

November 3: Food and Identity

Discussion Questions:

- Does food have a Race? Gender? Class? Ethnicity?
- For the women introduced to us by Rouse and Hoskins, how might Islam be experienced as a form of empowerment, rather than gendered submission?
- Do you practice food taboos? What do these practices express in terms of their meaning for you or the community you identify with? How do observing these taboos produce ethical selves?

Group 1 Names: Cui Ting Chen, Benay, Hsin-Yu Huang, Whitney Ryan

- Indoor cooking = females
- Outdoor cooking = males
- In terms of class, it is male dominant
- Doesn't originally have a gender, but societal values categorizes food in these sub groups

Group 2 Names: Medina, Gabby, Miranda, Jiamin

- Enlightenment to connect to religion
- Evidence? About women and empowerment
 - Examples of two women were rather than being forced into cooking they chose to do it to bring them closer to religion
 - Women is filth - didn't understand clearly
 - Pg 229 within the Nation of Islam, soul food signified the role women in the pollution of the black physical, in the pollution of the black physical, intellectual, and spiritual body -- didn't quite understand Witt's point
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Group 3 Names: Stephanie, Trevor, Vincent, Shona

- Food has class -- heard a coworker say "I don't eat beans because that's poor people's food"
- How we transform our food
- Stereotype -- women tend to prepare food
- Islam women use the preparation and cooking of food as a way to show prominence and social status; to network
- Not letting food come between relationships; eat what is served especially if you're being hosted by another (demonstrate politeness and respect)
- Catholicism -- no meat during Lent; parents would fast (2 meals per day) -- show reverence and understand sacrifice; felt healthier

Group 4 Names: Grace Hill, Ebsitu Hassen, Eli Ballesteros, Christina Nick

- Food doesn't necessarily have a race or ethnicity but is still undoubtedly connected with and has strong associations to certain ethnic/social groups.
- Cooking as empowerment rather than gender submission, cooking as a sign of care

Group 5 Names:

Group 6 Names: