



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

*Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation*

Themed Issue on Meat Studies



### Guest Editors

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### Timeline

- abstract submission deadline: March 31, 2022
- acceptance of proposals: April 15, 2022
- article first drafts due: August 1, 2022
- feedback to authors: September 1, 2022
- article second drafts due: October 15, 2022
- publication date: December 2022

### Rationale

We are living through an unprecedented cultural shift regarding our collective relationship with meat. Meat consumption is decreasing in North America, yet increasing in other regions of the world. Meat-rejecting lifestyles such as veganism and vegetarianism are entering mainstream discourses and markets, after having long been relegated to the peripheries of culinary and dietary conversations. At the same time, the current cultural juncture is forcing us to categorically rethink and refine our conventional understandings of what meat *is*—a phenomenon instigated by the recent developments of plant-based meats, the perennial promises of lab-grown meat technologies, the explorations of alternative meats and proteins (such as insect meat), and a growing number of legal challenges brought forth by traditional meat industries. More generally, we are beginning to reveal and critically interrogate meat's inherent (though often invisible)



ambiguity as a cultural form: How do Indigenous hunting and fishing traditions differ from more colonial understandings of meat and animal agriculture? Why are some animals 'meat' and others 'not meat' in Canada, and what are the socio-political implications of these categorical distinctions?

Perhaps unsurprisingly, then, meat has also become a focal topic of analysis for a growing number of scholars in the social sciences and humanities over the past two decades. Recent projects, for example, have investigated consumer perceptions of prototypical meat-eaters (Johnston, Baumann, & Oleschuk, 2021); the role of 'fake meats' as transitional foods towards more plant-based diets (Mehta et al., 2020); consumer attitudes towards lab-grown meat (Bryant & Dillard, 2019); and the rhetorical strategies used by animal agriculture industries (Hannan, 2020). Meat's many materialities have also started being interrogated at an increasing rate, including the connections between meat and bodies (whether human or non-human) (e.g., Adams, 2010; Adams, 2018; Sergentanis et al., 2021); the various political economic dimensions of meat and animal agriculture (Simon, 2013; Warren, 2018; Wurgaft, 2019; Specht, 2019); and the cases for (Katz-Rosene & Martin, 2020) and against (Kevany, 2020) meat's potential role in future sustainable agricultures. Given meat's ubiquity across time and space in human cultures, in conjunction with the rising scholarly attention being paid to meat, we identify and articulate a new sub-field of critical food scholarship: 'Meat Studies'.

A growing, though still loosely connected, body of academic work has started placing meat at the centre of critical discourses regarding climate change and environmental sustainability, human health, economic wellbeing, and ethics. This special issue of Canadian Food Studies seeks to bring these multi-disciplinary scholars into direct conversation with one another under the umbrella of 'Meat Studies' as an emerging sub-field of study. Indeed, the recent establishment of Vegan Studies (see: Wright, 2019) necessitates a parallel effort to better understand meat's persistent social, economic, political, and cultural status in human societies. We are particularly interested in Canadian perspectives on meat and its historical and contemporary significances, such as the history of plant-vegetable proteins (PVP) in Canada or the politics of Indigenous hunting and fishing rights. By situating meat at the centre of critical analysis, we can identify, articulate, and address the challenges that meat poses in the twenty-first-century. More generally, Meat Studies allows us to critically re-examine our cultural conventions regarding the ways in which we classify different foods, diets, identities, and culinary practices.

We will be accepting abstracts for proposed articles that address the social, cultural, political, and economic dimensions of meat. Please send your 300-word abstracts, 5 to 7 keywords, and organizational/institutional affiliation (if applicable) to the guest editors no later than Thursday, March 31, 2022.

We are particularly interested in proposals addressing the following topics:

- 'meat' as a discursive category ('cow'/'beef', 'game', 'fish', etc.)
- critical and intersectional perspectives on meat consumption (relating to class, race, gender, and/ or religion)
- historical inquiries into meat production, distribution, promotion, and consumption
- Canadian meat politics and laws (e.g. government subsidies, national food guides, lawsuits, industry (de)regulations, and political party platforms)
- meat's role in climate change and environmental degradations



- the possibility of meat consumption *within* the realm of sustainable, healthy, and ethical eating
- aquaculture, seafood, and aquatic 'meats'
- international campaigns (e.g., bush meat, shark finning, etc.)
- rhetoric and promotional cultures of meat industries
- meat & bodies/the body (who and what becomes 'meat', and how?)
- meat, cultural capital, and identity
- critical dietetics of meat
- religious and spiritual relationships with/ without meat
- vegan/ vegetarian responses to meat in contemporary consumer capitalism
- bioethics of plant-based meats, lab-grown meats, insect meats, or meat alternatives
- 'fake meats', 'meat substitutes', and 'meat alternatives' in Canada
- Indigenous relationships with meat, animals, and animal-based foods
- the psychology of meat-eating
- meat in popular culture and creative industries (including literature, film, television, and video games)
- meat, science, and technology
- prescriptive measures for encouraging meat reduction and the adoption of more plant-based diets
- immigrant and diaspora communities' attitudes towards and relationships with meat
- animals, meat, and pandemics
- post-colonial, feminist, and Queer perspectives on meat and animal agriculture
- meat markets, food chains, and supply chains

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