

Epidemic Shocks and Food Cultures in the New Millennium:

Panel Discussion

In the new millennium, global capitalism, racism, heteropatriarchy and xenophobia powerfully shape “disease” and “health”, as well as food practices and discourses. In this panel discussion, three critical thinkers reflect on connections between discourses and practices around food and health epidemics with the aim of opening up public debate. Panelists will address questions such as:

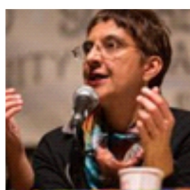
- What are some of the connections between present-day food systems and cultures and health epidemics?
- How are our sporadic shocks connected to the enduring postmillennial shock - of the anthropocene and the violence of racism, neo-imperialism and corporate capitalism?
- What myths (around “race”, class and embodied identities) surround food, eating and disease/health during health epidemics, and what are the sources of these myths?
- What practices, knowledges and/or values challenge dominant ways of managing epidemics and food cultures, and how can we strengthen these alternatives in the present?

29 May 2020 • Time: 3.00pm – 6.00pm

Speakers



Psyche Williams-Forsen – is an African-American transdisciplinary humanities scholar and intellectual activist with years of research and teaching experience on food cultures and the well-being of black people in the US. She is Chair of American Studies at the University of Maryland and has had an abiding interest in gender, race and material culture.



Mariam Mayet – is an activist and founder and director of the African Centre for Biodiversity. She is passionate about the destructive impact of neo-imperialism and neo-liberal capitalism on biodiversity, food systems and public knowledges about food and the environment.



Carla Tsampiras- is a feminist, social historian and vegan with inter-disciplinary interests in the links between health, disease, violence, gender, and food cultures. She is a founding member of the Medical and Health Humanities Africa network and is intrigued by the ways in which dominant discourses limit public debate about health and nutrition.

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