



International Workshop, 3-4 July 2008

Between Molecules, Materiality, and the Self: Standards in Nutritional Epidemiology and Food Cultures

This workshop addresses modes of knowledge production, subject constitution and standardization in research on nutrition and food from the molecular to the social-cultural level. It brings together on-going projects from social anthropology, history, sociology and cultural studies. The aim of the workshop is to present empirical work, develop theoretical perspectives and to explore the intersections between nutritional epidemiology and food standardization.

Thursday, 3 July 2008

16:00 Welcome and Introduction

Session 1: Food and Health as Objects of Biomedical Research (Chair: Christine Bischof)

Nutrition and health figure prominently in the life sciences – from laboratory research and molecular biology, prevention initiatives to large scale population studies in epidemiology. This session will explore politics and practices of biomedical research on nutrition and health; it includes the fields of epigenetics, history of nutrition science and cancer epidemiology.

16:15 Hannah Landecker, Rice University, Houston/Texas:
From Dish to Diet: Cells, People and Nutrient Media in Epigenetic Models of Chronic Disease

17:15 - 17:30 *Coffee / Tea*

17:30 Ulrike Thoms, Charité University Medicine Berlin:
From supporting food production to monitoring health: Nutritional Research at the DIfE, Potsdam Rehbrücke 1946-1990

18:00 Susanne Bauer, Humboldt University Berlin / University of Copenhagen:
Population Categories and Molecular Markers in Nutritional Epidemiology

19:00 *Workshop Dinner*

Friday, 4 July 2008

Session 2: Transformation of “Traditional” Food Cultures in Europe (Chair: Susanne Bauer)

This session spotlights traditional and protected food (PGO/PDO) in the European Union as well as processes of standardization and classification of food quality. We follow the technologies and practices that labels such as “traditional food” are reinventing and rationalizing. We reflect on different regional examples of regulation in Europe and explore the complex interplay of law, production, consumers, risk management, scientific and traditional knowledge on food quality and culture.

10:00 Session Introduction

10:15 Maria France Garcia, L’Institut National de Recherche Agronomique, Paris:
Territorial Nomenclatures and Globalizing Markets: The French Wine Case

11:15 Atle Wehn Hegnes, University of Oslo:
Translating Potatoes – Pathways to Protection of Designations of Designations Origin and Geographical Indications in Norway

11:45 - 12:00 *Coffee / Tea*

Session 2 (continued):

12:00 Felicitas Hartmann, Citymuseum Tübingen / Eberhard Karls University Tübingen:
Food as Global Cultural Heritage

12:30 Stephan Haufe, Humboldt University Berlin:
Healthy - Protect - GMO-free: Modern Food without Modern Technologies?

13:00 - 14:30 Lunch

Session 3: Gouvernementality: Standardization of the Self and Dietary Habits
(Chair: Stephan Haufe)

This session discusses Foucault's analysis of biopower and gouvernementality concerning technologies of the self. Within the discourse on risks, risk factors for certain diseases and population based risk assessment for standardization and classification of the subject play a decisive role. The same applies for dietary habits. Empirical research with case studies on adipositas and cancer demonstrate the circumstances and effects of standardization and classification. What role do processes of inclusion and exclusion of the subject play when it comes to the development of European guidelines and health standards?

14:30 Session Introduction

14:45 Friedrich Schorb, University of Bremen:
The History of the Quetelet Index (BMI) and the Standardization of the Body

15:15 Jörg Niewöhner / Michalis Kontopodis, Humboldt University Berlin:
Preventing Fat Children & Producing Bio-Citizens

15:45 - 16:00 Coffee / Tea

16:00 Christine Bischof, Humboldt University Berlin:
Participant perspectives in the "European Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC) - Potsdam Study"

Closing discussion

16:30 - 17:00 Discussion and Resumé
Chair: Leonore Scholze-Irrnitz, Humboldt University Berlin

Comment: Stefan Beck, Humboldt University Berlin

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Please register before 27 June 2008

Venue:

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BMBF Research Cluster *Imagined Europeans*
<http://www.imagined-europeans.org/>

Concept and Organization:

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Sponsored by the BMBF and Centre Marc Bloch