University of Minnesota

Anthropology of Food Week 14

Student Presentations

The Cove?
Watch On-line:
In Organic We Trust

This week watch the film
In Organic We Trust on-line.
(see details below)

Other highlights of this week include Student Presentations on Tuesday, 28 November 2017 . . .

Dropbox for Presentations, Tuesday, 28 November 2017
#1 Megan F.  Reversing the Trend:  
Transforming my Relationship to Food

#2 Cayla O.  Indigenous Food

#3 Josh L.  Hunting vs. Animal Ag

#4 Andrew O.  Fish and Lake Superior's South Shore

#5 Tyler S.  Coffee

#6 Maria B.  Greek Orthodoxy and the Meaning of Food

REM: Your term paper is due this week . . .

Time permitting, on Thursday, 30 November 2017, we’ll have a look at the first part of the video *The Cove*, and finish it off on Tuesday, 5 December 2017. If we run out of time this week, *The Cove* will be switched to an on-line assignment

(and that will be decided after class on Tuesday).•
Not so long ago when my wife, Kim, and I visited O’ahu—in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, it was reported that most of the fish served in Hawai’i are not caught locally. They used to be. But now they’re flown in (adding lots of “food miles” to the catch, and increasing our carbon footprint), or they’re farmed (which some suggest is adding to the demise of native species). Either way, it’s a shame that a place built on fishing no longer fishes to any great extent.

Fish in Chinatown were the exception, but then Chines tend to prefer to purchase their fish still alive, not like the Japanese, as you will see in the film The Cove. (Speaking of Chinatown, in O’ahu in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the restaurant Soho [named after the district in London] specializes in Chicago deep-dish pizza.)

The 2010 Oscar for Best Feature Documentary went to The Cove! With an Oscar and more than two dozen other notable international awards The Cove, directed by former National
Geographic photographer Louie Psihoyos, and featuring “Flipper[s]” trainer Rick O’Berry, is not without controversy—lots of it.

There’s no question that the film is well done. Its Oscar alone attests to that.

But the film raises several ethical questions, including moral questions pertaining to its own filming, the Japanese whaling industry, dolphin drive-hunting, hunting in general, treatment of animals in aquariums and marine parks (read Sea World), treatment of animals in captivity in general, ocean conservation, dolphin suicide, animal mental health, illegal protesting, illegal sales of mercury-tainted food to the general public and to school lunch programs, the alleged "buying" by Japan of votes in the International Whaling Commission, government and industry corruption, whistle blowing, concerted efforts to pass “ag-gag” laws making it illegal to collect photographic information on purported illegal CAFOs, sea-harvesting, and the ilk (read more laws like the ones under which Oprah was sued in a two-month trial by Texas Beef for saying she would not eat another burger—and which cost her a million dollars to defend herself) . . . and the list goes on, but not before adding killing and meat eating and lying and racial bigotry and psychopathic individual and corporate greed, and the government banning of books and films to the list.

Some recent “ag-gag” news includes . . .

- Big Ag GAG: 29 states quietly pass “preemptive seed laws” that prevent debate and local government autonomy over genetically engineered crops -- Natural News (17 November 2017)
- AG GAG BILL -- HUFFPOST (29 October 2017)
- Iowa’s ag-gag law needs to die -- Des Moines Register (25 October 2017)
- Utah Ag-Gag Law Declared Unconstitutional -- Animal Legal Defense Fund (07 July)
And some critics charge that *The Cove* is film espionage aimed at producing “well-made propaganda.” It is said that David Cox of *The Guardian* Film Blog called it a "piece of evangelism," and opined that from a Japanese point of view "Westerners . . . kill and eat cows. Easterners eat dolphins. What's the difference?" ([Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Cove)). Cox’s comments should bring to mind *FRESH* and *Food, Inc.*

The same folks noting David Cox’s wisdom above favorably quote academic Ilan Kapoor, echoing the famous phrase by Gayatri Spivak, who argues that "it's a case of (mostly) 'white men saving cute dolphins from yellow men'" ([Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gayatri_Spivak)).

*The Cove* should bring to mind the film segment on the **Makah Indians** returning to their ancient tradition of hunting and eating whale, to the displeasure of some non-Makah, from Episode 2: "Food & Culture" of Marcus Samuelsson’s *The Meaning of Food*.

And *The Cove* should bring to mind the “**American Indian Whaling and Fishing Rights**” class *Forum* of Week 6, and the questions surrounding that.

And *The Cove* should bring to mind the “**Fishing Yesterday and Fishing Today**” segment from the film *We Feed the World*. 
And *The Cove* should bring to mind the film *The End of the Line: How Overfishing Is Changing the World And What We Eat.*

The international fishing/whaling/fish farming situation is complicated, but then again it might just be the “canary in the mine” for industrial agriculture in general.

In Week 1 we argued that one of the defining characteristics of anthropology was its commitment to trying to understand phenomena in a comparative and holistic manner. In this week’s *Forum* you have an opportunity to try holistic comparative analysis for yourself.

In thinking about sustainable seafood and *The Cove* be sure to have a look at the course WebSite on Whales [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afwhales.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afwhales.html) and on Fish [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/affish.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/affish.html). And if you really want a holistic view throw in Lobsters [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aflobster.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/aflobster.html) and have a look at the rise and fall and rise and fall and rise of the New England lobster industry. And don’t forget to include genetically modified (GM) fish, some of which glow in the dark [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GloFish](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/GloFish) and [http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afgmfoods.html](http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/troufs/anthfood/afgmfoods.html).

Cove. And that should bring to mind international food regulatory agencies, including the International Whaling Commission (IWC). All of these fish “appear” in the StarTribune article mentioned above.

Stacy Radtke (mailto:sradtke@d.umn.edu) from Information Technology Systems & Services (ITSS) will be sending you an Invitation to Participate in an Online Course Evaluation.

Evaluations are important to me, the Department Head, and the Dean, as well as everyone in our Department.

Please fill the online Course Evaluation out carefully.

Evaluations are anonymous, and will not be seen by the instructor until final grades for this course have been recorded.

Thanks.

Your Assignments and Activities listings are available in the Week 14 Block of your Moodle folder, including . . .

Reading Assignments for Week 14
Forum: Thanksgiving Dinner (Due by the end of Week 14—Saturday, 2 December 2017)

REM: Your Term Paper is due this week

Dropbox for Your Project Term Paper (Due by the end of Week 14—Saturday, 2 December 2017) Assignment

Don’t forget to contribute your final question to the Wiki.

Wiki: Contribute Your Question to the Final Exam (Due by the end of Week 14—Saturday, 2 December 2017)

View the following Video On-line

View Video On-line: *In Organic We Trust*

*In Organic We Trust* Viewing Guide

- on-line streaming
  - UMD Library on-line streaming link
- on-line streaming with Closed Captioning
  - UMD Library Closed Captioned on-line streaming link

If you are off-campus use Virtual Private Network (VPN) connection; pursuant to licensing agreements some UM streaming videos are not available outside of Moodle.
As usual, if you have any questions right now—including questions about the extra credit option(s), or about the Final Exam—please do not hesitate to post them on the Moodle “QUICKMAIL”, "Messenger" or e-mail troufs@d.umn.edu, or stop in before or after class across the hall in Cina 215.

Best Regards,

Tim Roufs
<http://www.d.umn.edu/~troufs/>