



Title: Food, Migration, and Belonging

Disciplines: Food studies, Sociology, Anthropology (primary)
Critical Race and Ethnic Studies, Gender Studies (secondary)

Credits: 3 credit semester or summer elective with 12-16 people

Hours: Double session once a week

Course Description:

“People eating similar food are trustworthy, good, familiar, and safe; but people eating unusual food give rise to feelings of distrust, suspicion and even disgust” (Scholliers, 2001).

How can food and food practices influence a person or communities’ sense of belonging?

In this course focused on your own research, we will explore ways in which food contributes to the building of communities and a sense of belonging. We will talk about “breaking bread” as a way of overcoming differences, as food and eating has a long history of being used for [conflict resolution and de-escalation of conflicts](#). Food can also be our entry into new communities and food tourism is a million-dollar industry marketing food as, literally, a taste of a new culture. But food - what we eat and how we eat it - also delineates class, ethnicity, race, religion, gender, and citizenship status. With Denmark as a case study, you will spend the semester researching a topic of your own choice related to food, migration, and belonging.

Together - and to inspire your research - we will explore how and why food and eating is a cultural and political act - as food has the ability to foster cultural understanding and tolerance between people and communities but can also be divisive and a tool for 'othering'. Informed by scholarly articles and first-hand accounts on the topics of food, migration, and belonging, we will participate in experiential in-class activities and go on relevant field studies. Individually, but with faculty supervision, you will conduct a small-scale, in-depth qualitative research project that intersects food and cultural belonging with a focus on either gender, class, race, religion, ethnicity, or citizenship status, while reflecting on possible (creative) dissemination methods for your research.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, you will:

- Discuss and analyze how food and eating is a cultural and political act
- Acquire theoretical knowledge into subjects such as: belonging, identity, cultural differences and similarities, emic, etic, foodscapes, food injustices, authenticity, generational culinary knowledge sharing, transnationalism, and affect.
- Gain hands on experience conducting individual research abroad
- Gain insight into how the disciplines of anthropology and sociology approach the study of food
- Enhance understanding of how food plays a role in the production and reproduction of culture, identity, and community.
- Comprehend how food contributes to a delineation of different intersecting identity makers (race, gender, religion, etc.)

Assignments:

- Participation 25%
- Short Individual Reflection Assignment 10%
- Final Research paper 65%
 - a. Initial Proposal & Outline of Research Plan (5%)
 - b. Paper Outline & Peer Review (10%)
 - c. Final Draft of Paper (35%)
 - d. Reflection & Dissemination Plan (15%)

Readings:

- Lapina, L. (2018). 'Cultivating Integration'? Migrant Space-making in Urban Gardens. In L. Bull Christiansen, L. Paulsen Galal, & K. Hvenegaard-Lassen (Eds.), *Cultural Encounters as Intervention Practices* Routledge.
- Tranekjær, L. (2015). Interactional Categorization and Gatekeeping. *Multilingual Matters*.
- Zhu, Dan, Jiayi Wang, Peng Wang, and Honggang Xu. 2022. "How to Frame Destination Foodscapes? A Perspective of Mixed Food Experience" *Foods* 11, no. 12: 1706. <https://doi.org/10.3390/foods11121706>
- Srinivas, t. (2006). 'as mother made it': the cosmopolitan indian family, 'authentic' food and the construction of cultural utopia. *International journal of sociology of the family*, 32(2), 191–221. [Http://www.jstor.org/stable/23030195](http://www.jstor.org/stable/23030195)

- Bennett, J. (2013). *Doing belonging: A sociological study of belonging in place as the outcome of social practices* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Manchester).
- Jones, Paul & Krzyzanowski, Michal (2011): "Identity, Belonging and Migration: Beyond Constructing 'Others'", in: Delanty, Gerard et al., eds, *Identity, Belonging and Migration*, Liverpool University Press
- Scholliers, P. (2001). Meals, food narratives, and sentiments of belonging in past and present (pp. 3-22). Na.
- Bourdieu, P. (2010). *Distinction: A social critique of the judgement of taste*. Routledge.
- Ahmed, S. (2014). *The Cultural Politics of Emotion* (NED-New edition, 2). Edinburgh University Press. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1g09x4g>
- Belasco, W. J. (2019). *Food: The key concepts*. Bloomsbury Academic.

Possible Field Studies:

- *Lersøgrøftens Integrations Byhaver* - Urban Gardens intended to foster 'natural integration' by having even number gardens for people 'born in Denmark' and uneven numbers for people 'born abroad'.
- *Øenshave* - Urban farm and seasonal restaurant
- *Caribbean Housewife*
- *Send Flere Krydderier*
- *Yafa Shanneik* - Body Mapping & VR - Researcher and Visual Artist, has produced VR experiences with migrant women in their kitchens.
- Faculty's Urban Garden in NordVest