Food, Ethnicity, and Place

An Exploration of San Diego's Diverse Food Landscape and its Consequences on Health and Wellbeing

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Food Beyond Physiological Need

- Food as **identity** (race, ethnicity, class, etc.)
- Food as **emotional** (pleasure, disgust, comfort, memory)
- Food as source of **income**
- Food as **political**
- Food practices as spatially situated
Food and Place

- The “food environment”
- Place as relational: constituted by multiple social, political-economic and emotional relations
- Our focus is on the spatiality of everyday food practices (including growing, purchasing, preparing, sharing and eating food)
- Home, school, neighborhood and communities interconnected
Studying Food Practices through Place

- Urban Geography
- Food Studies
- Children’s Geographies
- Public Health
- Cultural Geography
Mixed Methods

- Stage 1: Food Landscape
  - Food store and restaurant audits
  - Alternative spaces

- Stage 2: Children
  - Participatory research in schools
  - Food activity space: photography, GPS, diaries

- Stage 3: Families
  - Interviews
Southeastern San Diego: A Food Desert?

Access to Food Stores, by Size

Data Source: Joassart-Marcelli and Bosco. 2013. *Food, Ethnicity, and Place Project*. Map designed by Emanuel Delgado.
Access to Stores with Produce Availability

Data Source: Joassart-Marcelli and Bosco. 2013. *Food, Ethnicity, and Place Project*. Map designed by Emanuel Delgado.
A complex and changing food landscape that reflects political decisions, racist legacies, and local initiatives

Challenges

Opportunities
Next Steps