Food fairs and festivals and resisting the Green Revolution from below

Organizadores:

Lidia Cabral - Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom

Moderador: Lidia Cabral

Street fairs, local markets and short agro-food circuits: different forms of identity that resist in time

Eber Quinonez (eberqguate@gmail.com) Faculdade de Economia, Universidade de Coimbra, Portugal

This paper discusses how the different forms of local commerce (travelling fairs, local [municipal] markets contribute to maintaining identities and rebuilding relationships between consumers - producers [and sellers]. It seeks to analyse the role that these forms of local commerce play in agricultural products have, both in relationships and in food sovereignty, maintaining themselves over time and resisting the shocks of the hegemonic agri-food distribution and commercialization system. Since it is these forms of local trade that remain encrusted in the social, cultural and economic sphere of local populations, with traditionalist and even identity aspects. of producers in the Calhabé market, in the same city, which the short circuits of agri-food commercialization were studied.

Street fairs; agri-food short circuits; food sovereignty

Intangible exchanges and everyday politics in three Rio de Janeiro food fairs

Lidia Cabral (l.cabral@ids.ac.uk) Institute of Development Studies, United Kingdom; Claudia Job Schmitt (claudia.js21@gmail.com) CPDA, Universidade Federal Rural do Rio de Janeiro, Brasil

Food fairs are spaces where people come into close contact around the transaction or celebration of food. They have a distinct logic to impersonal and commodified food transactions mediated by retailers. It is assumed that the social interactions that happen in these spaces allow for other things to be exchanged alongside foodstuffs. This may be knowledge about farming and cooking, social identities linked to the territories where food originates, or allegiances to food movements and struggles. The paper will explore what and how more-than-food transactions happen in these spaces, focusing on three cases: an annual fair featuring produce from Landless Rural Workers' Movement (MST) settlements and seeking to advance food sovereignty (Feira Cícero Guedes); a weekly fair in a low-income neighbourhood tightly connected with the agroecology movement (Feira de Campo Grande); and a daily food, crafts and entertainment fair established to celebrate North-eastern culture but evolving into a hybrid assemblage of products and cultures (Feira de São Cristóvão). Using the notion of everyday politics in public spaces, the paper will explore how fair participants express their preferences, identities and political stances. This analysis will contribute to research on food system proximities, shedding light on the under-researched role of intangible exchanges in voicing food politics.

food fairs; Brazil; everyday politics; agroecology; food sovereingnty

Weaving motifs of care: Understanding resilience through/with agricultural festivals in India

Poonam Pandey (p.pandey23@gmail.com) University of Vigo, Spain

Using agricultural festivals as the site of inquiry and engagement, this paper explores the relationship between resilience in agri-food systems and different dimensions of care. The question of care, as affective, interdependent, and entangled relationships between humans and more-than-human beings, is emerging as a central theme in discussion about politics of sustainability, climate change, biodiversity conservation, future of agriculture, and the possibility of life on earth itself (Bellacasa 2017, Barad 2017, Barca 2014). As per feminist science and technology studies scholars, care is not just a lens to observe the world but rather an ethicopolitical obligation that manifests through everyday material doings and world-making practices of actors (including researchers as well). This paper looks at four agricultural festivals in India (two traditional and two contemporary) in order to unpack diverse dimensions of caring for the marginal and vulnerable beings that are woven into material practices and rituals that shape these events, evidently building resilience in small-holder, sustenance based agriculture.

Agri-food; Festivals; care; resilience; India