



L'OCHA, l'Unité d'anthropologie bio-culturelle-UMR 6578 (CNRS/Université de la Méditerranée) et le Laboratoire Cultures et Sociétés en Europe (CNRS/Université de Strasbourg) are organizing an International Symposium on the theme:

Adolescent Food Habits: Conceptualizing Diversity Paris, December 1, 2, 3, 2010

Call for Communications

The adolescent diet is increasingly the focus of sociological and anthropological theory. Alarm signals as to the spread of obesity and overweight, fears of a homogenization and massification of behaviors via consumption and world cultural flows, the conflicting views about the very notion of adolescence, some of which underscore the precocity, others the extension of it, seem to contribute to a trend toward the pathologization both of contemporary dietary habits and today's adolescents, represented as subjects running risks and placing the society to which they belong at risk, rather than individuals caught up in ordinary behavior. Torn between an image of passivity that makes them undiscerning consumers and the enjoinders of genuineness and individuality, adolescents thus become inaudible if they are not examined in their own right by undertaking systematic research that departs from the adult-centered viewpoint.

The aim of the symposium is to deconstruct the univocal notion of "adolescent food culture" and show the complexity of the multiple identifications confronting adolescents. It is also to analyze the plurality of food behaviors and arrangements with norms. We thus hope to shed light on a fundamental matter of public health not from the strictly nutritional angle but in the interaction between dietary habits, lifestyles, individual experiences and cultural and social affiliations.

Food in fact is a powerful analytical prism for the relationship to the body, the self and others and helps understand how individuals construct themselves through eating. Through the multiplicity of actors it mobilizes, the diversity of products and ways of preparing and consuming them, the complexity of sectors (consumers, production, distribution, etc.), examining adolescent food habits helps to break down the monolithic image of the adolescent (and a few fetish products: pizza, hamburger, soda...) to allow the multiplicity of adolescent experiences to unfurl.

We thus hope to analyze food as one of the many areas in which juvenile attachments are constructed. By developing the anthropological dimension of the diversity of contexts, situations, behaviors, beliefs and practices, we also wish to query adolescent *agency* and the way adolescents partake in producing and actualizing their cultures, norms, age-group, gender, and social class membership as well as family and sometimes even national and transnational cultures.

We invite communications on the following themes:

- a- food habits as analytical prism for the construction of age groups, gender identification and male/female achievement;
- b- a critique of the notions of culture, ethnicity and identity bricolage through adolescent food habits;
- c- food, body and body aesthetics as loci of identity markers and identity conflicts;
- d- the morphological evolution between cultural and social norms in adolescence.
- e- globalization of markets and hybridization of practices: revisiting the tensions between "local" and "global" through adolescent behaviors and choices
- f- processes of identification and trajectories to gain independence via food consumption, from purchasing decisions and strategies to the ways of preparing and consuming food;



- g- transmission practices between generations and within a given age group, with regard to culinary know-how and dietary practices;
- h- borrowing, conflict, hybridization, circulation and reappropriation of “culinary traditions” experimented by adolescents both within the family and outside the home;
- i- adolescents, dietary practices and the experience of migration.

Working languages: French, English

Proposed contributions: Submit summary by May 1, 2010

A short presentation of your paper in French or in English (1000 to 1500 words, Times New Roman 12 single spaced) together with your bio-bibliography (10 lines maximum), for selection of contributors by the scientific advisory board is requested by May 1, 2010.

You are invited to submit your proposals by May 1, 2010:

Véronique PARDO, Anthropologist, AlimAdos coordinator: vpardo@cniel.com

AND

Nicoletta DIASIO, Anthropologist, scientific advisor: nicoletta.diasio@misha.fr

Each short presentation should include the paper title, the name(s) of the contributor(s), his or her affiliation and contact details (postal and email address).

Instructions for authors

- The proposal should be concise, outlining objectives, method, results and conclusions and the theme it comes under.
- The title should be short and clearly indicate the nature of the study.
- All papers selected for presentation (oral or poster) will later be posted online on the OCHA website.

Authors will receive:

- an email confirmation of summary submission
- notification of acceptance or rejection of the proposed contribution by the scientific advisory board by June 15, 2010

Symposium venue

The symposium will take place in the amphitheatre of the Gérard Mégie campus – headquarters of the CNRS - 3 rue Michel-Ange – 75016 Paris - France. The location is well served by public transportation (Metro: Lines 9 and 10; Bus: lines 22, 52, 62, 72): Station Michel-Ange - Auteuil

(Situation map: <http://www.cnrs.fr/paris-michel-ange/spip.php?article748>).

The Gérard Mégie Campus is accessible to people with reduced mobility.

Welcome of participants:

Participants will be welcomed on December 1st as of 8:30 a.m.

An attendant will be on duty throughout the duration of the symposium to register participants who arrive after the symposium has started.

Contributors will be exempt from paying registration fees.

Accommodation

The symposium organizers will not handle hotel reservations. Paris has a considerable offer of accommodation and the official website of the Tourist Office (<http://www.parisinfo.com/>) will enable you to make your choice depending on your desires. We will supply you with a list of hotels near the symposium venue.

Opening of registration to the public (non-contributors)

People who wish to attend the symposium should send in the registration form and fee by November 1, 2010. Space is limited, so registration will be on a first come-first serve basis (200 places)

Registration for the symposium will only be final upon receipt of the registration form and fee (by check).

The registration form and fees for non-contributors will be available in the very near future.

Download the registration form as of March 1st from www.lemangeur-ocha.com