

Welcome from the Editors

We would like to welcome you to *Digest: A Journal of Foodways and Culture*. We're pleased to bring you Volume 9, Issue 1 (2022). All articles are, as always, open access and available to all.

In this issue we have a tasty variety of offerings. We begin with two lead essays. The first, "'Aunque No Cosechamos Mucho, Ayuda' (Even If We Don't Harvest Much, It Helps): The Value of Agriculture in San Miguel del Valle, Oaxaca, Mexico" by Adele Woodmansee, is the winner of the Sue Samuelson Award for Foodways Scholarship for 2021. This award is sponsored by the American Folklore Society Foodways Section, and is given each year to the best student paper in foodways research. Woodmansee bases her article on extensive fieldwork in Oaxaca exploring how maize is integral to local foodways, and how unmechanized small-scale maize agriculture is still an important subsistence practice employed by many families. The second, "The Perpetual Quest for 'Authenticity' in Indian Cuisine: An Answer through History and Folklore," gives us an overview of the history and folklore behind the development of a number of Indian dishes in the service of exploring the idea of authenticity in foodways, arguing that defining what is authentic must take into account a variety of considerations, and that authenticity itself needs to be looked at more carefully with a view to both need- and choice-based influences. Navreet Kaur Rana incorporates her own knowledge of Indian cuisines with extensive historical research to construct her argument about how to understand authenticity.

A research note, written by Meaghan Collins, explores the concept of active memory and the creation of extended family bonds through cooking. In "Pickled Eggs and Natural Dyes: Food as Active Memory," Collins' interlocutor is able to evoke the character and memory of her recently deceased mother by cooking a new dish with another family member—pickled eggs. While she did not make this recipe with her mother, the playfulness and color of the dish is reminiscent of the qualities of her mother, creating new and active memories of someone no longer there.

In the Amuse Bouche category, we have two essays that approach foodways from different directions. The first, "Finding Food from Home, Away from Home" by Minh-Y Tran, is about finding or creating familiar Vietnamese dishes, sometimes with substitute ingredients, in order to recreate a sense of home for her two immigrant parents, and now for herself. The second, written by Brook Nestor, is about her own explorations outward—relocating to Italy as a college graduate, and eventually returning to California and raising children. "About Me and Food" explores the meaning of learning other foodways, then integrating them into one's life.

Five book reviews round out the issue: Susan Eleuterio reviews Sarah Besky's *Tasting Qualities: The Past and Future of Tea*; Khari Johnson reviews Emily Contois' *Diners, Dudes, and Diets: How Gender and Power Collide in Food Media and Culture*; Israt Jahan Lipa reviews *Caribeños at the Table: How Migration, Health, and Race Intersect in New York City*; Ruzhica Samokovlija Baruh reviews *Balut: Fertilized Eggs and the Making of Culinary*

Capital by Margaret Magat; and finally Judith Lanzendorfer reviews *Women, Food, and Diet in the Middle Ages: Balancing the Humours* by Theresa Vaughan.

While this issue is not focused on a central theme, our next two issues will be. Volume 9, Issue 2 (2022) will be guest edited by editorial board member Lucy Long, and will focus on food and narrative. Volume 10, Issue 1 (2023) will be guest edited by editorial board member Michael Lange, and will focus on foodways and pedagogy. We would encourage you to get in contact with lead editor Theresa Vaughan (tvaughan@uco.edu) if you might like to inquire about contributing to either issue. In the meanwhile, we are always accepting submissions on a variety of foodways topics and in a variety of formats—from research essay, to photo essays, to reflective writing, to reviews of books and other media. If you are interested in submitting a book review, Jessica Noe, book review editor, keeps an updated list of books available for review. You can locate it here: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZC5g_kPHLxMC2x27FwGtrp_zBynaZ5VLAZQbc09ohqE/edit. If you have written a book that you would like us to offer for review, please contact Jessica at jessnoe@live.unc.edu.

We are excited to report that all of the online issues that were originally located at our old champlain.edu site have now been fully migrated to the OJS platform hosted through Indiana University IUScholarWorks. You can also find .pdfs of the older print issues at IUScholarWorks. There is a link available in the header and footer of this issue. Many thanks to Emma Kwok and Diane Tye of Memorial University of Newfoundland for facilitating this transfer. We are hoping that these two sites hosted by Indiana University will serve as the permanent home for these and all future issues of *Digest*.

Happy Reading,
Theresa (Vaughan) and Jessica (Noe)