

Dossier “Food in Times of Pandemic”

The daily family and public life in world society in the 21st century have been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. From this experience new ways of cooking, eating and commensality have emerged, through different expressions, experienced by humanity. These expressions combine the material and symbolic boundaries between the home and the street, and between the circulation of people and food in domestic and public spaces, often regulated by the values of the agro-industry.

The pandemic suddenly and allegorically exposed social and economic inequalities among poor and wealthy people from around the world. This exposure is seen through the distinction of spaces for domestic supply, the hygiene, the preparation and ingestion of foods, the compliance with recommendations for social distance, and the adoption of health protocols. It also encouraged short food systems that favor local, family, and traditional production due to the growth in the use of delivery systems. These changes will be mandatory to re-signify new choices, practices and eating habits, both for vulnerable populations, who live the daily food and nutritional deprivation and insecurity, as well as the higher income groups.

The act of cooking and eating will not only combine practices of returning to cooking for the preparation and realization of daily or commemorative meals but also will be the object of biopolitics. The cover of this dossier reproduces recommendations for biosafety disseminated in some countries of the world during the preparations for the holidays. These messages about sharing food are culturally an expression of exchange, reciprocity and gift and must meet the health protocols in the private and public sphere of acquisition, purchase, culinary preparation and sharing of food based on social distance.

In this edition, the *Food and Culture Journal of the Americas – Raca* publishes the dossier “Food in Times of Pandemic”, with the purpose of recording the global experience of the Covid-19 pandemic and its influence on cooking, food, and commensality. The texts were brought together in the form of articles, essays and narratives that contribute to the reflection on the changes and the meanings of food in different dimensions of human life living with the main pandemic of the 21st century in Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Portugal.

The spaces and habits of buying, preparing and consuming food, particularly in the first months of the pandemic, are presented in two articles: “*Hot food* as a strengthener of the immunological system during the pandemic Covid-19: food consumption in the urban environment”; and “Health crisis and food: impacts of confinement on the food habits of the island of Mallorca”; and in the narrative “Glories and inglorious confinement: notes on food, consumption and its practices in Lisbon, Portugal”.

The analysis of the eating habits of middle classes in large Brazilian cities is recorded, respectively, in two essays and two narratives: “Food as affection, comfort and refuge: understanding the act of eating in times of a pandemic”; “From gourmet to hunter: food and fear in the pandemic”; “An almost perfect dinner: food culture and socialization in a time of crisis”, with a focus on the city of Niterói, in Rio de Janeiro and on “Food reveals us in the pandemic”, set in the city of Salvador, Bahia .

The reflection on eating in the work environment from the perspective of science is included in the essays “Food and Nutritional Security of the Brazilian population in times of pandemic: who is the science of Nutrition for?” and “Food at the university: the effects of Covid-19”. As well as in the narratives about professionals in the field of Human Nutrition, they deal directly with the implementation of health protocols, “Experiences of eating and eating during the pandemic: perceptions of a nutritionist”; “The nutritionist's perception of the habits of patients at home office work during the Covid-19 pandemic: an experience report” and “Changes in the public food service due to the Covid-19 pandemic”.

The articles “Fattening in the quarantine: speeches about food on internet portals”, and “I who fight in this quarantine to stay with this body: speeches about body and food in social networks in times of social isolation”, address the theme that associates food and food corporeality in digital media.

The largest set of texts gathered in this dossier is dedicated to analyzing social and economic inequalities and Sovereignty and Security and Food and Nutrition, community organization and the role of the State in the health crisis, from different perspectives. These aspects are represented on the narratives: “Tensions and resistance in Covid-19 times in Guatemala: the role of social organizations”; and “Reflections on commensality in food assistance actions in

Covid-19 times: an experience in the Fazendinhandó Movement”, showing the experience in the Complex Paraisópolis, in the city of São Paulo. Also, in the narrative: “Eating in times of Covid-19: the experience of a resident in a poor community”, which deals with the vision of a leadership of the Orubu quilombo in the city of Salvador-Bahia, and, in the essays “SARS-COV-2 pandemic: the food insecurity and social inequalities in Brazil”; and “Bread, politics and the pandemic in Brazil: between appearances and concealments”, which reveals the strategies implemented by the population to face the pandemic.

Finally, in this edition, two articles published in the continuous flow of *Raca* are published that deal with aspects of vegetarianism in Brazil “Vegetarianism and veganism: the rapid expansion of a new food philosophy in Brazil and analysis of traditional music from the northeast region in Brazil”, and “Liforme Extravagant: food as a representation of power in the Brazilian northeastern”.

This dossier presents an academic-reflective contribution to these new concerns and responses about cooking, eating, food and commensality in a moment that seems to be unforgettable in human history of the 21st century.

Good reading!

*Denise Oliveira e Silva
Renata Menasche
Publishers*