

# EQUITY TENSIONS: INTERSECTIONAL IDENTITIES & POWER

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## *DIGGING IN: FACILITATING DIALOGUE AND ACTION*

### **KEY THEMES AND TERMS**

Food sovereignty, equity, intersectionality, “all of our relations”, colonialism, decolonization, imperialism, globalization, systemic barriers, marginalization, oppression, racialization, “right-based approach, sustainability, “Just Transition”, environmental racism, environmental justice, Black Lives Matter, systemic change

### **CATALYZING CONNECTIONS**

#### **DECODING QUESTIONS**

- *Description:* How are food justice and equity related? How do the concepts of “all our relations” and a “Just Transition” connect to equitable food justice?
- *Personal Connection:* How do you believe your identity defines your access and relationship to food?
- *Common Themes:* What specific oppressive systems are identified in the article? How are they addressed in both local and global settings?
- *Social Analysis:* Why are the historical and ongoing processes of oppression important to acknowledge when discussing equity and food justice?
- *Planning for Action:* What is being done now to tackle these large issues? What can I, or we, do?

#### **SPECIFIC QUESTIONS**

- Describe the concept of “all our relations”. How does it contribute to the concept of equity?
- Leticia Deawuo describes the multitude of structural barriers to food security in the Black Creek neighbourhood. Discuss her use of the word “food apartheid” to describe the circumstances in her community.
- Compare and contrast the language and message from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). What specific approaches do they employ?
- Where does the concept for a “Just Transition” come from, and what does it hope to address?
- How is environmental justice connected to food justice, equity, and climate change?

- How are marginalized communities and their allies continuing to fight for systemic change? Why is systemic change important for food justice?

## **HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES**

Reach out to someone in your family or network who enjoys cooking, preparing food, and/or sharing food with their loved ones. Ask them about their relationship with food, and how their background and identity has shaped their journey with food. Keep in mind the historical and ongoing systems of oppression that hinder equitable food systems and justice.

## **INTERGENERATIONAL AND INTERCULTURAL DIALOGUE**

Name some local and global social justice movements (fighting for gender, sexuality, disability, and racial justice). How have they impacted the lives of marginalized communities?

Interview people of two or three generations about how food access has changed over time. Consider how equity dimensions of their identities influenced their access.

Discuss how social justice movements have impacted food justice? Try to incorporate intersectionality in your conversations.

How has the globalization and commodification of food impacted equitable food systems and access throughout the world? Have a conversation with someone who has a different country of origin about the way this globalized system has affected their home communities.

## **INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE ACTION**

Get involved with a local, grassroots organization focused on making institutional and structural change about a food-related issue you are passionate about.

Research gaps in the food system in your community such as food deserts. Investigate how these gaps align with other social determinants of health.

Seek out campaigns, public events, or protests that are focussed on equity issues and discuss the strategies they use to raise awareness.

## **CONNECTING TO OTHER PHOTO & VIDEO ESSAYS**

- [Food Justice](#)

# DIGGING DEEPER: RESOURCES FOR FURTHER RESEARCH AND ACTION

## VIDEOS

- Lartey, A., & Oenema, S. (2020, July 7). [Equity and the right to food: A systemic approach to tackling malnutrition](#). Global Nutrition Report.
- UVM Center for Sustainable Agriculture. (2020, May 13). [Keeping a Focus on Equity and Access in Local Food Systems webinar 5/13/20](#). [Youtube video]
- Cox, C. (Director). (2021). [Food for the rest of us](#) [Film]. Copper Quartz Media.
- Redmond, L. (2013, March 4). [Food + Justice = Democracy](#). Ted Talks.

## BOOKS & ARTICLES

- Brones, A. (2018, May 15). [Food apartheid: The root of the problem with America's groceries](#). The Guardian.
- Deawuo, L. A. (2020, June 4). [Words from our chair: We cannot talk about food without talking about racism](#). SeedChange.
- Dundore, L. (2017). [Food System Racial Equity Assessment Tool: A Facilitation Guide](#) (p. 6). University of Wisconsin-Extension.
- Kaufmann, G. (2019, February 4). [Want to Eradicate Hunger in America? Take on Racism](#).
- Penniman, L. (2018). *Farming while black: Soul fire farm's practical guide to liberation on the land*. Chelsea Green Publishing Company.
- Smith, A. (2016). [Heteropatriarchy and the Three Pillars of White Supremacy Rethinking Women of Color Organizing](#). In *Color of Violence: The INCITE! Anthology*.

## ORGANIZATIONS & WEBSITES

- [Changing the Food Chain](#)
- [Racial Equity Tools](#)
- [Setting an Anti-Racist Table](#)
- [Indigenous Food Systems Network](#)