



Middlebury

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**Rohatyn Center for Global
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**Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs
4th Annual International and Interdisciplinary Conference**

Call for Papers

Food Insecurity in a Globalized World: The Politics and Culture of Food Systems

**March 10-12, 2016
Middlebury College, Vermont, USA**

This conference explores the politics, economics, and culture of food insecurity from multiple disciplinary perspectives and geographical locations. Despite enormous technological and agricultural advances of the 20th and 21st centuries, hunger continues to afflict people in both developing and industrialized countries. The most recent *State of World Food Insecurity* from the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization reports that the number of under-nourished people has decreased globally by 216 million over the last 25 years, yet developing countries as a whole have not met reduction targets. Neoliberal policies and the accompanying political and economic restructuring, together with free-trade agreements, climate change, fluctuating energy prices, and rapid urbanization, have reshaped food systems and transformed world food markets. Such trends, along with land grabs, food price volatility, and changing consumer expectations in industrialized countries, have reconfigured relationships among producers, food manufacturers, distributors, and consumers. The increasing concentration of food industries and their close connections with powerful governments have also affected the health outcomes and resistance strategies of hungry people. As a result, communities are mobilizing to protest the lack of access to healthy food and engaging with other food system actors in innovative ways.

We invite papers that address these issues from a range of disciplinary perspectives (history, biology, ecology, politics, anthropology, literary studies, economics, geography, etc.) as they pertain to different geographical locations. Why are people still hungry? How does hunger affect behavior, mentalities, and culture? How have hungry people resisted, challenged, or accommodated limited access to food? What roles do governments, intergovernmental initiatives and agencies, private enterprise, philanthropic institutions, and civil society play in combatting and/or fostering world hunger?

Presenters may want to address these questions or others within the following themes:

- The geopolitics of food (including water and land grabs, food deserts, etc.)
- Food insecurity and war
- Gender and food systems
- Food insecurity and global climate change
- Power in food systems
- The right to adequate food and nutrition
- Food activism
- Sustainable agriculture and agroecology
- Innovative responses to the new food landscape

Those interested in presenting at the conference should send an abstract (no more than 250 words) by October 1, 2015, to the organizers below. The selection process is competitive.

Funds are available to support travel and lodging of all participants.

Organizers:

Tamar Mayer, Professor of Geography, Director of the Rohatyn Center for Global Affairs,
mayer@middlebury.edu

Paula Schwartz, Professor of French Studies, schwartz@middlebury.edu

Molly Anderson, Professor of Food Studies, mollya@middlebury.edu