



critical food studies  
Transdisciplinary humanities approaches

## **Towards decolonial transdisciplinary research: “The humanities in food studies”**

A Mini-conference hosted by the Critical Food Studies Programme: Transdisciplinary Humanities Approaches

**21 November 2019, Cape Town**

**Venue: Life Science Auditorium, University of the Western Cape**

Humanities-driven food studies open up unique pathways for analysing hybridised social identities, contemporary cultural dynamics, and discourses embedded in or emanating from processes such as transnational capitalist development, globalisation, migration or bi-lateral trade.

Much food studies work in South Africa and elsewhere in Africa focuses more on hunger-related and nutritional issues, rather than on broad humanities-oriented ways of considering how human beings relate to or experience food in socially determined ways. It is noteworthy that centrality of food to all societies makes it a crucial focus for transdisciplinary studies that include how food and eating are implicated in identity construction; how eating and food items are represented in the mass media or literature and the arts; histories of how we think about food, diets and taste.

In trying to fill the research gap in food studies, we invite postgraduate students i.e. Honours, Masters and PhD students who are working on food-related research, to a postgraduate colloquium. The main purpose of the event is to encourage intimate conversations about individual students' work-in-progress, as well as their engagement with areas of relevance to interdisciplinary food studies, namely feminist theoretical and methodological work and the diverse sources of knowledge about food.

Among the areas for student presentations are:

- ***Gender, Feminism and Food Studies***
- ***Food Knowledges, Ecofeminism and Indigenous Knowledge Systems***
- ***Consumer identities, Foodscapes and Food ways in Urban Contexts***
- ***Foodways in relation to Literary, Visual and Popular Cultural Texts/ The Materiality of Food and its Visual Representation.***

Please send abstracts of not more than 300 words to [foodpoliticsandcultures17@gmail.com](mailto:foodpoliticsandcultures17@gmail.com) by the 30<sup>th</sup> of August 2019. Expressions of interest in attending as audience to this event are also welcome and should be made to the email address above by the 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2019.

In addition to the mini-conference proceedings, participants will have the opportunity to attend two linked events: a performance by UWC women students titled "**My Daily Bread**"- (first performed at the Grahamstown festival), to be performed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2019 soon after the Mini-Conference and the first postgraduate Women and Genders Studies Conference titled: Feminist Research Alive in Academia 1st Annual Conference on November 22nd 2019 (Email: [Feminismalive@gmail.com](mailto:Feminismalive@gmail.com)).

**Funded by the Mellon Foundation and the DST-NRF Centre of Excellence in Food Security**