

Call for Chapters

Erratic Eating: A Transcultural Exploration of Non-Normative Bodies, Sexualities, and Space

The deadline for submissions is **January 15th, 2022**

As literary and cultural critics, such as Roland Barthes and Carole Counihan, have demonstrated, food not only functions to satisfy one's biological needs, but it is also a way of exploring one's positionality within the systems by which they are governed. Food-eating, preparation, and preference—is a means of self-expression. In essence, our identity is defined in part by the foods we eat. In particular, traditionally oppressed populations tend to have an illuminating relationship to food that is shaped by their resistance or adherence to societal norms, acts of empowerment, and response to oppression and conflict. The foods one chooses to incorporate or reject from their diet reflect and influence their state of well-being. In sum, food is social; it connects people and cultures, but it also draws boundaries between them.

This volume examines the interplay of body, sexuality, and space in relation to *erratic* eating. For example, Western society is rife with unusual eating behavior, such as food avoidance, eating to excess, and consumption of the inedible. These modes of eating affect how one experiences embodiment and navigates the private and public spheres within which they often struggle to fit, at times quite literally. In particular, this volume elaborates upon the correlations between such kinds of consumption and non-normative identities specific to the LGBTQ+ community. In other words, we encourage analyses of how these unorthodox food choices speak to one's sexual identities, all the while underlining questions of cultural fragmentations, psychological (dis)connects, and self-control (or lack thereof).

Referencing food tropes in literature and film, from the late 19th century to today, this volume seeks to highlight the consumer's diet as they maneuver through various arenas of society. These sites, and the foods therein, might convey belonging and conviviality, or marginalization and exclusion. These spaces include physical settings, from kitchen tables to airplane seats, and also suggest intersectional readings inextricably linked to one's class, race, ethnicity, and religion, among other factors. With such a diversity of spaces, we therefore suggest a transcultural approach, placing works such as Jeanette

Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* (1985) and the films of Turkish-Italian director Ferzan Özpetek in conversation with one another. Ultimately, this volume will present food as an impetus or a barrier to achieving self-actualization and sexual fulfillment.

This Call for Chapters invites submissions on the following topics and themes:

- The connections between one's body and food choices, and the geography, power dynamics, and patriarchal paradigms by which they are governed and culturally rooted
- The relationship between erratic, disordered eating and one's psychological and cultural fragmentations and (dis)connects
- The intersections of and dynamics between one's sexuality, body size, and the spaces in which they [cannot] function
- The analysis of food spaces (consumption, production, and distribution) as sites of exclusion and community
- Food and body as vehicles—or barriers—in facilitating one's navigation of different social arenas and/or the examination of one's positionalities

Abstracts should not exceed 300 words, and they should be accompanied by a brief biography (about 100 words). All work should be in English. The deadline for submitting abstracts is **Saturday, January 15, 2022**. Please send your submission to emk177@italian.rutgers.edu and niki.kiviat@gmail.com. You will be notified of a decision by Monday, March 14, 2022.