

# Eat, Think, and Be Wary – The Food and Society Series

## About the Series

The 2010-2011 Food and Society Series consisted of speakers, films, a museum “slow art” tour, a library exhibit, and a web presence.

## Distinguished Lectures

Funding from Mizzou Advantage enabled us to bring nationally known scholars to campus to address topics related to food and society, establish personal and professional ties to MU faculty and students, and develop a network of scholars examining the social dimensions of food.



Wes Jackson urging more sustainable agricultural practices



Psyche Williams-Forsion critiquing ethnic stereotypes involving fried chicken



Susan Bordo discussing the media, gender, body image & eating problems

## Films Screened

Films were selected for their ability to illustrate key aspects of food traditions in a variety of cultural contexts—from the communal & celebratory to the dystopian.



## Eat, Think, and Be Wary The Food & Society Series



So seemingly mundane, food lies at the heart of the human experience. From the farm to the fork, food takes on social significance far outweighing the scholarly attention it receives. This sampling of speakers, films, and artifacts is intended to draw attention to some of the complex issues facing our society—and to whet the appetite for conversations to come—about what we eat, how we eat, and how our food is procured.

### Fall 2010

**FILM: *Soylent Green*** (Fleischer 1973, 97 min)  
Tuesday, Sept. 14th, 6:30 pm, 105 Strickland Hall

**LECTURE: “The Future of Food”**  
Warren Belasco, Professor of American Studies  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
Thursday, Sept. 16th, 6:00 pm  
106 Pickard Hall, Reception at 5:30

**FILM: *Big Night*** (Tucci and Scott 1996, 109 min)  
Thursday, Sept. 23rd, 7:00 pm, 106 Pickard Hall

**LECTURE: “The Archaeology of Big-Game Hunting: Protein, Fat, or Politics?”**  
John Speth, Professor of Anthropology  
University of Michigan, Wednesday, Oct. 20th  
6:00 pm, 106 Pickard Hall, Reception at 5:30

**FILM: *Food, Inc.*** (Kenner 2008, 94 min)  
Wednesday, Oct. 27th, 7:00 pm  
Friends Room, Columbia Public Library

**FILM: *Babettes Feast*** (Axel 1987, 102 min)  
Thursday, Nov. 4th, 7:00 pm, 106 Pickard Hall

**LECTURE: “What’s for Dinner, Missouri?”**  
William T. Stolz, Western Historical Manuscript  
Collection, Tuesday, Nov. 16th, 7:00 pm  
Friends Room, Columbia Public Library

**FILM: *Pressure Cooker*** (Becker & Grausman  
2008, 99 min), Wednesday, Nov. 17th, 7:00 pm  
Friends Room, Columbia Public Library

**LECTURE: “Suckin’ the Chicken Bone Dry: African American Women, History and Food Culture”**  
Psyche Williams-Forsion, Associate  
Professor of American Studies, University  
of Maryland, College Park  
Tuesday, Nov. 30th, 6:00 pm  
106 Pickard Hall, Reception at 5:30

### Spring 2011

**LECTURE: “The Next 50 Years on the American Land”**  
Wes Jackson, President of The Land Institute  
Thursday, Jan. 27th, 6:00 pm  
106 Pickard Hall, Reception at 5:30

**LECTURE: “Beyond Eating Disorders: Why We Need to Re-Think Everything We Thought We Knew”**  
Susan Bordo, Professor of English/Gender  
& Women’s Studies, University of Kentucky  
Monday, Mar. 14th, 6:00 pm  
106 Pickard Hall, Reception at 5:30

**FILM: *Como agua para chocolate (Like Water for Chocolate)*** (Arau 1992, 123 min)  
Thursday, Mar. 17th, 7:00 pm, 106 Pickard Hall

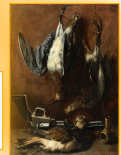
**FILM: *Last Supper*** (Bigert and Bergström  
2005, 58 min), Thursday, Apr. 7th, 6:00 pm  
106 Pickard Hall, Facilitated discussion to  
immediately follow, Bob Baum, Associate  
Professor, Religious Studies Department  
Reception at 5:30

## Related Programming

The “Slow Art Movement” counters the “tourist” method of seeing as many art works as possible in a short amount of time. Instead, visitors spend more time with fewer objects, in order to engage more deeply with them. The MUMAA developed slow art experiences around key artifacts that reveal societal attitudes towards food and its procurement. “The Art of Food” blog offers examples.



Exhibit at Ellis Library, developed by Kim Nochi, Graduate Research Assistant, MUMAA (Fall 2010).



Images courtesy of MUMAA.

## Outcomes

The Food and Society Series sought to 1) bring attention to the social and artistic dimensions of food; 2) highlight research from different disciplines that examine the intersection of food and society; and 3) build and strengthen a network of MU faculty, students, community members interested in the social and artistic dimensions of food.

- Over 720 people attended the lectures, 210 people screened the films, and 160 faculty and students met with the guest speakers outside of the lecture.
- In addition to lecturing, each speaker attended a class and/or hosted brown-bag lunch with key MU academic departments.
- Initial networking involved the Departments of English, Anthropology, Biological Sciences, History, Religious Studies, Rural Sociology, and Women and Gender Studies.

## Collaborators

Alex Barker (MU Museum of Art & Archeology), Cathy Callaway (MUMAA), Kristie Lee (MUMAA), Marilyn McCleod (Columbia Public Library), Arthur Mehrhoff (MUMAA), Kim Nochi (MUMAA), LuAnne Roth (Department of English)



The Food and Society Series is funded by Mizzou Advantage, with support from the Museum of Art & Archeology, the Department of English & the Columbia Public Library. For more information contact LuAnne Roth at [rothl@missouri.edu](mailto:rothl@missouri.edu) or see <http://mas.missouri.edu>