

INFOLETTRE | VOL. 39 | PRINTEMPS 2025

NEWSLETTER | ISSUE 39 | SPRING 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS / DU CONSEIL D'ADMIN-ISTRATION

To our CAFS community,

Spring is in the air, and with it, a tangible feeling of change and possibility. We, the CAFS board, are incredibly excited to see our hard work over the year finally come into bloom, much like the early season daffodils, tulips and hyacinths!

As most of you know, the conference is one of the main events hosted by CAFS, and we are so excited to see you in a few weeks. In addition to the exciting lineup of plenaries, our program includes more than 120 presentations, workshops and roundtables that will be delivered via over a dozen concurrent sessions.

A few notable events within the Conference program include two plenaries planned by the CAFS Ad Hoc Committee on Palestine and the Right to Food, and the World Cafe Strategic Planning sessions. The aim of the planning sessions is to create space for you to have your say in the association's future. Be sure to also join us for the AGM for updates from the CAFS co-chairs, the Canadian Food Studies Journal, CAFS working groups and for a summary of our finances. More information on the conference is available in the newsletter. Please read through our finalized conference program released earlier this week.

The CAFS board and interested members have also been hard at work surveying and interviewing community members and gleaning insights that have helped inform the planning of the upcoming Strategic Planning sessions. Be sure to have a look at the summary of the results in the compiled CAFS <u>Community</u> <u>Feedback Survey Report</u>. Thank you to everyone who participated—your insights, experiences

and perspectives are valuable in shaping the future of our association.

Please enjoy the highly anticipated Vol. 12 No. 1 (2025) issue of the Canadian Food Studies Journal / La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation. More on page 14.

Whenever we review the submissions for the newsletter, we are struck by the variety, depth, and breadth of the work taking place within the Canadian food studies community. We hope you enjoy the Spring Issue of the CAFS Newsletter, which profiles community research updates, recent publications and report notices. We love that we can stay updated on your research and outputs. Thank you to everyone for your contributions to this newsletter.

On behalf of the Board, happy spring! We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2025 CAFS Assembly at George Brown College from June 2-5, 2025.

Jenelle Regnier-Davies & Zsofia Mendly-Zambo CAFS Board Co-Chairs

EVENTS

FOUNDATIONS, EVOLUTIONS, & REVOLUTIONS

We look forward to welcoming you to the 2025 Canadian Association for Food Studies Assembly at George Brown College in Toronto, Ontario from June 2- June 5, 2025, that will be delivered in conjunction with the Federation for Humanities & Social Sciences Congress (running May 30 to June 6, 2025). The broader theme of Congress is "Reframing Togetherness."

Our conference launches with a One-Day Student Symposium on Monday, June 2, and is open to all students, emerging researchers, or those looking to get more involved in Canadian food studies. In keeping with the CAFS conference theme of Foundations, Evolutions, and Revolutions we will deliver a three-day arc of plenary events that brings to life these animating ideas. Our plenary on Day 1 (Tuesday, June 3) will look back to the foundations and origins of food studies in Canada over the last 30 years. On Day 2 (Wednesday, June 4), our plenary will look at the present issues, concerns, and priorities characterizing food studies scholarship, practice, and advocacy. On Day 3 (Thursday, June 5), the plenary will look towards ongoing revolutions in food studies as we move forward in shared yet diverse ways.

Registration for the conference is now open HERE.

Conference attendees must be current CAFS

members. Renew your membership or become a member HERE.

CAFS 2025 ASSEMBLY PROGRAM EN

PROGRAMME DE LA CONFÉRENCE 2025 ACEA FR



2025 CAFS SOCIAL, BOOK LAUNCH, & AWARDS CEREMONY

When: June 3, 2025, 7:00-9:30 pm Where: And/Ore, 1040 Queen St W, Toronto, ON M6J 1H7 Join us for an unforgettable evening of celebration and social connection at one of Toronto's newest hot spots, And/Ore. Mingle with fellow Canadian food studies colleagues in a vibrant yet relaxed atmosphere, enjoying crafted mocktails, cocktails, and savoury, satiating small plates from a menu that blends innovation with classic flavours.

This year's social event will feature a Book Launch profiling six new Canadian food studies publications, with a few words from the authors! Following, we will honor standout achievements with our annual Awards Ceremony, including the Award for Public Service or Activism in Food Systems and the Student Paper Awards in Food Studies. In addition, the evening will feature interactive touchpoints with the restaurant owners and staff, offering unique insights on their low waste and fair wage approach and their sources for local and sustainable products.

Located in the heart of Toronto's bustling downtown, And/Ore has been <u>celebrated</u> for its contemporary design, exceptional service, and eclectic atmosphere making it the perfect venue for this exciting event. Described as "a place hidden in plain sight" "with a mix of modern flair and timeless charm," And/Ore sets a beautiful stage for an evening of connection, conversation, and celebration.

2025 CAFS Social, Book Launch and Awards Ceremony Tickets Available <u>HERE</u>.



STUDENT SYMPOSIUM

Seeds of Inquiry: Emerging Voices in Food Studies Symposium for Students, Postdocs, and Emerging Scholars

June 2, 2025 | 9:45 am – 5:00 pm | George Brown College, St. James Campus

Taking place on Monday, June 2, 2025, the Student Symposium is a part of the Canadian Association for Food Studies Conference, and the broader Federation for Humanities and Social Sciences Congress hosted at George Brown College. The Student Symposium is intended for food-focused students and emerging scholars looking for exchange and discussion on the issues that are most important to them (it's also a nice way to make new food friends!).

This year, our program includes discussions on Indigenous perspectives and Institutional food system alternatives, with a tour of the George Brown Campus Chef School and gardens, complete with a lunch made by student chefs. We also invite participants to engage in a poster session and mentor chats with established scholars and community leaders. We have a full day planned for students, postdocs and emerging scholars in food studies. We'll kick things off with coffee, tea and icebreakers to get to know one another and set the tone for a day of connection and collaboration. We then have Kaitlin Rizarri (she/they), a PhD student in Social Justice Education, University of Toronto, joining us to talk about Indigenous relationships and perspectives on food. We then plan to head outdoors for guided tours of the gardens at George Brown College and lunch from the CHCA Café.

Following lunch, we have Michael Lawler (he/ him), a PhD candidate in Geography & Planning, University of Toronto, joining us for a discussion on institutional food and alternatives. Attendees will then have the opportunity to view and vote on research posters created by fellow participants winners will receive prizes! To close out the day, we've planned a panel of established food scholars and community actors to discuss their experiences moving from graduate studies to working within the field of food studies. Panelists include: Michael Classens (he/him) - assistant professor in the School of the Environment at the University of Toronto, David Szanto (he/him) - freelance academic, researcher, teacher, consultant, artist, and writer & Sharene Shafie - former research coordinator at TMU and now a project lead with the City of Toronto. The day will conclude with an opportunity to discuss topics covered throughout the day, as well as an opportunity to share contact information so that we can build our networks of like-minded scholars.

The Symposium is free, but requires early registration as there are limited spaces. Register <u>HERE</u>. We encourage participants to become members of CAFS. Join CAFS <u>HERE</u>.



CAFS STRATEGIC PLANNING EVENT & UPDATE

As the Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) enters its twentieth year, the organization has begun a strategic planning process to review its impact and chart a course for the next five years. Facilitated by the Strategic Planning Committee of the CAFS Board, the process seeks to meaningfully engage the CAFS membership and community, including scholars, researchers, practitioners, and community members interested in the evolving discipline of food studies.

This engagement includes a feedback survey, a series of interviews, and world cafe sessions to gather initial inputs to inform a draft strategic plan. The Community Feedback Survey Report summarizes the results of a survey that was conducted from January 28, 2025, to February 27, 2025.

The purpose of the survey was to gather initial feedback regarding experiences with CAFS activities and offerings, membership benefits, communications, and feedback on how CAFS may improve in the future. Thank you to all who participated.

Find updates on the **CAFS' Committees** page.

Join us at one of two sessions for the next stage of the Strategic Planning process at Congress! CAFS STRATEGIC PLANNING June 4, 2025 | 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm June 5, 2025 | 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm

As the Canadian Association for Food Studies (CAFS) celebrates its 20th anniversary, we invite you to help shape its future. Aligned with the themes of the 2025 CAFS Conference, "reflecting on the past, assessing the present, and envisioning the future," this session will be offered at twice to ensure wide participation of the CAFS membership. It is a unique opportunity to explore how the organization can continue advancing its mission of fostering critical, interdisciplinary, and community-engaged scholarship. This session will draw on insights from the 2025 member survey and employ a participatory methodology to foster dynamic, inclusive dialogue on CAFS' core values, priorities, and strategic vision for the next three to five years. Participants will explore the organization's strengths, challenges, and opportunities, generating actionable ideas to enhance programming, advance equity and inclusion, and amplify CAFS role in addressing urgent food system challenges. Reflecting CAFS' commitment to interdisciplinarity, collaboration, and shared vision, this session will follow a structured World Cafe format. Participants will engage in small-group discussions guided by thoughtfully crafted questions and creative tools like collaborative note-taking and visual storytelling. Insights will be shared in a plenary exchange, where common themes and innovative ideas will be synthesized to shape

CAFS strategic plan. Join us to share your voice, connect with diverse perspectives, and contribute to shaping CAFS future. Through dialogue and creative collaboration, we will develop actionable strategies to strengthen food systems scholarship, advocacy, and community engagement. Together, we can advance CAFS mission to create meaningful change in Canada and beyond.

Please let us know which session you plan to attend here, so that we can best match our resources to the number of attendees per session. Register HERE.

THE CAFS AD HOC COMMITTEE ON PALESTINE AND THE RIGHT TO FOOD EVENTS & UPDATE

The genocide being perpetrated by the Israeli state against the Palestinian population continues and while violence escalates, political impunity and crack-down on solidarity efforts expand. This is relevant to the CAFS community because many of our members have been directly and indirectly impacted and more broadly, food has been actively used as a weapon by the Israeli state. Importantly, Palestinian people across the globe have also used food as part of resistance and liberation efforts.

In early 2024, the Committee hosted a virtual panel session, Food, Empire and Colonialism: From Palestine to Turtle Island on May 9th that is now available on the <u>CAFS website</u>. On May 29, the Committee hosted a CAFS' members-only



screening of the film <u>Aisha's Story</u> which is now being shown at several film festivals including <u>Hot Docs</u>.

More recently, members of the Committee co-authored two open access articles. Building on the May 29 panel, From Palestine to Turtle Island: Food as a weapon of colonialism and tool of liberation was published in Canadian Food Studies (Vol. 11 No. 3 (2024): Pathways to decolonial governance and planetary health). The Committee also published an article in the Conversation Canada titled, Colonialism, starvation and resistance: How food is weaponized, from Gaza to Canada. Much of our energy in the past months has been focused on organizing three sessions at the upcoming CAFS Assembly in Toronto in June. These

sessions consist of two keynote panels that bring together Palestinian and Canadian Indigenous scholars to address issues of food sovereignty in the context of settler colonialism in Canada/Turtle Island and Palestine. The panels are supported by the Congress Open Programming Fund and will be open to all Congress participants. The first panel, Constructions of food Sovereignty in the Palestinian Context: Land, Resistance, and Self-Determination will take place on June 4 from 9:30-11:00 and include Ahmed Abu Shaban (Associate Professor and Dean at Al-Azhar University in Gaza and a visiting professor at York University), Fathi Nimer (Palestine policy fellow at Al-Shabaka - The Palestine Policy), and Shayma Nader (a visual artist and PhD candidate at Saint Lucas School of Arts and University of Antwerp). The second panel, Colonial Domination and Resistance: Palestine and Beyond will take place on June 4 from 4:15-5:45 with Shady Hafez (Yellowhead Institute and PhD Candidate at the University of Toronto), Moayyad Bsharat (an Independent Researcher and Project Manager at Union of Agricultural Work Committees), Danya Nadar (CAFS board member and PhD Candidate at the University of Antwerp). Finally, we will be hosting an advanced research workshop for CAFS members interested or already engaged in supporting food systems research in Palestine on June 4 from 11:00-12:30. We look forward to seeing CAFS members and others in June.

PODCASTS & BLOGS

EXPLORING CULTURE, IDENTITY, AND BELONGING—THROUGH FOOD



As a writer, experience designer, and community worker, I use food as a lens to explore questions of identity, heritage, and meaning-making. My Substack is a space where I reflect on the stories and tensions embedded in what we eat, drawing from personal experience, cultural memory, and the everyday politics of food.

Growing up in a multicultural city - with family roots in India, Vietnam, and China, I often felt disconnected from a clear sense of belonging. Writing about food has become a way for me to piece together fragments of culture, memory, and identity—and by sharing my story, I invite others to do the same.

If you're interested in stories that move beyond recipes to explore how food shapes who we are, I'd love to share my work with you. I invite you to read My First Foray into the Professional Kitchen, a reflection on power and vulnerability in culinary spaces, and on being in transition amidst a career change.

Read more **HERE**.

RESEARCH

BREEDING DIVERSITY, COMMUNITY AND HEALTH: MOBILIZING SEEDS AND GROWING IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO

This partnership with the Lakehead University Agricultural Research Station (LUARS) works with researchers, farmers, non-profit organizations and small businesses to pilot a series of ecological seeds trials through landrace seed breeding. Using farmer-led and community-based research, this project focuses on food sovereignty and agroecology and aims to improve knowledge, skills and capacity to produce healthy and sustainable food in Northwestern Ontario.



Landrace seed breeding is a millennia-old sustainable breeding technique that works collaboratively with communities and ecosystems to develop genetically diverse crop populations that produce regionally adapted, stable yields. It is also an accessible way to introduce and involve people in seed saving and sustainable agriculture. Landrace seeds are highly resilient and adaptable to changing environmental conditions. This project is co-breeding landraces at LUARS, on farms in the

Thunder Bay region, and in communities across northwestern Ontario. Through this work we aim to build landrace breeding capacity and gain a better understanding of the impacts of this practice in supporting resilient regional food systems and seed sovereignty in our region.

This project has four objectives:

1) To evaluate the agronomic impacts of landra-

ce seed breeding by trialing the landraces currently in development against commercial varieties;

- 2) To support growers and communities in northwestern Ontario in the creation of landrace populations to meet their needs through seed sourcing and growouts:
- 3) To raise awareness of/engage people in landrace seed breeding through field tours, workshops and training events; and
- 4) To facilitate peer-to-peer knowledge sharing as a means by which to collaboratively increase and diversify the supply of regionally adapted seed in north-western Ontario.

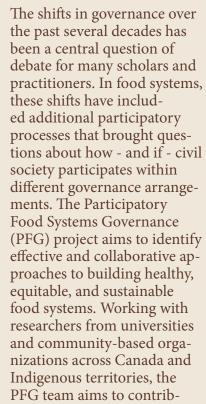
Together, project partners are facilitating and bringing togeth-

er growers from across Northwestern Ontario who want to engage in food and seed production. Through their participation in the project, growers are developing their collective capacities to work with landraces, and produce seeds well suited to their ecosystems. Resources such as quantitative

data sets, a handbook on landrace breeding, annual reports, academic papers, and most importantly landrace seeds have been developed and shared.

To learn more, see our website.

UPDATES FROM THE PARTICIPATORY FOOD GOVERNANCE PROJECT



ute to the development of strategies that facilitate more democratic and integrated engagement with food systems policy and decision-making.

As the project continues, the team has published both academic and public facing works. Some



recent highlights include:

- The case study report for the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council (the Council) that illuminates the experiences and challenges of the inaugural process as well as opportunities to strengthen the Council in the future.
- A recent article that explores and contributes to understandings of food systems governance (Levkoe, C.Z., Wilkes, J., Andrée, P. (2025) Advancing Food Systems Governance: Perspective of Civil Society Organizations. Journal of Civil Society, 21(1): 83-102).

In the coming months, the PFG team has several exciting opportunities to engage with the CAFS community, including the PFG Roundtable coming up on June 3rd from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m. at the annual gathering. At CAFS, we will be joined by six civil society and food systems leaders (including Marissa Alexander, Rachel Cheng, Moe Garahan, Mair Greenfield, Scott Ross, and Wendie Wilson) to discuss participatory processes and the future of engagement.

We look forward to seeing everyone in June! In the interim, to find out more about the PFG project and to access the articles and reports, please visit our website.

PUBLICATIONS

BASIC INCOME & RESILIENT FOOD SYSTEMS IN CANADA

Read our NEW report, 'Basic Income & Resilient Food Systems in Canada.' This report shares the results of a series of outreach workshops with farmers, fishers, and food security organizations across Canada on the topic of basic income in the

food system. We identify gaps in existing support systems; opportunities for a basic income guarantee; and limitations and considerations for a basic income guarantee across key food



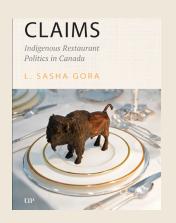
system sectors. We conclude with recommendations for researchers, policymakers, and social movements seeking to further the development of a basic income as a tool for food system resilience.

CULINARY CLAIMS: INDIGENOUS RESTAURANT POLITICS IN CANADA

Culinary Claims explores the complex relationships between wild plants and introduced animals, Indigenous foodways, and Canadian regulations. Blending food studies with environmental history, the book examines how cuisines reflect social and political issues related to cultural representation, restaurants, and food sovereignty.

L. Sasha Gora chronicles the rise of Indigenous restaurants and their influence on Canadian food culture, engaging with questions about how shifts in appetite reflect broader shifts in imaginations of

local environments and identities. Drawing on a diverse range of sources – from recipes and menus to artworks and television shows – the book



discusses both historical and contemporary representations of Indigenous foodways and how they are changing amid the relocalization of food systems.

Culinary Claims tells a new story of settler colonialism and Indigenous resistance, emphasizing the critical role that restaurants play in

Canada's cultural landscape. It investigates how food shapes our understanding of place and the politics that underpin this relationship. Ultimately, the book asks, What insights can historians gain from restaurants – and their legacies – as reflections of Indigenous and settler negotiations over cultural claims to land?

Gora, L. Sasha. <u>Culinary Claims: Indigenous</u> <u>Restaurant Politics in Canada</u>. Toronto, Buffalo, and London: University of Toronto Press, 2025.

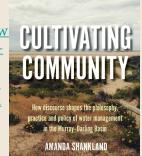
CULTIVATING COMMUNITY: HOW DISCOURSE SHAPES THE PHILOSOPHY, PRACTICE, AND POLICY OF WATER MAN-AGEMENT IN THE MURRAY-DARLING BASIN

This book explores the pressing water management challenges in the Murray-Darling Basin, a region vital to Australian agriculture and rural life. Based on extensive fieldwork with farmers and

policymakers, Cultivating Community unpacks how different environmental ideologies shape both public policy and everyday water practices.

The book engages with four key environmental discourses—administrative rationalism, economic rationalism, democratic pragmatism, and green environmentalism—and introduces a new framework I call community centrism. This discourse highlights the transformative power of grassroots cooperation and the role of community-based knowledge in building a more resilient water future.

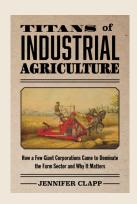
Cultivating Community: How discourse shapes the philosophy, practice and policy of water management in the Murray–Darling Basin (Sydney University Press), Amanda Shankland



You can also read Shankland's latest article in the Journal of Agricultural and Environmental Ethics: "Community-Centred Environmental Discourse: Redefining Water Management in the Murray-Darling Basin, Australia."

TITANS OF INDUSTRIAL AGRICULTURE: HOW A FEW GIANT CORPORATIONS CAME TO DOMINATE THE FARM SECTOR AND WHY IT MATTERS

Every year, hundreds of billions of dollars' worth of farm machinery, fertilizer, seeds, and pesticides are sold to farmers around the world. Although agricultural inputs are a huge sector of the global economy, the lion's share of that market is controlled by a relatively small number of very large transnational corporations. The high degree of concentration among these agribusiness titans is striking, considering that just a few hundred years ago agricultural inputs were not even marketed goods. In Titans of Industrial Agriculture,



Jennifer Clapp explains how we got from there to here. The book outlines the forces that enabled this extreme concentration of power and the entrenchment of industrial agriculture, as well as its social and environmental consequences.

Clapp, Jennifer. (2025). <u>Titans of Industrial Agriculture</u>: How a Few Giant Corporations Came to <u>Dominate the Farm Sector and Why it Matters</u>. MIT Press.

NOTHING TO HIDE: HOW GOVERNMENTS JUSTIFY THE ADOPTION OF AG-GAG LAWS

Mainstream practices for producing meat, eggs, and dairy raise numerous concerns regarding public health, animal welfare, and environmental integrity. However, governments worldwide have expanded anti-whistleblower legislation that constrains informed public debate. Since 2019, several Canadian provinces have adopted so-called "ag-gag" laws designed to prevent hidden-camera investigations on farms and meat processing facilities. How do governments across Canada justify ag-gag laws as serving the public interest? To what extent do agricultural industry interests shape government adoption of ag-gag laws? Using Freedom of Information requests and debate records from

provincial legislatures, we find that biosecurity is the most prominent justification for ag-gag laws, and that governments exhibit a close, collaborative relationship with industry actors. This case demonstrates that when it comes to contested sites of capital accumulation, governments are drawing on new spatial-legal tools to protect the status quo interests of private industry by dissuading dissent, debate, and public scrutiny.

Weiler, A. M., & Zavitz, T. (2025). Nothing to hide: How governments justify the adoption of ag-gag laws. Canadian Review of Sociology/Revue canadienne de sociologie, 62(1), 75-98.

Weiler, A., & Zavitz, T. (2024, December 5). <u>How Ag-Gag Laws Hurt Animals and Increase Pandemic Risks</u>. The Tyee.



CANADIAN FOOD STUDIES

The latest issue of Canadian Food Studies/La Revue canadienne des études sur l'alimentation features four articles and an editorial in a themed section on Carceral Food Systems, guest edited by Ami Stearns and Amanda Wilson.

Vol. 12 No. 1 (2025): Exploring Carceral Food Systems



Editorial

Exploring carceral food systems: Tensions, experiences and possibilities

Ami Stearns, Amanda Wilson

Themed Section

<u>Protest pizzas: Resisting carcerality with storytelling, community building, and an array of toppings</u> Kelsey Timler

Contesting through food: Tracking hunger strikes in carceral food systems

Julie Courchesne, Amanda Wilson

Between community and contempt: Narratives of carceral food provisioning
Amanda Wilson

Punishment and waste: Family meals in Correctional Services of Canada's Private Family Visits
Else Marie Knudsen

Research Articles

Partnerships and knowledge sharing for sustainable school food systems in Saskatchewan
Kaylee Michnik, Hannah Blischak, Clara Castro-Zunti, Alex McGreavey, Ester Kang, Chelsea
Brown, Mark Thomas, Rachel Engler-Stringer

Fishing amongst industrial ghosts: Green sea urchin fishing in the Saint-Lawrence Estuary Charlotte Gagnon-Lewis

"You want my money? dance!": Consumers and a just transition in the food system
Bryan Dale

Commentary

Strengthening democratic governance in times of crisis: Lessons from the Canadian Food Policy Advisory Council Johanna Wilkes

Field Report / Narrative

Exploring the inter-connections between Alternative Agrifood and Seafood Networks for building food systems resilience

Kristen Lowitt, Charles Z. Levkoe, Sarah-Patricia Breen, Lindsay Harris, Hannah L. Harrison, Jon MacDonald, Phoebe Stephens, Joshua S. Stoll, Bruna Trevisan Negri, Connor Warne, Philip A. Loring

Art/Design Work

Milk & Bread: A found object collage series Susan Goldberg

Book/Art/Event Reviews

A review of The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World Johanna Wilkes

A review of The Lost Supper: Searching for the Future of Food in the Flavors of the Past Penelope Volinia

The Choux Questionnaire

The CFS Choux Questionnaire Joshna Maharaj

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DE L'ÉQUIPE DE L'INFOLETTRE FROM THE NEWSLETTER TEAM

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of the newsletter. Thank you to Abra Brynne for the copy edit! Kind Regards, Michelle Ryan PhD