

Call for Papers

2nd International Conference

Food and Drink as Symbols: historical perspectives

27-28 October 2017 – Krakow

Eating and drinking have always been a part of socialisation. Humans have eaten together and mealtimes are events when the whole family or community comes together. Eating food can also be an occasion for sharing, for giving to others, for example, parents give food to their children, a mother gives her milk to her infant, thus making food a symbol of love and security. Two thousand years ago Jesus taught us to share food with others. He used food for both instruction and revelation, and food items bear a religious symbolism in the way they are made or the way they are eaten. For instance, in Christianity bread and wine have a symbolic meaning. Indeed, many dietary habits are derived from religious laws with certain foods chosen or avoided according to religious beliefs. In Greek mythology, food plays a role in defining the hierarchy of being: there is food for gods, food for men, and food for animals. In modern societies food indicates the status, power and wealth of individuals, and humans often symbolically interact when eating, for example, sitting at the head of the table symbolizes head of the house. Additionally, certain foods symbolize wealth and social class, and foods are symbolic or act as metaphors for body parts involved in sexual relations. In fact, any particular item of food might carry a system of symbolic meaning. Moreover, foods have been an important theme in the arts and various artists have employed them, for instance, to underline social issues.

This conference invites papers to be submitted that explore the meaning of food and drink as symbols, with focus on historical perspectives in different contexts. Although potential areas of interest might include the symbolism of food and drink in life and sensuality, its relation to political consciousness, honour and status, ethnicity, lifestyle, religions or art may also be addressed. The conference is not restricted to any specific historical period.

Keynote Lecture:

Prof. Fabio Parasecoli

(Associate Professor at The New School, New York; co-editor of *Cultural History of Food*)

The conference organisers:

Andrzej K. Kuropatnicki

Paweł Hamera

Artur Piskorz

Abstract submission:

All submissions should include:

- ✓ Title of the presentation
- ✓ Abstract of no more than 200 words
- ✓ A brief biography of the presenter or presenters
- ✓ Contact details

Submissions should be sent to food.as.symbol.conference@gmail.com

The closing date for submissions is **15 May 2017**.

The conference language is English. The conference fee is **200 PLN or 50€** (**130 PLN or 30€** for students and PhD candidates) which will include the conference dinner, tea and coffee, the conference materials and the publication of a monograph (selected papers will be published in a peer-reviewed monograph).

Please visit the conference website at <http://foodassymbol.weebly.com> for details regarding the venue, conference programme, suggested accommodation, transportation and other practicalities.