AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY ON STRUCTURAL RACISM PRESENT IN THE U.S. FOOD SYSTEM

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INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to provide current research and outreach on structural racism in the U.S. food system for the food system practitioner, researcher, and educator.

The following is an annotated bibliography on selected resources and publications focused on structural racism in the U.S. food system. Structural racism in the United States has been defined as the "normalization and legitimization of an array of dynamics—historical, cultural, institutional, and interpersonal—that routinely advantage whites while producing cumulative and chronic outcomes for people of color."1

Our intention was to look at literature that broadly covered structural racism across the entire food supply chain as well as to examine specific sectors of the chain. We also identified literature that links the social construction of whiteness2 and its intentional or consequential impact on structural racism within the United States' local food movement. We intentionally focused on recent peer-reviewed and gray literature3 materials that are national, regional, and local in scope; we also identified materials that included significant references. Blog posts, news or media articles, and college class syllabi are for the most part not included in this bibliography; however, these writings contribute significantly to the discussion on structural racism in the food system and should be part of a more comprehensive education program on this topic.

The purpose of this annotated bibliography is to provide current research and outreach on structural racism in the U.S. food system for the food system practitioner, researcher, and educator. Our intention is to update this resource on a recurring basis and suggest it be used as a companion resource for training or education sessions on structural racism in the food system.

We have made an effort to include the digital object identifier (DOI) of as many of the publications as possible. The DOI is useful to track electronic documents.

This fourth edition contains more than 50 new citations.

3 Gray literature is the general name for scholarly or substantive information produced outside traditional commercial publishing and distribution channels. Common publication types include: theses and dissertations; technical reports; working papers; evaluation reports; conference proceedings; publications from NGOs, INGOs, think tanks and policy institutes; patent, and preprints.

Examines Native American food sovereignty through the lens of 1990s Native North American literature. The author uses two creative writings to illustrate why Native Americans advocate for a rights- and culture-based approach to food. Several U.S. federal documents that acknowledge a right to food are outlined here, bringing attention to the forces threatening indigenous food systems.


Highlights the dimensions of class and race within farmers markets and the “green” economy.


Explores the interplay between race and class and the food system; the book’s 15 chapters outline these distinctions along the supply chain from production to consumption.


Identifies and examines two case studies of prevalent, pervasive White privilege in California. Additionally suggests how farmers markets can act as catalysts for anti-racism in the future of food movements.


Develops the concept of food justice and bridges this to activism on sustainable agriculture, food insecurity, and environmental justice.


In this editorial, the author makes explicit the way labor is at the heart of the food system in ethical, political, and economic ways. Specifically, labor conditions have been produced socially through public policy, public funds, and discursive practices of racism, and they inherit the practices of slavery, indentured servitude, and exploitation.

Describes the life of Milwaukee, Wisconsin farmer Will Allen and his work developing urban farming techniques through his organization, Growing Power, to benefit underserved food desert communities. Growing Power seeks to prove that the food system is the solution to youth empowerment, dismantling racism, creating jobs, and bridging the urban–rural divide.


Describes through interviews the realities of current and past food system experiences from the perspective of Southern women of color.


Examines how Latino residents experience, think about, and address new exclusionary practices in the space of alternative food activism in Boston, Massachusetts.


Provides an in-depth analysis of the U.S. Farm Bill, with a particular focus on how Farm Bill policies are shaped by corporate power and how such policies affect the lives of marginalized communities. This report provides a thorough analysis, a set of comprehensive policy interventions, and a vision for a food sovereignty movement that puts “belonging” at its center.


Addresses the question of whether all communities have equal access to foods in order to make healthy dietary choices.


Designed to help neighbors, resident groups, and organizations in Baltimore, Maryland and other U.S. cities have a guided conversation through the connection between food and social justice, taking a critical look at one's own food environment.

Traces the roots of Black agricultural history, specifically examining African indigenous understandings of the connections between the natural and the spiritual. This article looks at specific Black farmers and how they are using farming to connect with their spiritual ancestry and agricultural heritage.


Analyzes the dimensions of structural racism that create and sustain areas of limited access to healthy food in low-income communities.


Focuses on Latina women and their contribution to the U.S. food supply chain.


Delves into the intricacies of the federal H-2A guestworker program, which allows foreign workers rightful employment in various farm-related jobs.


Gives an overview of recent food access research, demonstrating why disadvantaged communities commonly lack healthy food retail options and examining outcomes and potential solutions. The report acknowledges the growth of food access research but notes the continued need for work in this area.


Examines issues related to economic viability and paid and unpaid work in three alternative food initiatives in Boston, Massachusetts. Three assessment standards are used in the analysis.

Discusses the various ways that race shapes people’s lives, including racialized outcomes of food production, processing, and consumption.


Focuses on the challenges faced by and resilience of Black, Latino, Native, and Asian farmers in the United States.


Documents the scope and detail of employment abuses and safety-related issues facing U.S. crop-based farmworkers. The inventory catalogs current (as of 2010) federal workplace protections and public data on safety and enforcement of those protections.


Examines the way social movements of community food security, food sovereignty, and food justice are organized in order to fight to fairly distribute food while simultaneously reinscribing whiteness and patriarchal power. The authors argue that in order to correct this pattern, we must relocate our social movement goals and practices within a decolonizing and feminist leadership framework to highlight inclusive and just movements and scholarship.


A curation of five articles documenting evidence of racism in the U.S. restaurant industry.


Follows various food justice organizations in their work in low-income neighborhoods of color to develop community-based solutions to drive systemic social change around food. The author explores the possibilities and limitations of this approach in the age of the nonprofit industrial complex.

The authors argue that it is important for scholars and practitioners to be clear on how food justice differs from other efforts to seek an equitable food system and identify four nodes around which food justice organizing appears to occur: trauma/inequity, exchange, land, and labor. It sets the stage for the second article in the same journal (Slocum & Cadieux, 2015) on the practice of food justice in the U.S.


Examines incubator initiatives for new, small-scale farmers, specifically how structural barriers such as land access can impede beginning farmers’ eventual transition to independent proprietorship. The study examines how sociocultural and relational constraints impede land access for former immigrant farmworkers aspiring to independent farming in California’s Central Coast region.


Outlines discrimination by the USDA and reviews five major U.S. agricultural discrimination court cases: two involving African American farmers and one each involving Native American farmers, Hispanic farmers, and female farmers.

Carrasquillo, N. (2011). Race and ethnicity from the point of view of farm workers in the food system. *Race/Ethnicity: Multidisciplinary Global Contexts, 5*(1), 121–131. dx.doi.org/10.2979/racethmulglocon.5.1.121

Provides an analysis of U.S. agriculture and Latino farmworkers and the obstacles the workers confront within the food system. The author draws from his experiences working with CATA (El Comité de Apoyo a los Trabajadores Agrícolas, or the Farmworkers Support Committee).


Explores the politics of food in African American communities and potential obstacles that producers of plant-based vegan “meat” may face when trying to expand into African American markets. The author gives a health-centered rationale as to why African Americans should strongly consider consuming plant-based meat as an alternative to animal flesh, examines three obstacles—access, marketing, and African American food culture—and offers solutions to these obstacles.


Provides a set of policy recommendations for President Barack Obama’s administration that will build equity and sustainability for all in the U.S. food system.

Demonstrates how women of color who choose to breastfeed often face structural barriers, including poor medical infrastructure, restrictive workplace policies, and a lack of community acceptance.


Examines policies, plans, and research strategies related to urban agriculture in New York City. The study shows that urban agriculture resource needs remain, and that associated race- and class-based disparities continue to be present.


Describes how to challenge and eliminate corporate power and structural racialization in the U.S. food system and society as a whole. This article also analyzes ways that public and private institutions are structured and how government programs are administered and operated in a way that marginalizes low-income communities and communities of color. The author argues that the Farm Bill is both a reflection and a driver of inequities in the food system today.


Provides a useful literature review on anti-racist food scholarship and analyzes the benefits of linking organic farming work to indigenous food sovereignty.


An overview of the *Garcia v. Vilsack* case, in which Hispanic farmworkers filed a lawsuit against the USDA for credit transaction and disaster benefit discrimination. The overview discusses the exhaustive measures the farmworkers took to argue their case. It also draws upon and reviews three other cases: one involving African American farmers, one involving Native American farmers, and one involving female farmers.


These case studies focus on the process of working with recent Latino immigrants in farmer trainings. The outside organizers inadvertently strengthened a culture of whiteness because they did not share the same goals as the Latino immigrant participants.

Uses an equity lens to examine the funding behind projects and programs related to food.


Takes a look at workers in U.S. food industry occupations: farmworkers (production), slaughterhouse and other processing facilities workers (processing), warehouse workers (distribution), grocery store workers (retail), and restaurant and food service workers (service).


The author uses the framework of “food oppression” to analyze the ways in which popular culture engages with the deleterious effects of fast food. Media delivering these messages often do not reach communities that are most affected, such as low-income Black and Latino communities. The author argues for an eradication of food oppression to improve health and life expectancy in these communities, suggesting that activists must lobby for drastic changes in law, policy, and education as mounted attacks on food oppression happen through litigation, education, lobbying, and community-based organizations.


Explores the concept of food oppression through the USDA’s role in the milk industry.


An in-depth look at the relationship Black women have with breastfeeding and infant formula. The author examines how history shaped the problem of breastfeeding and infant formula use, beginning with slavery; the evolution of infant feeding practices; the rise of the role of pediatricians and lactation consultants as experts in relation to mothers; the medicalization and whitening of motherhood; and the relationship between overt racism and structural inequality.


This short brief from the coordinator of the Inter-Institutional Network for Food, Agriculture, and Sustainability (INFAS) delineates the way this working group has shifted its engagement with labor in the food system, concluding that it must focus on historical and institutional barriers that constrain food system sustainability.

Provides an inside perspective on how certain cultural practices within American food justice movements perpetuate oppression in the very organizations that are fighting to end such oppression. The author suggests a shift in focus to include more activist involvement in cultural work.


Presents the multi-institutional racial inequalities in the food system and looks at access, production, distribution, and labor and affordability issues in the food system.


A review of 115 sources since 1971 outlining research on Black farms and land loss.


Describes the ways that the agricultural system we have today is steeped in the legacy of plantation culture and settler colonialism. The authors posit that with direct activism, higher education faculty can support the food justice movement through scholarly work that integrates the study of agriculture, land, and labor through race, class, and gender perspectives.


Opens up the dialogue behind food justice, taking a closer look at the history of food justice and current attempts to change the system.


Examines the condition of Black farmers in the southern United States, focusing on their challenges and successes in the face of structural inequalities as well as grassroots organizations aimed at the sustainable livelihood of Black farmers.

Argues how projects aiming at bringing “good food” to others often reflect the “White desires” of the creators of the projects rather than the communities served.


This study surveyed managers of farmers markets and community-supported agricultural enterprises and found a general discomfort and an “if they only knew” approach to the lack of involvement of people of color in the local food movement.


Critiques the current state of the alternative food movement, focusing on the cultural politics of alternative food, analyzing the coding of the alternative food movement that has led to racial inequities. The author also calls for more inclusivity than is found in current attempts to transform the food system.


Challenges the food justice concept that cites obesity and diabetes in communities of color as evidence of injustice. Given that most obesity rankings are based on White bodies, and noting the distinction between racialism and racism, this article explores ways to think about biological difference along the lines of race without reducing it to genetics.


Focuses on the economic benefits associated with healthy food retail, particularly in low-income communities. This report looks at several types of healthy food retail strategies, including urban agriculture, community gardens, healthy corner stores, and federal nutrition assistance programs.


Examines the growth of urban agriculture in the United States. The authors demonstrate how urban farming has a plethora of benefits for communities, particularly low-income communities and communities of color, including improved access to healthy food, economic growth, and community development.

Identifies and addresses the faults found in alternative food movements as well as social injustice in the labor sector of large food corporations.


Examines federal court cases that address marketplace racial discrimination and accompanying legal issues and relevant legislation.


Looks at the situation of Latino dairy farmworkers in Wisconsin to describe how recent escalations in immigration enforcement and changes in migration practices affected the ability of the state to continue to serve two of its key “productive” functions within agriculture.


Through a case study of labor relations on Wisconsin dairy farms, the authors explore why employers engage in occupational segregation along lines of race, gender, and nativity. They ask how these workplaces have become segregated, what employers’ roles in this process have been, and why, in particular, employers have engaged in practices that contribute to workplace inequalities.


Explains how urban agriculture and the passage of AB 551, a California State Assembly bill that provided an innovative policy tool to incentivize the use of undeveloped urban land for agriculture and to advance food justice, may wind up simply serving the interests of propertied classes, who are usually White.


Examines ethnic segregation in the U.S. food system traced back to its roots as an output-maximizing system, calling for a systematic approach to policy making to better incorporate research and communities.
A look into the role food system workers, farmers, and farmworkers play in the United States’ Northeastern food system.


Recounts the progression from slavery to land ownership for Black Americans, showing how systemic variables undermined Black Americans’ land and farm ownership rights along the way.


A commentary on the marginalization of migrant workers in the Okanagan Valley agriculture industry. It covers the history of racism in this particular agricultural industry and problems faced by migrant workers in the industry today. The authors recommend possible ways to ease the challenges faced by migrant workers in the Okanagan Valley.


Examines the experience of Mexican migrant agricultural laborers, particularly the effects of anti-immigrant sentiment and racism on health and health outcomes. The author’s “embodied methodology” provides an intimate approach to migrant laborers’ experiences with border politics.


Highlights the present connection between the greater capitalist structure and the food system and how this connection has encouraged the racial and social class discrimination present in the food system today. The critique of neoliberal capitalism in the food system shows how public spaces have been changed to private ones.


The first in a series of articles about how racism and our food system have co-evolved, how present-day racism operates within the food system, and what we can do to dismantle racism and build a fair, just, and sustainable food system that works for everyone. The authors describe how racism manifests in the food system and how capital and caste systems are present in food justice work.

Summarizes the concept of food justice and explains its role in influencing food systems change.


A study conducted as a collaborative effort with a Native American community in northern California to assess barriers to healthy and culturally appropriate food access. Using a framework called the Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments (THRIVE), the community in the study determined racial injustice as a major barrier and worked to propose policy changes to improve food access.


Specifically looks at the concept of worker equity in the food and agriculture industry. This report uses the top 100 U.S. companies in food and agriculture as a way to analyze worker oversight and disclosure, equity policies and practices, compensation, health and safety, supply chain worker treatment, and access to healthy, affordable, and sustainable food.


Identifying and using an analysis of power and oppression structures, this commentary focuses on why studies of inclusion in food systems perpetuate both privilege and disadvantage.


Explores ways that community-engaged teaching and research partnerships can help build meaningful justice with food workers, given that much food system scholarship does not address engagement with food workers. The authors argue that despite significant gaps in the way that food movements are addressing labor issues, community–campus collaborations present an opportunity for building alliances to foster food justice.

Presents proof of the discriminatory purpose behind the exclusion of farmworkers from the maximum hours and overtime provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act. The author examines the full role of discrimination in excluding agricultural labor from the New Deal and present knowledge of the roles played by, and the relationship between, agriculture and racial discrimination. Black workers, Hispanic workers, and members of other “discrete and insular” racial minorities make up a majority of farmworkers affected by the overtime exclusion, positing that the continued disparate impact of the agricultural exclusion is fact.


Summarizes “good food” and “good jobs,” two movements that function parallel to one another, although the lack of both good food and good jobs negatively impacts communities of color. The report suggests that food and labor groups actually have fundamental shared interests and should work together.


Uses data and personal worker accounts to highlight and illustrate racial and gender bias in five sections of the U.S. food system: farming, food processing, food distribution, food retail, and restaurants.


Examines how access to and acceptance of good quality food is shaped and changed through the process of gentrification.


Delves into the beginning farmer phenomenon and farming apprenticeships, claiming that a critical approach is necessary in the design and nature of these experiences, in light of inequitable structural conditions that may increase barriers to new farm entry. The authors also explore how cultural whiteness within alternative agrifood movements translates to low inclusivity of historically underrepresented groups and may create structural barriers to entry for members of low socioeconomic status groups within on-farm apprenticeships and thus within beginning farmer education.


Brings together academic literature centered on food and addresses racial and class inequalities as well as the concept of neoliberalism in the food system.

Outlines a study done with focus groups of Latino residents in San José, California to hear directly the barriers they face in purchasing healthy fresh foods, not solely limited to access issues. Participants stated that high prices determined in which stores they would shop and which types of products they would or would not buy.


Identifies and addresses the whiteness that is socio-spatially created in farmers markets in California’s Central Valley region.


Examines inequalities in the food system and particularly notes the impacts these inequalities have on urban African American communities.


Confronts the issue of defining good food and the discrepancies associated with that definition. Examines racial assumptions in food systems education, providing an alternative educational framework as a proposed solution.


Demonstrates the important role agriculture plays in the Midwestern economy and argues that the United States’ current immigration policies fail to serve the needs of the agriculture sector, including year-round immigrant labor in crop and livestock production as well as agricultural processing, handling, and manufacturing.


Examines racial and income composition and healthy food availability. The authors explore the extent to which physical and social isolation affects healthy food availability for groups marginalized by race and class, using Topeka, Kansas, as a site location for study. They find that low-income Black neighborhoods have the lowest levels of healthy food availability.

This article explores the ways that farmworkers, many of whom come from a culture deeply rooted in food and agricultural practices, cope with food insecurity by utilizing their agricultural and nutritional knowledge, which challenges racialized assumptions that people of color do not know what “good food” is.


An exploration of unjust treatment of Asian immigrants in agriculture over the span of more than a century, starting with working-class Chinese in the late 1800s, expanding on Japanese farmers in the early 1900s, and ending with the struggles of the Hmong people from 1975 to 2009. The section on Hmong workers focuses on the burdensome implementation of workers’ compensation laws.


Examines the need for more diversity in food systems work, citing specifically the limited definition of “good food.” A solution is provided in the suggested implementation of a diversity/empowerment model.


A study of the Karuk Tribe of California and the hardships of their food environment. Specifically, the study examines how the Karuk people have been affected by institutional racism, racial formation, racial projects, environmental injustice, food insecurity, genocide, relocation, and forced assimilation.


The findings set forth in this report are intended to give communities and policy makers insight into food access issues in Santa Clara County, California. The findings are a starting point because they suggest that people’s health and the environment can be negatively affected not only by eating too many animal products but also by eating foods tainted with agricultural chemicals, which additionally have a serious impact on the workers who pick our food.


Looks at the current state of access to healthy foods in Vallejo, California, the largest city in Solano County. The authors examine the availability of food in stores in Vallejo to understand the types of establishments that are in business and to determine the types of food available for purchasing.

Traces the history of the Black Panther Party’s platform, which focuses on food justice and free food for all. The BPP’s Breakfast for Children Program paved the way for other food programs in the United States and served as a form of liberation, which current food justice organizations can learn from.


A description of the Black Farmers and Urban Gardeners Conference held in Detroit, Michigan, in 2014. The various topics of the conference engage Africanness and the food justice frame and politics in the food justice movement.


Examines gender and racial barriers linked to diversity requirements of land-grant institutions in the United States.


A commentary that offers three perspectives from a land-grant university (campus staff, field extension staff, and graduate student), outlining structural racism in the local food movement, identifying the potential promise of the Michigan Good Food Charter to address racial equity issues in the food system, and suggesting tools that land-grant university food system researchers and educators can use to begin to understand structural racism.


Contains a timeline that re-examines the evolution of the local food movement in the United States in the context of the four elements of good food: healthy, fair, affordable, and “green.” The report narrative and timeline frames multiracial and multicultural contributions to “good food.”

Documents the confluence between Hispanic farmworkers and business owners. Hispanic farmworkers are underrepresented as a subset of business owners, given that they make up more than a majority of all U.S. farmworkers. The authors use two case studies to explore the implications for business growth and economic development and pathways to business formation for agricultural workers.


Serves as a toolkit and resource guide for developing equitable food hubs in communities.


Analyzes two case studies of community food organizations in Seattle, Washington, to identify the ways in which inclusion initiatives fail to address power asymmetries within communities and community organizations. It includes a review of Black geographies literature and highlights ways for food activists to revamp their efforts to truly encourage racial inclusion in the food system.


Describes a yearlong study of individuals selected by the Northern Michigan University Center for Native American Studies as research subjects for the Decolonizing Diet Project, an exploratory study of the relationships between humans and indigenous foods of the Great Lakes region. Data from this study provides insight into biological, cultural, and legal/political dimensions of these complex relationships. The author draws on regularly scheduled health checks, online journaling, video interviews, and photos to paint a picture of this collective indigenous eating experience.


Identifies the ways in which low wages in the food service industry disproportionately affect people of color and women. The report highlights the role of the National Restaurant Association and Darden, the world’s largest full-service restaurant corporation, and how an increase in the minimum wage and tipped sub-minimum wage would help increase race and gender equity in the food service industry.

Focuses on the distinctions between alleviating symptoms of injustice in urban agriculture (disparate food access or environmental amenities) and disrupting structures that underlie them. Despite their positive impacts, urban agriculture systems may reinforce inequities that practitioners and supporters aim to address. This article reports on a two-year study in New York City on the race- and class-based disparities among urban agriculture practitioners citywide. It concludes with recommendations for urban agriculture scholars and supporters to advance social justice at structural levels.

Rockefeller Foundation (2012). *Social and economic equity in U.S. food and agriculture systems.*

Outlines the interplay between good food, good jobs, and race throughout the entire food value chain, including production, processing, distribution, retail, and waste.


A comprehensive 50-state legal and regulatory mapping of minimum wage, overtime, and rest and meal period standards as they apply to farmworkers. Given the exclusion of farmworkers from standards that apply to other forms of labor, farmworkers continue to belong to particularly vulnerable social and economic groups, and the results from this analysis are useful in identifying states and policy areas with strong and weak protections for farmworkers.


A brief introduction to the Decolonize Your Diet project and its role in a much larger movement to reclaim traditional foodways as a form of resistance to ongoing colonization. The author explores how meals are political acts and how cooking can intervene in systems of White supremacy and capitalism.


Describes how the food justice movement critiques structural oppression responsible for injustices throughout the agrifood system. The article provides a detailed case study of the People’s Grocery, a food justice organization in West Oakland, California, to show how anti-oppression ideology provides the foundation upon which food justice activists mobilize.

Commentary that provides a personal account of research on food systems that stresses the importance of solidarity and sweat equity in the fight for food justice. Reviews the importance of cooperation of researchers and communities to answer questions of social equity and structural inequalities that are ever changing.


Investigates food justice and restorative justice activists in Oakland, California, who are intervening at the point of reentry from the incarceration system. The author shows how the incarcerated geographies of former prisoners—that is, perspectives and experiences that are a result of the prison pipeline—motivate the formation of a restorative food justice.


Examines the home food inventories of Oaxacan Mexican American and African American families of low socioeconomic status living in an urban area in New Jersey and compared to a sample of White households. The food supplies of the White households had significantly more calcium, vitamin A, and sugar and less total fat than the other two samples.


Speaks about the unacknowledged White privilege behind community food organizations where whiteness needs to be critically analyzed, particularly when working on projects that impact communities of color.


The author uses feminist and materialist theories to look behind progressive or liberal whiteness around the United States’ local and organic food movement and implications for communities of color.


Describes how among practitioners and scholars there has been an enthusiastic surge in the use of the term food justice but a vagueness on the particulars. The authors argue that vagueness manifests in overly general statements about ending oppression or morphs into outright conflation of the dominant food movement’s work with food justice. In focusing on trauma and inequity in the food system, the authors urge scholars and practitioners to be clear and accountable in their food justice practice.

Examines the Kentucky Fried Chicken restaurant franchise’s 2015 advertising campaign to identify and understand how the campaign perpetuates the American Dream mythology while contributing to the hunger-obesity paradox that exists in many low-income urban communities with a prevalence of fast food restaurants.


Explores the ways in which transforming the food system will transform the health of youth. Using lessons from the Civil Rights era, the author suggests how today’s food justice movement can organize with a focus on a new, youth-led, multiracial coalition, which could unleash the voice and energy of those with the most to gain from transforming the food system—young people.


This short film looks at the food system present in Arizona and other U.S. borderlands. Here, a diverse group of people come together and mitigate challenges the food system presents via food banks and community and home gardening.


A commentary that examines place-based interventions as a means to attain equity in the food system, calling first for an equitable and inclusive environment and second for a historical understanding on which to base this transformation.


Describes the discriminatory actions of the EPA in choosing not to prioritize cleanup of hazardous waste sites on Native American lands, thereby affecting the local food supply of the affected tribes. The author reviews the history of the federal-Indian trust relationship and describes the responsibilities of the government in protecting Native people and their lands.

The Delmarva Peninsula is a Mid-Atlantic region on the eastern U.S. coast made up of fourteen counties across Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia. Interviews conducted for this report show that access to affordable capital, infrastructure, and labor were the greatest needs of Black farmers working in the Delmarva Peninsula region.


Through qualitative analysis, this research explores the race–class tensions around food and gardening in a low-income urban neighborhood in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.


Healthy and nutritious foods are often unavailable in low-income communities, meaning that residents suffer diet-related health problems. This report offers case studies of two cities—Detroit, Michigan, and Oakland, California—facing a lack of healthy food access and demonstrates ways both cities are working to improve their food systems.


This commentary calls for a combined objective and perceived view of food access to gain a more complete and accurate result from policies. The term access is broken into five categories to achieve this goal: acceptability, accessibility, accommodation, affordability, and availability.


Highlights the need for more culturally sensitive interventions about food in the Hispanic community to eliminate food access barriers related to linguistic and cultural disconnects.


Examines the contests over agricultural land in the South Carolina Lowcountry after the Emancipation Proclamation and the Civil War in the United States. The author argues that Black control over land and their labor threatened the region’s racial hierarchy.

The authors describe how climate change affects culturally important fungi, plant, and animal species, in turn affecting tribal sovereignty, culture, and economy. To understand potential adaptive strategies to climate change, the article also explores traditional ecological knowledge and historical tribal adaptive approaches in resource management and contemporary examples of research and tribal practices.


Analyzes the alternative food movement and its ties to the neoliberalist regime, arguing that the movement as it stands today benefits the dominant group, White middle- to upper-class citizens who are educated, and vastly excludes underserved populations. Through a course led by students at the University of Vermont, the authors examined the potential for the creation of an inclusive food movement.


This article discusses how the Noyes Foundation is responding to racial and economic injustices inherent in the modern, industrial food system. The foundation believes it is critical for historically marginalized people to be leaders in building a more sustainable food system and provides funding for related programs.


Describes the gaps in educational efforts aiming to increase learning about the food system and where food comes from, stating that these efforts do not always focus on the structural inequities that shape the food system and food workers’ experiences. The authors offer the approach of critical food literacy: the ability to examine one’s assumptions, grapple with multiple perspectives and values that underlie the food system, and take action toward creating a just, sustainable food system.