

## **Why We Eat How We Eat: Food Choices, Nutrition and the Politics of Eating**

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2011. Hosted by the Anthropology Department,  
Goldsmiths College, in partnership with SOAS Food Studies Centre.**

### **Call for Conference Papers**

Never have individual food choices been so much at the forefront of political and policy debates. Recent attention on obesity has been accompanied by campaigns for breastfeeding and the provisioning of healthy food in schools, while industrial agricultural practices and the use of pesticides have been questioned both by policy-makers and consumers. Yet, while nutrition, the politics of eating and modalities of body management have been increasingly addressed by the academy, the methodological and theoretical approaches utilised have been wide-ranging and disparate.

The key objective of this conference is to draw together these previously diverse perspectives in order to explore and create exciting interdisciplinary approaches with which to engage with the complex debates surrounding food choices and eating patterns.

We therefore aim to share the findings of those working in a variety of relevant fields, from political economy to medical anthropology, food studies to social policy, and beyond. We anticipate that drawing together these varied paradigms will forge greater understandings of the embodied, social, political and economic factors that shape the ways individuals and social groups eat.

We welcome papers from all academic disciplines and sectors, and from individuals at all stages in their careers. Papers from doctoral candidates and early career researchers are especially welcome. Topics addressed in papers may include:

- Obesity: Politics, Press and Public Imaginings
- Nutrition: From Policies to Practices
- Risk Management Versus Food Pleasure: Taste, Calories and Paradigms of Health
- Food Scarcity, Hunger, Availability and Security
- Networks, Boundaries and Agency in Body / Food Relations
- Belonging and the Constitutions of Personhood
- Domestic Relations and the Politics of Nurturing
- Prestige, Distinction, Emulation and Class Definition
- Food Nationalism and Regionalism
- Economic Practices, Labour, Money and the Market
- Food Safety and Regulation
- Food Prohibitions, Religion and Morality
- From Multinationals to Artisans: Policy, Practices and Perceptions of the Food Industry
- Smallholding, Husbandry and Human / Animal Relations

Please send an abstract, of no more than 300 words, to Dr Emma-Jayne Abbots or Anna Lavis at [eatingconference@gold.ac.uk](mailto:eatingconference@gold.ac.uk). The deadline for proposals is Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 and we anticipate that speakers will be confirmed by the end of October. There is no charge for the conference, although we would appreciate if you could register your attendance at the above email address by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December.