

SOCIAL, POLITICAL, AND CULTURAL CONNECTIONS OF FOOD

Food can be examined through various lenses that are simultaneously independent, complementary, and interconnected, encompassing economic, social, political, cultural, and health dimensions. As a practice, food should never be separated from human rights and the diverse representations that help us understand how different populations express their needs, identities, desires, beliefs, and values in the world. Eating is a complex act that connects us with meanings rooted in cultural heritage, emotional memory, and moments of sociability that transcend borders and resonate with our ancestry.

In this issue, the *Revista de Alimentação e Cultura das Américas* (Journal of Food and Culture of the Americas) presents a range of articles and essays that foster a critical dialogue on the anthropology of food in Brazil. Among these, an article invites reflection on the academic production in this field, alongside discussions on the influence of historical events and the pandemic on food security. Another essay explores the cultural connections between Africa and Brazil through the symbolic use of corn in Candomblé.

The article for discussion examines the academic output in Brazil since the 1990s through the lens of the anthropology of food. It uses the materials presented at the Brazilian Anthropology Meetings (RBAs) as a guiding framework to build an overview of studies on the subject. This approach opens up perspectives that contribute to discussions on the experiences of the RBA and the trajectory of Food and Culture beyond Brazil's borders.

The article "Food and nutritional (IN)Security and its associations with sociodemographic conditions in the Gilson Coelho residential area in Bom Jesus-PI during the Covid-19 pandemic" analyzes food insecurity and its relationship with the sociodemographic characteristics of a community, as well as the role of government cash transfer programs.

"Impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic on the diet and food consumption of servants of federal institutions in Brasilia, Brazil, are explored in another article, which aimed to understand how the pandemic influenced the eating habits of federal

employees participating in a health promotion program, and to describe how sharing social spaces affected their eating experiences.

"Cultural Connections of Flavors in Candomblé Through Corn" explores the significance of corn as a food that links Brazil to Yoruba Africa, given its symbolic role in ancestral rituals within Candomblé terreiros in Brazil. The theme was developed from the experience of the Ecoilê project, which focuses on agroecological economics, health, sovereignty, and food and nutritional security in Religious Terreiros of African Origin in the Ride-DF region, through a partnership between IFB-Planaltina and Fiocruz-Brasília.

The essay "What food consumption involves and how the COVID-19 pandemic may have influenced this aspect of people's lives" focuses on the contextualization of meals, exploring the characterization of food choices shaped by life experiences and various influences that contribute to personal food systems.

The essay "Food insecurity as an expression of the social issue" discusses how historical events have impacted the social conditions of society. It seeks to consolidate a theoretical framework based on bibliographic sources from authors dedicated to examining the social question and its expressions, linking this theoretical discourse to factors related to food insecurity.

Denise Oliveira e Silva
Flavia Tavares Silva Elias
Erica Ell