

MICHAELA DESOUCHEY

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY ♦ DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

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EDUCATION

Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois

Ph.D. in Sociology, expected Spring 2010.

M.A. in Sociology. Thesis: "Virtuous Food: Merging Movements and Markets"

Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, Pennsylvania

2000 B.A. in Sociology & Anthropology, Concentration in Women's Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Culture; Economic Sociology; Organizations; New Social Movements; Food & Consumption; Sustainability; Qualitative Methodologies

DISSERTATION

Title: "Gullet Politics. How Markets, Movements, and the State Organize Public Morality: Contentious Foie Gras Politics in the United States and France."

Committee: Gary Alan Fine (chair); Wendy Griswold; Bruce Carruthers; Nicola Beisel; Hayagreeva Rao (at Stanford Graduate School of Business); Allan Schnaiberg (in memoriam)

My dissertation examines interactions among social movement communities, market actors, and the state through a study of the cultural and moral politics surrounding *foie gras* in the United States and France. In recent years, foie gras (the liver of a force-fed duck or goose) has become a contentious issue for competing interest groups who continue to battle for symbolic control through the media and within legislative bodies. While social movements concerned with animal rights vilify foie gras as the product of cruel and inhumane treatment of animals, others defend it as a culinary delicacy, a French tradition, and an easy – yet misguided – target for those opposed to animal agriculture, more broadly. I employ a two-fold comparative strategy, based on ethnographic fieldwork; collected archival, legislative, and historical materials; and eighty interviews conducted in the U.S. and France. First, I examine moral entrepreneurship in motivating and responding to the dynamic constellation of legislation, movement activities, and market responses to foie gras politics over time. Second, my cross-national analysis shows that while foie gras has come to be inextricably linked to national distinction and cultural protectionism in France, in the U.S. it maps onto battles over animal rights and over the acceptable purview of government regulation of consumption. Furthermore, competing organizational and neo-institutional logics have resulted in the emergence of unintended consequences for each domain. By studying food controversies through a sociological lens, my project speaks to dynamic issues that affect local communities and global markets, cultural traditions and transformations, and moral issues regarding an agro-technological future.

ARTICLES IN PEER REVIEWED JOURNALS

Klaus Weber, Kathryn Heinze, and Michaela DeSoucey. 2008. 'Forage for Thought: Mobilizing Codes in the Movement for Grass-fed Meat and Dairy Products.' *Administrative Science Quarterly* Vol. 53:3 (p. 529-567).

- Co-winner: 2009 ASA Section on the Sociology of Culture Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article

Michaela DeSoucey, Jo-Ellen Pozner, Corey Fields, Kerry Dobransky, and Gary Alan Fine. 2008. 'Memory and Sacrifice: An Embodied Theory of Martyrdom.' *Cultural Sociology* Vol. 2:1 (p. 99-121).

Paul Hirsch and Michaela DeSoucey. 2006. 'Organizational Restructuring: Rhetorical and Structural Implications.' *Annual Review of Sociology* Vol. 32.

Gary Alan Fine and Michaela DeSoucey. 2005. 'Joking Cultures: Humor Themes as Social Regulation in Group Life.' *Humor* Vol. 18:1 (p. 1-23).

In progress:

Michaela DeSoucey. 'Gastronationalism: Food Traditions and Authenticity Politics in the European Union.' (conditional acceptance at *American Sociological Review*, September 2009).

Michaela DeSoucey and David Schleifer. 'Technique and Technology in the Kitchen: Comparing Resistance to Municipal Trans Fat and Foie Gras Bans' (conditional acceptance at *Studies in Law, Politics and Society*, July 2009; resubmitted September 2009).

PUBLICATIONS – OTHER

Michaela DeSoucey and Isabelle Téhoueyres. 'Virtue and Valorization: "Local Food" in the United States and France.' In *The Globalization of Food*. Edited by David Inglis and Debra Gimlin. Oxford & New York: Berg Publishers. Forthcoming, Fall/Winter 2009.

Michaela DeSoucey, Daphne Demetry, and Gary Alan Fine. 2009. 'The Foodie's Dilemma: Snobbery No More.' Comment on 'Tension in the Kitchen: Explicit and Implicit Politics in the Gourmet Foodscape' by Josée Johnston and Shyon Baumann. *Sociologica* 1/2009, doi: 10.2383/29567.

Michaela DeSoucey and Gary Alan Fine. 2008. 'Virtuous Food: Conscientious Production as Moral Imperative.' In *Proceeds of the Oxford Symposium on Food and Cookery 2007*, p. 93-102. Prospect Books.

Michaela DeSoucey. 2007. Entries in *The Business of Food: Encyclopedia of the Food and Drink Industries*, edited by Gary Allen and Kenneth Albala. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press.

Entries: Animal Rights; Consumerism; Farmers Markets; Gourmet Food; Organic Food; Sustainable Agriculture; and United States Department of Agriculture.

Elisabeth Anderson, Michaela DeSoucey, Corey Fields, and Chris Yenkey, eds. 2006. *Economic Sociology Syllabi Set*, 3rd edition. American Sociological Association.

WORKING PAPERS

M. Tina Dacin, Michaela DeSoucey, and Jo-Ellen Pozner. 'Profits to Prophets: Feeding Ideologies at the Fringe.'

Elizabeth Cherry, Colter Ellis, and Michaela DeSoucey. 'Food for Thought, Thought for Food: Consumption, Identity, and Ethnography.'

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Co-winner. ASA Section on the Sociology of Culture Clifford Geertz Prize for Best Article (with Klaus Weber and Kathryn Heinze) for 'Forge for Thought: Mobilizing Codes in the Movement for Grass-fed Meat and Dairy Products.' 2009.

Alumnae Dissertation Fellowship. The Graduate School, Northwestern University. 2007-08.

Best Symposium Award, Organization and Management Theory Division, Academy of Management, 2007. "Code Makers and Code Breakers - Food as a Field of Cultural Contestation."

Finalist, Charlotte W. Newcombe Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship. The Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation. 2007.

Selected Participant (competitive) in:

Society for Comparative Research Graduate Student Retreat. Center for European Studies, Harvard University. May 23-25, 2008.

Institute for the Study of European Food History and Culture (IEHCA) Seminar. Université François-Rabelais, Tours, France. September 5-11, 2005.

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Alumnae Dissertation Fellowship (\$14,500), Northwestern University, 2007-08

Sociology Research Fellowship (one quarter of funding), Dept. of Sociology, 2006-07

Northwestern French Interdisciplinary Group Summer Research Grant, 2006

Northwestern Center for International and Comparative Studies Summer Research Grant, 2006

MacArthur Summer Research Grant, 2004, 2005, 2007

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Awards:

Outstanding Graduate Student Teacher Award

Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Social Science Division, 2005-2006

Robert F. Winch Memorial Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistant Award
Northwestern Department of Sociology 2003-04; Honorable Mention 2004-05 and 2005-06

Instructor for:

Gender and Society - Summer 2007

Teaching Assistant for:

Legal Studies Thesis Seminar; Sociology Senior Research & Thesis Seminar; Methods of Field Research; Complex Organizations; Sports and Society; Gender and Society; Social Inequality; Introduction to Sociology

SELECTION OF PRESENTATIONS AT PROFESSIONAL MEETINGS

- 2009 'Food for Thought, Thought for Food: Consumption, Identity, and Ethnography.'
American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA. Section on Methodology Session – Ethnographic Methods. (with Elizabeth Cherry and Colter Ellis).
- 2008 'Relative Virtue: Comparing Local Food in the United States and France.'
American Sociological Association, Boston, MA. Regular Session – Food and Agriculture.
- 'Appetite for Controversy: Market-based Resistance to Chicago's Foie Gras Ban.'
Consumer Studies Mini-Conference, Boston, MA.
Association for the Study of Food and Society, New Orleans, LA.
- 2007 'Virtuous Food: Conscientious Production as Moral Imperative.'
Oxford Food & Cookery Symposium, Oxford, England (with Gary Alan Fine.)
- 'Profits to Prophets: Feeding Ideologies at the Fringe.'
Academy of Management, Philadelphia, PA (*Best Symposium Award Winner- Code Makers and Code Breakers: Food as a Field of Cultural Contestation.*) (with M. Tina Dacin and Jo-Ellen Pozner.)
- 'The Morality of Food as a Social Movement.'
Collective Behavior & Social Movements Section Workshop - Panel Session Organizer (with Gary Alan Fine). Long Island, NY.
- 2005 'Constructing Virtuous Food within Markets and Movements.'
Royal Geographic Society Annual International Conference - Session on New Geographies of Food. London, England.
- 'Living in their Parents' Basements: How Traditional Mechanisms of Social Reproduction are Failing Middle Class Kids.'
American Sociological Association Regular Session – Culture and Inequality. Philadelphia, PA.
- 2004 'Slow, Close, & Pure: The Rhetorical Politics of Constructing Virtuous Food.'
American Sociological Association, Regular Session – Sociology of Food. San Francisco, CA.
Association for the Study of Food and Society. Hyde Park, NY.

SERVICE AND COMMITTEE WORK

Ad-hoc Manuscript Reviewer:

Poetics; Food, Culture & Society; Social Forces; Mobilization; Cultural Sociology; Journal of Computer-Mediated Communication

Professional Affiliations:

American Sociological Association (Sections - Culture; Economic Sociology; Consumers, Commodities, and Consumption; Political Sociology); Association for the Study of Food and Society; Academy of Management; Institute for the Study of European Food History and Culture

Northwestern University Service:

Graduate Fellow in Legal Studies 2008-10
President, Graduate Student Association, 2004-05
Graduate Student Affairs Committee, 2003-04; 2005-06
Conference Organizer – Chicago Ethnography Conference, 2003-04
Graduate Student Social Chair, 2002-03

LANGUAGES AND TRAVEL

Languages: high fluency in French, proficient in Italian and Spanish
Travel and study in Europe, Central America, Southeast Asia

CO-AUTHOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Gary Alan Fine

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