**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Professor Anthony Winson**

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**University of Guelph**

Tuesday 27 June 2017, 09:30 - 10:30

Auditorium C2.12

**From Zoom to Wide Angle: Critical Perspectives with the Food Lens**

As the interdisciplinary study of food comes into its own, so too have a variety of perspectives emerged to map out this area of inquiry. In this talk I consider how the “food lens” can be a vital tool for the exploration and explication of wider societal processes which I take as a central task of the social sciences. I utilize my own research and that of others, in disparate contexts, to illustrate the utility of the food lens for furthering this objective of exploration and explication. I begin my journey with coffee as the starting point for understanding the troubling dilemmas that have plagued Central America in recent history. Apples, potatoes, peas and tomatoes are the backdrop for examining the changing configurations of power between farmers and processors in disparate regions of Canada. Highly processed and nutrient poor *pseudo* “food” products form the central motif for a deeper understanding forces behind societal wide changes in body composition and the adverse health outcomes they entail in the developed world, and now the global South. Finally, radioactive breadfruit and seafood are essential elements for understanding dramatic and devastating dietary transformations that undermined the health and imperil the future of Pacific Islanders in the context of the Cold War and its aftermath. The study of food can provide the window for investigating the most pressing issues around power and inequality in society. Fortunately, it also offers inspiring examples of a better and saner future.

