

# PHILOSOPHY 105

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# FOOD JUSTICE

# FOOD SECURITY

1. *Available*: food is available in sufficient quantities & on a consistent basis
2. *Accessible*: people can regularly acquire adequate quantities of food through socially acceptable methods
3. *Utilizable*: consumed food has a positive nutritional impact on people

## WAYS OF ACHIEVING FOOD SECURITY

- Interventionist vs. anti-interventionist (e.g. Singer vs. Hardin)
- Localist vs globalist

# LOCAL VS GLOBAL

## **Localism:**

privileging of a region or people's cultural traditions, beliefs, and aspirations over those of other regions

## **Globalism/Cosmopolitanism:**

a joint privileging of (i) the interests of all people, regardless of their relationship to us; (ii) respecting the variety of practices and beliefs that differentiate us from one another (both as individuals and as cultures/peoples/nations)

# LOCALISM & THE AGRARIAN IDEAL

## Slow food:

grassroots movement to counter "fast" food by emphasizing traditional and regional foods and their cultural ties through encouraging the farming of plants, seeds, and livestock characteristic of the local ecosystem

## Agrarianism:

a social philosophy which sees farming as a way of life, valuable not only for the food and agriculture it produces, but also in itself.

# ADVANTAGES OF LOCALISM

- Reduced distance for transport of goods means lower environmental impact
- Promotes the continued existence of specific cultural practices or traditions
- Promotes a connection to a particular locale or "sense of place"
- Promotes or maintains a "sustainable community"



# DISADVANTAGES OF LOCALISM

- Elitist?
- Cannot be scaled (i.e. not all populations can be locavores)
- Provincial
- Ignores or perpetuates marginalization of native groups

# ADVANTAGES OF GLOBALISM/COSMOPOLITANISM

- Respect for the diversity of cultures/peoples
- Encourages freedom of choice in how to live

# DISADVANTAGES OF GLOBALISM

- Elitist?
- Encourages a kind of cultural homogeneity
- Encourages a kind of alienation from any specific place or culture

## BEYOND THE GLOBAL/LOCAL DICHOTOMY?

1. Recognize that going 'local' doesn't mean that one's practices are "healthier" or more "just"
2. Realize that most of our food choices will have global ramifications
3. Acknowledge that the culture of a region and its (presence/absence of) agriculture are linked

