



Announcements

- More information on the Flint Water Crisis:
http://www.democracynow.org/2016/2/17/thirsty_for_democracy_the_poisoning_of



Covered Thus Far

- Immigrant Labor and the Immigrant Rights Mobilizations of 2006
- Asian-Americans and the Model Minority Stereotype



Class Agenda

- Race, health, food security, and the food justice movement



Access to Health Care

- Racial disparities along the lines of health begin before kids are even born given the variation in prenatal care
 - "All children do not begin life with an equal chance for growth and prosperity" (Caliendo 126).
- "On a host of indicators – including levels of lead in the blood, incidence of asthma, obesity, and hunger, as well as treatments (such as receiving cranial CT scans) – children of color are at a distinct disadvantage when compared to whites. Not surprisingly, disparities based on income and race and ethnicity persist into adulthood" (Caliendo 127).



Access to Health Care

"There is some evidence that a distrust of whites and medical institutions may also contribute to racial disparities. Such attitudes may or may not be conscious, but they nonetheless interfere with a person's ability to have access to care" (Caliendo 130).



Environmental Racism



- Institutional factors and public policies that lead to sites of concentrated pollution to be located in poor communities of color.

Clicker Question

Have you heard about the Flint Water Crisis?



- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know

Food Insecurity



- 14.5% of American households are food insecure
- Food deserts – 10% of the U.S.
- “Add to this the abundance of fast-food outlets, and the result is a perfect storm of food insecurity and subsequent diet-related illness for poor people in Detroit” (White 408).

Food Justice Projects



- “That many of these projects emphasize consumer choice, localism, entrepreneurialism, and self-improvement demonstrates the extent to which food politics have been at the cutting edge of neoliberal regulatory transformations” (Guthman 437).
- White values, aesthetic tastes, and cultural practices can come to shape space,” making them unwelcome spaces that are not of interest to the community members that they are trying to engage in the project (Guthman 434).

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network



- DBCFSN “is motivated by the belief that successful community change is led by leaders from within its own community” (White 408).
- “to articulate a Black voice, not just in the use of land for urban agriculture movement but also to connect the work in food production as a strategy to demonstrate self-determination toward political and economic liberation” (White 411).

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network



- “They have created a sustainable community food system that fosters a sense of self-determination and self-sufficiency” (White 416).
- “Food becomes a point of entry to discuss how African Americans might gain control over other aspects of their lives, including, for example, access to affordable housing, clean water, and decent public education” (White 414).

Detroit Black Community Food Security Network



- "They use the farm (a) as a community center, (b) as a vehicle to articulate culturally relevant language about healthy food and healthy lifestyles, and (c) as a tangible model of collective work, self-reliance, and political agency" (White 412).
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NG3T3B0M0jE>

Clicker Question



Do you think the expansion of community-controlled urban agriculture is a good solution to issues of food access in the U.S.?

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Not sure

Obesity



- "Today, nearly 32 percent of children are overweight or obese. Rates of obesity and overweight among African Americans and Latinos are significantly higher than for whites (for both adults and high school students)" (Caliendo 132).
- Guthman's critique of the obesity discourse
 - They overlook policies that have led to the "overproduction of commodities and compelled food processors and manufacturers to cut costs to compete" (Guthman 191).

Guthman's Critique



"We have a political economy that produces and makes available cheap food and goods, underpays people, and urges them to buy this food and these goods to keep the economy afloat – and then a culture that blames them for consuming this food and these goods after all. A larger part of this political economy involves barely regulated food, chemical, and pharmaceutical industries that produce materials not all of which are willingly ingested, inhaled, or absorbed but which modify our bodies in ways we barely understand" (Guthman 193).

Healthism



"Healthism makes personal health attainment the highest goal, sees poor health outcomes as a result of behaviors, and conflates personal practices of self-care with empowerment and good citizenship. Recall that healthism is itself a reflection of neoliberal norms of governance, since it concedes the rollback of public-sector responsibility for supporting and protecting the health of all and instead places responsibility on individuals for their own health outcomes" (Guthman 191-92).

The Alternative Food Movement



"The alternative food movement puts a great deal of emphasis on the market rather than the state, on consumption rather than production, and on individual health rather than social justice. And yet, the current policy environment is a result of political choices, not consumption choices. Therefore, to make different political choices requires much more attention to the broader injustices that the cheap food dilemma rests on and perhaps less attention to what's on the menu" (Guthman 194).

Guthman's Suggested Alternative



- "Activists might pay more attention to projects considered much more difficult in the current political climate: eliminating redlining, investing in urban renewal, expanding entitlement programs, obtaining living wages, along with eliminating toxins from and improving the quality of the mainstream food supply" (Guthman 443).

Clicker Question

Do you agree with Guthman's position?



- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Don't know

Learning Goals



- Understand variations in access to health care and to exposure to health-related issues, and the causes for this variation along the lines of income and race.
- Understand some of the responses to food insecurity, as well as critiques of these responses and the framing of the issue.

Exam Review Questions



1. How did the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act impact access to health care?
2. Before that who was most likely not to have access to health care and why?
3. According to Caliendo, why do racial disparities along the lines of health begin before kids are even born?
4. What is environmental racism?
5. What happened in the Flint Water Crisis?
6. Where are we seeing high levels of food insecurity and what are the demographics of the people who live in these areas?

Exam Review Questions



1. What are food deserts?
2. How is food insecurity linked to other health issues?
3. What are food justice projects?
4. What are Guthman's critiques of many of these projects and the discourse employed around them?
5. What is the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network? What motivated them to form this network? What have they done? How is what they are doing linked to a broader project of social change? How is this different from the projects that Guthman critiques?

Exam Review Questions



1. What kind of patterns do we see with regards to obesity?
2. What are Guthman's critiques of the obesity discourse (she has multiple critiques)?
3. What is healthism? What is Guthman's critique of it?
4. What are Guthman's critiques of the alternative food movement?
5. What does Guthman suggest as an alternative?

Homework

- Read Caliendo, White, Guthman, Wacquant, Davis et. al, and "A HerStory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement"

