

*Alimentation et migration : approches méthodologiques et enjeux contemporains. I.
Approches méthodologiques*

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Exploring methodological approaches to food and migration in public spaces – Norwegian case studies in the FOOD2GATHER project

In this presentation, we will share information from the Norwegian part of the project FOOD2GATHER, with a special focus on the methodological approaches facilitating that the “field” plays an active role in the fieldwork.

In a first introductory part we will present FOOD2GATHER, a new HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area) ‘Public spaces: culture and integration in Europe’ project. FOOD2GATHER explores the relations between food and public spaces in the context of migration. The aim is to problematize food as a potential driver of opportunities for intercultural communication and interaction. The project builds on the concept of foodscapes (Dolphijn, 2004). Foodscapes are constructed places wherein food practices, values, meanings and representations intersect with the material and environmental realities that sustain the experience of food. Through case studies in six European countries, FOOD2GATHER explores the potentialities of foodscapes as a dynamic tool for facilitating living together through.

In a second part, we will present our ethnographic, historical, visual and participatory perspectives on food-related initiatives developed by the Norwegian team. The ethnographic fieldwork in Oslo will first give us an overview of the issues and involved actors concerning food and migration in a given public space. Next, we will organize a hybrid forum to stimulate concrete and effective dialogue amongst all actors in the chosen case. This aims at creating awareness, facilitating collective exploration and learning to reach a mutual discovery and comprehension, but also at developing a pilot project that is directly related to the case.

SCHMIDT Donatella, PALUTAN Giovanna

The centrality of food in forced migrants’ experience. Case-studies from Rome

Our paper aims to explore the symbolic meaning of food for refugees and asylum seekers hosted in two reception centres in the city of Rome. Drawing from an ongoing ethnographic research it intends to focus on ways in which, in the new context, forced migrants rephrase ritual experiences characterized by norms, food prohibitions, and classifications. We start from the theoretical assumption of the existence of a reference food system (see Mintz 1996, Lewis 2010) within which

the single ingredients can be modified or replaced without breaking up the system itself. By food system we mean everything related to the main dish, spices and condiments as well as ways of preparation, presentation and consumption (Guigoni 2009). We will look at ways in which reception centres facilitate moments of sharing connected to food, and its resignification in the new context.

Our methodological approach will focus on the narrative mode through privileged witnesses and the technique of photoeliciting.

LUCAS Joana

“A Ramadan in Lisbon” – procedures and challenges in making a film on the food practices of Muslim communities in Lisbon

Starting from the process of making a documentary film on the month of Ramadan – A Ramadan in Lisbon (2019) - this proposal will seek to discuss how food practices among Muslim communities in Lisbon metropolitan area are experienced, while analyzing some processes – both logistic and legal - to which these food consumptions are subjected.

Starting from the analysis of halal meat, which is primarily a consumption mediated by various social actors and processes of legal and religious certification, it is intended to discuss how all these moments are lived, and differently experienced, by diverse Muslim communities in Lisbon, and how halal meat consumption - and its legitimation - is one of the main challenges for a heterogeneous and differentiated Muslim community.

Therefore, we intend to discuss some questions that arose from this research, namely 1) how the Portuguese market has recently adapted to differentiated and religiously marked food consumptions, but also, 2) the strategies that are being found by the communities in order to control part of the processes that lead to their food consumptions, including halal meat.

Finally, we will focus on the ethnographic data collected during the month of Ramadan of 2018, taking into account the specificity of the food practices that took place on this occasion, and how their logistical organization by/for different communities is planned and experienced. More attention will be paid here to halal meat consumption, but we will also seek to focus on other food consumptions.