope’s Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet*

Lappé will give the closing lecture at the

Nobel Conference 46
Making Food Good
Frances Moore Lappé
*Nobel Conference 46*

Frances Moore Lappé, author and co-founder of the Small Planet Institute, Cambridge Massachusetts

Frances Moore Lappé is a democracy advocate and world food and hunger expert who is the author or co-author of 16 books. Her first book, "Diet for a Small Planet," has sold three million copies and is considered "the blueprint for eating with a small carbon footprint since long before the term was coined."

Lappé, who grew up in Fort Worth, Texas, attended Earlham College in Richmond, Ind. (B.A., 1966). She enrolled at the University of California, Berkeley, for graduate studies in social work, but gained prominence in the early 1970s with the publication of her first book and turned her attention to writing and activism. In 1975 she helped to launch the Institute for Food and Development Policy (now known as Food First) to educate Americans about the causes of world hunger. In 1990 she co-founded the Center for Living Democracy, a 10-year initiative to accelerate the spread of democratic innovations. In 2002, she and her daughter, Anne Lappé, established the Small Planet Institute, a collaborative...
hear Frances Moore Lappé if you can,
either in person
or via the
Live Streaming of the Conference
about 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 6 October 2010
Anth 3888
Anthropology of Food
University of Minnesota Duluth
On-Line

“What you eat, and why you eat it . . .”

“This course dared me to find out where our food comes from, and has changed the way I think about the world. The ‘textbooks’ . . . were a joy to read. In short, this is the one course everyone who eats needs to take.” — Andy Kadlec, UMD Labowitz School of Business

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And for Fall 2010 team up with the . . .

Nobel Conference 46
Making Food Good

Oct. 5 & 6, 2010

Conference Schedule & Information

Gustavus Adolphus College
800 West College Avenue
Saint Peter, MN 56082
952-931-9000

Investigate the Nobel Conference and its materials for your class project in Anthropology of Food
Frances Moore Lappé’s “solving for pattern” emphasizes the whole-systems approach in formulating the “Next Diet for a Small Planet” “solving for pattern” is one of her main “Liberating Ideas” fundamental to her proposed solutions to today’s major food issues...
if Lappé’s talks about “solving for pattern” and she almost certainly will she will most definitely be talking about the key ideas of “Food Systems” in *The Cultural Feast*
“it is convenient to view the components in our model as a food system — a set of mutually interacting components”
Food System

and “if change occurs in one component, the others must change in order for the system to maintain balance”

The Cultural Feast, 2nd ed., p. 14
HOPE'S EDGE

The Next Diet for a Small Planet

FRANCES MOORE LAPPÉ and ANNA LAPPÉ
Eating Culture
An Anthropological Guide to Food
Gillian Crowther