AFHVS
AGRICULTURE, FOOD, & HUMAN VALUES SOCIETY

Call for Abstracts

Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society
Association for the Study of Food and Society

Cultivating Care: Growing New American Food Systems

University of Wisconsin Madison, June 9-12, 2027

Link to submission page https://uwmadison.eventsair.com/afhvs/afhvs-presentations
Submission deadline January 15, 2027
Notification of acceptance: on or before February 28, 2027
For more information on submitting your abstract, contact: conferences@union.wisc.edu
For questions on the conference program, contact: Sarah Lloyd, lloyd1@wisc.edu

We invite you to submit an abstract to this year's conference, which highlights work toward transitioning and transforming food systems through a lens of care. Current agricultural systems generate extreme economic disparity and overwhelming externalities—accounting for over a third of global GHG emissions, driving biodiversity collapse, exhausting soil health and perpetuating extractive and exploitative relations of production. Food systems are uniquely vulnerable to climate shocks, facing severe disruptions from extreme weather, drought, and supply chain volatility. Meanwhile, political upheaval, targeting of marginalized groups, the rise of Artificial Intelligence, and more, challenge the status quo and demand engagement with new ways of thinking about the structures, operations, and roles of food systems.

Addressing these challenges with care requires moving away from attempts at purely productivist and technological fixes and developing effective interventions to affect normative structural transformations. Such transformations would replace fossil-fuel-dependent monoculture landscapes with agroecological practices, research, and social movements toward re-embedding communities and empowering people to practice care in multiple ways.

As one of six convenings co-hosted by *Agriculture, Food, and Human Values* and the *Association for the Study of Food and Society*, the Madison event welcomes participation by the growing community of academics and professionals exploring alternative visions of food systems from numerous perspectives and approaches. Themes of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Food Is Medicine
- Soil quality and perennialization
- Indigenous food sovereignty
- Food systems and AI
- Agriculture and Markets of the Middle
- Agroecology: research, practice and movements
- Ethics, social justice, and normative change in food systems
- The Culinary Mind and civil society
- Anti-trust and regulatory efforts
- Power and path dependencies hindering change
- Pedagogy for complex systems
- Centering food systems labor
- Organizing for change

Several types of sessions are available to highlight our good works:

- **Presentation** – speak about a project or paper, typically one presenter, about a 20-minute presentation. Presenters will be grouped into like categories, when possible, to fill a 75-minute session.
- **Poster** – share information visually on a project or academic paper, 48" x 36" (4 feet wide by 3 feet high). Posters will be highlighted during afternoon breaks.
- **Lightning talk** – 3–5-minute presentation to be scheduled with others
- **Panel** – propose three speakers for a single session, approximately 75 minutes total.
- **Workshop** – propose an engaged activity for a three-hour slot. Let us know if it requires special room requirements (kitchen, moveable furniture, etc.).
- **Roundtable** – use a conference room for an informal conversation on a topic or project. 75 minutes
- **Film** – propose to show a film that features your work and indicate the film length and how it will be shown (YouTube video, 36mm, private site, etc.). Provide a link for us to review the film. You will be responsible for obtaining the right for us to show it at the conference.
- **Book** – tell us about your book & publisher and indicate your willingness to sell and sign copies at a designated table.
- **Other** – have another idea for the conference? Let us know more. Maybe we can fit it in.

Abstract Submission Format & Logistics

Abstracts should provide enough information to enable the program committee to 1) determine if the presentation merits inclusion in the program, and 2) where in the program it should be included. Abstracts should not exceed 250 words and will be made publicly available at the conference.

- Title
- Type of session: presentation, poster, lightning talk, panel, workshop, roundtable, film, book signing, other
- Name of lead presenter or session organizer
- Names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors and session presenters
- Four or five keywords
- Topical conference track most closely aligned with presentation
- Indicate any special room requirements if proposing a workshop.

You need not be a Society member to submit an abstract. There will be a member and non-member conference registration rate, and you will need to register in advance to secure your place on the program. For more information and to join, go to:

- Agriculture, Food and Human Values Society: https://afhvs.wildapricot.org/join-us
- Association for the Study of Food and Society: https://www.food-culture.org/join/