

I acknowledge that St FX is in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq People.

**ANTH 425 Power and Change**

**Setting the table: Anthropology, intersectionality and politics**

Sept. 5 Introduction:

READ: Williams-Forson, P., & Wilkerson, A. (2011). Intersectionality and food studies. **Food, Culture & Society**, 14(1), 7-28.

Sept. 12 READ: Van Esterik, Penny (1999) Right to food; right to feed, right to be fed. The intersection of women's rights and the right to food. **Agriculture and Human Values** 16(2): 225-232.

Mintz, Sidney (1979/2008) Time, sugar and sweetness. In Carole Counihan and Penny van Esterik. **Food and Culture: A reader**, second edition.  
<http://annhetzelgunkel.com/uj/food/image/Time,%20Sugar%20&%20Sweetness%20-%20Mintz.pdf>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uu\\_8l7-xcFY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uu_8l7-xcFY)

**How the annotated bibliography might be filled out for these readings:**

**Annotated Bibliography: Worksheet** / modified by sv for reading worksheet, Sept. 2018

**Bibliographic Information (Chicago Author-Date)**

Williams-Forson, P., & Wilkerson, A. (2011). Intersectionality and food studies. **Food, Culture & Society**, 14(1), 7-28.

<p>1. What is the topic of this reference?  A) What is this study about?  B) What key themes are presented?</p>	<p>On the need to include “race” and disability as part of food studies, along with the other categories of identity that constitute an intersectional approach.</p>
<p>2. What type of article is this?</p>	<p>They are position papers rather than essays.</p>
<p>3. What is the thesis? What arguments does the author use to present her/his findings?</p>	<p>W-F argues that “race” is central to how food must be studied and imagined, while Wilkerson argues that examining disability highlights a whole range of food studies topics.</p>
<p>4. What is the theoretical perspective of this study?</p>	<p>Intersectionality, especially W-F, who argues that one must simultaneously examine a range of categories of identity. She also insists on looking at relations/processes across economic, political, cultural, etc. realms. Wilkerson sticks more strictly to a disability studies lens, keeping her discussion to a range of implications of different types of disability.</p>
<p>5. What evidence does the author present?  A) What methods were used in this study?  B) What did the author discover?</p>	<p>These are not case studies. W-F looks a little more at African-American material, but also reviews other studies. Wilkerson sticks to studies of disability and food.</p>

6. What were the conclusions?	Both argue for broader inclusion and awareness of the distinct positions of different identities.
<b>Critique</b>	
1. What are the strengths of the article?	Both point to material that is insightful and important for anyone wanting to work towards greater social justice, especially in the important area of access to adequate food, food services, etc.
2. What are the weaknesses of the article?	W-F's point that all intersections need to be taken simultaneously into account is attractive but pragmatically challenging. In any particular study, one or several specific categories of difference may be worthy of focus. Similarly, the insights generated by thinking about ableism/disability may not be central to a particular research project.
3. Was the argument convincing?	Generally, yes
4. Were there gaps in the argument or evidence?	
5. What is your overall assessment?	

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Van Esterik, Penny (1999) Right to food; right to feed, right to be fed. The intersection of women's rights and the right to food. **Agriculture and Human Values** 16(2): 225-232.

1. What is the topic of this reference? A) What is this study about? B) What key themes are presented?	The role of women in food, the need to study this.
2. What type of article is this?	It is a position paper, part of a conference and theme issue that has the objective of setting out a range of current topics in food studies, especially as related to food security.
3. What is the thesis? What arguments does the author use to present her/his findings?	That food security cannot be realized until women are centrally included in the policy discussions about food as a human right and until food issues are analysed from a gender perspective. Further, that three types of rights need to be kept in mind: the right to food, the right to feed, the right to be fed.
4. What is the theoretical perspective of this study?	Rights-based and feminist. This is somewhat liberal but not entirely.
5. What evidence does the author present? A) What methods were used in this study? B) What did the author discover?	Reviews some research, but this is really a position paper rather than a case study.
6. What were the conclusions?	As above
<b>Critique</b>	
1. What are the strengths of the article?	Opens up the black box of the household/family; critiques cultural rights when they do not permit the rights of vulnerable members of a culture; emphasizes appropriateness of food made available to people in different situations; highlights different roles many women have in food provision/consumption across cultures;
2. What are the weaknesses of the article?	Although challenges the assumption that women are uniquely/essentially related to food, much of the discussion and argument for a gender perspective derives from such essentialist understandings.
3. Was the argument convincing?	Partly
4. Were there gaps in the argument or evidence?	As under 2
5. What is your overall assessment?	

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1. What is the topic of this reference? A) What is this study about? B) What key themes are presented?	The social/political/economic life of different foods.
2. What type of article is this?	It is based on a talk, so is quite accessible. It is prospective, coming out before his 1985 book on sugar (Sweetness and Power), so describes research he is embarking on rather than conclusions.
3. What is the thesis? What arguments does the author use to present her/his findings?	That we can look at distinct food items as they change in importance, production system, etc. over time, to cast light on more general historical processes.
4. What is the theoretical perspective of this study?	Marxist
5. What evidence does the author present? A) What methods were used in this study? B) What did the author discover?	The author focuses on sugar, and examines historical evidence about its changing significance for different classes in Europe, as related to the rise of industrial capitalism, slavery, colonialism. Historical research methods. Finds that sugar is a “proletarian hunger-killer” that played a role in providing cheap food to highly exploited workers in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century in England. This supported plantation slavery, colonialism.
6. What were the conclusions?	As above.
<b>Critique</b>	
1. What are the strengths of the article?	The insights about how a nutritionally weak substance such as sugar (or tea, or coffee) became important in the service of capitalism are valuable. Perspective includes insights on class/gender/”race”/geography
2. What are the weaknesses of the article?	Much of the material is speculative at this point.
3. Was the argument convincing?	Yes.
4. Were there gaps in the argument or evidence?	The missing information.
5. What is your overall assessment?	Terrific.