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Abstract

This research project consists of oral history interviews and archival collection of pre-existing interviews of immigrant and indigenous community members, as well as participant observation of various individuals involved in the sustainable food movement, in Orange County, and southern California.

Background

The inclusion and exclusion of historically disenfranchised communities and their knowledge is a persistent challenge for community members, government, community based organizations, and academia as they individually and collaboratively try to solve complex social problems including the sustainability of our food system. Literature suggests that the global food system, as currently organized, disconnects people from their food and from one another. Exacerbating this problem is the dominant focus by the sustainable food movement on individual-level solutions, which concentrate on production or consumption issues such as growing, buying and/or eating organic and/or sourcing food locally.

document and archive the food oral histories of immigrant and indigenous elders in the Orange Country region as a missing part of the sustainable food systems history, narrative and future



Methods

- Oral histories (audio stories and photographs)
- Participant Observation

Preliminary Findings

Oral histories previously conducted we hypothesize that the current practices which dominate and drive the sustainable food movement in Orange County, and beyond, fail to adequately consider, integrate and preserve the food-ways, cultures and voices of immigrant and indigenous groups.

Project Goals

- Understand the food traditions and practices of immigrant and indigenous elders in Orange County.
- Document and archive the food oral histories of immigrant and indigenous elders in the Orange Country region as a missing part of the sustainable food systems history, narrative and future.
- Draw from the lived experiences and micro-practices of immigrant and indigenous communities
- Explore and potentially forge connections between the food narratives of these groups to current conversations and effort to grow a new food system in Orange County, California.

Literature Cited

- Dawson, 2014
- Feinberg, 2004
- Sanderson, 2011
- James, 2004
- Mares, 2010
- Pilcher, 2007
- Dowler, Kneafsey, Cox & Holloway, 2009

Future Goals

Connect with conversations in Orange County and network with Baja California contributors (Torolab, Borodo Farms, Chefs, etc) and use what we learn to develop local and connect with statewide learning experience/conference