

Language and Food

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Tuesday, September 26, 2023, 15:00-16:30

Language and food are in many ways tied together. Not only do we talk to each other while eating we also talk about food and foodways – literally and metaphorically – when otherwise engaged (see, e.g., Gerhardt 2009 on the use of food references in football commentary or Holmes, Marra & King 2013 on food-talk at the workplace). Foodways are inherently connected to key issues of culture and society, as well as prescriptive notions of rituals and rules, making them an important object of study in anthropology and ethnography but also in linguistics. Food and talking about food are essential factors of identity formation and maintenance in both local and global contexts – and arguably, food talk is ever more present in the ‘third space’ of the internet where people use the global network to exchange ideas and information about food, eating practices, preparation methods as well as health and moral aspects about food. Recent developments, such as the copious posting of food pictures on social media sites as well as the success of online cooking shows underline the fascination and public engagement with food.

That food is much more than its nutritional value for us, as humans, can be seen in the ways how stigmatization and preference for certain foods serve not only as a means of individual and group identity constructions, but the production, consumption, and alignment with particular types of food also take on symbolic status (take the rise and fall of the avocado as ‘superfood’ on the one hand and then as environmental debacle on the other). In this workshop, we set out to add to the growing scholarship on culinary linguistics (see Lavric & Konzett 2009, Gerhardt, Frobenius & Ley 2013, Szatrowski 2014, Rüdiger & Mühleisen 2020). We thus invite contributions on the relationship between language and food with a particular interest in

- the intersection between food, language, and socio-economic and cultural capitals (cf. e.g. Cotter & Valentinsson 2018, Mapes 2021)
- language, food, and identity construction (e.g., in parenting discourses)
- language and food ideologies (cf. e.g. Tovaes & Gordon 2020)
- food discourses of restricted dietary lifestyles (including but also going beyond vegetarianism and veganism, cf. e.g. Buttny & Kinefuchi 2020, Scott 2020)
- novel food discourses and genres, such as eating shows, recipes on new social media platforms (e.g., TikTok) etc.; as well as under-researched food texts (e.g., culinary documentaries)

- other developments in established food genres and how these compare to typical forms (such as no-recipe recipes)
- transcultural food discourses and global and local aspects of food talk

Please submit your abstract of up to 400 words (excluding references) via e-mail to susanne.muehleisen@uni-bayreuth.de and sofia.ruediger@uni-bayreuth.de by **February 28, 2023 (extended deadline)**.

References

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- Szatrowski, Polly E., ed. 2014. *Language and Food – Verbal and Nonverbal Experiences*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
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