

CALL FOR PAPERS:
Canadian Culinary Imaginations: A Symposium of Literary and Visual Fare

February 19 - 20, 2016
Kwantlen Polytechnic University (Richmond Campus)

In her 2014 book *The Culinary Imagination: From Myth to Modernity*, Sandra M. Gilbert observes that while the twenty-first century is “gastronomically obsessed,” the “lore and lure of food” have been present since antiquity and prehistory. Culinary imaginings are most certainly dynamic, Gilbert argues, with new modes of writing and visual representations evoking food’s ongoing cultural significance. Similar reflections on Canada’s early beginnings to the twenty-first century understandably lead to questions about the shifting contours of this nation’s “culinary imaginations.” How have innovations in form and content shaped this country’s food-related expressions?

The **Canadian Culinary Imaginations** symposium invites interdisciplinary examinations of how Canadian writers and/or visual artists use food to articulate larger historical and cultural contexts, as well as personal sensibilities. Who are the key or overlooked figures, and how have they broadened or challenged the meaning of food through their art? The symposium will coincide with the launch of the public art exhibition *Artful Fare: Conversations about Food*, featuring the collaborative art projects of KPU Fine Arts and English students as they engage in creative-critical dialogues about food in Canadian poetry. The symposium will take place on Kwantlen Polytechnic University’s Richmond campus, located near the Landsdowne Skytrain Station (on the Canada Line) with convenient access to Vancouver’s International Airport.

In keeping with the interdisciplinary nature of the symposium, the organizers invite paper proposals that may engage with a range of topics within a Canadian or comparative context, including (but not restricted to) the following:

- Examinations of Canadian artists and/or writers who use food prominently in their works
- The relationship between food and form (drama, fiction, foodoir, landscape painting, oral traditions, poetry, portraiture, performance art, sculpture, still-life, film, photography, digital media, etc.)
- Food-related expressions in the context of literary or artistic movements (early Canadiana, modernism, feminism, post-colonialism, the avant-garde, etc.).
- Representations of scarcity and hunger
- Examinations of literary cookbooks and/or exhibition catalogues of visual fare
- Recipes, menus, and/or food policies in literature and/or the visual arts
- Representations of urban and rural foodways
- Local, regional, national, and/or global food politics in Canadian literature and the arts
- Expressions of First Nations foodways
- Food in iconic works of Canadian art and literature; or Canadian food/brands in art and literature
- Comparisons of cross-cultural culinary imaginations that include Canada

Please email your proposal (as a Word attachment) with the subject line “Culinary Imaginations” to shelley.boyd@kpu.ca and dorothy.barencott@kpu.ca by **November 12, 2015**.

Proposals should include the following:

1. Your name, contact information, and institutional affiliation.
2. The title of your paper, AND a proposal of 250 - 300 words, identifying the texts and/or visual works that will be your focus and outlining the argument to be presented in a paper of approximately 20 minutes in length.
3. A 50-word biographical statement.