

UNT Department of History
Graduate Student Food History Symposium
Friday, April 26, 2024; 10:00-4:30
University Union 332 (Union Senate Room)

Session 10:00-11:30

Dr. Michael Wise, Director of Graduate Studies, Welcome and Panel Chair

Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges, “Pack Your Knives and Go: Gender and Sexuality in the *Top Chef* Universe”

Joshua I. Lopez, “The Latina Lesbian Breakfast: Food and Lesbian Space in El Paso, Texas, 1994”

May Oshea, “Pho: From Hanoi to America”

Abigail Parmer, “Between Dinty Moore and Navarin: The Irish Impact on American Menus”

Lunch Break, 11:45-12:45

Symposium presenters and Department of History guests please gather in WH 267 for lunch.

Keynote Address, 1:00-2:30

Dr. Jennifer Jensen Wallach, Professor and Chair of the Department of History, Welcome and Introduction

“The Milpa Agricultural Placemaking Project: Food History and the Creation of an Edible Landscape at UNT”

Dr. Nathan Hutson, Dr. Sandra Mendiola García, Dr. Michael Wise

Please come and find out how you can support the Milpa Project!

Session 2, 2:45-4:15.

Dr. Kerry Goldmann, Associate Director of Graduate Studies, Welcome and Panel Chair

Heather Noel, “Lived Experiences in the Pecan Capital of the World: Oral Histories with People of the San Saba Pecan Industry”

Dana Trammell, “Mass Exclusion: Body Size as a Barrier”

Nathalie Ross, “Kashrut, Assimilation, and Revival: Jewish Cooking Texts in 19th century America”

Deah Berry-Mitchell, "Beef to Big Red: Exploring Black Texas Foodways from Antebellum to Present Day"

Presenter Biographies

Deah Berry Mitchell is a food writer who has been a columnist for the *Dallas Morning News* and the *Fort Worth Report*. Additionally, she is the owner of Soul of DFW Tours and is presently leading a mobile app project for the City of Dallas tentatively called “*The Freedom Trail*” designed to explore local African American historical sites. Berry-Mitchell is a Ph.D. student studying history with a focus on food studies. The increased national attention Juneteenth brought to the state of Texas prompted Deah to begin a personal search to explore Juneteenth food traditions. This interest led to her proposed dissertation project about historical Black Texan foodways.

Nathan Hutson is an assistant professor of urban planning at UNT. He holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of Southern California and an MA in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies from the University of Texas, Austin. His research involves freight transportation as a tool of economic development. His other areas of expertise include urban freight delivery, transportation impact on land use, environmental impacts of freight transportation, and port terminal operations.

Lauren Jacobsen-Bridges (she/her) is a Ph.D. Student in the UNT Department of History whose research focuses on food, identity, and making sense of the two in a globalized society. Her dissertation, *We Only Served American Wines: First Ladies, State Dinners, and Defining a National Palate* will explore the ways that gastrodiploamacy functions as a tool of nation-branding in the late twentieth century. When she is not focused on historical research, Lauren serves as the Senior Director of UNT's International Student and Scholar Services Office.

Joshua I. Lopez is a PhD candidate in the department of History at the University of North Texas who is currently completing his dissertation, “Hunger and Desires: Food, Embodied Politics, and LGBTQ History.” He is also a co-editor and contributor to *El Paso Food Voices*, an open-source digital archive and oral history project of El Paso, Texas's food cultures.

Sandra Mendiola specializes in modern Mexican history. Her research centers around labor, gender, and food history. She's most interested in invisible, informal, and precarious kinds of labor at different sites: the streets, the home, and the mining industry. Her first book, *Street Democracy* (2017) focuses on street vendors in Puebla, Mexico. She's currently studying silver miners in central Mexico in the twentieth century. She's also interested in analyzing how working-class food has become attractive and profitable to the tourism industry in areas that have experienced deindustrialization.

Heather Noel is the associate director of research communications for UNT and a Master of Arts graduate of UNT's history department. She's written previously for *The Dallas Morning News* and D Magazine Partners. Her historical research focuses on how food shapes identities, institutions, and the lived experiences of people.

May Oshea is a master's student specializing in American food history.

Abigail Parmer is a second-year Ph.D. student with the University of North Texas. Her research concentrates on the influence of decolonization in cultural performance among the Irish. With this concept in mind, her dissertation explores the retention of Irish cultural characteristics among twentieth-century Irish immigrants in the United States with particular interest in religion, food, and language.

Nathalie Ross is a doctoral candidate and teaching fellow with a focus on food history, Jewish history, and women's health. Her dissertation is a historical narrative about Jewish American cookbooks and examines how food, recipes, and cookbooks narrate Jewish American history and identity in the 20th century. In her spare time, Nathalie is a certified yoga teacher, as well as an avid hiker and runner, and writes a food history column for ExploringJudaism.org.

Dana Trammell is a UNT alumna who is currently a doctoral student in the Department of History. Her research interests include Black studies, women and gender studies, and contextualizing the meaning of American citizenship.

Mike Wise is a cultural and environmental historian at the University of North Texas and director of UNT's Food Studies certificate program. His historical research concentrates on the spatial and temporal relationships held between plants, animals, and people, and his recent publications include the book, *Native Foods: Agriculture, Indigeneity, and Settler Colonialism in American History* (2023).